

Perseverance through basketball:



Mikal Montez is digging deep at Evergreen State College

See Montez, page 4

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

MP wrestling's quest for perfection



See Wrestling, page 7

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

syəcəb, the weekly newspaper of the Tulalip Tribes

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

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

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Tulalip Tribes 2025 Board of Directors Election Friday, April 11, 2025 From 9:00AM to 4:00PM Saturday, April 12, 2025 From 7:00AM to 1:00PM

At the Tulalip Resort Casino 10200 Quil Ceda Blvd, Tulalip, Washington 98271 Annual General Council will be held the same day beginning at **9:00 AM**

There will be a Board of Directors election on 4/11/2025 and 4/12/2025. The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to serve three (3) year terms.

THE FOLLOWING TWO CANDIDATES TERMS ARE EXPIRING:Misty NapeahiDebra Posey

Petitions will be available at the Tulalip Tribes Administration building, Election office (2nd floor) starting <u>Monday, January</u> <u>27, 2025 to Friday, February 7, 2025 4:00PM.</u> PETITION RULES:

* ONLY ELECTIONS STAFF CAN ACCPET A PETITION, DO NOT LEAVE WITH ANY OTHER STAFF. * FILL OUT COMPLETELY AND SIGNED BY THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATE. * 25 SIGNATURES PER PETITION IS REQUIRED. * NO DUPLICATE SIGNATURES- VOTERS CAN ONLY SIGN ONE PETITION.

Eligibility: No person shall be a candidate for the Board of Directors unless he/she shall be an enrolled member of the Tulalip Tribes and shall have resided upon the Tulalip Reservation for a continuous period of one (1) year prior to the election, and shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age. No person shall be a candidate if he/she has been found guilty of any felony, or a misdemeanor involving controlled substance or dishonesty in any Indian, State, or Federal court within three (3) years prior to the election.

The list of qualified candidates will be posted in a public place and otherwise be made known to the tribal membership no less than two (2) weeks prior to the election date. The Tribal rules and regulations governing elections shall apply.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PETITIONS Friday, February 7, 2025 at 4:00pm

Tulalip Administration Building (360) 716-4283 or electioncommittee@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov c/o Election Staff, 6406 Marine Drive, <u>TulalipsiWAw</u>98271

Dated: January 9, 2025

tin Gobin

Teri Gobin, Chairwomen

 Election staff includes – Rosie Topaum, Leilani Davey, Angela Hatch, Annie Enick, Judy Gobin, Samantha Rose, Lorna Ancheta and Tracy Patrick.
*Subject to change. Voting times or dev(a) and Consel Council Meeting.

*Subject to change - Voting times or day(s) and General Council Meeting.

A Momentous Signing

First tribal data sharing agreement signed between the Tulalip Tribes and the Washington Department of Health





By Kalvin Valdillez

January 9 marked a historic event and a win for tribal sovereignty. The Tulalip Board of Directors were joined by members of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Tribe's data sovereignty service committee who worked together over the past two years to outline, define, and build upon an agreement in regard to tribal data in the state's healthcare system.

This data sharing agreement allows Tulalip the ability to oversee the collection of data of its membership and determine how it is utilized to better inform the community in instances such as the spread of diseases, viruses, or any public health related issues occurring both on the reservation or throughout the region. It also provides an opportunity for the Tribe to address ongoing medical conditions within the community. And through the agreement, the Tribe will be notified when outside

parties are looking to obtain the data of Tulalip tribal members and decide whether or not they give consent to the request.

Summer Hammons, Legislative Analyst Policy for Tulalip's Treaty Rights & Government Affairs Office, shared, "It was a natural way to really try to understand sovereignty when outside agencies try to infiltrate tribal data. There was consultation going on with the Department of Health and tribes, but they also have tribal orgs that own epidemiology centers (TECs). And so, you have all these centers in Washington state that have access to our data, and we weren't sure who was accessing our data at the state and federal level. We have data that's stored in the tribal health clinic that could go to the national warehouse, so it's more federal through an agreement that we have with IHS. On the state side, tribal members can go into Providence, or any hospital anywhere; all that

data is stored in Washington State, especially contact tracing – Covid, sexually transmitted diseases. All that goes into the system for tracing. We didn't know who's accessing that specific data and we didn't have access to that data."

She continued, "It's a way of protecting our data and for us to be at the table to look at that data and see what they're doing. We also wanted to have a mechanism where we're not blocking other people of data, because it's really important for TECs to accumulate what's going on with tribes. And we wanted to create a mechanism where the state can't just give out our data without our permission or our informed consent."

Summer went on to explain that though this specific agreement only affects the data protection and sharing of the Tulalip membership, it creates an opportunity for other tribes to formulate their own agreement with the DOH. With that in mind, they created a tribal data sovereignty committee where they collectively set out to define seven principals as a guideline, which includes the authority to manage tribal data, the right to give informed consent, and also equitable access to that data.

Said Summer, "We want to be able to tell our story and be able to access that data and tell the state if that's not the story we want to send out. It's important that there's Tulalip data, but then it becomes aggregated, it becomes AI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native). Your tribal affiliation is removed on the report, and it becomes a statistic aggregated with all tribes. So, tribes need to know what you are doing with that aggregated data. That's why we built the data sovereignty group, so that we know that before the DOH shares a campaign on something, that the tribes have consultation on it as well."

On the morning of the momentous signing, the DOH Chief of Policy, Kristin Peterson expressed, "Thank you for inviting us to celebrate and honor this historic moment. Signing this agreement represents our commitment to our government-togovernment relationship. Entering this agreement not only enhances Tulalip's access to our data but upholds the DOH responsible for how we disclose and utilize Tulalip's data. We are really excited about the signing and the work to come. And we are committed to making sure that once this is signed, the work is not over. We will hold ourselves accountable to implementing it."

"This is not just a formal

agreement," added DOH Secretary, Dr. Umair Shah. "This is a journey we believe in so strongly. Why? Because when you share and provide data, when you give people access to their own data, that raises the visibility of health issues the challenges and solutions that must be made. I cannot thank you enough for taking this journey with us. We could not have taken these steps without you, your leaders, your teams coming together to help us both understand the challenges and understand the concerns. We listened and we worked together through those challenges in order to come here today. And I'm so

proud of the fact that we are here today."

Following the signing of the agreement, the BOD blanketed Dr. Shah, thanking him for his years of service with the DOH. Each board member then shared a few words before the gathering concluded.

Secretary Theresa Sheldon, stated, "When we have these type of meetings where we're signing MOUs, these are about lives. We are talking about lives and real issues, and the ability to address them in a timely manner, the ability to access care, and the ability to access resources that many times, we didn't have. I'm really grateful for that. Our responsibility is the wellness of our people. That responsibility that we carry is much bigger than those in this room, because we are constantly looking out for the next seven generations, and the responsibility for their health and their wellbeing. Sometimes, Washington State is only friendly to us once we sue and win, because the law is on our side. Acknowledging that sovereignty and that authority is a constant battle. When we don't have to do that and we're able to work with employees who recognize that this is the right thing to do, it's really appreciated."



Montez from front page

By Micheal Rios

To fully appreciate the depths Mikail Montez has dug to maximize her lifetime of muscle memory meticulously tuned for the game of basketball and to capitalize on every second of collegiate court time, you have to know her journey. You have to know how opportunity can present itself in the face of unprecedented global upheaval, only to be struck down with devastating injury, and then present itself again in the form of a geoduck. Why a geoduck? Because they dig deep, of course.

Let us begin. It's early 2019 and 18-year-old Mikail is not just a three-sport athlete and leading scorer for her high school basketball team, but she's also the reigning Marysville Getchell senior class president. Her future is boundless. She's full of anticipation and excitement to begin her next stage of student-athlete life at Arizona State University.

Then 2020 happens. A

global pandemic sends us spiraling into social isolation, full on lockdowns in parts of the country, and a genuine fear of what could be next. Mikail is not immune from any of these 1,500 miles away from her reservation while still adjusting to life as a college freshman. So she makes the logical decision to return home.

"COVID happened during my winter quarter at Arizona State. After discussion with my parents, we agreed it was best for me to come back home," recalled Mikail. "Eventually, all the fear and unknown started to fadeaway and the coach at Everett Community College reached out to me. Because of the pandemic and athletes returning home, they had lost like half their team and needed players. I jumped at the opportunity.

"Everett was a great experience. I was there for three years, but that first year, 2021, was probably the most memorable because it was a COVID season.







The scheduling and whole dynamic about it was weird, but as a collective we came together for the love of the game and our love for each other. With everything happening in the world at that time and so many hurting from losing loved ones, that 2021 team found sanctuary on the basketball court. We were all we had. We went through a pandemic together and somehow managed to win our league championship."

In 2022, Mikail's on-court production reaches new heights as she begins to unlock all facets of her game. Now a fixture of Everett C.C.'s basketball program, she's featured on both sides of the ball as both a bucket getter and lockdown defender. She starts in all 23 games that year, averages a double-double, and is awarded Everett's Women's Basketball Athlete of the Year.

Expectations are through the roof as the 2023 season is about to begin. When, suddenly, tragedy strikes.

"We're up in Skagit playing in a tournament. I'm embracing being an upper classman now and a true leader of the team. I was ballin'... the game had slowed down for me, I was seeing the game in a whole new way, and just felt like I could get us 20 points every night. Then pop!" described the Tulalip hooper like only a hooper can. That pop was the sound of her Achilles tendon tearing. "I was going for a rebound when it happened and knew instantly what it was. I was absolutely heartbroken."

Heartbroken, yes. Spirit broken, no. Having the game you love literally ripped from you is a career ender for many an athlete. Not this one. Mikail went through a grueling nine months of physical therapy. The then-21-year-old powered through a rigorous schedule of seemingly unless stretching, workouts, and more stretching necessary to render her Achilles to pre-injury form with one thought in mind – "I was determined to get back to that place of playing the best ball of my career. I knew my playing days weren't over. My mantra for that time was *Progress matters*, *not Pace.*"

As her fortune would have it, the coaching staff of Evergreen State College had scouted Mikail during her peak at Everett C.C. and were well aware of the all-around skill set she possessed. It was a skill set they were willing to set aside a spot for on their women's basketball team in the hopes she'd make a full recovery and continue her collegiate career in Olympia.

"Full transparency, I reached out to other colleges, too, seeing what my options were. I knew I could finish my degree anywhere, but I wanted to prove I could still hoop while doing it. Of all the colleges I reached out to, only Evergreen got back to me," admitted Mikail. "I took that as a sign and opted to play where I was wanted for a coaching staff who knew what I was capable of."

She returned to the court during Evergreen's 2023-2024 season where she saw action in 20 games, including one start. With her minutes limited and role relegated to a bench player as she learned a new system, she averaged just shy of 3 points and 3 rebounds a game. A far cry from the double-double machine she was at Marysville Getchell High School and





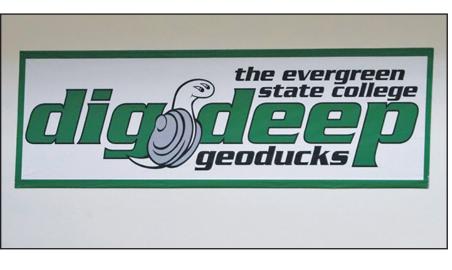
Everett Community College.

This is where the geoduck comes into play. For the uninformed, the geoduck (pronounced gooeyduck) is the world's largest burrowing clam, has an average lifespan of 140 years, is most commonly found in Coast Salish waters, and is Evergreen College's official mascot. Oh, and the word geoduck comes from the English language's attempt to pronounce g"idəq, which is Lushootseed for "dig deep". Because that's what geoduck do, they dig deep.

Mikail embraced the geoduck as her defacto spirit animal for the 2024-2025 season and, in doing so, summons every ounce of strength in her five-foot-eleveninch frame to dig deep every game, every quarter, and every minute she gets on the hardwood. She's a fifthyear college senior set to graduate in June with her Bachelor's Degree. There is no next season.

Digging deep, the Evergreen forward/center has regained her status as full-time starter and perennial bucket getter. She's rebounded from last year's statistically down season by averaging nearly 10 points and 5 rebounds per game. Most importantly, her body is healed completely from the Achilles injury, which has allowed her to regain her confidence to battle with other bigs in the post. Something





the Evergreen coaching staff were quick to implement into their offensive game plan.

"Mikail is dedicated to her craft in a way that coaches of any level would love to have an opportunity to coach," explained Evergreen College head coach Derrick Pringle. "She's methodical, hardworking, and, best of all, she loves the game. We offer optional Saturday practices and she's always there, busting her butt for two hours and going home soaking wet with a smile on her face.

"When I first got here, I thought she was a wing player. But I learned quick after she told me 'Coach, I can play the wing, but I like to bang a little bit'. Mikail's ability to score inside from the post and outside with her 3-point touch is what makes her different as a player. Everyone wants to shoot the 3 ball and, if you look around, almost everyone does these days. But not everyone can score in the post. In fact, it's probably the rarest of skills these days for a player to possess the patience, footwork, and physicality necessary to score so effortlessly in the post like she does."

Her full arsenal of backto-the-basket moves and sweet shooting touch were on full display in a mid-January matchup with the College of Idaho. A back and forth game full of all the excitement one could ask for from a basketball game, Mikail was a fixture of reliability for her fellow Evergreen teammates. In the game's most pressure-filled moments, Mikail stayed cool, calm, and confident in her ability to score on one end and come up with a defensive stop on the other.

55-52 In a thrilling victory, Mikail amassed a stat line of 21-points (a season high), 8 rebounds (a season high), and 3 assists. She shot 9-13 from the field and was 2-3 on 3-pointers. "That stats are cool, but even better is the win," said Mikail post-victory. "I felt like I was my best self out there tonight. Having the trust of teammates and coaches to have the ball in my hands with the game on the line is every basketball player dream. I've visualized and practiced those moments thousands of times...what I'd do to get to my spots, my footwork, my form on the shots."

In her final season as a collegiate athlete, the now 23-yearold has regained her final form as a basketball player that the Achilles injury attempted to take from her. She's also found the home away



from home community at Evergreen College that COVID once denied her from finding at Arizona State. It's because of those challenges and setbacks that her family so eagerly make the drive from Tulalip to the Olympia-based campus to watch their favorite baller get buckets.

"It's great to see a tribal kid flourish off the reservation while doing her thing on the Division III level. Mikail is proud of her roots and always putting on for Tulalip wherever she goes," shared Nathan Williams, one of Mikail's older brothers, who regularly attends games with his 2-year-old son Winter. "Legacy and tradition are the most important things to our family, which is why it's a priority to have my son here so he can experience the environment while his aunt is on the court getting buckets.

"The confidence in her skill is what sets her apart," he added. "She put in a lot of time, countless early mornings and late nights, to reach that level of confidence. Plus, she had three older brothers who played and a former pro player in our household that was able to show her elite level footwork and shooting form. Mikail took the skill and athleticism our family is known for and carved out her own basketball journey. Among us siblings, she took her love for the game the furthest. I couldn't be prouder."

Mikail's journey in basketball is more than just personal triumph. Her journey is one of balancing cultural heritage, academics, and athletics that all Tulalip youth should hear about or read about. Because her story is their story. To learn from, to be inspired by, and to serve as a reminder, whenever needed, that there are going to be times when the odds are long and the whole world seems like its against you. In order to persevere, you gotta dig deep.

Wrestling from front page

By Wade Sheldon

The Marysville Pilchuck (MP) wrestling team continues to shine through an undefeated season. With seven tribal members on the team, they proudly represent their heritage and connection to the community. On Tuesday, January 14, they secured a commanding victory over the Monroe Bearcats 64-15 in front of an energized home crowd. Two days later, they crushed their northern neighbors, Lakewood, with a 66-9 win, further solidifying their dominance and improving to an impressive 13-0 in dual meets.

Head Coach Tony Hatch, a former MP wrestler from the 1980s, has led the team's success this season. Under his guidance, the boys from Marysville and Tulalip have shown relentless drive and determination. Following the match against Monroe, Coach Hatch expressed pride in his wrestlers, saying, "They did what we expectedpretty good. We're good friends with the Monroe coaches, and we know their program is still building. But we're on a whole different level this year. We aim to go undefeated in dual meets; we're currently 12-0. The kids are working hard,

Continued on next page





stepping up when needed, and you can't ask for more than that."

For senior Joseph Davis, a tribal member and a competitor in the 165-pound weight class, the match against Monroe was a highlight of his decade-long wrestling career. Davis achieved an impressive victory, pinning his opponent in just 43 seconds, demonstrating his skill and determination. Despite dealing with injuries from football, including a shoulder problem, Davis remains committed to making his final wrestling season successful.

"This is my tenth-year wrestling. Overall, the season has been going well, "said Davis. "I've had some injuries, but I've managed to push through. The keys to success begin in the offseason, and my main goal this year is to win the state championship. After that, I'd love to travel the world." Two more MP wrestlers achieved decisive victories in the match against Monroe. Their precision and strength in pinning opponents further showcased the team's superiority.

Aiden Eagle, a junior in the 215-pound weight class and a tribal member, is in his third year of wrestling and is equally determined to make an impact this season. "The season's going well. I'm focused on staying motivated and keeping my weight in check. Wrestling is a mentally tough sport—you must keep pushing. My goal this year is to make it to state and hopefully place," Eagle explained.

Motivation is a driving force for the team, and tribal member Garrett Reeves is no exception. The support from Coach Hatch and the friendly rivalry with his twin brother, Dylan Reeves, who is also on the wrestling team, have pushed him to improve every day. Together, these elements, along with a team culture that emphasizes hard work and encouragement, inspire Reeves to become the best version of himself both on and off the mat.

As a junior competing in the 120-pound weight class, Reeves has achieved an impressive record of 26 wins and 5 losses this season. Reflecting on his performance, he stated, "This year has been pretty good for me. I've placed in a few significant tournaments, and I aim to break the all-time win record here at MP. My goal is to finish in the top five at state."

As the season progresses, the Marysville Pilchuck wrestling team remains determined to maintain their undefeated streak and secure a historic year for the program. The team is laser-focused on finishing strong, with only four matches left in the season. They'd love it if the community came out to support them at their last match of the season—the Berry Brawl—on January 30 at Marysville Getchell High School. Bring your energy, cheer them on, and be part of this exciting end to their remarkable season.

To keep this momentum going and ensure future success, the Marysville Pilchuck Wrestling program is seeking donations to support its continued growth. Contributions are crucial in providing the team with essential resources and opportunities. If you would like to help these dedicated athletes, please contact Cassidy M. with the MP Booster Club at (425) 275-7488, and be sure to reference the wrestling team when reaching out. Your generosity can help sustain this exceptional program for seasons to come.

News_

Thursday, February 6th, 2025 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm @ the Dining Hall, 4032 76th PI NW

COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION OF RECOVERY

DINNER FEAST

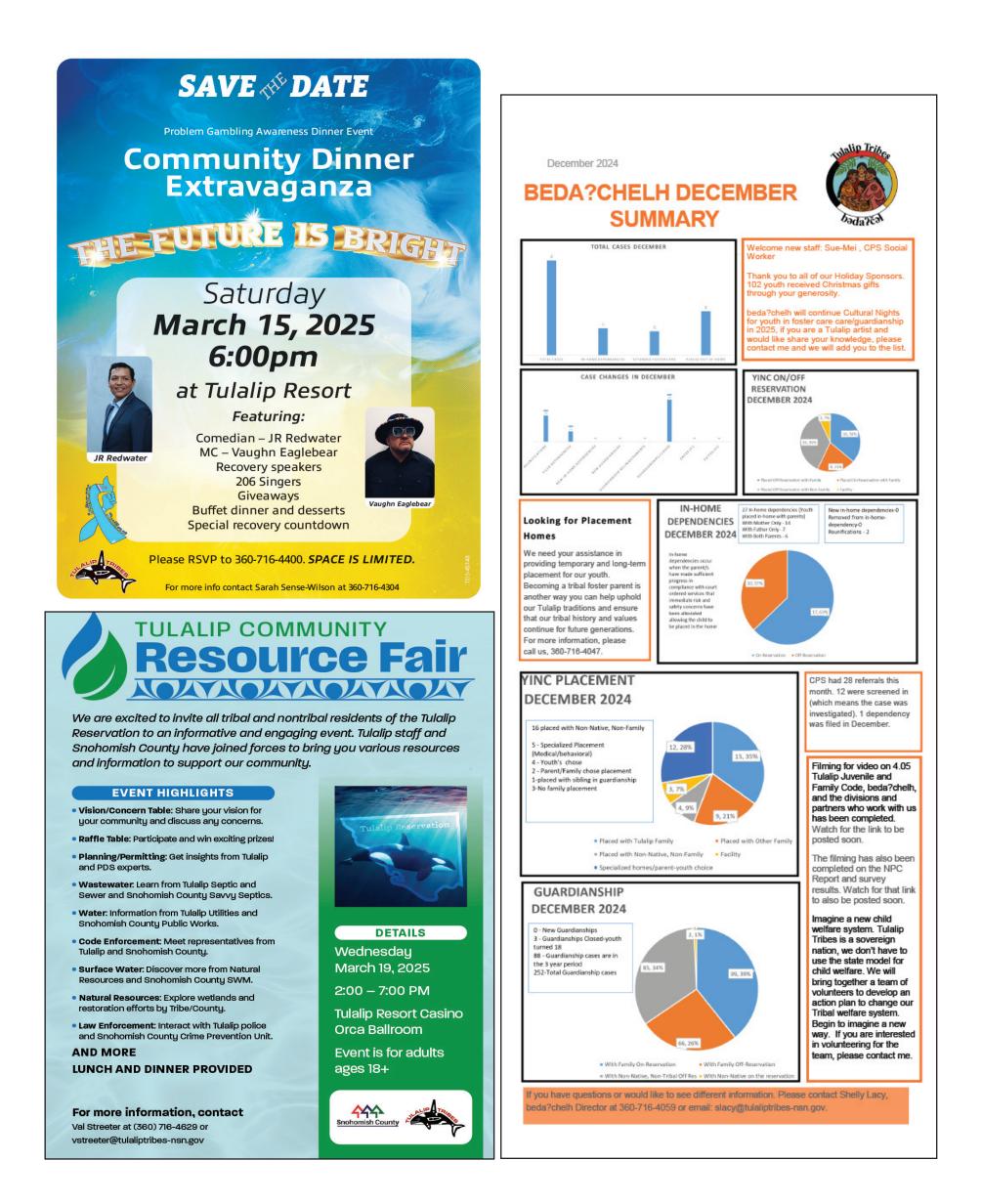
GUEST SPEAKERS

COUNTDOWN

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sponsored by Tulalip Tribes Problem Gambling Program. 360-716-4302 All family, friends and community welcome to join us in celebration of Tulalip's healing and growing together through the power of recovery.

Notices



KeyBank 🗘 🛪

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. RESPON-DENT SHALL APPEAR AND ANSWER THE COMPLAINT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICA-TION 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 FUR-THER NOTICE TO YOU, ENTER A DECREE AND APPROVE OR PROVIDE FOR THE OTHER RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE SUM-MONS AND COMPLAINT. Date first published: December 14, 2024.

TUL-CV-YI-2024-0987. SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip WA. In Re the Welfare of: A. G. III TO: ANDRES GOMEZ, JR., AND SAMANTHA BIRD GOSHORN, YOU ARE BOTH HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Youth in Need of Care action was filed in the above-entitled Court pursuant to TTC 4.05. You are both hereby summoned to appear and defend regarding the above-entitled action at an IN PERSON Adjudicatory Hearing on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025, at 09:00 A.M. – IN PERSON; This will be an IN PERSON hearing 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: December 21, 2024.

Important Notice for General Welfare Distribution

If you are still using a *Key2Prepaid* card for your general welfare distribution, please be aware of the following important changes **V**

Submit Account Information: You have until January 28th to submit your bank account information. If no bank information is on file, your general welfare distribution will be held until new information is provided.

No More Funds on *Key2PrePaid* Cards: No additional funds will be loaded onto *Key2Prepaid* cards. However, you can continue to spend existing funds until January 2026. **Direct Deposit Authorization**: Membership Distribution requires a paper direct deposit authorization. Digital signatures are not accepted.

Minor Accounts:

FINAL NOTICE

If the account information is for a minor child, the custodial parent/ guardian must be listed with both enrollment and as the co-owner of the minor's account.

For assistance, contact *Membership Distribution* at **membershipdistribution@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov** or visit **https://www.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/Dept/Finance**



Transportation Community Input Needed!



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- Are you interested in learning more about Transportation improvement plans on the Reservation!
- Scan the QR code below to review the Tulalip Tribes DRAFT Transportation goals and policies.

Scan to Review DRAFT Transportation Policies!



- Have ideas or questions about improving, changing, or adding new goals and policies related to Transportation Planning?
- Scan the QR code below and provide your comments TODAY!

Scan to Comment on Transportation Issues on the Reservation !



PORCE UNITHA CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR CONTRA

JOIN US for a fun and

engaging event where Tulalip Police officers can interact with children and families in a friendly environment.

Enjoy free soda, popcorn, coloring books, and badge stickers!

(OME AND MEET YOUR TULALIP POLICE OFFICERS, HAVE FUN, AND BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY!

DETAILS:

January 29 February 12 February 26

4:30-5:30рм

Teen Center 6700 Totem Beach Rd Tulalip, WA