

## Future of forests

Land management issues topic of meeting  
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## Employee of the Month

Tribal Gaming Agency's Mike Irby recognized  
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# Grads reach big milestone



**2019 GRADUATES** – From left: Haken Phillips, Samuel Starr-Wright, Nathan Wittwer, Savanna Bush-Bird, Kenedy Adams, Kamryn Couillard, Matthew Reynolds, Jakeb Hoyle and Lilia Hoheisel were congratulated on June 13 during the Senior Recognition Dinner at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel.

*Families mark new adventure for class of 2019 as tribal members tackle goals*

By Frazier Myer

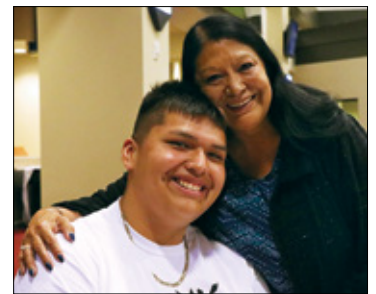
**The Chehalis Tribe K-12 program honored its 2019 high school graduates on June 13 at the Senior Recognition Dinner.**

Nine high school seniors gathered for dinner with family and friends at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel Event Center. The graduates recognized that evening included these Chehalis tribal members: (Oakville) Nathan

Wittwer, Savanna Bush-Bird and Samuel Starr-Wright, (Rochester) Kenedy Adams and Kamryn Couillard, (HEART) Matthew Reynolds, (Adna) Jakeb Hoyle, (Rainier) Hakan Phillips and (Foothill, Calif) Lilia Hoheisel.

The event began with the recent graduates dishing up their plates first. As everyone finished their meals, the activities started with a trivia to

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# Planning helps tribe grow, flourish

*Department plays vital role in community's future*



**Amy Loudermilk was promoted to Director of Planning in 2010.**

The Chehalis Tribe's Planning Department serves the tribal community by developing safe buildings and infrastructure.

They provide services such as health and safety inspections, building design, coordinating surveys and assessments, writing

grant applications and much more.

Planning issues tribal business licenses to all businesses and private contractors working on tribal trust land. The department also supply permits for activities such as building, construction/demolition, electrical and plumbing.

**Amy Loudermilk**  
**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING**

Loudermilk has worked in the Chehalis Tribe's Planning Department since 2006.

She started out with the tribe

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## PLANNING

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as a planner and grant writer and was promoted to Director of Planning in 2010.

Loudermilk earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Saint Martin's University and has spent much of her career as a grant writer and fund development officer.

Her passion for animals has led to managing the nonprofit organization Rez Animal Resources & Education. The group helps protect pets on the Chehalis, Nisqually, Skokomish, Squaxin Island and Shoalwater Bay reservations.

Loudermilk started the organization in 2006 to provide a way for tribal members to spay or neuter their dogs and cats.

She has many pets of her own, including two dogs, four cats, a goat, donkey, miniature horse and several foster cats.



### ◀ Bryan Sanders

#### TRANSPORTATION PLANNER

Sanders, a Chehalis tribal member, joined the Planning Department in December 2017 as the Transportation Planner.

Soon after he started, he jumped into a project that was already designed and headed to construction – the Anderson Road sidewalk.

Sanders gained useful knowledge during the project and added that to the numerous hours of training he attained throughout the year.

Transportation Planning is a new career path for Sanders. He is enjoying the challenge and different experience.

Born and raised on the reservation, Sanders feels fortunate for the opportunity to work at the place he calls “home” and is grateful to be able to help improve safety and infrastructure for his tribe.

He also looks forward to planning and development work for future generations as well.

When not at work, he enjoys a very busy life with his wife, Mary, and their five children (Zoë, Anna Dean, Ben, Aiden and August).



### ◀ Jenée Burnett

#### GRANT WRITER, PLANNER

Jenée, an enrolled Chehalis tribal member, started working for the department in 2011 as a planner and grant writer.

She earned her bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College and continued her education with a master's degree in leadership and management from Washington State Governor's University.

She is passionate about designing programs to address Chehalis tribal community needs. Jenée enjoys spending time with her family and kayaking.



### ◀ Deidra Hawkes

#### GRANT WRITER TRAINEE

Hawkes is an enrolled Chehalis tribal member and is the newest addition to the planning team. She is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful team and cannot wait to see what projects she will be working on for the tribe.

She has worked within most tribal entities. Hawkes began working for the tribe in 2012 as a junior in high school.

Hawkes anticipates that her

newest position as a grant writer trainee will lead into her long-term career.

Hawkes plans to make a great impact on the tribe in the years to come.



### ◀ Marla Medina

#### PERMIT TECHNICIAN

Medina is an enrolled tribal member who began working for the tribe in 2004 as a member of the Early Learning department.

After working with the infant group for two years, she transferred to the Youth Center. She held that position for nearly a decade before switching fields and becoming a member of the Planning team.

In 2015, Marla began working as the permit technician for Planning. She is responsible for ensuring that every business and vendor who comes to the reservation to work has a valid business license. She also works closely with Don Terry, Chehalis tribal building official, on permitting for the numerous types of construction that take place within the reservation.

Medina resides in Thurston County with her fiancé, Johnny, and two girls, Carolann and Falisity.

Making sure her father is taken care of and has everything he needs is a high priority for Medina. Her father means the world to her, just like her brother, Manny.

She enjoys professional sports. The Golden State Warriors are her basketball team and, of course, the Seattle Seahawks are her NFL team. Last year, she traveled to London to watch them perform during a special birthday vacation. It definitely was the trip of a lifetime.

Medina also has a passion for beadwork. It's something she enjoys doing in her free time. She is constantly learning new techniques to better her skill set.

She likes her job and being able to not only witness but to be

a part of the Chehalis Tribe's growth.

She enjoys being able to be there from the start of a project, when they get their first permits, to the final inspection.



### ◀ Melissa Koepp

#### GRANT WRITER, PLANNER

Koepp began working for the Chehalis Tribe in 2012. She is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and grew up in Lacey.

She attended the Evergreen State College and earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in public administration.

Before working for the tribe, Koepp spent several years fundraising and writing grants for local nonprofit organizations.

During her leisure time, she enjoys various activities that include working outdoors, camping, sewing, crafting and exploring historical sites and museums with her husband.

Koepp greatly enjoys working with various departments on programs that benefit tribal members and support the future of the tribe.

### ◀ Don Terry

#### CHIEF BUILDING OFFICER

Terry has lived in this region his whole life. He was born in Centralia and graduated from Lake Quinalt High School.

During his summers, he worked with his father, who was a forester cruising old growth timber, laying out logging roads and working on regeneration surveys for the Quinalt Allottees Association on the Quinalt Reservation.

Terry is a Vietnam-era veteran who served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway as a Gunners Mate home ported in Yokosuka Japan with sailings to foreign

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# Tribal Gaming Agency employee honored

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribal staff enjoyed a Hawaiian theme lunch together June 28 in the Gathering Room as Mike Irby of the Tribal Gaming Agency received the May employee of the month for his recent contributions as System Administrator.

Before the candidates were named and Irby was announced as the winner, the staff was treated to a complete island feast prepared by staff members from Behavioral Health, Housing and Wellness.

Tribal employees filled their plates with various foods, including luau pork, chicken, fruit and veggie kabobs, tiki punch and pineapple upside down cake for dessert.

Director of Behavioral Health Leah Niccolocci emceed the event and announced Irby as the May employee of the month. She brought up co-workers who nominated Irby to share a few words.

They spoke about how Irby is a quiet, modest man who didn't want any recognition.

However, his contribution to the department is so vast that his work couldn't go unacknowledged.



Irby is in the process of a major switch-over for the surveillance team. They are moving from one company to another.

Irby has led the project, which involves installing 14 new servers and nearly 500 new cameras.

Additionally, he helps ensure all TGA computers are functioning correctly and keeping all other products up-to date and operational.

He also helped TGA retain specific gaming permits in a timely manner so there weren't any setbacks on the gaming floor.



**Above:** Sheilah Bray and Leah Niccolocci perform a song for employees in attendance at the ACE luncheon. **Top:** Mike Irby was named the Chehalis Tribe's Employee of the Month for May.

## PLANNING

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ports in the Western Pacific.

He became a full-time employee for the Chehalis Tribe in 2006 but worked as a general contractor for 12 years before he was officially hired.

Terry started his career in construction during 1986, specializing in high-end residential remodels and new construction, which included Indian health clinics around the state and up in Alaska.

Terry's company employed tribal members on various projects, such as the construction of the tribal fish house behind the Department of Natural Resources.

They rebuilt the old storage barn creating the youth gym and classrooms that now serve as the childcare center.



Terry also contracted with the Planning Department in 1997 to project manage the Elders and Head Start building in 1998.

Prior to his professional career, Terry and his wife, Gail, started their family in 1977 and raised three children. Josh, the oldest, worked here at the tribe in Facilities. Stephanie was born in 1979 and Brandon was born in 1984.



Don and Gail moved their family to Oakville in 1981. The Terrys have been married 43 years and have 12 grandchildren ranging in age from 2-21.

Don enjoys camping and spending time with his grandkids, wood working, tinkering with his classic cars and going to the ocean for razor clams and beach combing.

## ◀ Sarra Burnett

### GRANT WRITER

Burnett started working for Planning in 2008 as an administrative assistant. She became interested in grant writing during this time but needed to earn a bachelor's degree to apply for a grant writer position.

From late 2009-2016, she stayed at home to raise her two children, Jordan and Ali. In 2014, she went back to school and earned a bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College in 2016.

In June of 2016, Burnett began working for Planning on contract as a grant writer. She was hired permanently in January of 2019 as a part-time grant writer.

She loves spending her free time with her husband and children, often watching the kids play sports.



# WELLNESS



## Men's health in the spotlight

*Chehalis providers offer solutions to enhance longevity*

By Fred Shortman,  
Communication Specialist

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center hosted a Men's Health Month activity with a health awareness lunch June 5 at the Community Center.

John McGee, one of the organizers of the event, announced in addition to providing lunch that those in attendance were given insight and medical expertise from three Chehalis Tribal Wellness providers: Dr. Whipple, Dr. Parent and dentist Dr. Bates.

One topic of discussion was the fact that statistically, women outlive men on average. The Chehalis medical providers shared solutions for men to manage their health as they get older.

They explained the importance of why and how men should maintain their health. The doctors encouraged everyone to strive toward a better lifestyle.

They discussed the

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**ONLINE RESOURCES**

- [MenHealthNetwork.org](http://MenHealthNetwork.org)
- [GetitChecked.com](http://GetitChecked.com)
- [TalkingAboutMensHealth.com](http://TalkingAboutMensHealth.com)
- [MensHealthResourcesCenter.com](http://MensHealthResourcesCenter.com)

importance of making a conscious effort to improve one's diet and exercise routine – choices that serve as a step toward living healthier.

The final point of discussion was introducing prevention practices and committing to them as a high priority. This part is crucial for everyone and often needs to be reinforced for most individuals.

Adopting new routines and changing lifestyle choices can be a difficult task.

Furthermore, the physicians explained the benefits of getting an annual physical exam. Testing is necessary for assessments of the body and provides information



**Wellness providers spend the afternoon sharing information and answering questions at the Men's Health Lunch.**

needed for maintaining good health.

For both males and females, detection is one of the best methods for staying healthy. Even with advances in medicine, early detection is the most important way to treat some of the diseases.

Early discovery of certain diseases also can help prevent medical bills individuals are burdened with when dealing with a chronic sickness.

The physicians also

recommended that when selecting a medical provider, each patient selects one that he or she is comfortable with. Ultimately, it is the patient's choice to decide if he or she accepts treatment and assistance.

Those in attendance were entered in a raffle drawing during the luncheon. Organizers announced that if men get their annual exam before the end of the month, they'll be entered in a second raffle.

## Fostering together: Our community, our children

Opening your home to a native child in the community allows the tribe to:

- Protect and promote the youth's best interest
- Provide ongoing connection to culture and traditions
- Offer additional resources and support from tribal child welfare programs

### Fostering Together

This program is dedicated to helping ensure every child has a safe place to stay. Homes that honor and support culture until children can return home are needed.

If you are willing and able to

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**RESOURCES**

- Call **888-KIDS-414** (888-534-7414)
- Visit [fosteringtogether.org](http://fosteringtogether.org)
- Connect at [facebook/FosteringTogetherWA](https://www.facebook.com/FosteringTogetherWA)

become a resource for a family involved with child welfare, please contact us.

At Fostering Together, we are here to answer questions, offer guidance during the licensing process and give support after you

become a licensed foster parent.

**Foster parents are provided with the following:**

- Support groups that help caregivers connect to share information and resources
  - Training for caregivers and referrals for additional instruction
  - Support foster parents at Family Team Decision-Making Meetings
  - Reimbursement process guidance
  - Community resources and events
  - A neutral bridge between the state or your private agency
- All services are free to foster, adoptive and kinship caregivers.



# Connection to the land shapes policy choices

## *Forest Service meeting addresses challenges and opportunities*

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office provided the opening remarks and welcome for the 2019 operational meeting of the United States Forest Service Pacific Northwest Division held at Great Wolf Lodge.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss exciting opportunities and also challenges facing our forests in communications, community engagement and recreation.

Cultural Resource Specialist William Thoms opened the meeting with a welcome in a dialect of the Chehalis river language.

Comments reflected the

importance of engaging and promoting community access to properties such as our forests and rivers and their associated traditional cultural places.

"When people can get out and experience these places, they are not just immersing themselves in nature but are participating in a cultural legacy," said Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Dan Penn.

The message focused on teachings that can be obtained from the study of plants and trees. The lessons prove a powerful aid in shaping policy choices for forest and land management. They also help us connect with the land rather than simply live on it.

The Forest Service acknowledged that they were convening in the ancestral lands of the Chehalis People. The tribes



**Chehalis tribal representatives were given an award of appreciation during a regional forest service operational meeting.**

were recognized in the opening pages of the written program, rendering tribute to the history and culture of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

Tribal representatives were

presented with an award of appreciation by Regional Community Engagement and Inclusion Programs Coordinator Shandra L. Terry and Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Glenn P. Casamassa.

## In brief

### In-home assistance

Do you feel like your cleaning, laundry and cooking has become more difficult? Could you use someone to come by once or twice a week to help? A program has been set up to do just that!

To qualify you must:

- Be a Chehalis tribal member
- Live on the reservation
- Have no alternate source of care or assistance (based on individual needs)
- Be age 18 or older and have a documented mental or physical disability

Please sign up at the Elders Center, Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center or Social Services front area with your name, address and phone number. You will be contacted to arrange a brief assessment.

### Mammogram clinics

Assured Imaging or Swedish mobile mammography will be at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center at:

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 18 (Swedish)
  - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 13 (Assured)
- A clinical breast exam with your medical provider must be completed prior to the mammogram

appointment. Contact ARNPs Rita Mercer or Jennifer O'Brien or Dr. Hang Chau-Glending at 360-273-5504 to schedule an appointment.

### Prioritize foot care

Podiatrist Dr. Deborah Behre will be available at 8 a.m.-noon July 30 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Health Fair. Call the clinic at 360-273-5504 to schedule an appointment.

### USDA food program

The SPIPA's program offers an assortment of food to fill your freezer, refrigerator and cupboards. The next date is July 18 from

9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Chehalis Tribal Community Center. To sign up, call Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689 or 360-438-4216 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### WIC through SPIPA

Those in need can receive help to buy food, health education, breastfeeding assistance and services referrals. The next available time is 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 8 at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center.

Contact Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689.

**Coming soon:** WIC cards instead of checks!

## HEALTH FAIR

10 A.M.-3 P.M. AUG. 14, CHEHALIS TRIBAL COMMUNITY CENTER GYM

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tribal, state program vendors
- Free health screenings
- Lunch at noon

### CONTACT

Christina Hicks at 360-709-1741, [chicks@chehalis tribe.org](mailto:chicks@chehalis tribe.org).



## Intertribal Youth Suicide Prevention Summit

**AUG. 12-14 AT GREAT WOLF LODGE**

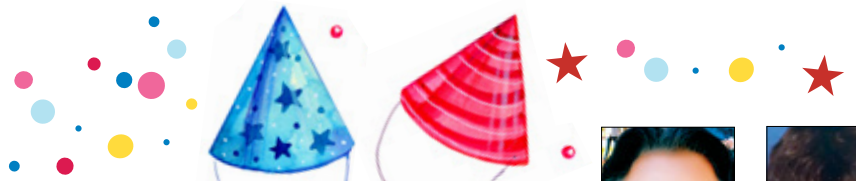
**The Chehalis Tribe is excited to co-host the gathering!** Chehalis tribal youth ages 12 and older can sign up by contacting Caytee Cline at 360-709-1818 or [ccline@chehalis tribe.org](mailto:ccline@chehalis tribe.org) and supplying name, age and phone number

**REGISTRATION CLOSING AUG. 2**





# july birthdays



**Happy birthday** to my wife, Georgia; son, Gary III (above); and daughter, ShyAnn. You are my world! From Gary Ortiz.



**Don Secena:** Happy anniversary to my hubby! It's been an awesome 23 years together and I look forward to another 23 years. You are such a good husband to me and grandpa to Dyani. Love you Don, from Mary.



**Right – Frances Pickernell:** Happy birthday Auntie Frances! Love you! From all of your nieces, nephews and all the greats.

**Left – Christina Hicks:** Happy birthday daughter/auntie/grandma. Love Mom, brothers, nephews and the rest of your family.

CONNIE BAKER  
 JASMINE BAKER  
 SHAYDEN BAKER  
 CARLOS BILL-SANCHEZ  
 FAU FAU BOYD  
 RENE' BRACERO JR.  
 CALVIN BRAY  
 CANDACE BROWN  
 CARMEN BROWN  
 ELIZABETH BROWN  
 FRANKIE BROWN  
 NATALIE BROWN  
 ARIELLE BURNETT  
 PAI'NUH'NAH CARTER  
 THEODORE CHARLES  
 HALLE COLSON  
 ALBERT COMBS JR.  
 KAMRYN COUILLARD  
 KENNETH DANIELS  
 NAYELI DAVIDSON  
 ERIN DELGADO  
 ALEXANDER FLORES  
 ALLEN FRICKE JR.  
 HECTOR GAINES  
 RONALD GAINES JR.  
 ELVIS GILLIE  
 MARIE GRISWOLD  
 ADAM GUNNELS  
 SHARON HALL  
 TOM HAYDEN  
 RIGOBERTO HERNANDEZ

CHRISTINA HICKS  
 MARLENE HJELM  
 MIKAELA HOHEISEL  
 JAKEB HOYLE  
 JONATHAN JACK JR.  
 GLORIA JONES  
 ELI KING-GLEASON  
 CECILY KLATUSH  
 CHRIS KLATUSH  
 DALE KLATUSH III  
 ANDRE KLUTH  
 NATHAN KLUTH  
 CHLOE LOPEZ-PALMER  
 LANDEN MASHBURN  
 MELISSA MCALISTER  
 LINDA MCDUGALL  
 ALICIA MEDINA  
 JACINDA MEDINA  
 MICHELLE MURRELL  
 KIMBERLY NATH  
 GARY ORTIVEZ III

SHYANN ORTIVEZ  
 KRISTA PARENT  
 HALEY PARKINSON  
 JESA PENN-ROCCO  
 JOHNNY PEREZ  
 QUERIDA PEREZ  
 YVONNE PETERSON  
 FRANCES PICKERNELL  
 CASSANDRA POPE  
 JORJA POTTER  
 PAULA REININGER  
 RONALD ROGERS JR.  
 EDUARDO SANCHEZ  
 RICK SANCHEZ SR.  
 ELISA SANDERS  
 BILL SECENA  
 SAM SECENA  
 SAMUEL SEYMOUR  
 GRANT SHORTMAN  
 JJ SHORTMAN

RHAPSODY SIMMONS  
 UILANI SIUFANUA  
 RAIN SLIGHTE  
 JODIE SMITH  
 JED STARR  
 ANDREA STECKSTOR  
 DANNY THOMAS  
 JOYCE THOMAS  
 OMAR THOMAS  
 RAYMOND WERTZ  
 RYAN WHITE EAGLE  
 BRACERO  
 DONALD WILLIAMS JR.  
 JIMMIE WILLIAMS  
 ANDREW YOUCKTON  
 DALLAS YOUCKTON  
 FARLEY YOUCKTON II  
 LOLA YOUCKTON  
 PHILIP YOUCKTON  
 STANLEY YOUCKTON



## MORE WISHES

**Omar Thomas:** Happy birthday, love mom and sis!

**Sam and Bill Secena:** Happy birthday and many, many snows to come! From Don, Mary and Dyani.

**Carlos Sanchez:** Happy birthday to my grandson, from Gramma Jodie and Grampa Fred.

**JJ and Grant Shortman:** Happy birthday to our nephews, from your family and many, many friends.

**Jodie Smith:** Happy birthday. We love you, from Carlos, Fred, Daphne, Rita, Dylan, Josie and family.

**Pai-Nuh-Nah Rosetta Maxine Carter:** Happy birthday to my daughter. Love Mom, Dad, your brother, sisters and most of all ... Aurora!!!

**Robert Cayenne:** A huge heartfelt thanks to you for cooking for my sister's funeral. It was greatly appreciated. From Rodney Boyd and family.



# EDUCATION



Hundreds of family members and friends witnessed 22 graduates take their final steps as Head Start students on June 14.

## *Head Start kids take the next step*

### *Youth learn important social skills for school*

Families and friends filled the Community Center gymnasium to watch 22 Head Start graduates walk to the stage and receive their diplomas.

Head Start is a program for children that are infants up to preschool age. For those at the preschool level, this ceremony is significant because these students will be moving on to K-12 and will attend a bigger school.

This program prepares them for the next step as they will be enrolled in kindergarten before they know it. The program ensures all of the kids are ready to advance. Head Start also gives

**'I'm proud of each and every one of them, and everyone that was involved their progress.'**

**- HARRY PICKERNELL SR.,  
CHEHALIS TRIBE CHAIRMAN**

them the opportunity to excel.

The 2019 Head Start graduation began with Chehalis Tribe Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. delivering a speech to everyone in attendance.

"I'm proud of each and every one of them and everyone that was involved their progress," Pickernell said.

He informed the audience that the Head Start program started in 1965 to help teach students the tools needed for success. He thanked Mary DuPuis, Mary Sanders and the rest of the staff and volunteers for all that they do to make a difference in the children's lives and ensuring they learn in a safe environment.

He spoke about how the program has created future leaders and gave a personal story from when he was 3 years old in 1972 when he started building the tools for success in the Head Start program. Now he stands as Chairman of the Chehalis Tribe.

The Early Learning program strives to bring a feeling of safety and comfort to all of the children. Sgt. Jake Dickerson regularly joins

students in the classroom so they can become familiar.

Dickerson often takes time out of his shift to read to students, engage with them during recess and just be there talk to the youngsters.

"I love being there. I love seeing the kids," Dickerson said. "The kids make me feel good."

After speeches by the chairman and Sgt. Dickerson, graduates walked the aisle in white and purple caps and gowns. One by one, their names were called. They walked to the podium to receive their diplomas.

Seemingly, as quickly as it started, the event was over. The children are no longer Head Start students and now move forward to the big school in the fall.



# students of the month

## Susette Klatush

**Fourth grade  
Grand Mound Elementary School**

Susette Klatush enjoys hanging out and watching TV with her family. She is the daughter of Jeremy Klatush and has four brothers and three sisters.

Susette's favorite subject in school is art because it is fun for her. She feels she's a successful student because she always turns in her

homework. Her advice for other students is to listen and not to talk while the teacher is talking.

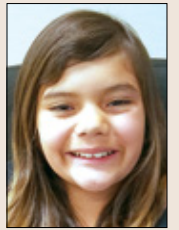
Susette likes playing basketball. Often times, she is seen shooting hoops with her friends and relatives. Her favorite person is her cousin Keira because she is nice and cute.

If she could have a superpower, Susette said she would like to be able to read minds so she knows what

people are thinking. If she had a million dollars, she would give some of the money away to the homeless.

After Susette graduates from high school, she plans to attend a college close to home and study to become a teacher.

If Susette was chairwoman of the tribe, she would make an area for just the little kids to play in and a separate area for bigger kids.



## MAY WINNERS

## Laela Baker

**Seventh grade  
Rochester Middle School**

Laela is the daughter of Russ and Talisa Baker and has a sister and a brother.

She enjoys spending quality time with her family.

Laela enjoys school, but she is thrilled to enjoy a long summer! She looks forward to spending time with friends and family during the break.

She feels she is successful because she practices good attendance, makes sure she is on time and always completes her homework. Her advice

for others is to do their absolute best in school and turn in their work.

Her favorite classes are math and science. If she could change something about her school, she would have more sports and activities.

Outside of school, Laela enjoys playing basketball. "I truly enjoy it," she said.

She has played basketball with her school and on the youth tribal league.

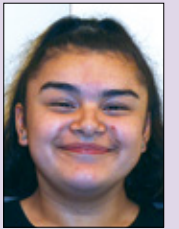
Laela's favorite dinosaur is the apatosaurus because they were big, gentle giants. She would want her superpower to be the fountain of youth, so "I never age," she said. If

Laela had a million dollars, she would give back to her parents.

Laela's favorite people are Nate Floth and Nikkara Meddaugh because they motivate her the most – especially Nate!

After Laela graduates from high school, she wants to travel the world and then come back to attend college. She plans to study at Centralia College while she decides what she wants to major in.

If Laela was chairwoman of the tribe, she would encourage the youth to participate in sports and stay in school.



## Annie Burnett

**Ninth grade  
Elma High School**

Annie is the daughter of David Burnett and Farra Walseth-Burnett. She has two brothers and a sister, two dogs, a cat and a beautiful horse named Twix.

At school, Annie likes being in chamber choir and hanging out with all of her friends. She feels she is successful at school because she can retain information from class and

apply it when doing assignments and exams. Her advice for others is to be on top of your grades, especially in high school. If she could change something about her school, she would like it if they served better food in the cafeteria.

She is part of the Washington High School Equestrian Teams and is trying out for next year's football cheer team.

Her desired superpower would be to have the exact amount of money she needs at all times. If she had a million

dollars, she would find different ways to invest her money.

Annie's favorite person is her brother officer Jake Burnett because, "he is heckin awesome," she said.

After Annie graduates from high school, she plans to attend an agriculture-based college for equine science.

If Annie was chairwomen of the tribe, she would tend to the welfare of all members and try to keep everything efficient.





## Ava Boyd

### Fourth grade Oakville Middle School

Ava Boyd is the daughter of Angelena and Daryl Boyd. She has four brothers and five dogs. She likes visiting her cousins, aunties and uncles during her free time.

Ava feels she is a successful student because she always pays attention and makes sure all of her work is turned in

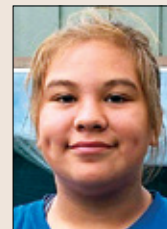
on time.

Her advice to classmates at Oakville Middle School is to ignore what some of the boys are talking about and to pay attention to the teacher.

Ava is fascinated by the ankylosaurus dinosaur. Its cool-looking hammer at the end of its tail makes it her favorite. She would like the superpower of invisibility so she can sneak up and scare her brothers.

If she had a million dollars, Ava would buy the necessities for her family. Her favorite person is her big brother, Bubba, because "he is sweet – not like my other brothers," she said.

After Ava graduates from high school, she will go to college to become a veterinarian. If she was chairwoman of the tribe, she would make the parks disabled-accessible so her brother can enjoy going to the park, too.



## JUNE WINNERS

## Haezen Cayenne

### Eighth grade Oakville Middle School

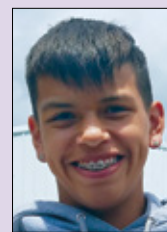
Haezen, 14, just finished eighth grade at Oakville Middle School, where he played on the school's football, basketball and baseball teams. He is the son of Minetta Cayenne and Jeremy Klatush and has two brothers and four sisters.

At school, Haezen likes math class because he is improving and understanding it more. He feels his success as a student comes from keeping a positive attitude even when he doesn't want to do his school work.

If he could change something at school, it would be to improve sports programs. Haezen also would like snacks to be provided after practice.

His favorite basketball player is Kyrie Irvin, an NBA All-Star player. During Haezen's spare time, he loves to play basketball because it's something he's confident doing and is a way for him to be competitive with his friends.

After Haezen graduates from high school, he wants to attend Gonzaga University and play basketball.



## Kaylena Delgado

### Ninth grade Rochester High School

Kaylena is the daughter of Richard and Erin Delgado. She enjoys watching movies and going on vacations with her family, which includes her two little brothers.

When Kaylena is at school, she really enjoys her English class. Her

advice for other students is to pay attention to the teacher and study for tests.

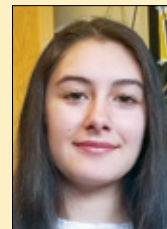
She loves learning and studying, but she also likes school for the social aspect. Lunchtime is one of her favorite parts about school because she gets to relax and see her friends.

Kaylena also loves cheerleading because she gets to spend more time

with her friends and she has fun participating in the sport. If she had a million dollars, she would move into a huge house.

When asked who her favorite person is, Kaylena said, "My mom because we always have fun together."

After Kaylena graduates from high school, she plans to study at the University of Washington.



## Big news for Oakville schools

We wanted to take a moment to thank the Chehalis Nation for another opportunity to partner with you in raising and educating your students during the 2018-19 school year.

We had an amazing time in Oakville and are looking forward to fall.

Some big changes are coming to Oakville School District:

- We will have a music teacher for kindergarten-12
- We will have an agriculture teacher for high school
- We will have an

environmental science teacher for high school

■ A grant that Grays Harbor County received will allow us to train students as peer mediators in a program called Hope Squad to help us teach students to deal with grading.

■ We are hiring a staff member who will help guide students in grades 8-12 toward the pathway of their choice beyond high school.

Have a great summer! We can't wait to see all of our Acorns in the fall.

## JOIN THE CENSUS TEAM

**\$15-16.50 PER HOUR!**

Looking for a job? Grays Harbor County is hiring for a number of temporary jobs, including office staff, census takers, supervisory staff and recruitment assistants. Chehalis tribal members are encouraged to join to ensure we are being counted. Don't pass up this great opportunity for good pay, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training!

**To apply:**

**2020census.gov/en/  
jobs or 855-562-2020**







Chehalis tribal member Diana Pickernell graduated from The Evergreen State College this year.



Adna High School graduate Jakeb Hoyle is excited to be finished with high school and looks forward to a summer of travel and adventures.

## GRADS

From page 1

challenge the minds of the guests of honor.

Keynote speaker JaNessa Bumgarner, COO of Lucky Eagle Casino, spoke about her personal journey and challenges after high school. She gave advice to the graduates in attendance as they take their first major step into adulthood.

"You don't have to decide the rest of your life today," Bumgarner said. "Know you have many options. Take different paths until you find the one that fits you."

She finished by letting the graduates know that the community of the Chehalis Reservation is here to support them every step of the way.

Higher Education Coordinator Racheal Mendez spoke to the grads about the options of college and where to find her

**'To me, it signifies a coming of age. I haven't had anything else like this from the tribe.'**

**- MATTHEW REYNOLDS,  
2019 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**

office. She said tribal members are welcome to come see her for higher education resources and questions.

Talisa Baker filled in for Tony Medina to represent the Youth Center at the event. She invited co-workers Geo Jack and Amanda Jennings up to the stage to congratulate the graduates and hand out \$200 Walmart gift cards.

Some of the kids have been part of the youth program for most of their childhoods.



Seniors took the opportunity to thank those who helped them get to the milestone of graduating high school by giving flowers to their parents and loved ones.

The K-12 program signified their rite of passage with a

Pendleton blanket and eagle feather.

K-12 staff member Jodie Smith organized the gathering. She has worked with the students through the years and has seen the adversity they faced. Her advice to them moving on is to never give up.

One aspect of this event is that it highlights some of the tribal members that live off the Chehalis Reservation. It's a way for them to connect with their community and culture.

Matthew Reynolds, who is part of the Penn Family (son of April Penn), built up the courage to give a speech in which he thanked his family that played an essential role in helping him make it to this exciting point in life.

He recalls his mom putting him on the bus every morning and making sure he got his work done

See GRADS, page 11





## GRADS

From page 10

before he could play.

"She was a big inspiration," Reynolds said.

He lives in Rochester but hasn't spent much time on the reservation in recent years. He spoke about how he really enjoys being a part of events like this one. The graduates received various gifts throughout the night.

For Reynolds, the best part of the evening was receiving his first eagle feather. He said, "It's very beautiful and close to my heart. To me, it signifies a coming of age. I haven't had anything else like this from the tribe."

Admittedly, he's still not quite able to comprehend that there is no more K-12. However, he said, "I'm excited to get on with the rest of my life."

Reynolds plans on attending Centralia College to study business and wants to come back and work for the tribe after earning a degree.

Other students plan to take a break from school for a bit as they travel and spend time with friends and family.

Lilia Hoheisel is originally from Washington but her family moved down to Redding, California, when she was a young

child.

Being back on the reservation "feels like home" for Lilia.

"This is the best thing," Lilia said. "It is the best way to get family together and celebrate those who finished school, moving on to their goals and dreams."

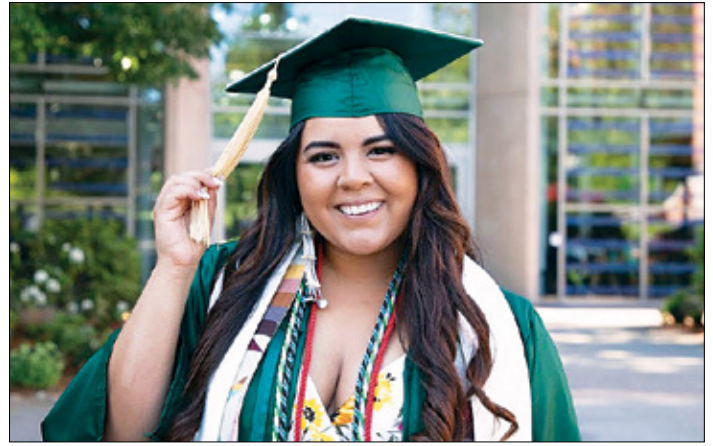
She said it's a way to celebrate and be honored in a way that only family and the tribal community can – with Pendleton blankets.

While in high school, the sports she participated in might seem untraditional. She played football, softball, baseball and is into mixed martial arts.

Although she loves sports, she understands the importance of academics and is interested in studying journalism in college. She already has decided that she wants to take a "gap-year" and travel to Europe, where she plans to work on her journalistic approach to writing.

Lilia's grandmother, Lynn Hoheisel, said she wishes success for all of the grads in whatever they choose to do moving forward. She's had numerous grandkids graduate high school.

Seeing Lilia take that step is starting to make her feel old. She was overwhelmed with pride for her granddaughter's achievement.



Erica Mendez graduated from the University of Oregon.

## Chasing her dreams

We are overwhelmed with happy tears! On June 17, our daughter Erica Mendez graduated from the University of Oregon with a double major in political science and sociology with a concentration on immigration and indigenous peoples.

Four years have gone by so fast. She started her college journey at UC Santa Cruz and transferred her sophomore year. While she's been in college, we've been able to attend football games, sorority activities and the Mother's Day Powwow!

Erica has kept herself busy as an executive coordinator of the Nike N7 Youth Movement; a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Nu and Epsilon Omicron Chapter; and a co-director of the Native American Student

Union. Last year, she was able to backpack throughout Europe and study abroad in Oviedo, Spain. After graduation, she will attend the Berkeley Pipeline to Law and study for the LSAT in preparation for law school!

I would like to thank our friends and family who have been there for her during this journey. Jay and Kris Salmon, Alida Sanchez-Camacho, JaNessa Bumgarner, Cheyenne Marcellay-Howe, the Sutter family, Bella Mendez, grandparents and all aunties, uncles and cousins. There are just so many people to be thankful for, I could fill a whole page and still wouldn't have enough room!

Erica, we love you so much and are so proud of you

– Racheal and Manuel Mendez and sister Marivella



Daryl Shortman graduated from Central Washington University.

## Walk & Roll Wednesdays

Join us as Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center staff walk at noon from the clinic to Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel

SIGN UP AT THE ELDERS CENTER, COMMUNITY CENTER, WELLNESS CENTER OR TRIBAL CENTER, OR EMAIL [SDICKENSON@CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG](mailto:SDICKENSON@CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG)

\* Sponsored by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians



# CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

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

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

### SUBMISSIONS

We encourage tribal members to submit letters, articles, photographs and drawings to be considered for publication in the newsletter (materials are subject to editing). Contributing writers, artists and photographers include Chehalis tribal community members and staff.

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### VISION STATEMENT

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



### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Harry Pickernell Sr.** Chairman  
**Jessie Goddard:**  
Vice Chairman  
**Sheilah Bray:** Treasurer  
**David Burnett:** Secretary  
**Leroy Boyd Sr.:**  
Fifth Council Member

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**The Chehalis Tribal  
Newsletter is a  
publication of the  
Confederated Tribes  
of the Chehalis  
Reservation**

## Fishing fun with dad



Community  
members and  
their families  
hook a few fish  
to celebrate the  
annual Father's  
day event.

