Tribe Honors the High School Graduating Class of 2012

Tribe Honors High School Graduates and Families
Sixteen students were recognized by the community Thursday, June 14 at a celebratory dinner held in their honor. The Lucky Eagle Casino Event Center was decorated with colorful displays and ornaments reflecting the theme of the evening. An endless slide show flashed images of the students’ days from babies to proud graduates. Nearly two hundred members of the community were present to show their support and to pay tribute to the students’ accomplishments. All in attendance were treated to a delectable dinner provided by the Lucky Eagle.

The evening opened with Language Coordinator Dan Penn addressing the students. He spoke of the history of the tribe, our thousands of years in this location, and the long-held connection to the land beneath our feet. He credits this longevity and resilience to the ability of our ancestors to adapt to any situation. He encouraged the graduates to look into this past, should they need to find the strength to overcome the obstacles that will surely come their way throughout life. He wished them luck and expressed support in all their future decisions.

Youth Center Manager Tony Medina made his yearly presentation and gift to the students, most of whom he has known since they were born. “I felt jealous because I didn’t have a flashy red suit. I gotta get me one of them,” playfully mocked Tony, referring to the celebratory apparel donned by the evening’s MC William Thoms. “But seriously, tonight was the best ever. Outstanding job by everyone, from Nathan’s (Education K-12 Manager Nathan Floth) wife who made the cake, to the dance crew, to the great showing by the community. And of course, congratulations to the whole big group of graduates. I’m real proud of them.”

The highlight of the evening was the after-dinner entertainment featuring the Massive Monkees. The Massive Monkees are a B-boy group, or break dancing crew, from Seattle. They were crowned the best breaking crew in the world at the B-Boy World Championships in London 2004 and have more recently appeared on MTV’s “America’s Best Dance Crew.” Led by Anna “Banana” Freeze, the crew pumped up the bass and got the crowd moving with death-defying spins, slides, and body rock for which they are famous. Members of the crew have performed with or choreographed dances for the likes of 50-Cent, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, and Missy Elliott, but tonight they unleashed the talents of our tribal community graduates. Though hesitant and embarrassed, the graduates took to the stage with the Monkees, and after a brief lesson, engaged in an epic dance battle. Josh Burnett and Ryan Burnett squared off first, flaunting some wicked improvised floor moves. The most memorable move of the night was supplied by Brandon Canales with an intentional “wardrobe-malfunction” freeze that had the crowd roaring. The graduates were good sports, despite the humiliation, and the room grooved with laughter and delight.

The capstone of the celebration was the presentation of gifts. Each tribal graduate received an endowment from the Education Department which included a new laptop computer to use in the pursuit of further education. The Business Committee, represented by Cheryle Starr, presented the

Continued on page 2...

2012 High School graduates wrapped in pendleton blankets pictured with the Massive Monkeys. Pictured back row (L-R) are Josh Burnett, Ryan Burnett, Whitney Lewis, Gabe Highheagle, Sara Quilt, Johnathan Jack, Jr., Massive Monkey member, Brandon Canales, Jordan Hutchinson, Victoria Parent, Alyssa Charles.

The Education program employees introduced themselves at the High School recognition dinner. Pictured are Bill Sanders and Jason Gillie.
Recognition Dinner continued...

ceremonial gift of a Pendleton blanket to each graduating tribal member. Students and parents participated in a raffle giveaway to end the evening.

Those honored included: Michael Boyd, Brandon Canales, Alyssa

The 2011-2012 Head Start Graduation was another huge success which was hosted at the Lucky Eagle Casino on June 15th. There were twenty-five preschool graduates and many families who attended to witness this proud moment. Guest speakers were Roberta Secena who had dedicated many years to our Head Start Program. Don Secena, Vice-chairman an alumni also remains involved with the Head Start Program. Teachers, parents and most of all the head start children worked very hard to prepare for the next part of their journey to Kindergarten.

This year marked the 49 year the tribe has been awarded the Head Start grant and 8 years for Early Head Start grant. Big thanks to the community for all your support over the last half a century! We would like to thank the Chehalis Tribal Business Council, the Lucky Eagle Casino, Head Start parents and the members of the community for all the support the Head Start program receives each year. We could not do this without your help!! Fundraisers were held throughout the year, with the communities support helping make this successful. Volunteers and parent are recognized for their time and commitment through 2 awards which were Parent Involvement Award: Peggy Freist; and The Fishermen Award: Rikki and Dominic Charles. It’s hard to choose with so many parents who stay dedicated to help make this a successful program.

Next year will be an even bigger celebration marking 50 years of Head Start. Our program will be asking for copies of pictures to display at next year’s ceremony. Start digging up those old Head Start photos! Share a little history with everyone.
The 2012 Fireworks Season has come to an end. Fireworks stands and roadside signs are coming down and stored until next year. This season there were ninety-one Fireworks stands located within the Chehalis Reservation. These stands attract customers from all over following their family tradition of getting the “good stuff” from their favorite fireworks vendor.

Selling fireworks is a family tradition on the Chehalis Indian Reservation. Pictured is Todd Delamater and Luke Cayenne making their sales pitch to a potential customer.

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Selling fireworks is a family tradition on the Chehalis Indian Reservation. Many tribal members were seen preparing their fireworks stands to provide to the public for their private 4th of July celebrations. It’s not easy for first time fireworks stand owners. Competition is a tough learning curve. Many successful fireworks stand owners rent their spot for their stands, build their stand, select their product, set up work schedules, and advertise. All of the veterans at various locations depend on their base of “repeat” customers, while looking to establish more.

This year presented the challenge of competing with city bans on lighting fireworks, safe-n-sane fireworks stands, and the economy, all of which impacted sales. Many stand owners commented on it was an average year for their stands. Others stands that moved to the Tribe’s property on Anderson Road and it made a difference. Other stand locations said they did better than last year.

Pyrotechnic in Training

15 year old tribal member, Sid Sanders planned, saved, and shopped for cakes and mortars to be used in his firework show. They were thoughtfully placed onto a trailer and transported to his selected location, demonstrating his fireworks expertise. This is his third year doing this. He admits, “This is fun, planning my show. I do give credit to Tommy for teaching me about wiring it up. But it’s so exciting and I look forward to doing it next year!”

Remembrance Fireworks Show

There was Tribal “Remembrance Fireworks Show” for all those that have passed on that took place on the basketball court. Many of the fireworks stand donated cakes or mortars. This year they were not wired up, so cakes and mortars was lit up by our own min-pyro’s. Over seventy cakes boomed, burst and lit up the sky with a heartfelt display for everyone to enjoy.

The Chehalis Tribe’s Fireworks Show

The Chehalis Tribal Fireworks Show was awesome as the local people came to see the show. Law Enforcement set up the safety zone and patrolled to provide a safe atmosphere for all. Mason County Fire District #12 was there to oversee the safety of the show. People were seen all over “blowin’ stuff up!” in established areas. There was a spot reserved for tribal members along the ball field.

Many thanks to Barnaby Canales and his helpers for doing another great job giving everyone that heart pounding tribute in celebrating our Independence!!

Thanks to the clean-up crew

Many thanks to everyone else who helped clean up after the show: As always, cleaning up the mess is a necessary evil after a fun filled night of lighting fireworks. It was nice that people attending the show cleaned up their mess. And especially to our grounds crew Correna Young, Josh Terry, Jeremy Fanning, their time and effort on this momentous task. There wasn’t as much trash this year, maybe 2 or 3 truck loads of fireworks debris.

The 2012 Fireworks Show ended the season with a heartfelt display of bursts and explosions.
From family members to close friends, everyone knows someone whose life has been touched by cancer. The first Sunday of June is National Honor Cancer Survivor’s Day! We celebrated with a dinner at the Chehalis Tribal Community Gathering Room on Tuesday, June 19. This event honored cancer survivors and that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful, fulfilling, and even inspiring. “A ‘survivor’ is anyone living with a history of cancer – from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life,” according to the National Cancer Survivors Day Foundation. There seven cancer survivors attended this event supported by 60 friends and family.

Dan Gleason performed the opening prayer. Everyone was welcomed everyone to this event, and explained about the importance of recognizing our cancer survivors. Each Cancer survivors may face physical, emotional, social, and financial challenges as a result of their cancer diagnosis. One can never stress enough during treatment the importance of how everyone should reach out and help cancer survivors. There are cancer programs that are available within our tribal community to help, the NWWP (Breast and Cervical) and the CHP (Colon Health) and the CCCP (Cancer Support). It is important to get routine screenings for early detection of cancer.

Each of the seven cancer survivors came forward to identify themselves; explaining the type of cancer they’ve been diagnosed with; how long they have been out of treatment for 1-3 years. All the survivors shared the importance of getting your regular screenings, and early detection, and that cancer is beatable, if detected early enough. Many remarked on their treatment through chemotherapy, surgery. Explained how difficult it was dealing with it in mind, body and soul. How it impacted their families, but the important thing is that they are still here today.

Once they were all done sharing, each survivor was honored with a Pendleton blanket. As they were wrapped she said, “I am wrapping them with our love and support. It is good medicine to release themselves by sharing their stories with us and not hold it inside. I would like to thank each and every survivor for sharing their story with us tonight.”

A special thanks to our sponsors who are instrument in funding this event: the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Mini Cancer Grant to help educate our community battling this disease.

“Have routine screenings. Early detection is the best way in the fight against cancer!”

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**Honoring Cancer Survivors Dinner**

By: Christina Hicks, Community Health Coordinator

Cancer Survivors were honored and wrapped in Pendleton blankets with love and support of the community for sharing their stories in dealing with cancer.

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**Biggest Loser Contest**

Beginning on April 17th, 38 tribal and community members began their quest to become the Biggest Loser, with 15 weighing in at the end of 8 weeks. Due to differences in the way men and women lose weight, the women competed against women, while the men competed against men; resulting in 6 Winners overall.

The Biggest Loser for the women was Christina Rolfe, a member of the dental staff; Patrick Simmons was the men’s Biggest Loser. Second place went to Billie Higheagle and Ray Secena, Jr. and third place winners were Kevin Bray and Jessi Knutson.

**Congratulations to all who participated – everyone made lifestyle changes and got healthier.**

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**Mammogram Clinic**

September 25 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Wellness Center

Please call the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center to make your appointment.

360-273-5504

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**Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association (NNABA)**

18th Gathering October 5-7, 2012 Hosted by the Muckleshoot Tribe Emerald Downs in Auburn WA

For more information contact NNABA at info.nnaba@yahoo.com

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Tribal Members: Chehalis Tribal Member Adults only. The Chehalis Tribal Cultural Program will pay for the Registration Fee and provide a Per Diem of $100 for Classes. All receipts need to be turned in daily.

Sign up sheets will be available at the Front Desk from July 18-August 3.

You will need to provide own transportation and lodging.

For more information contact Christina Hicks at 360-709-1741.
The team “Auntas Angels” participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. This is their second year and the team consists of Tribal members Kathy and Wilson Pickernell, who walked in memory of family; Harvey W. Bruce, Linda Sipe, Gram Irene, Auntie Liz, Auntie Clara. Also walking in honor of survivors; Aunt Sis, Clarissa Bruce-Sanchez, Auntie Dora and Gary Overturf.

Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, Making some noise in bringing attention to this disease. It’s a unique time to remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. This fund raising effort helps to create a world with more cancer survivors. The American Cancer Society helps people to get well, stay well, find cures and fight back against cancer.

On Friday, June 1 kicked off the relay with the Luminaria Ceremony at the Hoquiam High School Track. Candles were lit around the track in honor of all those who have been affected this deadly disease. It is an awe inspiring moment to walk with the survivors gaining hope and strength from others who have followed the same journey and survived. All walkers resolve to keep fighting to save more lives so no more luminary bear the names of those lost their lives to cancer.

Wilson Pickernell walked 17 hours during the relay and was there the whole 24 hours. His team “Auntas Angels” successfully raised over $3,200.00. That’s $1,500.00 more than last year. They would like to thank everyone that helped raise this amount: Lucky Eagle, Eagles Landing, CTE, Burger Claim, Trudy, Elaine, Fred, Gary and Kathy along with other friends and team mates.

Quote from Wilson, “This is my second year for such a worthwhile cause, My teams effort helped raise over $3,200. Giving hope to someone who is battling or maybe someday find a cure.”

Program Request Community Assistance Developing a Community Garden Project

We will be starting our community garden this summer. We have a location on Howanut Road. At this time, we would like to ask the youth workers to help with this project and have some insight from other community/tribal members. We are looking at making a pumpkin patch and some winter crops. This will be an additional effort for a developing a community garden for the Chehalis Tribe. We are hoping to give this a real push for this to be successful.

At this time, we are asking each department/Entity to donate something for the garden. Anything is greatly appreciated, time, tools, seeds, plants, soil/manure, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to the Community Garden, please feel free to contact me, Orinda, at 360-709-1735 or Shannon, 360-709-1771. Thank you.

Dear Family:

My name is Danny James Edward Thomas-Sanchez, and I am almost 17 years old. I am from Tacoma, Washington and enrolled in the Chehalis Tribe. I am currently residing in a Juvenile Rehabilitation Institution called Green Hill School. I hope to get out on or before August 3rd, 2013.

I am currently in a Native American group here at Green Hill and have met many others from different tribes as well as non-natives that are curious about our culture. I help to educate them about what it means to be native and grow up native.

I am trying to keep my spirits up while I am here. I do have a history of assaults and malicious mischief. I have been in and out of several rehabilitations for children. Now I want to change my life as it has not always been heaven.

I wish that I was with my family but I can’t. So I want everyone to please keep me in your prayers, and be there for each other. Every time I get bad news about one of you, I get to the point where I want to breakdown. Please be safe during the holidays and all the summer events.

I miss all of you and give all my respect to my elders. I want all of you to know that I love and miss you.

Thank You,
Love Danny Thomas-Sanchez
The Chehalis Tribe Planning Department has commissioned Kittelson and Associates (recognized leading experts on Traffic Safety Analysis) to perform a safety study on Highway 12 through a corridor roughly defined from the City of Oakville to the City of Rochester.

As part of this study, Kittelson has evaluated improvement alternatives proposed over the past few years by the Tribe, WSDOT, and Thurston County… in addition to providing their own recommendations.

Some examples of interesting improvement possibilities found in the Draft Report include a roundabout at Anderson Road and access restrictions at Moon Road.

Download the Draft Report and its Attachments from the Tribes website under the NEWS / EVENTS and Public Notices Section.


Please provide comments on the Draft Report or the Safety Study to Kayloe Dawson, Transportation Planner, by phone at 360-709-1767, by email at kdawson@chehalistribe.org, or in person at the Planning Department.

Any comments or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

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**Public Notice: The Chehalis Indian Tribal Court, Oakville Washington**

Che-J-6/12-170 IN RE D.S.W. DOB: 09-06-2009
Notice Petition of Guardianship Hearing
To Mother MaryAnn Wilson and Father Anthony Lee Combs:

Petition for Guardianship has been filed in the Chehalis Indian Tribal Court. A hearing is set for September 19, 2012 at 10:30 AM, #30 Niederman Road; Oakville WA on the Chehalis Indian Reservation. Any questions please feel free to contact the Tribal Court at 360-709-1615.

THIS COURT HEARING MAY RESULT IN AN ORDER OF GUARDIANSHIP BEING GRANTED.
## Happy Birthday to Tribal Members Born in July!

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>Ronald Gaines, Jr.</td>
<td>Haley Parkinson</td>
<td>Adam Gunnels Rick Sanchez, Sr. JJ Shortman</td>
<td>Rene’ Bracero, Jr. Jacob Hoyle Johnny Perez Elisa Sanders Sam Secena Rhapsody Simmons</td>
<td>Connie Baker Mikaela Hoehsel Cassandra Pope Paula Reininger Uilani Stuafanua</td>
<td>Bill Secena</td>
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<td>Kimberly Nath Parley Youckton II</td>
<td>Querida Perez Donald Williams, Jr.</td>
<td>Allen Fricke, Jr. Christina Hicks</td>
<td>Eli King-Gleason Omar Thomas</td>
<td>Jimmie Williams Dallas Youckton</td>
<td>Gloria Jones Cecily Klatush Krista Parent Grant Shortman</td>
<td>Halle Colson</td>
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<td>Carmen Brown Kamryn Cuilllard Linda McAlister Andrea Steckler</td>
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### Happy Birthday Wishes

- **Happy Birthday wishes to my first born**: Cal….July 26th
- **Happy Birthday to Tribal Members Born in July!**
- **Happy Birthday** Haley Parkinson
- **Happy Birthday wishes to**: Junior Jack: July 23rd
- **Happy Birthday** Christopher Klatush from Mom & Dad
- **Happy Birthday** Jodie Smith from Fred, Alex, Cedes, Tony & your friends and family
- **Happy Anniversary to** my hubby Don Secena
- **Happy 70th Birthday** Edna Mae Youckton Pickernell Bruce, Aka Auntie Ed, Ma n Gramma.
- **Happy 4th Anniversary** to my sista Marlene Hjelm; Love your sista Chris and girls!!!
“Professional Development & Cultural Competency Training for Health Care Providers of American Indian Women”

By: Christina Hicks, Community Health Coordinator

On Thursday, May 31 at the Chehalis Tribal Community Center’s Gathering Room, about 80 tribal members gathered for a “Professional Development & Cultural Competency Training for Health Care Providers of American Indian Women.” Participation of this event was provided by the SPIPA’s Native Women’s Wellness Program (NWWP), various tribal programs and invited tribal members.

The day was started out with an opening prayer done by Cindy Andy, Chehalis Elder. Everyone was welcomed by Rita Andrews, NWWP Program Coordinator at SPIPA. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves, and then we called 3 witnesses, who at the end of the day will be called upon to give their input to the training. The 3 witnesses were: Lorna Kalama, Chandra Sims and Jhon Valencia. This training was funded by the CDC as a special educational event in coordination with the UW~Native People for Cancer Control provided a breakfast and lunch for this training. Afternoon refreshments were provided by Journey Woman.

In the morning Katherine Briant, from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center taught a presentation on “What is Cancer?” and Sue Szabo, PA-C, Public Health-Seattle & King County STD Clinic and Seattle STD/ HIV Prevention Training Center, provided information on “HPV Education.”

In the afternoon, Karina Waters, from University of Washington, Indigenous Wellness Research Institute “Cultural Awareness for Providing Services to Two Spirit American Indian Women”. We then watched the short DVD Video “Two Spirits.” This video that interweaves the tragic story of a mother’s loss of her son. This gave a revealing look at a time when the world wasn’t simply divided into male and female, and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders. This movie was very moving and emotional and there wasn’t a dry eye in sight.

We then had a Two Spirit Panel: Julia Lea, Chandra Sims and Juliet Benado “Open discussion for questions regarding the Two Spirit experience with medical services, and the strength of celebrating their identity, and how they told their families about being Two Spirit. This was the first time for them talking openly and publicly to any group, and we thank them for participating and sharing with us. The NWWP honored them all with a gift.

We then asked for the 3 witnesses to come forward and give their remarks of this training. Jhon Valencia said “the conference was a big step forward to bringing awareness about women’s health issues within native communities. It was also a courageous and powerful program that touched the audience deeply with the stories about two spirit women and their long lasting struggles with discrimination. This kind of event is extremely important and necessary to educate and improve human conditions in our communities. Historically, natives have been discriminated against just for who they are and that kind of attitude shouldn’t be perpetuated, especially when it affects our own people.

Rita Andrews, NWWP Coordinator remarked, “I would like to express my gratitude to the Chehalis Tribe, participants that attended, the presenters, the sponsors, the NWWP staff and in particular: Christina Hicks, NWWP Outreach Worker, for outstanding support and assistance in coordination this extraordinary educational event.”

[Box: “Indian Wills and Estate Planning Services”]

Indian Wills and Estate Planning Services are now being offered to all Chehalis Tribal Members who are 18 years and older. This service is without cost to Chehalis Tribal members who currently do not have a Will.

Please Call Christina Hicks @ 360-709-1741 to set up an appointment and get the paperwork needed to get started.

[Box: “Summer Time is a Perfect Opportunity for Dental Care”]

The two months of summer that we have left are going to fly quickly. Please take advantage of your children’s time off from school and call the Chehalis Tribal Dental Clinic at 360-709-1875 and make an appointment. Whether they need to have a check-up and get their teeth cleaned or finally schedule those fillings that have been put on hold for a while, now is the time to come see us.

Looking forward to your call, Christina L. Rolfe, EFDA
Youth News

Native Students Rewarded for Excellence in Sports

The Oakville High School baseball team won the District Championship which qualified them to go to the State Baseball Championships in Yakima. They placed 3rd in State with a core of mostly freshman and sophomores, only losing 3 seniors. This is the second year that the Oakville High School baseball team took third place in state tournament. Many are looking forward to competing for the next baseball season.

Not to be outdone the girl’s softball team did well too, but fell short in the district playoffs. They played well during the season giving it their all for a game they love and played.

Come out and enjoy watching them play next year!

Awards Banquet

Seven of twelve on the baseball team are native boys. At the awards banquet some of our Native boys who played on the High School Baseball team were recognized for their outstanding play. They are as follows:


Our Native girls received awards were Heather Daniels, best batting average; Desirray Klatush, coaches award; and Alyssa Albert got most improved.

Tribal members received awards for their play in Oakville High School Baseball for the 2012 Season. Pictured (L-R) are Gary Ortivez - best batting average, Shawn Youckton and Ray Lopez – MVP, Trey Brown – Most Improved.

Photo by Charlotte Lopez

Youth Summer Program

The Education Department and Youth Center will be offering Summer Recreation & Education opportunities for all students K-12. Activities will be scheduled daily (Mon-Fri) July 9 – August 16.

The Education Department will provide tutoring in reading, writing, and math in the mornings from 8:30-11AM. Structured educational activities will be scheduled every afternoon from 12-4PM. Fridays are reserved for field trips for youth participating throughout the week. Weekly learning themes include Cultural Arts, Public Safety, The Olympics, “Life on the Rez”, and Photography. Driver’s Education classes will also be offered at this time for those who qualify.

For a complete schedule and to pick up a Policies & Permissions Packet stop by the Youth Center or the Education Department. Completion of the Policies & Permissions Packet is required to participate.

Questions? Call the Youth Center at 360-273-9674 or JJ Shortman at 360-709-1749.

The American Indian Film Institute Tribal Touring Program is a Ten (10) day mobile production academy designed for Indian youth ages 12-19. Up to thirty (30) youth will be mentored by Indian filmmakers. Youth learn to Script, Shoot, and Edit films, introducing them to media-making tools, giving them the experience of making films related to their own lives, and preparing them for work-career options in the media industry. The youth’s films will premiere at a screening for the community as well as a screening in San Francisco at the 37th Annual American Indian Film Festival. The Digital Training Workshops will be held August 13-22. A 10-Day Commitment is required to participate.

Preference for sign-ups will be given to students participating in the Summer Youth Employment program. Space is extremely limited and not guaranteed, so apply now. Defending Our Way of Life Through Film… Contact William Thoms at 360-709-1897

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AIFI Tribal Touring Program Coming To Chehalis Rez

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One of the students at the AIFI Tribal Touring Program.

Photo by Charlotte Lopez

It was a successful spring season for the The Oakville High School sports program. The baseball team competed at a high level in the B High School Division. Scheduling games and practices was a challenge with all the rain postponed. The boy’s baseball team won the District Championship which qualified them to go to the State Baseball Championships in Yakima. They placed 3rd in State with a core of mostly freshman and sophomores, only losing 3 seniors. This is the second year that the Oakville High

Photo by Charlotte Lopez
My name is William Yates, Bill to my friends. I am a 39 year old married father of six children with ages ranging from 19 years old to 4 years old; I am also a grandfather to one that is 2 months old. I believe that they keep me young and grow me old. It is a happy medium. My wife, Kim, is a retail manager of a well known corporation.

I was born and raised here in the Pacific Northwest, Centralia, where I went to and graduated from Centralia High School in 1991. Prior to graduation, I enlisted into the Washington Army National Guard and went to Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga. in June of 1990. Upon completion, I finished my last year of high school then returned to Fort Benning to complete my year. I went to Basic Training at Fort Washington Army National Guard and graduated, I enlisted into the Military Police School at Fort McClellan Alabama in May of 1992 completing the training in July of the same year.

I was stationed in many locations across the globe including Germany, Korea, and in the U.S. I deployed to many places and had many experiences with all walks of life. I feel that these interactions with others have helped to make me who I am today. I also attended many schools while I was in the Army and progressed through the ranks normally to the rank of Staff Sergeant. My career in the army ended abruptly in August of 2003 and I returned with myself and my two children back to Centralia. Once back home, I was able to get all my affairs back in order. I am not one to not be working; I am kind of a workaholic. I started working at the Lucky Eagle for Security in October of 2003. Again, I met many different people and learned even more about life, myself, and others. Though my time was short with Security, I did leave with good feelings.

I am very thankful my career path has landed me here with the Chehalis Tribe. I have very much enjoyed participating in the cultural activities that have taken place since the start of my employment. My goal as the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center Director is to make a positive difference for the community.

Let Us start Something for your child

Parents! Did you know the Chehalis Tribe has a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters? Your child is able to experience the benefits of one-to-one mentorship at the community center once a week for an hour. Bigs and Littles play games, create crafts, work on homework, and have a ton of fun!

To learn more, please call Tribal Partnership Coordinator, Cindy Medina at 360-628-7120 or visit www.swwabigs.org.

Looking for Volunteers

Are you looking for a fun & meaningful way to serve your community?

Meet an hour per week with a child in our tribal community. Help them with their homework, listen to their stories, create something, or just hang out and play a game

It’s the time you spend together that make all the difference.
A Huge Thank You to Quick Thinking Heros Who Helped Avert a Disaster

A Big Huge Thank You!!! To Ed Olney and Joseph Wittwer for their brave and swift actions on July 4th. They pulled a burning barbecue grill away from Janice Latch’s house and put the fire out.

Somehow, the grill caught on fire and Ed ran over from next door to pull the grill away from the house, even though the propane tank was on fire. Joseph was at another house and noticed what was happening and he ran over with sand to help put the fire out.

We are so thankful for these two quick-thinking heroes. They may have saved so much thru their bravery.

From Sheila Bray, Janice Latch & Family

$5,000 Grant for Native American Artists

There is a grant opportunity for Native American artists interested into expanding their talent into a small business through the Artist in Business Leadership program through the First Peoples Fund. The maximum available is $5,000. Tribal member artists with experience in marketing their art and wholesale experience can apply.

For more information and to download an application visit: http://www.firstpeoplesfund.org/artists_artist_in_business_leadership.html

Applications are due September 1st, 2012.

Chehalis Canoe Family Journey 2012 Paddle to Squaxin

Come join the Chehalis Canoe Family along our journey. This is the schedule for the Chehalis Canoe Family. Feel free to join in anywhere along the canoe journey, learning to share with the canoe families, and travel with “One Heart, One Mind” through the Puget Sound waterways. Community support is greatly appreciated as we practice our culture with the Elders, youth, and other canoe families.

This is a Drug/Alcohol, and Violence Free Journey! Everyone is welcome!

Itinerary

Blessing of Canoe tuulap tit wiA (Tu-lap ti weah) at Sylvia Cayenne’s – Saturday, July 21 at 8:00 AM

Travel to Suquamish

The Journey on the Water Begins

Suquamish – Sunday, July 22-23 (2-day layover)
Muckleshoot – Tuesday, July 23-24 (2-day layover)
Puyallup – Friday, July 25 (2-day layover)
Nisqually – Thursday, 7/26-27
Squaxin Island Soft Landing (Burrfoote Park) – Saturday, July 28
Final Landing at Port of Olympia. – Sunday, July 29

For more information regarding the journey see paddletosquaxin2012.org

Potlatch Protocoi – July 30-August 5
Squaxin Island Reservation

For more information please contact Sylvia Cayenne at 360-888-6638.

Updates can be found on face book.