

## IN BRIEF

## County to open household hazardous waste facility

Clatsop County's new household hazardous waste facility in Astoria will open on Saturday.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility, located off of Williamsport Road next to the Recology Western Oregon waste transfer station, will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday.

People can begin dropping off materials at the site from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The facility will collect hazardous materials one Saturday a month and there is no cost to drop off the materials.

The collection days are only open to households. Businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste a month can arrange to drop off material by calling 503-338-3681.

The facility will accept flammable and hazardous products including cleaners, paints, stains, thinner products, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, automotive or recreational boat fluids, batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent lights and aerosol products.

The facility does not accept medications, syringes or asbestos.

For more information about the facility, visit the county's website.

## Applications sought for ambulance advisory committee

Clatsop County is accepting applications for an open seat on the Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee.

The committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing local emergency medical services.

The vacancy is for a two-year term. The committee meets four times a year.

Applications are available at the county manager's office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, in Astoria or on the county's website.

Appointments will be made by the Board of Commissioners.

## Date change for meeting on fisheries

The date has changed for a public informational meeting about 2020 select area fisheries.

The meeting is now scheduled for 7 p.m. on Jan. 16 at the Best Western in Astoria. It had been planned for Wednesday night.

The presenters will share run size expectations for spring Chinook and solicit public comment for the 2020 winter, spring and summer select area fishery planning process.



Maily and Carson Mulford, center, with their baby, Odessa, pose with Providence Seaside Hospital staff.

## Odessa is the first baby at Providence Seaside Hospital

SEASIDE — The care team at Providence Seaside Hospital welcomed the first baby of the decade at the hospital, Odessa Zorannon Mulford.

Born on Jan. 2 at 2:59 p.m., Odessa weighed 7 pounds, 1.2 ounces and measured 18 inches long.

Parents Maily and Carson Mulford, of Hammond, knew she might be the first baby born in Seaside in 2020 and that added to the excitement of the birth, according to Providence Seaside staff.

"It's fun to celebrate milestones like the first birth of the year in our hospital," said Don Lemmon, Providence Seaside's chief executive, who congratulated the family.

— The Astorian

## DEATHS

Jan. 7, 2020

DREESZEN, Ottie, 87, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Jan. 4, 2020

TRAVIS, Kathleen Corrinne, 97, of Astoria, died in Longview, Washington. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## THURSDAY

**Astoria City Council**, 1 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission**, 5 p.m., Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

**Warrenton Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

## Judge calls out 'mischief' in treatment of Chinook

## Federal court hearing in Tacoma

By ASHLEY NERBOVIG  
Chinook Observer

TACOMA, Wash. — During a hearing Monday over whether the Chinook Indian Nation will be able to reapply for federal recognition, the judge in the case called out the mistreatment of Native American tribes.

The tribe is suing the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs over a rule that says a tribe that failed in its first petition for federal recognition cannot apply a second time. U.S. District Court Judge Ronald B. Leighton is presiding over the case.

Federally recognized tribes are American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entities that have sovereignty within the U.S. Recognized tribes can do direct business with the federal government and are entitled to certain benefits, services and protections.

The Chinook Indian Nation was federally recognized in 2001 for about 18 months before the Bush administration revoked its recognition. In 2017, the tribe sued for the right to re-petition after the federal recognition process was overhauled. Part of the tribe's argument for why it should be able to reapply is that the rule changes give it



Ashley Nerbovig/Chinook Observer  
Chinook Indian Nation Chairman Tony Johnson leads the march to the U.S. District Court in Tacoma.

a better chance than it had when it applied in 2001.

Leighton said it is unclear whether the new process is different, "because there is so much mischief in the treatment of the Indian in this country."

"If I were just a citizen today or if I were in Congress, I would be in favor of a deep dive into the bastardization of the administrative process," Leighton said.

Leighton was asked to rule on two issues Monday. The first is whether the Department of the Interior can ban tribes from re-petitioning for recognition. The second is whether the department erred when it said the tribe had to be federally recognized to be beneficiaries of funds awarded to Chinook descendants for the land taken from the tribe in the 19th century.

Leighton said he would

issue a ruling within two weeks.

About 60 people gathered together outside the U.S. District Court in Tacoma ahead of the hearing. The crowd stood in the rain, praying and singing together. In total, representatives from more than seven tribes across the country came to stand with the Chinook.

This included the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The tribe is no stranger to the issue of recognition. In 1954, the federal government cut ties with the tribe as part of the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act. The tribe's status wasn't restored until 1983. Grand Ronde Tribal Secretary Jon George was born while the tribe was terminated and he remembers the years of fighting in between. He believes the

Chinook will win out in the end.

"The injustice will be righted," George said.

In addition to the Grand Ronde, Ken Workman, a member of the Duwamish tribe and a descendant of Chief Seattle, came to the rally. The Duwamish are another Washington state tribe fighting for recognition. And Patty Gaiser, from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, was among those who led the crowd in drumming and singing.

Chinook Indian Nation Chairman Tony Johnson thanked the crowd of people who had come to support the Chinook, his voice tight with emotion.

The Chinook Indian Nation is made up of the five western-most Chinookan-speaking tribes at the mouth of the Columbia River.

In the 1890s, former Chinook Chairman Gary Johnson's great-grandfather was part of the group of community leaders who hired the tribe's first lawyer to address the fact that the tribe's lands were taken and the tribe was never compensated. But it also never gave up its land and the U.S. never conquered the Chinook through war, which are the two ways the U.S. can acquire land, Gary Johnson said.

"It's those kind of facts that we don't understand how the federal government looks past," he said.

## Last hurrah for Loyalty Days?

## Foundation is disbanding

By ALYSSA EVANS  
Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The 70th annual Loyalty Days celebration might not happen this year.

The Loyalty Days Foundation is disbanding, and canceling its 2020 celebrations, according to an announcement on Sunday. The foundation's end brings with it the closure of its Long Beach programs, like the Loyalty Days Grand Parade.

The abrupt decision has left residents with the responsibility of keeping Loyalty Days going, if they wish. Two local leaders hope they'll be able to pull something together in time for early May.

The foundation's elected officials — Bob Andrew, Judi Andrew and Ruth-Ann Hocking — declined to comment or answer any questions.

Eight additional board members served the foundation. Board members didn't learn of the closure until late last week, one board member said.

The U.S. tradition of Loyalty Day was started by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars during the 1930s. The holiday, held on or near May 1, became a national holiday under President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 as a counterpoint to Soviet-era communist May Day celebrations.

Around the Vietnam War, Loyalty Day celebrations



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer  
The Camas High School Band at the Loyalty Days parade last year.

started to decline across the country. Long Beach's celebration is one of the longest-lasting celebrations.

On the peninsula, Loyalty Day expanded to an annual weekend of events, attracting participants and spectators from throughout the region. Jim Sayce, of Seaview, parade master of ceremonies for the past 16 years, reflected on the event's importance.

"Ultimately, it was more about us as a small community on the edge of the continent tying ourselves back across the nation in our own way, to our own roots," Sayce said.

The Andrew family has played an essential role in keeping the tradition alive in recent decades. However, Bob Andrew, a former two-term Long Beach mayor, has suffered health challenges. And in December, Regan Myers, Bob and Judi Andrew's daughter, resigned from her position as Long Beach's tourism and events coordinator, citing city bud-

get constraints and changes in her role.

"I'm eternally grateful for this expression of love of community that I was given and continued to express with all of you because of the graciousness of Bob and Judi," Sayce said. "They sustained our community meeting place. Honor them."

As with other heritage events, Loyalty Days has struggled to find enough volunteers and younger people to step into leadership positions.

The Ilwaco Children's Parade, which is hosted by the Ilwaco Merchants Association, will continue for 2020. The parade has always been held on Saturdays during Loyalty Days weekends, along with the opening of the Ilwaco Saturday Market and Blessing of the Fleet. All the Ilwaco events will still happen.

Long Beach's Loyalty Days Parade has continued annually since its start in 1950. Long Beach Merchants Association Presi-

dent Karla Jensen and Mayor Jerry Phillips want to make sure this doesn't change.

"We're going to scramble and try to save this," Jensen said. "It's for our community to take this on and make it happen."

After Jensen saw the foundation's announcement, she posted on Facebook encouraging people to volunteer for the event. Within a day of the post being published, more than 20 people volunteered to help create a new Loyalty Days committee, Jensen said.

"This was a complete surprise. If we had known earlier, we could have been planning earlier," Jensen said. "We had already been talking to the board about taking over the event. We thought we had another year to take this on."

Jensen and Phillips are working together to find another local group that can take the foundation's place for the 2020 celebration. Jensen said they're hoping the Long Beach Elks Lodge #1937 or a similar organization will step up to help out this year.

"The event's semi-dead right now but we're going to try and bring it back," Phillips said at the Long Beach City Council meeting on Monday. "This is going to be the 70th year. Even if it's scaled back a bit, we could still work on improving it for next year."

Long Beach's 2020 budget includes \$8,000 for the Loyalty Days festivities. If saving the event doesn't work out, the City Council may redistribute the funds.

## the Astorian

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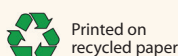
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