



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Many of our Indigenous peoples relied on waterways to travel for trade, fishing, hunting, resource gathering, ceremonies and to visit relatives — much as people travel by roads today. That's why these waterways are often referred to as ancestral waterways; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal canoes will travel the traditional highways of their ancestors to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians for a week-long celebration on July 31-August 5, 2024; and
- WHEREAS,** Fifty-six canoes have registered for the canoe journey, and more are expected. They represent tribes, canoe families, and Canadian First Nations from the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, and will arrive at the Landing at 4224 Marine View Drive in Tacoma on July 31, 2024; and
- WHEREAS,** This year's canoe journey theme is "Power Paddle to Puyallup Youth Canoe Journey", focused on the youth. Connie McCloud, the Tribe's Heritage Division Manager, said it best "The whole point of this Youth Journey is to teach our children. The youth journey is an opportunity for elders to impart their knowledge, for adults to guide and support, and for our youth to step confidentially into roles of leadership. This will assist in ensuring that the culture is continued on through future generations."; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Canoe Journeys have become a vital and monumental event for Native American families to revitalize their culture and to pass on traditional knowledge and canoe teachings to younger generations while bringing awareness to the importance of protecting and preserving the fish, lands, and waters; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Canoe Journey reminds us that water is a powerful medicine and a sacred, life-giving force that sustains, heals, and protects us. It is a journey of hope, honor, and hospitality, where relationships are strengthened, family ties are renewed, and traditions continue, strong and true;
- NOW THEREFORE,** I, Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive, do hereby proclaim July 31-August 5, 2024, to be "Paddle to Puyallup Week" in Pierce County, Washington, and encourage citizens and community organizations to join in this special observance.

Bruce F. Dammeier
Pierce County Executive