Grads reach big milestone


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

Planning helps tribe grow, flourish

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.
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.

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 (Zoe, 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.

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 Falicity.

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.

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.

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.

Don Terry
CHIEF BUILDING OFFICER

Terry has lived in this region his whole life. He was born in Centralia and graduated from Lake Quinault 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 Quinault Allottees Association on the Quinault 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
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.

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

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 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 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 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 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 during a regional forest service operational meeting.

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-Glendinning 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!

In brief

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july birthdays

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

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

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.

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 Dyanii.

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.
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 students in the classroom so they can become familiar.

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

Hearten and everyone that was involved their progress.'

- HARRY PICKERNELL SR., CHEHALIS TRIBE CHAIRMAN

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

Hearten and everyone that was involved their progress, Pickernell said.

Hearten and everyone that was involved their progress, Pickernell said.
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.

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, aunts 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.

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.
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 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.

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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

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

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