

Learn about Chinook Nation's fight for federal recognition

Tribal chairman to give presentation

ASTORIA — The Lower Columbia Diversity Project presents The Chinook Executive Justice Recognition Project with Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Judge Boyington Building, located at 857 Commercial St. The presentation is free, and everyone is welcome.

On June 8, the Chinook Indian Nation began a direct appeal to the President of the United States, asking for executive action to right the wrongs that continue to be inflicted on this historically important Indian nation.

Since then, one letter a day has been mailed through the U.S. Post Office to President Obama and also to former President Bill Clinton, under whose presidency the Chinook were officially federally recognized in 2001.

The letter states, "In an outrageous example of the abuses perpetrated against our community, that life-changing 2001 recognition was taken away 18 months later by the administration of President George W. Bush. Our appeal will include daily supplemental materials to both educate our audience and illustrate the unbelievable nature of our nation not being counted amongst the other 566 tribes recognized by the federal government."

The Chinook have been pursuing treaty and reservation rights since they hired their first lawyers in the 1890s. They began a formal petition for federal clarification of status as early as the 1980s.

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs has always recognized that there was a Chinook Tribe when Capt. Robert Gray sailed into the Columbia River in 1792 and when Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean in 1805. The tribe



Submitted photo

Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson will give a free presentation about the Chinook Indian Nation's long effort to win federal recognition Sunday, Oct. 25.

briefly gained recognition in 2001, but the administration of George W. Bush revoked it shortly afterward.

Federal recognition would make 2,700 Chinook Nation members eligible for a wide range of federal health, education and other benefits and allow the tribe to establish a reservation. If the Chinook succeed, they'd look for more than hunting and fishing

The Chinook Executive Justice Recognition Project

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25
Judge Boyington Building
857 Commercial St., Astoria
503-325-1895

Free

rights. Recognition would help preserve and carry on the tribe's language and culture, help it build a health clinic, and provide drug and alcohol counseling.

Speaking of the tribe's long and frustrating effort to win federal recognition, a goal he has continued to pursue since his election as tribal chairman in June, Tony Johnson calls this "a matter of life or death."

"I just can't say it more strongly than that. We have to fix this problem, and we've been working on this problem for over 100 years," Johnson said.

This free presentation is hosted by the Lower Columbia Diversity Project. For more information, email lcdiversityproject@gmail.com or call 503-325-1895.



Photo by Hugh McKenna

Matt Hensley raises his arms to emphasize a point during his enthusiastic representation of Moses Rogers during the 10th annual Talking Tombstones event put on by the Clatsop County Historical Society Sunday. Rogers, who is buried at Ocean View Cemetery, was one of the first Columbia River bar pilots and a ship captain, farmer and county assessor.

Talking Tombstones is a serious undertaking

12th annual event to appear at Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery

WARRENTON — The Clatsop County Historical Society and Astoria Granite Works once again present "Talking Tombstones." This year's event, "Talking Tombstones XII: A Serious Undertaking," will take place from 1 p.m. to dusk Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery.

This is a free event; however, donations are welcome. Visitors can expect former citizens to return from the great beyond for a graveside chat with any and all willing to visit their tombstones.

Plan to arrive no later than 3 p.m., as the deceased begin to fade from view when the darkness of night draws near.

Clatsop County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit educational organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of Clatsop County and the surrounding area.

The CCHS operates Flavel House Museum, Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum and the Uppertown Firefighters Museum.

To learn more about

Talking Tombstones

1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25

Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery

33324 Patriot Way, Warrenton

503-325-2203

Free

Talking Tombstones or how you can assist with the event, call 503-325-2203 or email cchs@cumtux.org. To visit the CCHS website, go to www.cumtux.org.

Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery is located behind Pioneer Presbyterian Church at 33324 Patriot Way off U.S. Highway 101.

Crossword Answer

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