

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

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



Successful season

Tribal vendors see brisk fireworks sales

page 11



Marlene Hjelm retires

Longtime TGA member ready for next chapter

page 12

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Ceremony for Oakville High School graduates / 4-5

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Distillery opens for business

Talking Cedar brings in tribe for first visit

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribe has partnered with Heritage Distillery Co. to open Talking Cedar, the first distillery/ brewery on reservation lands nationwide and the next level of economic development for all tribes. The business held a soft opening for Chehalis tribal members on June 28.

This was an opportunity for members to tour the building and enjoy various food items on the menu. It also allowed Talking Cedar staff to gain more experience as they served groups of people throughout the day.

Talking Cedar staff and Chehalis Tribal Enterprises wanted to make the opening special for tribal people. They

See DISTILLERY, page 3



Talking Cedar brewery/distillery features delicious food and perfectly paired spirits.

Special outdoor ceremony pays tribute to graduates as they embark on a new path

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribe honored its 2020 high school senior graduates during a ceremony in the middle of the ballfield at Tomahawk Stadium on June 24.

Every year, the tribe holds a special ceremony for tribal and community members who graduate from high school. This year, the celebration and honoring of graduates took place outside. Tables were arranged for each graduate and the

education program served catered food from a nearby restaurant.

The 17 students who completed their senior year now take the next step to adulthood. Kirsten Secena and Kesawin Washburn graduated from high school and earned their associate of arts degrees this spring. The two grads plan to attend Washington State University this fall. Others have already applied and been accepted to

See CLASS OF 2020, page 2

Right: Chehalis Tribe Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. and Vice Chair Jessie Goddard gift a Pendleton blanket to Avery McJoe. **Far right:** Kirsten Secena with her great grandmother.



INSIDE: CONGRATULATIONS TO OAKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ON THEIR SUCCESS / PAGES 4-5



Above: K-12 staff members J.J. Shortman and Jodie Smith hand out gifts to graduates along with Youth Center Manager LeRoy Boyd.
Below: Isaak Hofstetter holds his sign proudly.

CLASS OF 2020

From page 1

colleges around the state.

Isaak Hofstetter is working at Talking Cedar in Grand Mound. He expressed interest in studying auto mechanics at South Puget Sound Community College after gaining real-world work experience.

Higher Educations Coordinator Racheal Mendez delivered a message to the class of 2020. She looks forward to seeing what this group of graduates achieves in their next stage of life now that K-12 is behind them. During her time with the program, she has helped more than 70 students graduate from college.

Mendez said the program exists to help tribal members obtain a degree. But if college isn't the right step, tribal leadership still encourages members to positively contribute to the community.

LeRoy Boyd, Youth Center Manager and 5th council member on the Business Committee, congratulated graduates. His motivational speech acknowledged the hard work put in by students, along with parents and family who helped get each graduate to this point. He told students to seek out success and find ways to give back.

Chehalis Tribe Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. also delivered a congratulatory message. He praised students for long hours and late nights studying for exams.

"Be proud of the fact that you are a high school graduate," Chairman Pickernell said.

He spoke about his journey through school and encouraged

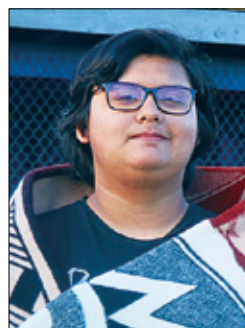
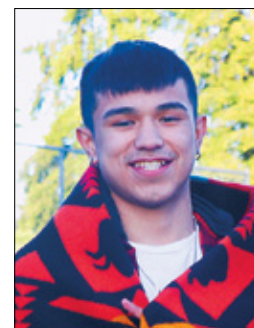
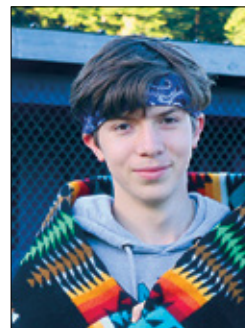
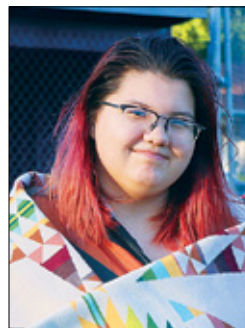


graduates to always reflect on their high school days even though they are behind them now.

Chairman Pickernell encouraged students to use this time to think of classmates, families and teachers, and to be thankful for all they have done to help them succeed. He reflected on his high school days and his most influential instructor, his physical education teacher. Chairman Pickernell always remembers some favorite words of advice from his teacher: "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right."

Each graduate stood in front of the crowd and was gifted with traditional Native American items – a custom Pendleton blanket and eagle feather. The feather signifies a rite of passage moment among many Native American cultures.

They also received gifts from tribal-owned businesses. Great Wolf Lodge, End of the Trail stores, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel and Burger Claim each provided gift cards or vouchers for each member of the high school class of 2020.



From the top: Grace Quilt, Anna Johnson, Jeanna Atkins, Jared Simmons, Mya Ortez, Richard Romo Jr., Jasmine Klatush, Nathan Boyd, Makya Ortez-Hicks, Cameron Hjelm-Snell, Reed Howard (K-12) and Leo Daniels. **Graduates not pictured:** Kesawin Washburn, Devin Olney and Austin Vigil.

GRADUATES

Oakville: Jeanna Atkins, Nathan Boyd, Leo Daniels, Cameron Hjelm-Snell, Isaak Hofstetter, Jasmine Klatush and Mya Ortez

Chief Leschi High School: Austin Vigil

North Thurston High School: Devin Olney

Yelm High School:

Richard Romo Jr.

Taholah High School: Makya Ortez-Hicks

Inchelium High School: Kesawin Washburn

Rochester High School: Anna Johnson, Avery McJoe, Kirsten Secena, Jared Simmons and Grace Quilt





Talking Cedar's menu features tasty appetizers such as the vegetarian plate with falafel and lemon tahini. The new establishment held a soft opening on June 28 for Chehalis tribal members and a grand opening to the public on June 30.

DISTILLERY

From page 1

were the first to view the facility, which is designed to comfortably fit more than 300 people. It features two event spaces that can be used for conferences or birthday parties.

The brewery is one of the largest craft beer breweries in Washington and the distillery is the largest in the state. They are both visible throughout the building. Talking Cedar is designed to be a road trip destination located off Interstate-5 and Highway 12 between Portland and Seattle. This is a place for locals and tourists to relax and have a quality meal and perfectly paired drinks.

The building is primarily constructed of rich wood, which fits in with the brand and cultural significance cedar material has to the Chehalis Tribe's history of cedar weaving. Management at Heritage Distillery Co. (HDC) has worked hard to ensure that the tribe's tradition is honored and looks forward to this business partnership with the Chehalis Tribe.

Jennifer and Justin Stiefel are HDC's co-founders and current president and CEO. They attended the opening to meet tribal members. Jennifer and Justin were both born in Washington. After 13 years of working and living in Washington, D.C., and starting a family, they moved back in 2010. The couple opened their flagship HDC location in Gig Harbor in 2012. HDC has opened seven additional locations throughout the Northwest.

"We are very honored, very proud and humbled that the Chehalis Tribe agreed to partner



Left: Justin Stiefel (co-founder of Heritage Distillery Co.), David Burnett (CEO of Chehalis Tribal Enterprises) and Chehalis Tribe Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr.

'I think every member of the tribe should be proud of what the leadership team has put together here.'

- JUSTIN STIEFEL, CO-FOUNDER OF HERITAGE DISTILLERY CO.

with us and that they took the lead to build this facility," co-founder Justin said. "I think every member of the tribe should be proud of what the leadership team has put together here."

The endeavor has created more than 100 jobs on site and has the potential for many more career opportunities. HDC is known for its high-quality products made with no artificial sugars or

ingredients. Those working on the restaurant side aim to meet the same standards and make fresh food from scratch.

Restaurant Consultant Adam Adrian explained that food items on the menu are selected to pair well with spirits and beer. He said once Talking Cedar starts to get more business and see trends of types of food people want, they will make adjustments to the menu and offer specials on certain days.

"The customers dictate what we serve," Adrian said.

Business hours are 11 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Adrian said when the business becomes further established, Talking Cedar plans to extend hours to stay open later and open earlier to serve breakfast.

This soft opening was "a good way for us to take care of the tribal members pre-opening," Adrian said. Because it was the first time working together for a lot of the kitchen staff, it also helped build teamwork and chemistry.

General Manager Stephen Pavletich put together the team at Talking Cedar and emphasizes the importance of working for the tribe to all employees.

"This building exists for the tribe," Pavletich said. Talking Cedar is creating jobs for tribal people and will ensure they continue to prosper. "I believe in team. If there are people wanting to join the team at Talking Cedar, send in a resume," he encouraged.

If you'd like to check out what Talking Cedar has to offer, the restaurant and brewery is now open to the public.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES OHS GRADUATES



Families, school district help make milestone memorable for class

By Frazier Myer

Oakville School District found a way to hold graduation for its senior class of 2020 on June 19. COVID-19 disrupted the final months of the school year and a lot of graduations across the country were canceled.

Seniors at Oakville High School were disappointed that their final year inside the classroom was cut short during the month of March. The class was looking forward to its senior field trip, completing projects and finishing high school days by walking up to the podium and receiving diplomas.

Graduation is one of the proudest moments for everyone. It is a monumental step in life

See GRADUATES, page 5



Clockwise from top: Oakville High School grads Cameron Hjelm-Snell, Jasmine Klatush and Mya Ortivez embrace their last official moments of high school as they flip their tassels in front of friends and family. Graduates create memories with parents and grandparents.





GRADUATES

From page 4

for students who complete K-12. It is also a time for others to enjoy with the graduates. This includes parents, relatives, friends, classmates and teachers. At a school as small as Oakville, some graduating classes are hardly more than 20 students. This allows students to build stronger relationships with OHS staff.

Many of those staff members, including the high school principal and superintendent, wanted to honor the class of 2020. They held a ceremony for each individual graduate, which included seven Chehalis tribal members.

The school district drove a truck with a float attached to various locations throughout Oakville and the Chehalis Reservation. Oakville staff members addressed audiences at each student's house. In traditional fashion, students gifted roses to those who played a significant role in their life. Superintendent Rich Staley delivered speeches honoring each graduate and passed out diplomas.

The route the float took started on the reservation at Issak Hofstetter's house and then moved down to Nathan Boyd's home. Leo Daniels and Jeanna Atkins held their ceremony together with dozens of family members in attendance. The ceremony for remaining Chehalis tribal members took place in Oakville where three of the graduates live.

Cameron Hjelm-Snell, Mya Ortivez and Jasmine Klatush are neighbors and had their graduation ceremony together between their houses. Family and friends attended the celebration to witness students take their final steps into early adulthood and receive their diplomas.

Mya Ortivez was honored as senior class valedictorian and was



Clockwise from top left: Thanks to Oakville School District, Nathan Boyd received his diploma with his family in attendance. Cameron, Jasmine and Mya were honored during the 2020 graduation ceremony.



Leo Daniels and Jeanna Atkins stand together at the ceremony.

selected by staff members at the school district to be this year's Mighty Oak. The school's mascot is an acorn and its motto is: "Acorns that sprout into mighty Oak trees."

The award is given to the student that goes above and beyond during his or her time at Oakville. Mya is known for her great attendance, being respectful to others, following school rules and always being a strong representative of the school everywhere she goes.

Mya spoke during the ceremony and acknowledged everything her parents, Shawn and Crystal Ortivez, have done

'During these times of uncertainty, you all have made sure that our class of 2020 didn't go unrecognized. You all made sure we felt loved and appreciated.' ★

- VALEDICTORIAN MYA ORTIVEZ

to help guide her to success. Mya used this time to thank them for all they've done for her.

"You both made sure that I always had more than enough," Mya said. "I am very thankful to have such a wonderful support system."

She also said there were plenty of moments where she was tired or wanted to give up on certain tasks, but her parents always pushed her to do better and achieve her goals. Another major part of Mya's support system included the community of Oakville and the Chehalis Reservation.

"During these times of uncertainty, you all have made

sure that our class of 2020 didn't go unrecognized," Mya said. "You all made sure we felt loved and appreciated."

Mya also talked about accomplishing the goal of completing high school with her classmates, some of whom she graduated Head Start with 13 years ago. Cameron Hjelm-Snell was one of those classmates and also graduated with high honors. Cameron was named salutatorian and gave a brief speech during the ceremony.

He thanked the administration and staff at Oakville for making this special day possible. He also wanted to take the moment to deliver a few words to his parents.

"Personally, I'm thankful to both my parents who took such keen interest in seeing me succeed and always pushing me and encouraging me to do the best that I can."

Lastly, he thanked classmates for so many enjoyable memories. When things return to normal and social distancing is no longer necessary, Cameron hopes to have a ceremony with the whole class and looks forward to reunions.

Great Wolf Lodge welcomes guests

Fun family resort puts plan into action to help protect staff, customers

By Frazier Myer

After a nearly three-month closure because of COVID-19, Great Wolf Lodge (GWL) reopened its doors on June 19.

Members of Great Wolf management as well as Chehalis tribal leaders attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome guests on opening day of the water park and resort. GWL is following county-wide phase guidelines for Thurston County.

GWL has created and implemented a system called the Paw Pledge to help keep staff, guests and the entire community healthy and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Until further notice, GWL is limited to 50 percent occupancy. The number of rooms available has been cut in half from 400 to 200.

Guests are not required to wear a face mask at this time but staff members will provide masks upon request. Other precautions and steps to keep everyone healthy are more cashless payment options and limited contact points throughout the water park and lodging area.

All of the resort's restaurants are open for families who decide to visit GWL for vacation. Keep in mind that food and beverage locations are limited to half occupancy as well and feature adjusted hours.



Chehalis Tribe Business Committee and Great Wolf Lodge management take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The first guests check into the lodge since it closed because of COVID-19.

Wellness Center aims to keep community safe

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Team

With so many changes and so much going on in our world, our community has been steadfast and strong. We have stayed ahead of the pandemic and together, we know we can build and reimagine an even more robust society.

As Thurston/Lewis/Grays Harbor counties enter phase 3, here are our latest updates to keep the community safe:

- Our clinic and dental staff are available for scheduled and urgent care appointments.

- When you call to schedule your appointment, our staff will

GET A TEST

If you are having symptoms related to COVID-19, call the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center at **360-273-5504** to be tested.

ask you COVID-19 screening questions to help us determine the best day and time for your appointment.

- We ask that if you need a support person to come with you to your appointment, limit that to just

one person. Your support person also will be screened and should not come into the clinic if he or she has a cough or cold symptoms.

- Please maintain adequate physical distance while in the waiting room and avoid congregating.

- All patients and guests are required to have a mask on while in the clinic facility. If you already have one, please bring that with you or you will be given one.

- A mask should be worn snugly over your nose and chin. If you are unable to keep a mask on or keep to one guest, we can

hold your clinic appointment from your car or provide a telephone or virtual appointment.

- If you develop cough and cold symptoms on the day of your appointment, please call the clinic for further instructions.

As always, it is a good idea to wash your hands before and after handling high-touch surfaces before touching your face or to adjust your mask. Finally, we believe we have COVID-19 testing available for ALL employees and tribal community members who want to be tested and believe they could be infected with COVID-19.



Frequent cleaning of high-use areas, hand sanitizing stations and mask use marked Lucky Eagle Casino's reopening to the public in June. New safety protocols such as these and also keeping capacity at half for the time being aim to protect everyone and ensure an enjoyable gaming experience.



STAY UP TO DATE

Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel's phased reopening plan could be altered based on new developments. For the latest news, go to luckyeagle.com or follow Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel on Facebook.



Lucky Eagle opens on 25th anniversary

Hundreds line up to play on first day back

By Frazier Myer

After a nearly three-month closure because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel (LEC&H) officially opened its doors for all guests.

From June 1-10, the casino had a soft opening for Chehalis tribal members and VIP guests to prepare staff and management for adjusted operations.

The public reopening drew a large crowd of people from the region. Hundreds lined up before 10 a.m. in anticipation of a return to games.

CEO Lisa Miles spoke to the group about the significance of the event because this month marks 25 years since the casino first opened to the public. She discussed the preparation staff has taken to ensure a safe experience for its customers.

Casino team members are ready and excited to get back to business.

Chehalis Tribe Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. welcomed



everyone back and acknowledged all of the hard work and tough decision-making that went into planning a safe reopening. He thanked management such as Lisa Miles and JaNessa Bumgarner for their dedication during these challenging times.

Until further notice, the casino is limited to half capacity with specific guidelines in place to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19.

All guests go through a screening process before entering the premises. Temperatures are taken at the door and masks are required while on the gaming floor. Masks are provided at the entrance. Maintenance teams installed hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the entire building.



EDUCATION

Students of the Month FEBRUARY & MARCH

Aiden Sanders

Third grade
Grand Mound Elementary School

Aiden Sanders, 9 recently finished third grade at Grand Mound Elementary and is excited for the summer. He is the son of Mary and Bryan Sanders and has two brothers and two sisters. The family also has two dogs and two cats. His favorite part about school is spending time with friends and music class.

Aiden said the qualities that make him



Aiden Sanders

succeed in the classroom are paying attention and always trying his best. His advice to other students is to “always work hard.” He explained that listening and working hard are what leads to success.

If he could change one thing about his school, Aiden said he would increase the size of the building so it could comfortably fit all of the students.

What brings him joy in life is seeing

others who he loves happy and smiling. Aiden also loves playing video games, riding his scooter and hanging out with friends and family.

Aiden’s favorite dinosaur is the velociraptor because they are small in stature but really fast. He also like the superhero Flash because of his incredible speed.

His favorite person is his dad because: “He’s nice, funny and loves us all so much.”

When Aiden grows up, he wants to work at a bank. If he could make up a national holiday, it would be Video Game Day!

Shyann Klatush

Fourth grade
Oakville Elementary School

Shyann Klatush (Shy Shy) is 10 years old and just completed the fourth grade at Oakville Elementary School. She is the daughter of Pam and Chris Klatush and has two brothers and two sisters. She also has a dog named Beastie.

She enjoys math class and recesses. If she could change something about her school, Shy Shy would like longer recesses and to



Shyann Klatush

put an end to bullying.

Her advice to other students is to listen, pay attention and turn work in on time.

Shy Shy said her favorite things to do are sleep and spend time with her family. If she could make up a holiday, it would be called All Sleep Day.

She has a list of favorites, which include Tyrannosaurus rex and Wonder Woman. Shy Shy’s favorite people are her mom and dad.

Amara Penn

Sixth grade
Rochester Middle School

Amara Penn, 12, finished her sixth grade year at Rochester Middle School. She said her parents are

“lovely.” She has a younger sister and an older brother, as well as two dogs, a snake and a cat.

She enjoys spending time with her friends and art is her favorite subject.

She said what makes a successful student is continuous learning.

Amara’s advice to students is: “Don’t chew gum in class.”

She likes to play soccer and sleep. If she was a photographer for a day, she said she would take pictures of Chipotle.”

Her plans this summer are to go to Chipotle and swimming. If she had a million dollars, Amara would “waste it all on stupid things.”

She wants to be successful when she grows up and plans to go to Harvard or Yale to study mathematics. She also said that if given the opportunity, she would be a good chairwoman.



Amara Penn

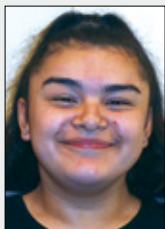
Laela Baker

Eighth grade
Oakville Middle School

Laela Baker, 14, just completed her final year at Oakville Middle School and will be a freshman at Oakville High School this fall.

She is the daughter of Talisa and Russ Baker and has two brothers and a little sister. She likes pretty much everything about school, but her favorite part this year was shop class. If she could change something about her school, she would like the gym floor to be less slippery and encourage more bullying prevention.

Her advice to other students is to turn work in on time, listen to guidance from their parents and don’t take things for granted. She is active with her Native



Laela Baker

American culture and people and plays in Rez Basketball tournaments and frequents tribal events.

She enjoys taking pictures of her baby brother. This summer, she plans to travel, work and make money.

If she had a million dollars, Laela would give some to her parents and donate some to charity. She said her parents play an important role in her life and they are always there when she needs them.

After high school, Laela plans to attend college to become a lawyer. Ultimately, she wants to be successful in life. If she were to become chairwoman of the tribe, she would create more activities for tribal youth.

Classes encourage healthy lifestyle

By Cathy Visser, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Certified Intuitive Eating Coach

Stop 'Weighting' to be Healthy: Make lasting lifestyle changes now

Class description: This ongoing weekly class and support group will focus on living a healthy life at any age, weight or body type. Participants will learn to tune in to their body's needs for food, exercise, rest and stress management. We will share our experiences with weight, shopping, cooking, meal planning and dining out for better health.

Join Zoom meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86898602270?pwd=VjJBZUgrd0ttelkyc1JBMnRvdWludz09>

Meeting ID: 868 9860 2270

Password: 097985

Telephone participation:
253-215-8782

When: 6-7 p.m. each
Wednesday

Diabetes Self-Management Education & Support Group

Class description: Anyone at risk of developing diabetes, living with pre-diabetes or who has diabetes is welcome to attend this weekly diabetes self-management education and support group. It's ongoing, so participants can jump in anytime. We will read a few pages each week from the book "Using Our Wit & Wisdom to Live Well with Diabetes" by Barbara Mora, Paiute/Dine.

Join Zoom meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82641731723?pwd=TXlZaXUrUXEyQ2JWNng0YldENXEyUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 4173 1723

Password: 377998

Telephone participation:
253-215-8782

When: 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
each Wednesday

For questions, call the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center at 360-273-5504

Payton Simmons

Ninth grade
Elma High School

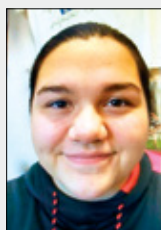
Payton Simmons, 15, just completed his freshman year at Elma High School with a 3.7 GPA. Payton's mom is Taaffe Whipple. He has three brothers who he likes to travel with through Oregon.

He said his success as a student is attributed to doing homework and always trying his best. He emphasized the importance of studying and advises classmates to put in time after school to be successful.

Payton is involved in many different activities. He plays volleyball and basketball and is a member of the FFA club at Elma High School. He also enjoys scenery. If he became a photographer for a day, he would like to travel to the beach and capture photos.

This summer, Payton will get that opportunity as he plans to visit the beach, hang out with friends and go camping.

After high school, Payton plans to attend the University of Washington to earn a degree in the medical field.



Payton Simmons

Kaylena Delgado

10th grade
Rochester High School

Kaylena Delgado, 15, held a 3.8 GPA during her sophomore year at Rochester High School. She is the daughter of Erin and Richard Delgado and has two brothers.

She enjoys watching movies with her family. She said her mom is very special because she always provides support in every aspect of her life.

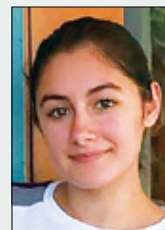
Kaylena's favorite thing at school is being able to spend time with friends and classmates. She really enjoyed ceramics this past year. She said the key to her success was: "turning in my work on time and studying for tests."

Her advice to other students is to: "always pay attention in class and don't fall behind on your work."

Kaylena is a cheerleader for the Rochester High School football team and looks forward to continuing that during her next two years of high school.

This summer, she plans to hang out with friends and family and go to the beach.

Kaylena aspires to earn a degree from the University of Washington. If she was chairwoman of the Chehalis Tribe, she would look to get more input from youth to understand their thoughts on tribal decisions.



Kaylena Delgado

CHEHALIS TRIBAL EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

* APPLICATIONS FOR 2020-21 *

- Monday-Thursday center-based classes
- Employment/volunteer opportunities
- Program serves ages 0-5
- Qualified early childhood staff
- Monthly family events
- No-cost program
- Local bus service for ages 3-5

INFORMATION: Call 360-273-5514
Applications will be mailed or emailed



JULY BIRTHDAYS



Sam Secena and **Bill Secena** (pictured): Happy birthday to my big brothers!! From your loved ones.



Carlos: Happy 5th birthday! Love Mom and Dad.



TOM
HAYDEN
RIGOBERTO
HERNANDEZ

CHRISTINA
HICKS

MARLENE HJELM

MIKAELA HOHIESEL

JAKEB HOYLE

GLORIA JONES

ELI KING-GLEASON

CECILY KLATUSH

CHRISTOPHER
KLATUSH

DALE KLATUSH

ANDRE KLUTH

NATHAN KLUTH

CHLOE LOPEZ-PALMER

LINDA MACDOUGALL

LANDAN MASHBURN

MELLISSA MCALISTER

JACINDA MEDINA

ALICIA MEDINA

MICHELLE MURRELL

KIMBERLY NATH

GARY ORTIVEZ

SHYANN ORTIVEZ

KRISTA PARENT

HALEY PARKINSON

JESA PENN-ROCO

QUERIDA PEREZ

JOHNNY PEREZ

YVONNE PETERSON

CASSANDRA POPE

JORJA POTTER
PAULA REININGER
RONALD RODGERS JR.
EDUARDO SANCHEZ
RICK SANCHEZ
ELISA SANDERS

WILLIAM SECENA
SAMUEL SECENA
SAMUEL SEYMORE
GRANT SHORTMAN
JOHN SHORTMAN
RHAPSODY SIMMONS
UILANI SIUFANUA
RAIN SLIGHTE

JODIE SMITH
GORDON STARR
JEDEDIAH STARR
ANDREA STECKSTOR
JOYCE THOMAS
DANNY THOMAS
OMAR THOMAS
RYAN WHITE EAGLE-
BRACERO

JIMMIE WILLIAMS
DONALD WILLIAMS
FARLEY YOUCKTON
PHILIP YOUCKTON
ZOLA YOUCKTON
ANDREW YOUCKTON
DALLAS YOUCKTON
LOLA YOUCKTON
STANLEY YOUCKTON

ANOTHER WISH

Frances Jean: Happy 50th birthday. We all love you! From mom, sister, brother and the rest of the families.





Star-spangled show goes on

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribe's 2020 fireworks season had to be modified to safely prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 on the reservation. With all of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, the tribe wasn't sure if it would be able to participate in sales and celebrations.

This season, fireworks stand owners were limited to 10 days of operation from June 25 to July 4. The number of stands was cut in half compared to last year; from nearly 100 to 45.

Safety protocols were implemented, such as limiting the amount of workers inside stands and requiring sellers to wear masks. The short season and restrictions didn't seem to impact business.

Many fireworks stand owners made more money than any previous year. Some owners

reported they brought in a bigger amount than during the past couple seasons combined. Sales went quickly once stands opened for business; every owner sold out before the celebration on the night of the Fourth.

There was so much business, the wholesale distributors that supply stands ran out of fireworks. Everyone made a profit this season. Also because of COVID-19 impacts, tribal leaders decided it would be in the tribe's best interest to limit the fireworks show to just tribal and community members this year.

Those who put on the show didn't disappoint. Viewers were treated to thousands of Saturn missiles, hundreds of salutes and a grand finale. The show was more than a half hour long and was a great way to celebrate the 2020 Fourth of July season.



2020 is a banner year for fireworks sales on Chehalis reservation

Chehalis tribal youth and stand owners brighten up the night by putting on a display of fireworks prior to the big show. The annual tradition is exciting for all in attendance.

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.



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Marlene Hjelm set to enjoy retirement

*Skilled, hard-working
TGA pro will be greatly
missed in department*

On June 12, after more than 25 years with the Chehalis Tribal Gaming Agency (TGA), Marlene Hjelm retired from her job assisting with protecting the gaming floor at Lucky Eagle Casino.

Even before Lucky Eagle Casino opened in 1995, she remembers how she and three others helped prepare by making badges for employees. Back then, they had to print the photo, stick it onto a piece of paper and laminate it.

"It's been a long, long road," Hjelm said. "There's been a lot of big changes."

She recalls when all they had were table games and poker; there were no slot machines or outside vendors in the early years. As the casino grew, Hjelm's job responsibilities expanded as well. She developed a skill set to work efficiently with vendors and trained others to do the same.

Hjelm is officially retired. Prior to stepping away from her post, she was responsible for specific licensing, staying in contact with the state gaming agency and all vendors. She handled a lot of the

**'I would like to thank
everyone that I've worked
for. I've made so many
friends over the years.'**

- MARLENE HJELM

paperwork and filled in wherever needed.

She also helped out with the Veteran's Committee and during their annual Veteran's Dinner through the years. When she first started working with TGA, she was a single parent and her two children attended school in Rochester. She dropped them off at the bus stop every morning before heading to work.

Now, her children are 35 and 33. She also is raising her great nephew and she has four grandsons. Her oldest is Camron, who just graduated from Oakville High School. She is excited to watch her grandkids grow and enjoy being a part of their lives.

"In my retirement, I will just take it every day as it comes," Hjelm said.

She doesn't have any major plans but explained she knew it was time to retire because she



Earl McWhorter (left) and Darrin Jones helped honor Marlene Hjelm at her retirement ceremony after 25 years with the Tribal Gaming Agency.

always wanted to be able to enjoy her time after leaving her career.

"I would like to thank everyone that I've worked for," Hjelm said. "I've made so many friends over the years."

She has worked for eight TGA Directors; two of them were in attendance at her retirement party. Earl McWhorter and current TGA Executive Director Darrin Jones both gave speeches and described the significant role she played in the evolution of TGA.

McWhorter said that Hjelm, "had a good understanding of the entire operation ... She was truly an asset."

McWhorter said he never considered himself the "boss." He

always saw it as everyone working together. "We work together to make each other look good. She (Hjelm) was always excellent at that."

He said Hjelm's retirement is well deserved. Although she has trained people to take over her job duties, her expertise and knowledge will be missed.

Darrin Jones said that when he first started, Hjelm helped him tremendously. She knew most of the answers to his questions. If she didn't have the answer, she knew where to find it.

"Her work ethic is awesome," Jones said. "She was always willing to help." To Jones and many others when they say or think of the TGA, Hjelm comes to mind.