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Holiday spirit shines

Community Christmas Party delivers good cheer, festive fun



Families celebrate with Santa

Photos and hugs top off breakfast at Great Wolf Lodge

Great Wolf Lodge invited tribal members to have breakfast with Santa on Dec. 17.

Families took time out of their busy holiday schedule to eat a meal, visit and create special family memories at the annual event.

Some children enjoyed their sweet candy cane treat at the event while others saved it to place on their Christmas tree at home.

Santa was seen visiting children around the room and spreading Christmas

See SANTA, [page 3](#)



Chehalis tribal families celebrated the holidays at the Community Christmas Party on Dec. 18.

Pease, joy and blessings were celebrated at the Chehalis Tribe's annual Community Christmas Party on Dec. 18. The celebration is a magical way for families to spend time together and create lasting memories.

The Community Center was decorated in holiday style in preparation for this hugely

attended event. Yes, the Christmas spirit is alive and well on our little reservation. Wow! Even bad weather didn't deter families from traveling to this lovely gathering.

Tribal members look forward to the holiday tradition each year, and the staff's efforts are always greatly appreciated.

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ALSO INSIDE

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St. Nick visits with kids during Breakfast with Santa at Great Wolf Lodge.

PARTY

From page 1

After signing in and filling out raffle tickets, tribal community members walked around to find a spot to sit and visited along the way. Tables had to be added to make room for all of the guests. Happiness emanated from the main gym as families greeted their cousins they haven't seen for a while. After the blessing of the food, people lined up to get a little sustenance to prepare them for a fun day.

Yes, it was an enjoyable experience as families celebrated Christmas together. Many stayed until the very end. There were hugs and "Merry Christmas" wishes echoed from various places around the gym. The smiles and joy on people's faces proved it was a good day. Children were seen taking gifts to their cars with the anticipation of playing with new toys at home.

Activities

The festive Gathering Room provided an opportunity for holiday activities. Families were encouraged to come dressed up to have pictures taken.

Tribal member Salena Kearny, who was hired by the Heritage & Culture Program, did an awesome job creating beautiful photographs.

In the main hallway of the Community Center, children were invited to take pictures with Santa. After they received their presents, they scampered over to get a photo with jolly St. Nick. Laughter and giggles were heard throughout the building as people enjoyed the festivities.

Youth played and burned off excess energy during this celebration. They were seen heading down the hallway to the Youth Center gym.

The Education Program sponsored a bounce house provided by Merry Makers. It can get a little crazy, but the children really enjoyed this activity.

When things finally settled



Clockwise from left: Children burned off energy in the Merry Makers' bounce house, Norma Daniels called bingo, kids tore into presents and raffles were an exciting addition to the Community Christmas Party on Dec. 18.



down, Norma Daniels went on stage to call bingo. Volunteers handed out bingo passes, crayons and daubers to mark with. It was a great way to win an extra present from Santa Claus. This is a game of

focus, so many tribal members worked hard on their cards for that special opportunity to yell, "BINGO!"

As the winners of the raffle were announced, elders, adults and children were all seen heading up to the front to claim their prize. After they returned to their seats, you could hear the sound of tearing paper. There were excited screams of joy at the thoughtful gifts and toys provided by the tribe.

When the day came to an end, families said goodbyes and headed out the door to get their candy bags. Each bag was filled with love, thoughtfulness and goodies to be snacked on later when community members returned safely home.

Many thanks

We are grateful to the volunteers who helped make this another successful

Community Christmas Party.

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare for this holiday season: Event staff, K-12 Education staff and Youth Center staff. We can't forget to say thanks to those who volunteered their time to help – Norma Daniels, Justin Youckton, Dolly, Jake and Jacque Dickerson, Teresa Pannkuk and Ray Banuelos Sr., Doug Boyd, Bobby Jones and Diana Pickernell.

And a special thanks to the red-headed Santa, Rodney Boyd Sr. Also thanks to the Heritage & Culture staff and Karen Klatush, Charles Latch, Maggie Gleason, Lynn Hoheisel, Joyleen McCrory and Kaleb Merriman for their extended hours while decorating the Community Center.



SANTA

From page 1

cheer. His joyous laughter and chuckling was contagious. He encouraged youngsters to share with him what they wanted for Christmas.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

After a nice visit, Santa returned to the stage and encouraged families to create lasting memories by taking complimentary holidays photos.

After a delicious breakfast, families visited Santa and had their photograph taken. Warm cheer and words of encouragement, lights flashing and smiles were priceless moments to witness.

Thank you to the hardworking staff that planned this event, as well as those who provided a delicious meal at Great Wolf Lodge. It was a wonderful opportunity to create great memories of the 2016 Christmas season!

Families had a festive and fabulous time at Great Wolf Lodge's annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 17. After eating a delicious meal together, families created another smiling picture for their photo albums.



CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, 'People of the Sands'

The articles and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of this publication or the Chehalis Tribal Business Committee.

SUBMISSIONS

The Chehalis Tribal Newsletter encourages tribal members to submit letters, articles, photographs and drawings to be considered for publication (subject to editing). Contributing writers, artists and photographers include Chehalis tribal community members and staff.

Submission deadline is the first of each month (printed monthly).



TRIBAL CENTER

Main line: 360-273-5911

Address: 420 Howanut Road
Oakville, WA 98568

Office: 360-709-1726

Fax: 360-273-5914

CHEHALIS TRIBE'S VISION STATEMENT

To be a thriving, self-sufficient, sovereign people, honoring our past and serving current and future generations.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Don Secena, Chairman

Jessie Goddard, Vice Chairman

Shoni Pannkuk, Treasurer

David Burnett, Secretary

Leroy Boyd Sr.,

Fifth Council Member

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Fred Shortman, Audra J. Hill and the Information Technology Team



SEASON'S SPLENDOR

Beautiful decorations warm tribal offices, homes and hearts

Nothing gets people into the holiday spirit like gazing at beautiful decorations.

Homes and offices on the Chehalis Reservation featured the warm and inviting glow of festive lights and scenes during the 2016 Christmas season.

Tribal members showcased dazzling creations, which reflected the love they have for the season. Yard displays were so attractive that many families hopped into their cars and drove around the reservation to witness the spectacular display of Christmas spirit.

Office decorations

Those who were able to visit Chehalis tribal offices late last year were treated to building after building of magical Christmas decorations as folks competed for bragging rights.

Even the most stubborn Grinch was no match for the wondrous scenes that could be found.

As you moved around the various offices, you could feel the warmth and loving atmosphere throughout the buildings.

Decorations featured trees filled with ornaments, snowflakes and candy, as well as Christmas displays of various denominations.



It wasn't just one wall either. Whole office buildings shimmered with Christmas spirit.

What an enjoyable experience for young and old alike!

Tribal employees went all out with handmade ornaments, new

decorations and family heirlooms.

The thoughtful displays welcomed the Christmas season and provided community members a delightful break during bustling winter days. Great job everyone!



WINNERS

Chehalis Tribal Office Decorating Contest winners:

Best Overall:

Monica Lopez and Scarlett Romero of the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center

Best

Department:

Erica Pickernell and Orinda Goddard of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Best Individual:

Diana Pickernell of the Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund



Co-workers cut loose at lighthearted gathering

Tribe treats employees for all their hard work

Chehalis tribal employees were rewarded for their hard work during the year with a Christmas party on Dec. 15 at Lucky Eagle Casino Events Center.

The room was filled with delightful aromas, holiday decorations, co-workers and friends. Events staff lined up all kinds of activities.

The Ugly Sweater Contest has been going on for a few years.

It's hard not to crack a smile when participants line the stage to model their unique sweaters. Who doesn't own a ugly sweater? Yes, they are



Chehalis tribal employees enjoyed a Blackjack Tourney and Ugly Sweater Contest at Lucky Eagle Casino Events Center on Dec. 15.

warm, but it's like getting a fruit cake for Christmas ...

There were exciting games for the raffle drawing. A twist this year: If your name was

drawn, you had to play to earn your present. Cheers of encouragement and laughter rang out.

For the Blackjack Tourney,

participants were given \$500 in chips and 10 hands to earn the most money to qualify for prizes. It's fun to learn about the game or just wish for a lot of luck while attempting the challenge.

A voluntary present exchange with a limit of \$25 was full of surprises. After everyone received a gift, they had to pass it to the left.

Various tribal programs donated items for the raffle. There wasn't a price limit on gifts – just what each program wanted to give. The grand prize was a big-screen TV.

It was a fun and relaxing day.

Thank you, Chehalis Tribe, for thinking of and rewarding employees!

Youth create Christmas crafts

Creative classes connect kids and tribal departments

*Submitted by Orinda Goddard,
Vocational Rehabilitation*

Thank you to all youth who participated in Christmas crafts classes Dec. 20-21. It was amazing to see so many kids come in to create presents for their loved ones.

The kids were able to choose from picture frames, tree ornaments, small drum ornaments, scrapbook cards, cookie decorating and candy sleds. I hope everyone who received these gifts from their children

were happy with the handmade treasures.

It was a pleasure to be out in the community and get to know the youth and other department staff.

Departments that collaborated on the project included Vocational Rehabilitation, Heritage & Culture, Education, the Youth Center and Youth Prevention.

The Heritage & Culture program gave all youth a small gift for participating in the classes. We look forward to having more classes where departments get to know the community.

Hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas break and a happy New Year's.



Chehalis tribal departments helped youth create holiday crafts during classes in December. Kids gave their works of art as presents to family.

HEALTH/WELLNESS



The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center is bringing lower-cost prescriptions and quick lab results to the reservation.

Pharmacy, lab are ready to roll

New in-house health services move tribe into the future

Submitted by Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center Health Director Denise Walker

We have been working on implementing an in-house pharmacy and laboratory at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center. After months of securing equipment, getting contracts in place and other regulatory negotiations, we are ready to slowly begin operations in both the lab and pharmacy.

We had a small, short blessing of both rooms so we could move forward with sample testing.

Jeremy Brown was hired as the pharmacist. He previously worked at the Safeway in Centralia.

Chehalis tribal member Harry Pickernell Jr. was hired as the pharmacy assistant. Harry will have training to become a pharmacy tech.

Jeremy and Harry are great additions to our wellness team

CONCERNS?

Contact Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center Health Director Denise Walker at 360-709-1772 or dwalker@chehalistribe.org, or stop by the office.

and have worked hard to get the pharmacy in compliance and up and running.

We will carry most medications with the exception of narcotics. You will still need to go to an outside pharmacy to have your pain medications filled. These will not be stocked in our pharmacy.

In the laboratory, we hired John Williams, who worked at Quinault Nation and Cowlitz Tribal Health before coming to Chehalis. John has more than 30 years in the laboratory field. It was his profession while stationed in the military. John also serves as our computer applications coordinator for the electronic health computer system.

The new lab will be utilized for

our patients as well as a reference lab for outside labs requested by other providers. Patients must be eligible for services at the clinic to use the laboratory. It is not open to the general public as a reference lab. We will do most testing here, but there will still be some testing we will not be able to run. We will draw your blood and run it through the Quest laboratory for results. John has worked hard to get the laboratory in compliance and ready to roll.

I would also like to recognize John McGee, who has worked alongside the staff through this process, as well as the Chehalis Information Technology Team. We also enlisted the assistance of Indian Health Service.

As we iron out all of the technical bugs and processes, we will keep you informed when we are fully operational. We appreciate your patience as we start filling your prescriptions and processing your blood work if we run into problems along the way. The only way we will know what works and doesn't work is to move forward and do it.

DR. BEHRE FOOT CLINIC

8 a.m.-noon Jan. 27 and Feb. 23, 1-4 p.m. Feb. 9: The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center has a podiatrist available to see to all of your foot care needs.

DIABETES WELLNESS CLINIC

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 15: Patients need to have labs, a medicine review, yearly physical/foot/diabetes exams and a uric acid blood test.

MAMMOGRAM CLINIC

9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 21: With Swedish Women's Wellness clinic. Please schedule an appointment with your health care provider to see if you're eligible.

ASK AUNTIES/ HEALTHY FAMILIES

See Community Wellness Manager Christina Hicks at the Wellness Center for an application or questions. Call 360-709-1741 or email chicks@chehalistribe.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you'd like to know more about these events, please call Diabetes Licensed Practical Nurse Sandra Dickenson at 360-709-1660 or Christina Hicks at 360-709-1741.

Meet your Tooth Fairy *Busy little sprite answers questions from kiddos*

Submitted by the Chehalis Tribal Dental Clinic

Hello, I'm the Tooth Fairy! I'm sure many of you have heard of me. You might already have received one of my special gifts. Losing your baby teeth might make you feel a little confused, so I'm here to answer your questions:



Q: How do you know when I've lost a tooth? – From Joey

A: I have a golden bell in my Tooth Fairy Castle that chimes whenever a child loses a tooth. My helper, Dr. Floss, lets me know where you live and I wait for it to get dark outside so that I can fly to your house while you are sleeping and leave a sweet little surprise.

Q: Do you have anyone helping you? – From Isabella

A: My assistant, Dr. Floss, gives me daily reports to let me know whether you are brushing your teeth twice a day, flossing once a day and eating healthy foods. I also have a little fairy helper named Sparkle. She's so small that you can't see her, but she works with Dr. Floss and they let me know if you have been taking care of your teeth. Sparkle wants me to remind you that you should limit all sugars you put into your mouth. We know candy, soda and juice can be tasty, but they can be harmful

to your beautiful teeth.

Q: Why do my baby teeth fall out? – From Noah

A: It's all part of the magic of growing up! Because your body is growing, including your mouth, the adult teeth you have growing below your baby teeth need to come out. Your baby teeth are good to have when you are little because they save the space where your adult teeth will come in, but you can't have baby teeth forever. Imagine smiling when you are all grown up with only your baby teeth!

Q: Why do I have to brush my teeth? – From Emma

A: Your teeth are important. They help you chew food, speak clearly and make you feel good about yourself. When you take care of your teeth, you are rewarded with a beautiful smile. And that smile will not only make you feel good, but it will also make

CONTACT US

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Chehalis Tribal Dental Clinic at 360-709-1659.

others feel happy when they see your big, bright smile.

Q: What will the tooth fairy give me for my tooth? – From Aiden

A: I like to keep you guessing! Dr. Floss and I usually consult with one another before I fly to your house. Sometimes we like to give some money; other times, I might just drop off a little gift for you.

Q: Where should I put my baby tooth? – Maya

A: This is a very good question. I prefer to find your tooth underneath your pillow, but you can put it on a dresser near your bed. I'll see it wherever it is because your tooth radiates a soft glow that only I can see.

Q: Uh-oh! I lost my baby tooth. Will you still give me a present? – From Shawn

A: As long as you've been doing a good job brushing your teeth, I will be able to spot it. Not only do your teeth glow, but I also have x-ray vision, so I will find it. And because Sparkle flies around, she'll let me know if you have lost it.

WIC THROUGH SPIPA

Checks to buy food, health education, breastfeeding help, services referral

NEXT DATE: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center



WIC SERVICES ELIGIBILITY

- Getting food stamps/basic foods
- Pregnant or have a child under the age of 5
- Dad, grandparent, foster family or other caregiver of children
- Under the age of 5
- On Medicaid or TANF



CONTACT

Debbie Gardipee-Reyes,
360-462-3227
or Patty Suskin,
360-462-3224

For Chehalis:
Debra Shortman,
360-709-1689

Many working families are on WIC. Is your income within the following guidelines?

People in your house	Maximum annual income	Maximum monthly income
2	\$29,471	\$2,456
3	\$37,167	\$3,098
4	\$44,863	\$3,739
5	\$52,559	\$4,380

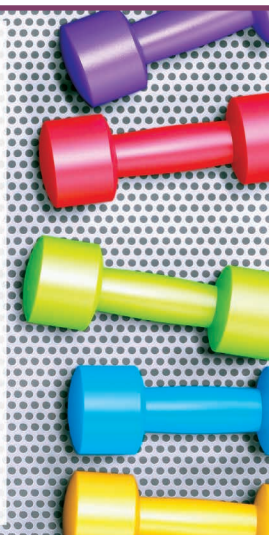
GET PUMPED UP

CERTIFIED FITNESS INSTRUCTOR RIKKI SUTTERLICHT IS OFFERING FITNESS CLASSES

WHERE: Chehalis Tribal Community Center Gym

COST: \$79 a month per person; free 6 p.m. classes for a limited number of participants. These spots are almost full!

CONTACT RIKKI AT 360-464-0664
IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ON THE LIST
OR FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS



Flu shot today might keep nasty virus away

Wellness Center urges community to help stop the spread of illness

Cold and flu season are still upon us!

It is not too late to get your flu shot and take steps to protect you and your family.

The following are commonly asked questions about influenza and how to reduce your chances of contracting it:

What is seasonal influenza (flu)?

Seasonal influenza, commonly called "the flu," is caused by influenza viruses, which infect the respiratory tract (i.e., the nose, throat and lungs).

Unlike many other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, the flu can cause severe illness and life-threatening complications in many people.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from seasonal flu-related complications each year. Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe.

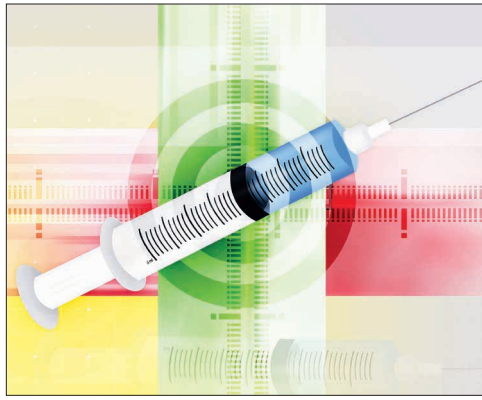
Some people, such as elders, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications. The best way to prevent seasonal flu is by getting a vaccination each year.

Flu vaccines protect against the viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated against the flu every year.

It's best to get vaccinated soon after vaccine becomes available; however vaccine is beneficial anytime during flu season. Immunity sets in about two weeks after vaccination.

What are symptoms of the flu?

Fever, chills, fatigue, body aches, sore throat and headache are common symptoms of flu. Not everyone with flu will have a fever. The flu can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The flu is different from a cold and can usually come on suddenly.



How does the flu spread?

People with the flu can spread it to others up to about six feet away. Most experts think flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Less often, a person might also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth or eyes. To avoid this, people should stay away from sick people and stay home if sick. It also is important to wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Linens, eating utensils and dishes belonging to those who are sick should not be shared without washing thoroughly first. Eating utensils can be washed in a dishwasher or by hand with water and soap and do not need to be cleaned separately.

Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at home, work and school, especially if someone is ill.

Most adults may be able to infect others starting one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Children may spread the virus for longer than seven days.

Symptoms start one to four days after the virus enters the body. That means you may be able to pass the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well

as while you are sick. Some people can be infected with the flu virus but have no symptoms. During this time, they may still spread the virus to others

When is flu season in the U.S.?

It occurs in the fall and winter. The peak of flu season has occurred anywhere from late November to April. The overall health impact (infections, hospitalizations and deaths) varies from year to year.

How do I keep from getting the flu?

■ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.

■ There are many different flu viruses; a flu vaccine protects against the viruses research suggests will be most common.

■ Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits and missed work and school because of the flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations.

■ Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine as soon as the current season's vaccines are available.

■ Vaccination of high-risk people is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.

■ People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and ages 65 and older.

■ Vaccination also is important for health care workers and other people who live with or care for high-risk people to keep from spreading the flu to them.

■ Children younger than 6 months are at high risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for infants should be vaccinated.

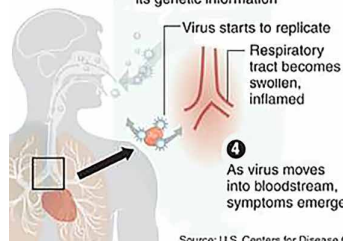
■ Stop the spread of germs by washing your hands frequently, covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, clean and disinfect surfaces and objects, limit contact with others while sick, avoid touching your eyes and mouth and stay home if you have symptoms.

Is it the flu, or is it a cold?

Flu is often confused with the common cold, but flu symptoms typically develop more quickly and are more severe than those of a cold.

How the flu infects you

- 1 Infected person coughs or sneezes, releasing tiny droplets containing virus into air
- 2 Virus enters respiratory tract
- 3 Virus binds to cells, releases its genetic information



How to compare symptoms

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Head	Headache rare	Achy
Nose	Runny, sneezing	Stuffy sometimes
Throat	Sore	Sore sometimes
Chest	Severe or hacking cough	Dry cough; can become severe
Appetite	Normal	Decreased
Muscles	Fine	Achy
Onset	Slow	Sudden
Body temperature	Low or no fever, no chills	High fever (over 102°F), chills
Fatigue	Mild	Severe; can last two to three weeks

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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GET YOUR SHOT

Protect yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated against the flu today. Call the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center at 360-273-5504 to make an appointment.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1

John McCrory

2

Sidney Cole
Lauren Quilt
Geraldo Sanchez

3

Ravenhawk Penn
Morgan Hanna
Tristan Hanna

4

Finley Beckwith
Wilieford Joe
Cheryl Jones
Jayzen Owens
Leslye Wyatt

5

Brooke Allen
Mariah Klatush
John Youckton

6

Samuel Flores
Daniel Gleason, Jr.

7

Zoe Albert
Alynn Clancy
Darrin Jones
Wyatte Wittwer
Zola Youckton

8

Eva Delamater
Cheyenne Marcellay
Kathy Pickernell

9

Joyce Fanning
Makayla Mashburn

10

Robyn Fields

11

Curtis DuPuis II
Alberta Gilmore
Anna Hill
Makayla Ortivez

JEREMY and JOYCE FANNING: Happy birthday. Love all the Fannings. We're all so proud of you!



CHRIS PICKERNELL: Happy birthday from Erika, Emily and Kaytlin.

12

Russ Baker
Jon Brown
Alexander Hoheisel
Ezrah Merriman
Kaelen-Jay Sanchez
Chayse Youckton-Bonifer
Allistair Youckton-Legg

13

Jeremy Fanning
Joseph Wittwer

15

Sheilah Bray
Dylan Burke

16

Wyatt Sanchez-Allenbach

17

Daryl McCrory
Diana Pickernell

18

Irene Adams
Roy Wertz

19

Jacob Christjohn
Mya Ortivez

20

David Bird
Patricia Gitchel
Shyann Klatush
Anna Meas
Jaxon Starr

21

Nathaniel Klatush
Suzette Klatush
Traci Parkinson
Edward Sanchez, Jr.
Benjamin Starr, Jr.
Rodney Youckton

22

Hollie Brockmueller
Calvin Cayenne
Jennifer Cooper
Ulises Klatush
Miya McAlister
Dreama Secena Ferguson

23

Chris Pickernell
Ashley Rosado
Patrick Simmons, Sr.

24

Jake Burnett
Bella Couillard
Daniel Gitchel

25

Jaileen Sanchez

26

Mimi Cayenne
Megan Christjohn
James DuPuis
Laura Fricke
Margie Youckton

27

Cameron Hjelm-Snell
Robert Phillips
Nikolas Romero

ALLISTAIR YOUNCKTON-LEGG: Happy 3rd birthday. We love you!



DANIEL GITCHEL: Happy birthday from your Mom, brother and family.



MYA McALLISTER: Happy birthday. From your Auntie Jodie, Carlos and family.



DREAMA SECENA FERGUSON: Happy birthday. Love Mom and family.

Cheyne Youckton
Derek Youckton

28

James Gunnels
Shirley Kay
Crystal Martinez

29

Akasha Slighte

30

Avery McJoe

MORE WISHES

CALVIN CAYENNE, MIKE HICKS: Happy birthday to my sons, Calvin (Jan. 22) and Mike (Jan. 23). From Mom, Don and Dyani.

DAVID LEE: Happy 40th birthday! Love you bunches, Jenni, Jonnie, Jordan, Savanna and LeeAnna.

DYLAN BURKE: Happy birthday. We are so proud of you! Love Mom, sister, brothers and family.

FAMILY

Toy drive makes Christmas merry

Kind donations from community give Early Learning children another reason to smile

Early Learning was ready for the holidays with our classrooms decorated and our Christmas trees ready for Santa!

We have many thanks to give to the wonderful people who support our children here at Early Learning.

Each year, our parent group raises money to buy a gift for each child to open from Santa during our holiday party before we start winter break.

This year, we received an amazing donation from Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel!

Policy Council Secretary Janessa Bumgarner reached out to our program and offered half of the toys from their toy drive supported by guests of the hotel.

We appreciate the casino's thoughtfulness by including our program.

The toy drive raised hundreds of toys. Each child at Early Learning received a toy from Santa.

A big thank you to Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel for making our Christmas one to remember.

Heritage & Culture staff donated a handmade stocking to each child and pregnant mother enrolled at Early Learning.

Teachers put children's names on the stockings and hung them in the classroom to enhance the Christmas spirit.

Thank you to Heritage & Culture for your kindness and hard work to make such a thoughtful present.

We also received boxes and boxes of stocking stuffers from an anonymous donor. Thank you!



Our program shared this large donation with Family Services as well as the Youth Center.

We are very appreciative to everyone who helped make Christmas amazing for our children at Early Learning.

It wouldn't have been as wonderful without the community's support!

Program welcomes a new addition

The Chehalis Tribal Early

The Early Learning Program welcomed Santa and handed out gifts to very happy children before they left for winter break. Each youngster also received a sweet stocking.

PARTICIPATE

We are off to a new year and are always in need of volunteers.

If you would like to get involved in our program, please stop by any time to get your questions answered and more information.

Your participation keeps the Early Learning Program going!

Learning Program would like to welcome our new Health and Disabilities Coordinator Christian Zertuche!

She has worked in our classrooms and is very familiar with the program.

Christian is looking forward to working with families and staff.

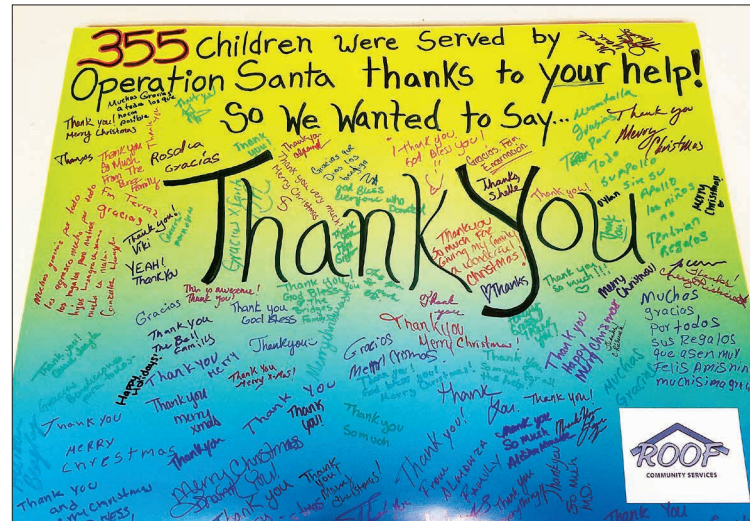
Operation Santa is a wonderful success

Program gives local kids in need new clothes, toys

Operation Santa on Saturday, Dec. 17, was a rousing success. The one-day event through The Rochester Organization of Families (ROOF) matches children with individuals or groups that would like to "adopt" a family and provide gifts for all of the children.

Six families from the Chehalis Tribe were adopted in 2016. The presents brought big smiles to the faces of those who received them.

The ROOF Santa Store also was stocked with new clothing and toys for children ages newborn to 12. Eligible parents selected one new clothing item and toy for each child.



The ROOF program sponsors several projects during the year that involve the entire community. Donations and volunteer assistance are essential to make the projects successful.

The number of children receiving assistance each

year was about 600. With the improved economy, the number has lowered to about 350 children from low-income families in the Rochester area.

The program continues to receive new clothing and toys through the generosity of

CONTACT US

For more information or to participate in the programs, contact Executive Director of ROOF Community Services Kellie McNelly at 360-273-6375 or go to roofcommunityservices.org.

the community. They accept financial donations and gift items beginning in early November.

The recent holiday season proved the spirit of giving is alive and well in our local communities.

Help comes from the heart to make Christmas special and to spread joy through a simple act of kindness.

Keep up the great work. We are looking forward to next year!

Scholarship supports American Indian community

Award can help selected students for up to five years

The American Indian Endowed Scholarship application is now available for the 2017-18 academic year awards cycle.

Past recipients have careers in law, medicine, education, business and resource management. All individuals plan to or already work on behalf of Indian peoples within Washington state.

Individuals may download application materials at the ReadySetGrad website at readyssetgrad.org/college/american-indian-endowed-scholarship. Click the underlined program name below "How do I apply?"

The Washington Student Achievement Council will accept applications postmarked by March 1. Late or incomplete applications

TO APPLY

For questions, call Program Assistant Ann Voyles at 360-753-7842 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays or email alex@wxac.wa.gov.

Your signed application with required attachments must be postmarked by March 1 and sent to:
American Indian Endowed Scholarship program
Washington Student Achievement Council
917 Lakeridge Way SW,
Olympia, WA 98502 (if using UPS or FedEx delivery)
P.O. Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430 (if using USPS delivery)

will not be reviewed by the selection committee.

Applicants must:



- Have close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe or community in Washington.

- Intend to use his or her education to benefit the American Indian community in the state.

- Be enrolled full-time by fall term 2017 at a participating in-state public or private college or university.

- Have financial need (determined by their college's financial aid office).

- Be a state resident.

- Have not received a total of five years of this scholarship.

Priority is given to upper-division and graduate-level students, however, all qualified applicants are considered.

A selection committee, composed of representatives from the American Indian community in-state, will review and score the application.

The number and value of scholarships awarded is determined by the interest earnings available from the endowment. Finalists will be announced in the spring. Scholarships generally range from \$500-\$2,000 each for the academic year.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Libby Penn

Rochester Primary School Kindergarden

Libby Penn is the daughter of Jenne Burnett and Dan Penn. She has one sister, one brother and a dog. She loves her mommy and likes learning the Chehalis language with her dad.



At school, Libby enjoys recess, the treasure box and math. She feels she is a successful student because of her

good manners.

Her advice to other students is to be good.

Libby has fun playing with her toys and playing soccer.

After Libby graduates high school, she wants to work in daycare because she loves babies.

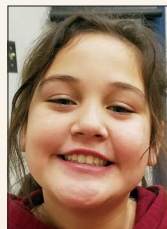
If Libby was chairman of the tribe, she would have recess every day and let people use the pool whenever they wanted to.

Keziah Gleason

Rochester Middle School Sixth grade

Keziah is holding a 3.02 GPA at Rochester Middle School. She is the daughter of Jesse Gleason and Natalia Velazquez and has one brother, two sisters, a rabbit and a dog.

She enjoys doing math at school. Keziah is achieving academic success by staying



on task and completing her assignments. Her advice for other students is to do your assignments

and turn them in on time.

Keziah likes to read, watch TV, play with her dog, go to the boys and girls club and play soccer. She feels she is a really good soccer player.

After she graduates high school, Keziah will attend the University of Hawaii, where she will study whale poop. She also wants to get married in a barn wearing sweats.

If Keziah was chairman of the tribe, she would put up more basketball courts and make a skate park. She also would create more youth sports teams so they can play soccer and baseball with other tribes or teams.

Kirsten Secena

Rochester High School Ninth grade

Kirsten has a 3.33 GPA at Rochester High School. She is the daughter of Misty and Willy Secena and has two sisters and a dog. Kirsten enjoys watching movies with her family.

At school, Kirsten challenges herself to learn new things daily. She strives



for success by turning in assignments on time and keeping track of her grades. Her advice for other students is to

turn in assignments on time and keep checking Skyword daily for your progress.

Kirsten likes spending time with her sisters and playing soccer, basketball and fast-pitch softball.

She says she is a world-class sleeper and is great at fast-pitch softball. Kirsten has been participating and playing in the sport since she was 5 years old.

After graduation, Kirsten plans to get a job and attend UCLA or the University of Washington to pursue a career in the medical field.

If Kirsten was chairman of the tribe, she would encourage more people to attend General Council meetings.

NOMINATE YOUR CHILD

If you feel your child should be nominated for student of the month, contact Jodie Smith at jsmith@chehalistribe.org or

360-709-1897. State the reason why your child should be considered. Deadline is the last Friday of each month.

*Contributed
by Chehalis
Tribe K-12
Program*

in brief

Healing and hope

The Women's Healing Circle runs from 4:30-6 p.m. Feb 9 and 23, March 9 and 23 and April 13 and 27 in the Behavioral Health Group Room.

The group provides a safe environment to talk with people who have been affected by domestic violence. Build friendships, find support and start healing. You are not alone!

A craft, meal and child care will be provided. Open to the tribal community and employees. Free and confidential. Call Domestic Violence Advocate Janita Raham at 360-789-3627.

Tribal Police Explorer program

Would you like to be a mentor to our people and make a positive impact in the Chehalis tribal community? Take the next step by joining the Public Safety Program.

To sign up, contact Mike McNair or Jake Dickerson at 360-273-7051. Stop by the Chehalis Tribal Law Enforcement Department at 30 Niederman Road in Oakville to fill out an application.

USDA Food Program

To sign up for the USDA Food Distribution Program, call the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency Food Distribution Warehouse at 360-438-4216 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Chehalis tribal community members can get an application from Deb Shortman at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center.

The next distribution date is Feb. 23. Pickup is at the Chehalis Tribal Community Center from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.