

Biking legacy

Tribal member braves STP endurance ride
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Outstanding work

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Cultural journey



Left: The Chehalis Canoe Family landed in Tulalip to rest before finishing the Paddle to Lummi. Todd Delamater sat in front of the canoe as the pace-setter for the pullers.

Canoe trip taps into tribal unity, history and healing

The Chehalis Canoe Family paddled hundreds of miles from July 16-24 as members took part in the "Paddle to Lummi: 2019 Intertribal Canoe Journey."

The theme of this year's event was "Traveling the Traditional ways of our Ancestors." On the final day, 112 canoes landed

and were welcomed ashore by the Lummi Nation. The tribes and First Nation bands shared their songs and dances at the final Protocol.

Prior to the Chehalis Canoe Family making its final landing in Lummi, they made many stops along the way to camp and meet with

other tribes who endured the same challenges and joys while paddling the waterways.

This year, they departed from Squaxin Island on July 16 and traveled through Puget Sound to the Nisqually Reservation for the first stop.

Chehalis tribal member Todd Delamater explained that this year was significant because the first journey the Canoe Family participated in was to Lummi in 2007. He took his first journey the following summer in 2008 when he was 18 years old.

His uncle Jr., skipper during the first few years, is the individual who encouraged Delamater to join the canoe family. The skipper steers the canoe and is responsible for

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Youth follow ancestors' path

Rites of Passage encourages strong connection to river

From July 10-12 Chehalis tribal youth carried on traditions of their native ancestors as they participated in the Rites of Passage and traveled along the Chehalis River inside canoes.

The Chehalis Tribe felt it was important

for the youth to experience the ways of their ancestors. Hundreds of years ago, natives used these waterways as their roads to travel, hunt, gather and interact with other tribal people.

Before taking the journey down the river, Rites of Passage participants visited Rainbow Falls, which is part of the Chehalis

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Tribal youth and adult chaperones depart from Independence Bridge during the Rites of Passage.

Tribe recognizes outstanding work

Employee of the Month and Supervisor of the Quarter honored

Amanda Marquez of the Social Service department received the June Employee of the Month award for her commitment and constant efforts toward improving the Chehalis tribal community.



Amanda Marquez

Jose Caywood nominated Marquez for diligently completing her responsibilities, which vary on a daily basis as she works with tribal families and children. She goes above and beyond to follow through on the mission as an Indian Child Care Social Worker.

Caywood wrote in his nomination letter that "Amanda is willing to do whatever is asked of her, each and every day."

Marquez "cares about each and every community member she supports," Caywood said.

She takes her responsibilities seriously and is constantly making efforts to create a constructive change within the tribal community.

Her enthusiastic mindset and cheerful attitude aids the positive morale among the Chehalis Tribe community and her co-workers.

A majority of the work Marquez does is undisclosed to the majority of the tribe. Her job duties are confidential, therefore the changes she makes go unnoticed beyond those she

serves. Yet, her accomplishments are so vast that she has been recognized as the June Employee of the Month.

Supportive supervision

Barb Sanders was honored as Supervisor of the Quarter during the ACE awards Luncheon on July 26.

Sanders also is often overlooked because the work she does is confidential. Her nomination letter was submitted by Director of Behavioral Health Leah Niccolocci.

Niccolocci recognized Sanders for her more than 20 years of service to the Chehalis Tribe and being an "unsung hero." She said the nature of her work, which is strictly confidential, is the reason Sanders has yet to receive recognition.

Fellow staff members feel Sanders is both knowledgeable and approachable. She is second in charge when the director is away.



Behavioral Health's Barb Sanders (left) was recognized for her diligent professionalism during more than 20 years serving the Chehalis Tribe. She was nominated by Department Director Leah Niccolocci.

"Because of her strong, supportive, consistent supervision, our department runs seamlessly," Niccolocci said.

Even as the director of the department, Niccolocci seeks assistance and guidance from Sanders.

She shares her wealth of knowledge with all of her co-workers and is viewed as a key



figure for the Behavioral Health team.

"She is graceful," Niccolocci said. "She takes her job very seriously while having a great sense of humor."

Sanders briefly spoke after receiving the award.

"I really appreciate my job," she said.

She is appreciative of the tribe for providing her with longevity in her specialized field.



Assistant General Manager Jesse Gleason emceed the ACE luncheon as they named the June Employee of the Month and Supervisor of the Quarter.

Efforts to restore ancestral lands nets 218 acres

Submitted by Sandra Crowell, Department of Natural Resources contractor

The reservation is now 218 acres larger, thanks to a proclamation approved on May 8 by the U.S. Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. Two

proclamations were announced in the Federal Register to include commercial properties in Grand Mound and 93rd Avenue in Tumwater, as well as river protection land north of Oakville.

The reservation land is used for economic development, housing and protection of streams and

resources. Property taxes no longer apply to parcels in trust or on newly proclaimed reservation.

In addition, many pieces of property on the reservation and owned by non-natives have been reclaimed in fee-to-trust applications as part of the original 1864 boundaries.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management must approve specific steps in the process.

The Realty program, Chehalis Department of Natural Resources, has submitted proclamations that expand the reservation by 761 acres since 2017.

Cyclist challenges herself in STP bike ride

Dedicated tribal member Sheilah Bray has made long-distance journey a tradition

Sheilah Bray rode in the 2019 Seattle to Portland (STP), challenging herself in the Northwest region's event for the seventh time.

She was inspired to participate in her first ride in 2007 by her brother, Charles Latch. She explained she has learned a lot about what it takes to complete the enduring journey since her first ride.

She familiarized herself with the route and what type of bicycle is most suitable to complete the challenge. The first time she rode in the STP, her sister, Selena, let her borrow a bicycle, gear and other necessities to participate.

Admittedly, she was unaware of essentials needed for the performance, such as a water canteen, lock-in shoes, bike shorts and a suitable bike.

Over the finish line

She didn't tell many people about attempting the more than 200-mile ride because she didn't want to create any high expectations. She said she took a brief break after riding for a few hours beyond Longview.

She asked a fellow STP participant how far they had to go. He told her that they were only 25 miles from the finish line.

"That's when I realized, I'm going to finish," Bray said.

With blisters on her hands and

shoulders and facing 90-degree heat, she completed her first attempt at the STP.

She was proud of her accomplishment, with thoughts of never having to do the ride again.

On the road again

She called her sister, Selena, on the car ride home. She said she wanted to ride with her the following year (2008). Bray wasn't in the clear from attempting the STP again. She participated in 2008, 2009, 2010. She told everybody 2010 would be her last time riding in the event.

In 2017, family members expressed interest in the enduring journey. Her brothers and nephews helped spark the interest again and Bray entered the 2017 STP.

She explained that in 2018 her brother, Kevin, approached her with strong intentions of attempting the ride. At dinner, Kevin told her, "I'm signing us up for the STP."

She committed somewhat unwillingly to take the ride with Kevin last year, which was 205 miles. Kevin came really close to completing, but told himself he would reach the finish line the following year.

Therefore, she decided to brave the ride again this year. The route becomes slightly longer each year, and the most recent was a whopping 207 miles.

Along with the gratitude of reaching the finish line, Bray's favorite part is biking through Joint Base Lewis-McChord because of the open road and beautiful scenery.



Siblings Sheilah and Kevin Bray capture a memory during this year's Seattle to Portland ride before kicking off the 207-mile endurance trip.

Overcoming difficulties

In addition to a lack of training and preparation, Bray said the summer heat causes difficulties and is something riders don't always anticipate. The hardest part of the ride for her is climbing the mile-long hill in the city of Puyallup.

"It feels like it's straight up," Bray described.

"The type of bike you're riding

makes a huge difference," Bray said.

After learning from prior experiences, she purchased what is referred to as a "century bicycle," one intended for 100-mile rides. The bicycle she made the 2019 ride on was a Felt brand.

She wants to let community members know that if anyone is thinking about attempting the STP, she would be happy to provide advice and general guidelines.

Call for entries

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SEPT. 30

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





Community members gathered outside of the Tribal Center to send off the Chehalis Canoe Family with prayers and wishes for a safe paddle.

JOURNEY

From page 1

instructing and keeping order among everyone in the canoe. The skipper gives encouragement and motivation to the crew.

"It was pretty amazing," Delamater said.

"Everyone has their own reasons for coming out here," Delamater said. "For me, it's the experience as a whole. I get to meet new people from Hawaii to Alaska. This is a way for people to get out and meet another person from another tribe. It's pretty awesome to see everyone's different points of view."

He continued participating in the journey so he could be out on the water and appreciate nature. He enjoys going from village to village while the tribes show hospitality and generosity.

Additionally, he described that it gives him the privilege of seeing the way it used to be before things changed and tribes isolated themselves on their reservations. Back then, the intertribal aspect was more prevalent.

Going on the annual journey makes it possible for him to view and understand how tribes used to operate.

"It gives you a glimpse into the past," Delamater said.

History of paddling

After taking the 26-mile paddle from Suquamish to Tulalip, Delamater described some of

'It was pretty amazing. Everyone has their own reasons for coming out here. For me, it's the experience as a whole. I get to meet new people from Hawaii to Alaska.'

**- TODD DELAMETER,
CHEHALIS TRIBAL MEMBER**

the challenges of open-water paddling. He explained this paddle took longer than expected because the wind picked up and they worked hard paddling against the current in the afternoon.

Struggles of paddling in the canoes is very similar to the perseverance that Native American ancestors endured as they used the rivers and ocean waters as highways to travel.

Centuries ago, natives traveled in both river and ocean canoes to different tribal territories to meet and trade with others.

Gail White-Eagle, whose Indian name is "SiSeeNaxAlt," helped form the original Chehalis Canoe Family in 2007 on the Paddle to Lummi. She said traveling by canoe was a "way of life" for generations and explained her reason for helping put together a canoe family.

"Our ancestors traveled this



The Chehalis Tribe flag whirls in the wind after the canoe family stationed the Tulap for the evening at the Tulalip resting point.

way," White-Eagle said. "We decided that we need to do this for our people to come together and be able to practice our cultural ways."

Continuing tradition

She also talked about how they acquired the canoe from a Skokomish tribal member.

After receiving the vessel, it was repainted and given the name Tulap. They had a three-month timeframe to prepare for their first journey, which required work every single day leading up to the launch.

White-Eagle is honored to see everyone who continues this tradition on a yearly basis. Tribal member Norma Daniels returned for her fourth summer of paddling

with the Chehalis Family. For her, the journey is a way of healing, and honoring tribal ancestors.

She said time on the water allows her to focus spiritually and that this paddle was more important to her because she suffered the loss of her father and other loved ones this year.

"When I'm out there on the water, I just pray," Daniels said. "Each pull is a prayer."

She said there are times where she struggles with the heat, getting sunburned and battling wind and currents.

During those moments, she finds support through fellow paddlers. That momentum helps her get through those rough patches.

YOUTH

From page 1

Tribe's territory and an area the Chehalis people frequented prior to colonization. The tribe still owns land in the area west of the town Chehalis.

While at Rainbow Falls on July 10, the children explored sacred land, and identified local plants that native ancestors gathered for food and medicine.

The following day, a group that included those from the Youth Program, Chehalis Canoe Family and Community & Culture Department gathered at Independence Bridge to send off members of the 2019 Rites of Passage. The Canoe Family shared a song and said a prayer before they launched on the first leg of the passage.

Philip Youckton, Events Manager and Chehalis tribal member, helped coordinate the event to recreate an activity that hasn't been practiced in more than 30 years.

Cherished memories

Youckton shared his thoughts on the Rites of Passage and the purpose of sending youth down the traditional highways of the tribal people. The main goal was to introduce the youth to the river. It also encouraged the rest of the tribe to discover more about the Chehalis River.

"It's a learning experience for all of us – the staff, families and kids all involved," Youckton said.

The youth paddled from Independence Bridge to Percy's Landing, a well-known area of the river. They set up tents and camped for the night.

Youngsters cooked dinner and listened to stories told by tribal elders and tribal linguist Dan Penn.



Sid Smith and Samuel Secena spoke about what it was like for them growing up along the river. They both said how important it is for them to witness this generation out on the water.

They told the youth that these moments and the trip down the Chehalis are times they will carry with them forever.

Encouraging a healthy life

Decades ago, when the Rites of Passage was introduced, it was a program meant to keep the youth away from drugs and alcohol abuse, something the tribe dealt with daily.

Although this year's message wasn't focused on substance abuse, tribal elders briefly addressed the issue and said that by participating in events such as the Rites of Passage, it will help keep youth out of trouble and ultimately lead to better lifestyles.

The next morning, they broke down camp. Dan shared Coastal

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The males who participated in the journey enjoy a moment together after swimming and setting up camp at Percy's Landing.



Participants of the Rites of Passage cruise by the Balch fishing and swimming hole during their paddle down the Chehalis River.



Youth Program members stand in admiration while sending off the Rites of Passage bunch. Many were inspired to take the paddle down the river.

Andre Kluth and his grandfather practice paddling in a river canoe prior to taking the Rites of Passage.



YOUTH

From page 5

Salish language by having the youth say a few words in the traditional language.

Next, they voyaged off in their canoes for the final excursion of the trip. The youth and adult chaperones paddled from Percy's Landing to their final stop at Oakville Boat Launch. The kids paddled miles along some of the tribe's most well-known vantage points such as Sickman Ford Bridge and the Balch fishing/swimming hole.

"All together, I thought it was a great experience and I'm glad that we did it," Youckton said.

Youckton hopes to see the program grow with more people participating next year. He would like to see a lot of the adults who didn't have the opportunity to spend time on the Chehalis River and take the Rites of Passage.

Experience on the river

Misty Secena, Chehalis Tribe's Executive General Manager, said she was "elated" about the event. She viewed it as an opportunity to strengthen the tribe's cultural values.

She feels this involvement "fosters relationships and their connection with the tribe."

Secena grew up on the reservation most of her life, but her experience on the river was different.

"I didn't grow up in a fisherman's family," Secena said. "My whole summer as a kid, every year we would just walk down to the swings with all my cousins."

She had many adventures and created a lot of valued memories as her family and friends grew up on the river having fun.

Secena's first time on a canoe happened in adulthood, and she realized it was a lot harder than she expected.

She gained an understanding of how there are many aspects to a strong pull, such as synchronizing

'We can only grow from here. I think it was a big step for our culture and our connection to the river.'

- MISTY SECENA, CHEHALIS TRIBE'S EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER

and that everyone in the canoe has to be on the same page.

She explained that modern technology has diminished a lot of face-to-face interaction. The Rites of Passage was an occasion for youth to spend quality time together. Her daughter, Kylee, and husband went on the canoe trip down the river.

Secena said at the moment it probably means more to herself, her husband and Kylee's grandparents than it did to her. But she thinks Kylee as well as the rest of the youth will cherish this experience forever.

"I am beyond thankful for everyone who pulled it off. It was a lot of work," Secena said. "We can only grow from here. I think it was a big step for our culture and our connection to the river."



The new Main Street Bar at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel features live entertainment Fridays and Saturdays through Labor Day Weekend.

Main Street Bar opens

Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel recently completed renovation on Main Street Bar, marking another milestone in the casino's recent renovations.

Main Street Bar features an all-new layout with new furniture, TVs, service equipment and décor.

This summer, the revamped bar is featuring live entertainment every Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. The lineup, scheduled through Labor Day weekend, features a mix of rock, country, comedy and jazz.

Main Street Bar also is



CHECK IT OUT

Lucky Eagle Casino & Motel's Main Street Bar is open daily from 8 a.m.-2 a.m. and features an all-new happy hour from 5-7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday.

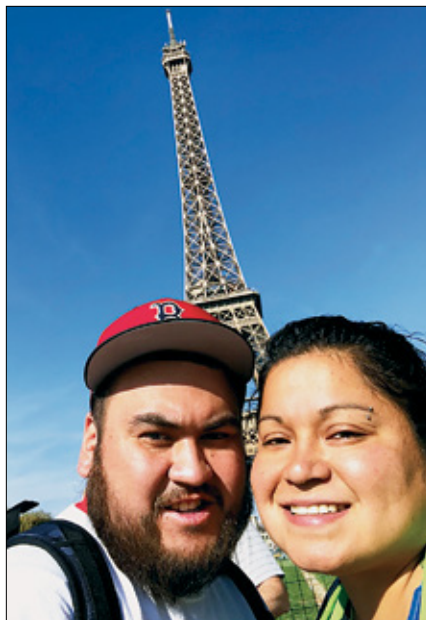
hosting special brewery takeovers, where local breweries feature their products on select Thursday evenings.

MARGARET CHO

Doors open at 7, concert starts at 8 p.m.
Saturday, August 17

Tickets start at \$45 with your Lucky Star Rewards card. Must be age 21 or older.

august birthdays



Clockwise from far left:

Johnny Bumgarner: Happy birthday honey! Love you, Marla.

Natalie Pickernell: Happy birthday to my daughter, love Mom.

Manny Medina: Happy birthday bro!! We love you. You're doing great – keep it up. From Marla and family.

Vincent Sanchez: Happy birthday. We love you! Grandma, Eric and Jojo.



MORE WISHES

Monica Sanchez and Maria Morales: Happy birthday from your family.

Kaiden Delgado: Happy birthday to my son. Love, Mom, Dad and your brothers and sister.

Kyle and Ron Fanning: Happy birthday my sons. Wishing you love, joy, peace and happiness. Love your Mom.

Rodney Boyd and Doug Boyd Sr.: Happy birthday from your family!

Allen Bush: Happy birthday to my "crazy" younger brother. I have loved having you here with me and look forward to more time doing sibling stuff. I love you corn dog, from your big sis "Boss."

Lataya Tanner: Happy birthday, love Gramma, Papa and family.

Mila Rogers: Happy birthday from all of us!

WAYNE BARR
MERLE BENDA
THOMAS BLACKETER
ALVIN BOYD
DOUGLAS BOYD
HENRIETTA BOYD
SIPRIANNA BRACERO-ROSEBAUGH
SYLVANNA BRACERO
JORDAN BRAY
ADRIAN BROWN
MIKE BROWN
RENESMEE BROWN
JOHNNY BUMGARNER
LON BURGESS
JENEE BURNETT
RYAN BURNETT
ALLEN BUSH
MARK COLSON
KAIDEN DELGADO
KYLE FANNING
RON FANNING
OSTYNN FARRIER
ELIZABETH FULTON
KAYLEEN FULTON
SHAYLEEN FULTON
PAUL GIBSON

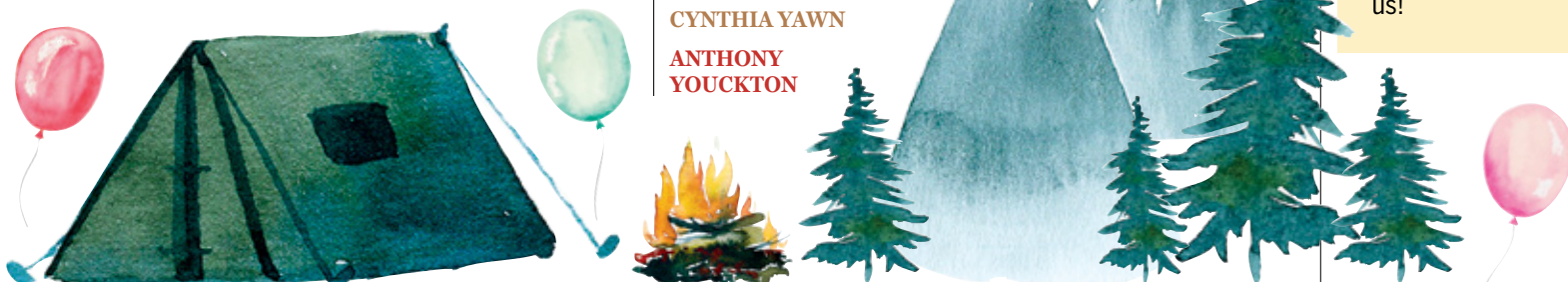
BRADLEY GITCHEL
JAMES GUNNELS
WILLIAM HECK
ADRIAN HJELM-SNELL
FAITH HOHEISEL
JORDAN HOWE
AMANDA JENNINGS
JOVONNI JIMENEZ-SANCHEZ
ANTHONY JOE
NYAH MCCRORY
AMIYAH MCELVIAN
ANDREA MCGOUGH
KLY MEAS
MANNY MEDINA
L'REE MINTHORNE
SARAH MYER
MAKYA ORTIVEZ-HICKS
VICTORIA PARENT
HAKAN PHILLIPS
GERALD PICKERNELL III
NATALIE PICKERNELL
SALLY PICKUTARK
MILA ROGERS
JOSEPH SANCHEZ
LEO SANCHEZ
MONICA SANCHEZ



Adrian Brown: Happy birthday from all of us!

MISTY SECENA
DAWSON SLIGHTE
RILEY SMITH
LEE STARR
STARLA STARR
LATAYA TANNER
WILLIAM THOMS
ROSE WILLIAMS
ARES WITTWER
ASHLEY WITTWER
CYNTHIA YAWN
ANTHONY YOUNCKTON

ANTHONY YOUNCKTON JR.
DALTON YOUNCKTON
GERALDINE YOUNCKTON
OWEN YOUNCKTON
PRESTON YOUNCKTON
SHEENA YOUNCKTON



YOUTH



The Youth Program invited International Youth Fellowship to host a three-day camp teaching leadership, global awareness and intercultural tolerance.

Helping kids learn, grow, thrive

Meet Youth Center employees who share enthusiasm and energy

During summer vacation, the Youth Center holds a six-week program to keep tribal youth active and engaged.

They make sure the kids receive breakfast, lunch and a snack in the afternoon. They take various trips to locations across the region.

This summer, the schedule is filled with numerous ventures to keep youth active and involved. Throughout the months of July and August, they organized outings such as going to the movie theatre, bowling, swimming at Great Wolf Lodge and a visit to Northwest Trek.

On tap for August: Boomshaka, a Tacoma Rainiers game, swimming and a hotdog roast at Millersylvania Park.

On the days field trips aren't on the itinerary, the youth play dodgeball and kickball, swim and enjoy arts and crafts. They also participated in a three-day leadership camp.

Meet our Youth Center staff:
Youth Center Manager



▼ ▼
Tony Medina
YOUTH CENTER MANAGER

'IT'S NOT WORK WHEN YOU LOVE IT.'

Tony Medina has worked for the program for 26 years. His responsibilities include coming up with activities for the program.

Medina said the kids really loved the bowling trip this year. They take over the whole alley for the afternoon as the youth knock down pins and enjoy a day of friendly competition.

"They are exercising and they don't even know it," Medina said. "We try to keep them exercising and having fun."

Medina and his staff host an annual back-to-school event, this year on Aug. 14.

During the school year, Medina greets the youth as they

get off of the school bus.

"They always greet me with a smile and give me hugs," Medina said. "I just like interacting with them. They are always a lot of fun."

He can tell, just by the looks on their faces, how their days are going. Medina does his best to create smiles and laughs for the youth.

"It's not work when you love it," he said.

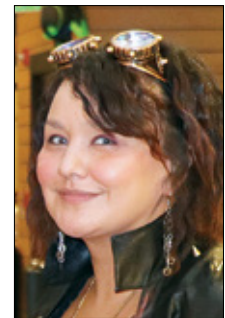
The youngsters help Medina maintain a youthful spirit. He admits that working with them for years gives him an excuse to not grow up.

He has a collection of vehicles, mainly motorcycles, and classic cars and trucks.

"When it's sunny outside, I like to drive a different Harley every day," Medina said. "I feel really lucky."

He drove a '68 Shovelhead on the day of the interview. He said "I bought that one two years ago. I bought myself my own Christmas present."

He explained it's significant because his first Harley in 1974 was a '68 Shovelhead. "I bought that one to take me back to when I was young."



▼ ▼
Talisa Baker
YOUTH COORDINATOR

'IT'S COOL TO SEE HOW DEEP THEY ARE INTO THEIR IMAGINATION.'

Youth Coordinator Talisa Baker has worked for the tribe for four years and with the Youth Center for three.

She described herself as Medina's "right-hand man."

Baker fills in for Medina at various events and represents the Youth Center at gatherings he's unable to attend.

Along with taking care of the financial aspects of the department, she helps plan and handle the logistics prior to field trips, ensure the program has enough food monthly and come

See STAFF, page 9

STAFF

From page 8

up with the arts and crafts the youth create throughout the year. Along with organizing the summer program, she helps plan after-school activities throughout the school year.

"The small part that I get to play in their daily lives is amazing," Baker said.

She enjoys having the privilege of seeing the youth every day and getting to know them on a personal level.

Baker has three children and a fourth on the way. She is always around children, both at work and at home. She spends a lot of time attending her children's sporting events and traveling different places with her family.

The youth program has opened up many doors for her. Baker's job allows her to be creative and spend time with the youth program.

She enjoys being around the younger children in the program.

"They are so carefree ... and it's cool to see how deep they are into their imagination," Baker said.

"I'm still learning new things, although I've been here for three years," she explained. "I'm so appreciative for being able to play the small part that I'm able to play in these kids' lives."

Baker loves working with Medina. "Tony is great," she said. "We make a great team."

She said she hope he stays with the program for years to come and that she wouldn't be able to do her job without Medina.



Amanda Jennings

YOUTH CENTER ASSISTANT

'WATCHING THEM LEARN AND GROW AND PLAY IS REALLY A PRIVILEGE.'

Youth Center Assistant Amanda Jennings has worked since she was 16. Prior to joining the Youth Center, she was with Early Learning. She has known and interacted with this generation since they were very young.

"Growing up in this community, then being able to watch these kids learn and grow is awesome," Jennings said. "Watching them learn and grow and play is really

a privilege."

She gets enthusiasm from being a part of and witnessing her own tribal youth learn and grow. As Youth Center Assistant, Jennings has focused on working with some of the older children in their adolescent stage of life.

She is revamping the Youth Council, a group that develops skills that will assist with becoming an adult. Members take part in activities with more responsibility designed to keep that age group motivated and out of trouble.

Jennings said Medina has taught her a lot, even when she was a child frequenting the Youth Center. Now, she's able to work for Medina and continues to learn how to care for the youth and maintain a positive attitude. He's taught her how to be a helpful individual.

Jennings likes to spend time enjoying Native American cultural activities with her son. She wants him to know his heritage and culture to give him a better understanding of his background.



Geo Jack

YOUTH CENTER ASSISTANT

'IT'S GREAT WORKING WITH TONY. HE HAS TAUGHT ME A LOT OVER THE PAST YEAR.'

Youth Center Assistant Geo Jack has worked with the program for a year. He worked at the tribal gas station before switching to his current position.

He said being the Youth Center Assistant is a lot different from his previous job. He gets to work with children all day instead of dealing with uneasy customers.

Jack's main responsibility is making sure the youth are safe and secure. He has followed Medina's mindset of keeping youth active during the day in a way that they are staying healthy while having fun. A lot of the time, Jack is playing kickball,

dodgeball, and basketball with the children in the program.

His favorite part about his job is being able to teach the youth new games and helping them develop and hone their basketball abilities.

Jack enjoys all of the field trips but really likes when they go to Boomshaka. He gets out there with the youth to jump around on the trampolines.

Jack is a part of the day-to-day lives of tribal youth. He said he appreciates watching the kids grow and mature physically and mentally.

He has direct family members that are part of the program. This job allows him to keep a closer eye on them and play a bigger role in their lives as well.

Jack said the youth have taught him to "look at things from all perspectives." He understands that life isn't as simple as viewing things from one angle, rather it's about having an open mind and knowing that each individual is unique.

"It's great working with Tony (Medina)," Jack said. "He has taught me a lot over the past year. Every time that I have a question, he is always there to answer it."

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USDA food program

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SIGN UP: Call Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689 or 360-438-4216 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday



WELLNESS



staff profiles

Christina Rolfe

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR

Christina Rolfe has worked for the tribe for eight years, previously in the tribal dental department.

Before becoming employed with the Chehalis Tribe, she worked in Tenino for 12 years. She said transitioning from Tenino was a natural adjustment because the town is community-oriented.

The Chehalis Tribe is a family operation with tight-knit community bonds. She enjoys learning all of the family connections among tribal members and being able to see the growth and development of individuals.

As the Quality Improvement Coordinator, Rolfe is responsible for numerous roles such as quality care, risk management and the health professional licensure and credential process.

Rolfe helps ensure that patients who visit the Wellness Center receive quality care and that they are comfortable and safe when seeking assistance from various staff members at the clinic. Constant efforts to build comfort and trust among the community are made by everyone at the Wellness Center.

Also, Rolfe is responsible for the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), which is in charge of provision of quality health care through development and implementation of nationally recognized standards. This is to ensure patients are receiving the best care possible.

Once the tribe becomes fully accredited, Rolfe will be responsible for maintaining that accreditation and keeping operations up to national standards.

Ultimately, she wants to help assist individuals live happier, healthier lives. Rolfe and the tribal clinic are seeking feedback from patients to help better serve them on an individual basis.

Although she transitioned positions, Rolfe still wants to help out in any aspect. She keeps her dental assisting registration and licensure current so she is able to help in the dental office whenever they need assistance.

Rolfe has three children who are entering early adulthood. She explained that all of her children participated in athletic events as they grew up. A majority of her free time was spent attending games and practices, which involves a lot of traveling. With her children grown up, she is adjusting to a new lifestyle as she's sending them off to college.



Melissa Roose

MEDICAL BILLING ASSISTANT

Melissa Roose has worked in the medical field since 1997 and started with the tribe in June of 2019. Her first thoughts working with the Chehalis Tribe were that "everyone here is very welcoming."

The staff gave her a tour and introduced her to members of other departments. This gave her a sense of comfort and understanding of how different parts of the tribe operate.

In the first couple of months, she has focused on learning her job functions and exactly what she will be responsible for as the billing assistant.

She is working on invoices for the Wellness Center's pharmacy and organizes and takes care of lab bills. The dental office is creating a database program that Roose will help use to start assisting with dental claims.

'It's very family friendly and very community-oriented.'

- MELISSA ROOSE

of the clinic.

Her co-workers are there to answer questions and provide advice on various subjects. She explained that coming from the private sector, operations are vastly different within the tribal realm.

This is Roose's first time with a tribe. She recognizes that a majority of the care provided is tribal- or employee-based. She said billing matters are more straightforward because she doesn't work directly with patients regarding billing, rather she works with insurance agencies.

Roose said she has met and interacted with nice people within the community. "It's very family friendly and very community-oriented."

Family is an important part of Roose's life. She loves spending time with her husband and 16-year-old daughter in the outdoors. She said she grew up spending a lot of time in nature with her father when they fished together.

"I knew how to bait my own hook before I learned how to ride a bike," Roose said.





Fabulous Fourth of July

The Chehalis Reservation was abuzz this holiday season as tribal stands sold an impressive collection of fireworks that made the Fourth spirited and memorable.



Tribal elders enjoy the Fourth of July fireworks show on the Chehalis Reservation.



Above: Families line up to check out and buy fireworks from the Burnett's stand in Thunder Valley.

Right: Stand owner Ted Gleason prepares for the Fourth of July celebration with joyful customers decked out in festive colors.



For more pictures from the Fourth, check out Page 12



Above and left: Thousands of people traveled from the surrounding area to witness this year's show put on by the Chehalis Tribe.

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.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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

TRIBAL CENTER

Main line: 360-273-5911
Address: 420 Howanut Road
Oakville, WA 98568
Office: 360-709-1726
Fax: 360-273-5914

VISION STATEMENT

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



BUSINESS COMMITTEE

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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



Clockwise from above: Barnaby Canales and his assistants prepared for the big show with hundreds of salutes and a grand finale. The crowd watched in awe as the display of lights and booms went off. Families and friends shopped at tribal members' fireworks stands. Owning a stand and selling fireworks is a tradition that dates back decades for many of the Chehalis people.

