



**Fulling's  
Fest**

**LAGERS & MUSIC**  
ON THE RIVER  
MAY 14 ~ 12:00 - 8:00  
AT BUOY BEER CO. — ASTORIA, OREGON

MORE INFO AT  
**BUOYBEER.COM**



Amiran White

Members of the Chinook canoe family wait for their turn during protocol, held in Puyallup after the annual Tribal Canoe Journey.

## New exhibit sheds light on Chinook tribes' struggle for federal recognition

Documentary photography, baskets, carvings and more feature Tansy Point

BY LISSA BREWER

Amiran White has a message to share from the Chinook people. The photographer, who has spent many years documenting the five tribes together known as the Chinook Indian Nation, hopes to increase public awareness of the tribes' decadeslong struggle for federal recognition.

The Clatsop, Wahkiakum, Kathlamet, Lower Chinook and Willapa tribes "have resided at the mouth of the Columbia River since time immemorial," writes Tony A. (naschio) Johnson, chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation. Johnson's words appear in a

### 'ntsayka ilii: our place'

On display at Astoria Visual Arts through April 3.

1000 Duane St., Astoria

Open from noon to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

[astoriavisualarts.org](http://astoriavisualarts.org)

book of photographs and essays, also featuring White's documentary work. These images showcase Chinook ancestral lands, canoes, garments and ceremonies, aiming to illuminate the tribes' history, challenges and enduring cultural traditions. "I got involved about seven years ago when I first heard their story at the University of Oregon. Tony Johnson and some of his family were there and gave a talk," White said.

"It is quite remarkable, everybody continues to have this true resilience, just marching forward," she added.

The photographer's latest exhibit, in collaboration with a group of Chinook artists, explores that very resiliency, using past and present images, carvings, baskets and informational pieces. "ntsayka ilii: our place," a title drawn from the Chinook Wawa language, is now on display at Astoria Visual Arts through April 3. The exhibit chronicles the tribes' relationship to Tansy Point, where Chinook villages once stretched along the Columbia's waterways.

"This exhibit is about the tribe's acquisition of some land at Tansy Point, and their relationship to that land, why it's so special to them. So there are some images from Tansy Point,

See Page 25