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Press Release

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RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER PORT OF OLYMPIA'S 11TH ANNUAL SWANTOWN BOATSWAP & CHOWDER CHALLENGE

Proudly presented by the Port of Olympia, the 11th Annual Swantown BoatSwap & Chowder Challenge is right around the corner. It will take place Saturday, May 12, at Swantown Marina on Olympia's East Bay. Sponsors include: Red Wind Casino, Anchor Bank, Heritage Bank, Inlet Marine, Tom's Outboard, West Marine, Capital City Yacht Sales, KGY and MIXX 96.

This year's event features boats, gear, and accessories for sale, kids' activities, entertainment for the whole family, and the famous clam chowder cook off. Admission is free, but there is a \$5.00 charge to participate in the chowder tasting. A shuttle will provide transportation from the parking area to the event, to the Farmer's Market, and the Wooden Boat Fair on Percival Landing.

"This annual event has become a local tradition and is a great opportunity to spend a day on the waterfront," said Port Commissioner Telford. "Plus you can tempt your taste buds with some of the finest clam chowder in the area."

The BoatSwap takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you're in the market to buy or sell new and used boats, gear, and accessories, this is the place to be. It's not too late to be a vendor. Call 360.528.8000 to register or email boatswap@portolympia.com.

The Chowder Challenge starts at 12:30 p.m. sharp and ends at 1:45 p.m. with the awards presentation beginning at 2 p.m. Restaurants competing for the "finest clam chowder" honors include: Fire Creek Ale House, Fish Tale Brewpub, Lucky Eagle Casino, Mercato Ristorante, New Market Skills Center Culinary Arts, Red Lion Hotel, Red Wind Casino, Riverbend Restaurant at Hawks Prairie Casino, South Puget Sound Community College Culinary Arts, and Vern's Restaurant.

Sponsored by Red Wind Casino, entertainment features the Raucous Band, performing energy packed classic rock music. Kids can scale a rock-climbing wall, bounce in the “bounce house” and catch fish in the “Friends of the Cowlitz” trout pond.

Also on the waterfront is the 28th Annual Wooden Boat Fair at Percival Landing, May 12 & 13. For more information visit www.olympiawoodenboat.org

The 11th Annual Swantown BoatSwap & Chowder Challenge – for more information call the Port of Olympia at 360.528.8000 or visit our website at www.portolympia.com

Free shuttle service will be available from parking to waterfront events on Saturday, May 12.

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About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County’s partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.