



Holiday generosity shines bright at Festival of Trees

By Wade Sheldon

On Friday, December 6, the Tulalip Tribes hosted the Providence General Foundation's 39th Annual Festival of Trees Holiday Gala and Live Auction in the Orca Ballroom at the Tulalip Resort Casino. This cherished event brought together over 500 attendees, including community leaders, medical professionals, corporate executives, and other generous donors, to support a cause directly benefiting North Puget Sound's children and families.

See **Festival of Trees**, page 3



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syəcəb, the weekly newspaper of the Tulalip Tribes

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In memoriam:
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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.

syəcəb holiday schedule

Due to the holidays, there will be no December 28 or January 4, 2025 issues. The first issue of 2025 will be January 11. The due date for submissions to the January 11 issue is Monday, January 6.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Festival of Trees from front page



“This event has a long history; it’s the largest event of its kind in North Puget Sound.” shared Aimee Martin, Senior Philanthropy Officer with Providence General Foundation. “People come together during the holidays to make a difference in the lives of local children, ensuring they receive the care and support they need to thrive.”

One of the two chairpersons for the event, Tim Halliday, has been attending the Festival of Trees since the early 2000s. “He represents a second generation of giving back to the community and is passionate about supporting women’s and children’s services,” said Martin. Halliday, along with chairperson Karen Wetzel, ensured that the evening was an entertaining and smooth running success.

The gala featured 14 stunningly decorated Christmas trees designed by local community members. The auction of these trees raised thousands of dollars, with seven trees donated back to local organizations, including the Tulalip Boys and Girls Club. Interestingly, the trees already slated for donation drew the most considerable bids of the evening.

The highest bid went to the Decadent Holiday Dreams tree, which sold for an astounding \$33,000. The winning bidder agreed to donate the tree and its gifts to Dawson Place, a center dedicated to helping children in need. The tree was a whimsical masterpiece adorned with pastel sweets,

sugary donuts, cotton candy garland, and ornaments shaped like macarons, cakes, candies, and sprinkled donuts. It also included plush Squishmallow toys, 77 free drink gift cards, and other delightful surprises, making it a true treasure trove of holiday cheer.

This year’s gala proceeds will benefit children’s services at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett. Martin explained, “The children’s services fund offers comprehensive support to children under Providence’s care. Contributions will help finance vital programs and services, including our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, The Children’s Center, the Providence Boyden Family Autism Center, and Camp Prov, a summer camp for kids with special health care needs.”

A unique “Fund-a-Need” portion of the evening raised additional funds for the Providence Pavilion for Women and Children, supporting safe and healthy births for mothers and babies.

“It’s a higher priority at Providence to guarantee that babies and children receive the necessary care and support to grow strong,” Martin emphasized.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Spirit of Festival Award to local florist Stadium Flowers. “Since the late 1980s, Stadium Flowers has been a cornerstone of the Festival of Trees,” said Martin. “Their stunning floral arrangements enhance the ambiance yearly, and we’re excited

Continued on next page



to recognize their contributions.”

Reflecting on the generosity of the event, Tulalip Tribal Chairwoman Teri Gobin shared, “It’s wonderful that we could donate that money, see these beautiful lights, and it’s for a good cause, especially to help with the kids at the Providence hospital.”

The Tulalip Tribes bid on two of the displays during the auction, one of which will be at the Tulalip Tribes Administration Building, further sharing the holiday cheer with their community.

The Annual Festival of Trees Holiday Gala demonstrated the power of community, generosity, and holiday spirit.

From the beautifully designed trees to the heartfelt donations, an incredible \$1,452,581 was raised to benefit children’s services in the region.

“This event is an opportunity for people to give back during a special time of year,” Martin said. “It’s a generous group of people coming together to make a meaningful difference in the healthcare of North Puget Sound.”

For nearly four decades, the Festival of Trees has been a beacon of hope and support for children and families, and this year’s event spectacularly continued that tradition.

Wrapped in hope, love and caring

New blanketing ceremony honors work of beda?chelh families

By Calvin Valdillez;
page 5 photos courtesy of Jaida Wasko



“I did receive a Pendleton and a blanketing ceremony! It was very emotional because they (beda?chelh team) all seen the growth, because I did grow a lot through the program. I was able to dig deeper into why I do what I do and why I think the way I do. And I’m really thankful that they acknowledge the work that is put in, that they acknowledge that you are a good parent. I feel that’s very important.”

-Jaida Wasko, Tulalip Parent/beda?chelh client

Shelly Lacy and her team at beda?chelh have been on a mission to reinstall trust with their clients since she took the helm at the Tribe’s child welfare program. This effort is to show the community that their number one goal is to keep Tribal families together and to reunite children with their parents, if the court removes them from the home.

A common misconception

about the program is that beda?chelh’s only interest is separating the kids from their parents, and that beda?chelh makes the final decision to place them in another home. When in actuality, their role is to assess the child’s living environment and open a case if there’s a safety issue that calls for removal.

Following a co-investigation with the state, the Tribal court system will determine if the child needs to be placed in another home or can remain with the family. beda?chelh is there regardless of the outcome to help you plan your next step, whether that’s addressing those issues with the children still living in the home or beginning the reunification process.

Jaida Wasko, Tulalip Parent and beda?chelh client, recently regained custody of her kiddos. In an interview with Tulalip News, she expressed a great amount of gratitude for beda?chelh and her caseworker. And though her partner may have had a slightly different experience with beda?chelh, she credits the program for their growth as parents and states that with their help, they were able to reunite as a family in an expeditious fashion.

Said Jaida, “I feel like the program is protecting and looking out for the best interests of our children, whether or not people are able to see the hard work that they do. Because it is hard work pulling kids out of families when they don’t want to, but they have to. It’s case by case, but I feel it’s important for someone to step in and motivate parents to reunite and get better for the wellbeing of our kids. Because our kids need stability, discipline, structure. beda?chelh is a really good resource for people like me who are going through things, and they just can’t quite get out of it. They give me motivation to keep going.”

Through their latest efforts, like the implementation of a monthly cultural class for their families, beda?chelh is going the extra mile to show that they are a resource and not the enemy, that they care for the wellbeing of the kids and the entire family unit. And that they are there to support and uplift you through those challenging times.

“I had tested positive for fentanyl and meth, and my kids ended up having to come out of the home,” explained Jaida. “It was kind of hard because they were stuck between opening a case and not opening a case, because me and my husband were both functioning addicts. From the get-go, it was very hard, but they were very understanding. And at the end of the day, we are very thankful for the opportunities we did get. We were able to get help financially from them with clothing vouchers, food vouchers, gas vouchers. They were also able to get us into the same parenting classes, so we were able to do it together. It’s a lot of hard work, but if me and my husband can push through and do that work, anybody can.”

Upon the closure of a case, when the child is back in the care of their parents, Tribal Court usually holds a blanketing ceremony, accompanied by a prayer chant or song by local culture bearers. beda?chelh recently took this ceremony over, utilizing the event as an opportunity not only to acknowledge the families’ work of completing their journey with the program, but also to celebrate each accomplishment that their other clients make throughout their time with beda?chelh.

Shelly expressed, “That’s always the fun part of our job, because we get to celebrate that they’ve done it. We make sure to remind them of all their hard work, and how far they’ve come, because sometimes people think we don’t value their work.

We want them to know how proud we are of the work they’ve done to get their kids back, reminding them that their kids will always remember the work that they’ve done for them. And then we’ll also award certificates at the celebration lunch, for every family that hits a major milestone.”

In Native America, a blanketing ceremony is held on momentous occasions, such as a graduation or a marriage, to honor your successes. The blanket serves as a physical reminder of your accomplishments and your growth through a certain phase of life, as well as an indicator that you are ready to begin your next journey. In traditional ceremonies or gatherings, blankets are a sign of wealth within tribal families, and to receive a blanket as a gift is a high honor.

When asked about the significance of the blanketing ceremony at beda?chelh, Shelly said, “Now, this is just how I think of it, because it depends on what family you’re in and where your beliefs come from. To me, when we wrap you in that blanket, we put our hopes for you, our love for you, our caring for you in that blanket. We are wrapping you in hope, love, and our caring, so when you’re having a rough day, you can wrap yourself up in that blanket and you can still feel that from us.”

With one last case on the verge of closure in the coming weeks, Jaida is excited to join the next blanketing ceremony and celebrate the work her family put in as well as the efforts made by other parents.

“It’s so awesome to see that they go out of their way to do blanket ceremonies for our people,” she said. “It was a surprise when it happened to me. I was surprised, it was emotional, and it shows that we truly do recover. My caseworker said she was so proud of us both, because they don’t see a lot of couples do it together. The way I look at it is our kids are our future. My kids are the most important people on the earth to me. And all the work that they do at beda?chelh is in the best interest of our kids, that’s who they are doing it for.”

Jaida and her family’s experience with beda?chelh is a good example of the saying ‘it works if you work it’. With many new success stories coming from beda?chelh, one could assess that team’s new hands-on approach and emphasis on celebrating their client’s victories is helping overturn that negative perception that many folks on the reservation hold against beda?chelh. One thing is for sure, the program is going to have to stock up



on wool blankets as more parents are buying into the program, doing the work to reunite their families, and understanding the need for and the importance of the Tribe operating their own child welfare agency.

“It’s just about providing that extra layer of support for our clients. We really do want you to keep your kids, and we want to be there to help you get your kids back,” Shelly stated. “This is a way to really celebrate with the parents and give them that encouragement to keep going. Because it can feel like there is so much you have to do. It can seem like you have so far to go and you’re not going to make it. So, it’s important to stop and celebrate the work you’ve done.”

beda?chelh is planning to hold a blanket ceremony on the first Tuesday of every month to celebrate their clients’ accomplishments and inspire them to keep working toward reunification. The celebration will be held during the lunch hour at the beda?chelh headquarters. For more information, please contact Shelly Lacy at (360) 716-4059.

Hawks begin 24-25 season with emphatic win

By Micheal Rios

Last season, the Heritage Hawks basketball program exceeded even the loftiest of expectations. They began the season (1-3) while developing their on-court identity with a mix of stout senior players and phenomenally talented freshman. Once they found

their rhythm and groove, they also discovered their winning ways. Their midseason turnaround culminated in a 2nd place finish at Districts, 3rd place finish at Tri-Districts and, ultimately, the boys fell just one win short from a State Tournament bid.

The Hawks are returning a number of players

from that (17-9) squad, including the starting backcourt of J.J. Gray and Amare Hatch who are both sophomores now. They are joined by a plethora of new faces who are eager to carve out impactful roles on a team primed to build off last season's success.

"We're looking to accomplish all around growth for the program, and to continue developing our boys for what we hope is another lengthy post season run. Of course, this year we want to make it all the way to State," shared Heritage head coach Shawn Sanchey. "It's been so exciting being able to watch our program grow and to receive so much support from our community. When we're winning in front of packed crowds, it really doesn't get much better than that."

The 24-25 season officially kicked off on Thursday, December 5, when Tulalip travelled to Shoreline High School for an away game against the Chargers. It was less a game and more a coming out party for the new-look Hawks.

The J.J. and Amare pairing as playing making combo guards who can just as easily stroke a 3-pointer as they can beat their man off the dribble and finesse in a layup, scored 19 points

in the early going to give their team a commanding 34-5 lead. This pleased the many Heritage fans who journeyed south to swarm the Shoreline gymnasium.

In the 3rd quarter, newcomer Ziggy Myles-Gilford did his best Dennis Rodman impersonation by gobbling up every loose rebound and scoring off high percentage shots in the painted area. The Tulalip forward accounted for 14 points and nearly as many rebounds in that third frame. With the game all but a wrap, Coach Sanchey unleashed his bench players to have their fun during the 4th quarter.

After the decisive 75-19 season opening victory, guard Amare said, "Our on-ball defense was on point tonight. I don't know how many steals we ended up with, but it was a lot, that's for sure. I think our team chemistry is already at a good place because so many of us have been playing together in Native tournaments. All those extra games and reps have gotten us comfortable with each other's games. We want to be better than we were last year and this first W is just the start."

In total, ten Heritage boys registered a bucket in the blowout win. Ziggy led all scorers with 20 points.



Hawks chop down Loggers, 90-46

With more Tulalip fans in attendance than Logger fans, the energy was more befitting a home game for the Heritage boys playing in Darrington. Chants of "Tulalip power!" rang out early and often as the Hawks break neck pace led to a 26-13 first quarter lead.

The long ball wasn't falling, or any jumper for that matter, but it didn't matter because the Hawks couldn't be denied from getting to the basket whenever they wanted. Both Hawks forwards, Ziggy Myles-Gilford and Tokala Black Tomahawk, controlled the glass and routinely

corralled offensive rebounds to give their team additional offensive possessions. The two Hawks bigs combined to score 25 points in the 1st half and were a big reason why Tulalip led 47-26 at halftime.

In the 3rd quarter, the 3 ball finally started to go in for the Hawks shooters. Amare Hatch, J.J. Gray, and Deveyon Wells each made a 3-pointer to help extend their team's lead. Up big, 77-35, to begin the 4th quarter coach Shawn inserted his bench players to get in on the scoring frenzy.



Hawks players explaining the subtle complexities of Rez ball to an open-minded referee.

Stunned Logger fans even got to witness a couple Ziggy dunks, tomahawk style. His dunks were just the cherry on top of his career night 30 points and 20-something rebounds enroute to Tulalip securing a 90-46 win.

The unbeaten (2-0) Hawks received additional scoring from Amare who chipped in 15 points, while J.J. and Tokala each added 13 points.



Lady Hawks start off season 1-0

By Micheal Rios

The Tulalip Heritage girls basketball team returned to the court for the 2024-2025 season on December 5 in an away game vs. the Shoreline Chargers. Many of the core players from last season are back, plus some key additions to give the Lady Hawks more depth and more skill sets for head coach Sabrina Moses to work with.

“We’ve added several new players, including Aylani Lewis. She’s just a freshman, but has the game of a much older player. She’s a true point guard who can control the tempo of our offense and get us into sets that her teammates are comfortable with,” said coach Sabrina. “She’s joining her sister Raylee who played with us last year.

“Also returning are sisters Lilly and Isabelle Jefferson to fortify our

defense. I can always count on them to give full effort every minute they are on the court, which gives us an intensity we need.”

Controlled tempo on offense and intense defense were both on display by the Lady Hawks in their dismantling of Shoreline. Aylani’s effectiveness with the ball in her hands was evident from the jump. She scored 12 points in the 1st quarter by blowing by much larger defenders and scoring layups over their outstretched arms. Meanwhile, Heritage’s defense was wreaking havoc. The girls were jumping passing lanes and hounding Chargers ballhandlers into one turnover after another.

After one quarter of play, Tulalip led 16-2. They stretched that lead to 22-5 at halftime. In the 3rd quarter,

Continued on next page



Lady Hawks forward Laniyah Moore made the most of a couple well-timed offense rebounds and scored on back-to-back high percentage shots.

The Lady Hawks were rolling until an unfortunate moment of friendly fire when Aylani and fellow guard Audrielle Mclean both went for a loose ball and collided at full speed. The collision resulted in both players exiting the game; Audrielle with a forehead cut that required 5 stitches and Aylani with concussion-like symptoms.

Without their top playmakers, the Lady Hawks held on for a well-deserved 34-18 victory. Aylani led all

scorers with 15 points, while Laniyah and big sister Raylee both added 6 points each.

Following the season opening win, Lilly shared, "It felt really good to get this win. For me personally, I worked a lot on my shooting and dribbling to be more confident in games. Last year, I looked to pass a lot. Now, I'm looking to shoot and handle the ball more, when the team needs it. It paid off tonight after losing Audrielle and Aylani, I was asked to play point guard. It helped for me to get to the areas I like to shoot, and I made a couple buckets in that 4th quarter. It just feels good to be undefeated

Without several starters, Lady Hawks fall to Darrington



ing 13-47. Isabelle led the Lady Hawks with 4 points.

Even in an emphatic loss there are always positives. With the injuries, several players got extended run. One such player was freshman Janiesha Zackuse. She scored her first Lady Hawk point with a made free throw. Something she knew made her

family who made the hour-long venture to watch her very happy.

"It felt pretty good to play so much. I'm tired out now though," admitted Janiesha post-game. "We had a lot of supporters in the stands. It's pretty awesome to see everybody who drove all this way to watch us play."



The Lady Hawks produced a valiant effort on the evening of December 9. In their second straight road game to the start the season, the Heritage girls played the Darrington Loggers extremely shorthanded. In fact, they were down three starters; both Lewis sisters and Audrielle Mclean.

Without their primary ball-handlers, sisters Lilly and Isabelle Jefferson were asked to step up and run the offense. Playing against a

Logger's defense consistently applying full court pressure, the sisters were regularly forced to dribble around multiple Darrington defenders just to get the ball up court. The constant pressure made it difficult for the Lady Hawks to execute their sets, let alone produce an unhindered view of the basket to attempt a shot.

Undermanned and out-gunned, the Lady Hawks trailed 5-28 at halftime, and ended up los-

Tulalip PYD and MSD Indian Education

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From our Team to your family,
Happy Holidays

ANGEL CORTAZ

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Angel Cortez is a Tulalip Tribal Citizen and Emergency Preparedness Manager with over two years of dedicated experience serving the Tulalip Tribes. In this role, he has successfully developed and implemented comprehensive emergency response plans, ensuring the safety and resilience of the community in the face of natural disasters and other emergencies.

With a strong focus on collaboration, Angel works closely with tribal leaders, local agencies, and community members to enhance preparedness initiatives and conduct training exercises. His expertise in risk assessment and crisis management has been instrumental in fostering a

culture of safety and awareness among the Tulalip community.

Passionate about education and outreach, Angel actively engages in community workshops and events, empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively in emergencies. He is committed to continuous learning and improvement in emergency management practices.

In his free time, Angel enjoys spending time with his family and attending his children's sporting events, further enriching his connection to the community and commitment to service.

EDUCATION DIVISION
TULALIP TRIBES
dax'cawotloli

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WINTER STORMS AHEAD

Preparing for winter in Western Washington is essential for ensuring your safety at home, on the road, and personally.

VEHICLE PREPAREDNESS

- **Winter Tires:** Consider using studded tires from November 1 to March 31 for better traction. If you prefer, stud-free winter tires are legal year-round and less damaging to roads.
- **Emergency Kit:** Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes:
 - Non-perishable food and water (3-day supply)
 - Blankets or sleeping bags
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - First aid kit
 - Shovel and sand or litter for traction
 - Jumper cables and flares.
- **Stay Informed:** Check road conditions before traveling and carry chains if crossing mountain passes. Always let someone know your travel plans.

HOME PREPAREDNESS

- **Insulation and Sealing:** Insulate and wrap pipes to prevent freezing. Seal any leaks around windows and doors to keep the heat in.
- **Heating Safety:** Ensure your heating system is functioning correctly. If using alternative heating methods, never use gas or charcoal grills indoors.
- **Emergency Supplies:** Stock up on essentials like food, water, and medications. Have a battery-powered radio and flashlights ready in case of power outages.

By taking these steps, you can help ensure a safer winter season for yourself and your loved ones.

Obituaries

Eloy Paul Lopez

Eloy Paul Lopez, age 80, of Tulalip, Washington passed away on Thursday, November 28, 2024.

An evening service for Eloy was held Wednesday, December 4, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Schaefer-Shipman Funeral Home, 804 State Ave, Marysville, WA 982704237. A funeral service occurred Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at External Service Location, 7512 Totem Beach Rd, Marysville, WA 98271. A committal service occurred Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM, 804 State Ave, Marysville, WA 982704237.



Court notices

TUL-CV-EL-2024-0792, SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip, WA. TO: CASSANDRA JONES (D.O.B. 07/26/1982). You are hereby notified that a petition for a Elder Protection Order was filed in the above entitled court pursuant to TTC 4.30. You are hereby summoned to appear regarding the above-entitled action at a hearing on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025 at 9AM, in Tulalip Tribal Court, 6332 31st Ave NE, Suite B, Tulalip, WA 98271. NOTICE: You have important legal rights and must take steps to protect you interests. RESPONDENT SHALL APPEAR AND ANSWER THE COMPLAINT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE SUMMONS, IF YOU FAIL TO REpond OR SERVE YOUR WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION, THE COURT MAY ENTER AN ORDER OF DEFAULT AGAINST YOU, AND THE COURT MAY, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU, ENTER A DECREE AND APPROVE OR PROVIDE FOR THE OTHER RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT. Date first published: December 14, 2024.

TUL-CV-YI-2012-0014. SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip WA. In Re the Welfare of: M. L. J. C. TO: LANA SHANNON BREEDLOVE FKA LANA SHANNON JONES-CHARLES, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Youth in Need of Care action was filed and is ongoing in the above-entitled Court pursuant to TTC 4.05. You are hereby summoned to appear and defend regarding the above-entitled action at a TELEPHONIC Permanent Plan Review Hearing on TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025, at 01:00 P.M. – REMOTE; This will be a REMOTE, CALL-IN HEARING in Tulalip Tribal Court, 6332 31st Ave NE, Suite B, Tulalip, WA 98271. TO CALL IN TO YOUR HEARING USE TELEPHONE NUMBER 224-501-3412 AND THEN USE ACCESS CODE 212-638-629. 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: November 23, 2024.

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TUL-CV-CU-2024-0709 Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip WA, June Hill, Petitioner vs Joshua Lloyd, Respondent TO: Joshua Lloyd: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Custody Petition was filed in the above-entitled Court Pursuant to Chapter 2.10 and 4.10 of the Tulalip Tribal Code. You are hereby summoned to appear and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court on November 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM in Tulalip Tribal Court. NOTICE: You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER AND/OR APPEAR JUDGMENT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST YOU. Date first published: November 16, 2024.



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