THUNDER CANNABIS

Tribe-owned dispensary grows a strong future

The Chehalis Tribe partnered with Thunder Cannabis to open a marijuana dispensary at Exit 99 in Tumwater. Thunder Cannabis is an exciting new business endeavor for the tribe. Customers have the option to select from both recreational and medical marijuana products throughout the spacious 2,500-square-foot store.

Washington and Colorado became the first states in the United States to legalize recreational marijuana use in 2012. Shortly after, tribes in Washington negotiated compacts to allow tribes to operate dispensaries in subsequent years.

Thunder Cannabis opened for business on April 10, 2021. The majority of its operation is handled by General Manager Chris Klatush, an enrolled Chehalis tribal member. Klatush previously worked more than 20 years with Chehalis Tribal Enterprises and managed The End of the Trail II gas station prior to transitioning to his new role. He is responsible for leading the crew at Thunder Cannabis.

“I like being here for the new challenge,” Klatush said. He took part in the opening of EOT2, which was the first station on the reservation to serve fuel. He was a major

Tribal employees celebrate

2021 brought merry return to Christmas Party, Spirit Week

Chehalis Tribal Government employees celebrated the 2021 Christmas season with a host of activities throughout the week prior to holiday break.

The tribe brought back its annual employee Christmas Party, which brings together staff from various departments.

The pandemic prevented the celebration in 2020.

Much has changed in the way departments interact. Prior to COVID-19, staff were able to collaborate on projects and gather regularly. The virus forced more independent operations with less day-to-day interaction among employees.

The Christmas Party once again provided

See CELEBRATE, page 7
part of developing the business into a success. His goals are that this business share the same success as others have for the tribe.

Marijuana contains the chemical cannabidiol (CBD), which has long been shown effective for treating a variety of health conditions including insomnia, chronic pain, anxiety, addiction, anti-seizure and many others conditions.

Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. described his personal experience and the benefits of opening a tribal-owned marijuana dispensary.

He said the business offers products to help those who are suffering from setbacks because of illness and/or pain.

As with any other business, the road to opening included a long process of decision making. After much discussion, it was the consensus among Business Committee members that the tribe would officially pursue the endeavor.

Tribal government officials traveled to the state Department of Justice (DOJ) offices in Seattle to see what their position was on the Chehalis Tribe opening a marijuana dispensary.

The outcome from that meeting was an understanding that the DOJ would not interfere or shut down any operations if the tribe decided to move the project forward.

Chehalis tribal leaders began negotiating a compact with the state Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) and came to an agreement on the regulations for operating on reservation land. After meeting with WSLCB, the details of the compact were decided, including taxes. After discussions regarding the best route moving forward in the marijuana industry, the tribe decided to partner with the company Thunder Cannabis.

At zero cost to the Chehalis Tribe because of land and building ownership, an agreement was reached that made the tribe owner-operators and the business would be opened.

The Chehalis Tribe needed to find a financial holding company. With most major banks unwilling to work within the marijuana industry, the tribe decided to go with Seattle-based Salal Credit Union as its financial institution.

Another unique aspect of the business is that it’s under the tribal government umbrella instead of Chehalis Tribal Enterprises to protect assets that could be potentially affected by the new business.

The Chehalis Tribe originally considered a location at Exit 88 in Ground Mound. The area has seen economic growth in recent years. Ultimately, the Tumwater locale won out based on the increased population in the area with more development planned in upcoming years.

Thunder Cannabis has 20 employees. A majority are enrolled tribal members, including Klatush.

Future plans for Thunder Cannabis include a second location and grow operation at Grand Mound slated to arrive in the middle part of this year.

In July of 2020, the Chehalis Tribe adopted an ordinance to allow medical and recreational use on the Chehalis Reservation. As part of this ordinance, growing marijuana for personal use or monetary gain is prohibited. The Chehalis Tribe is required to own every marijuana plant on reservation/trust land, meaning if an individual wanted to grow on reservation land, he or she would be required to operate underneath the Tribal Government’s umbrella.
Russ Baker is transitioning away from the Chehalis Tribe to work in construction. After an intensive eight-week training course in Woodland, he will become certified to operate multiple heavy machines used on major construction sites.

Baker was the Tribal Gaming Agency Deputy Director at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel for three years. Prior to that, he worked for the Tribal Government in youth programs. Baker briefly worked in construction in 2017 and thought of it as a potential career. After keeping that idea on the back-burner, he decided to seize the opportunity to begin a new venture.

“I love the people that I work with, so it was a tough decision to move on,” Baker said.

Although he leaves a crew behind of people he truly cares for, he has full confidence TGA staff will continue their great work. Baker will attend classes at West Coast Training, nearly 75 miles down on Interstate 5. He will make the commute five days a week to earn his certifications.

Baker is aware this is a big sacrifice, but he knows that his wife, Talisa, will be able to manage the daily routine of raising the family. Ultimately, this career change will benefit his family. After training, he will be able to operate machinery such as the dozer, backhoe, excavator and other types of heavy equipment. Baker would like to thank everyone who has helped him along the way and said he is grateful for the opportunities the tribe has given him. Baker knows this is just a stepping stone and he will continue to give back and show support for his tribal community.

Chehalis tribal member Jedidiah Starr returned to continue his career as Tribal Gaming Agency Deputy Director on Jan. 25.

Starr has spent a majority of his life on the Chehalis Reservation and worked at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel for extended stents since it 1996. He played a role in maintenance, security and surveillance through the years.

He also worked briefly at the tribal store and eventually was recruited by management to work for TGA in 2005. It was during that tenure, when he gained a great amount of knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of the job.

TGA monitors employees of the casino, and its guest on the gaming floor and to enforce rules of the casino.

Starr decided to step away for a change of pace and spent a couple years working in Arizona.

When COVID-19 started impacting job opportunities, he found it wasn’t the best direction for him and came back to work for his tribal community once again. Fittingly, the deputy director role for Tribal Gaming Agency was going to soon be available. Starr was selected to take over the position.

“It has been nice. I’ve had a lot of support,” Starr said.

He returns to the agency prepared with years of experience with many team members in both TGA and surveillance. Starr takes over for previous Deputy Director Darrin Jones.

Starr said strong leadership is “being able to set a good example and being accountable for yourself.” Therefore, he plans to tackle this leadership role by taking care of responsibilities and teaching others by example.

Starr is an avid fisherman and has spent countless hours along the rivers. He looks forward to being among his fellow tribal members as he integrates himself with the tribal community.

Celebrate Oakville High School Basketball Players

From left: Jeremiah Baker, Jeremy Wilbur, David Spears, Koner Burnett, Courtney Price, Eddie Klatush, Hazen Cayenne and Shayden Baker.
The Chehalis Tribe’s Heritage & Culture program hosted classes throughout the fall and early winter months of December and January. Classes allow tribal members to practice traditional artistic ways of their ancestors.

Skylar Bracero-Rosbaugh, Karen Klatush and Melanee Stevens operate the Heritage & Culture program for the tribe. The group has striven to keep the community actively participating in traditional ways of Native Americans ancestors. They also integrate modern methods while teaching valuable life lessons such as making items by hand and sticking with projects.

On Nov. 13-14, program staff held the inaugural Culture Camp. The event was open to tribal community members of all ages. Participants created various handmade items and were taught cedar weaving, beading, wood carving and sewing, along with crafting natural herbal medicines made from plants native to the region.

On Dec. 11-12, Bracero-Rosbaugh, Klatush and Stevens of the Heritage & Culture program held holiday-themed classes. Participants learned how to craft a Christmas stocking by using a sewing machine and Pendleton-style fabric.

Bracero also taught a very unique method of cedar weaving as she walked participants through how to weave one-of-a-kind cedar objects as Christmas ornaments.

The Heritage & Culture program will continue to hold tutorials throughout 2022 and will keep the community updated on events. Classes will include instruction on making elderberry syrup, sage honey, trauma balm, nettle tea and many more natural herbal medicines and health products. February classes will introduce participants to creating aprons, cedar woven vases and self-care kits.

The project room will be open to the tribal community from 3-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. Crafters will be able to work with cedar, cattail, beads and other handmade items.
Great Wolf Lodge celebrated Christmas by holding Brunch with Santa at the event center on Dec. 18.

The special holiday event brings the community together to enjoy a meal and take adorable photos with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

The Chehalis Tribe is part owner of the lodge in Grand Mound. The indoor water park is the only of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and is a year-round vacation destination for families in the region. Throughout the year, Great Wolf holds community events for locals and Chehalis tribal members.

Since the lodge opened in 2008, Great Wolf has offered Brunch with Santa. It’s a sweet opportunity for children to meet Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and enjoy keepsake family photographs. The event was unfortunately canceled in 2020 because of COVID-19 regulations and safety measures.

The popular brunch made a triumphant return during the 2021 holiday season. Everyone in attendance was treated to a full breakfast buffet and captured treasured holiday memories with Santa.

Brunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Great Wolf Lodge featured countless smiles from Chehalis tribal family and friends.
On Dec. 4, 2021, The Chehalis Tribe hosted its annual Elders Bazaar at the Community Center after putting the event on pause because of the impact COVID-19 regulations had on gatherings. The annual event held by the Elders Committee provides an opportunity for those in the area to shop for the holidays while supporting independent vendors. The committee emphasized that the bazaar holds significance because only Native American vendors offer their products.

Those who attended the winter celebration were placed in a raffle drawing to win one of various items donated from each participating vendor. The gathering was well attended.

Attendees browsed handmade products in the gymnasium and shopped for gifts. The majority of items available at the annual bazaar are truly one of a kind and include beaded and stone jewelry, cedar woven baskets, clothing and other types of art inspired by creative Native Americans.

This made for real unique gifts that are purchased directly from the individuals that created the piece. For example, all beaded items take hours of time and dedication to create.

The Elders Bazaar in December featured wonderful handmade items such as jam, cedar weavings, jewelry, patches and bags.
the opportunity for staff engagement.

In the week leading up to the big event, tribal employees celebrated with Spirit Week activities. On Monday, Dec. 13, employees brought their A game for Dress Like Your Boss Day. Outfits were highlighted by Marla Medina in Planning dressing and fixing her hair to look like Amy Loudermilk. Cheryle Starr donned clothes to mimic Interim General Manager Jesse Gleason’s style.

On Tuesday, employees arrived looking delightfully similar for Twin Day. Behavioral Health staff members Melody Dady and Janet Stegal wore matching naughty and nice’sweaters. Chehalis Tribe Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. and Stephanie Pickernell dressed up in matching Disney apparel.

Next up were Pajama Day and Decades Day. The Finance team showed their pj-clad spirit as many of them cozied up for the group photo. On Friday, the week came to an end with Ugly Sweater Day and the employee Christmas Party at the Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel Event Center. It was a day of relaxation and decompression to close out the year.

Wellness staff participated in Spirit Week every day, but most were unable to make it for group photos. The entire staff was able to come together at the employee party and show off their unified holiday spirit. Vice Chairman LeRoy Boyd emceed the celebration. He made sure it was a lively event and helped during games of bingo, announced all of the raffle winners and passed out gifts to employees. The Events department also put a lot of work into preparing for the festivities and making everything happen seamlessly.
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

IRENE ADAMS
ZOE ALBERT
BROOKE ALLEN
RUSSEL BAKER
FINLEY BECKWITH
DAVID BIRD
SHEILAH BRAY
HOLLIE BROCKMUELLER
JONATHAN BROWN
DYLAN BURKE
JAKE BURNETT
CALVIN CAYENNE
OTTO CAYENNE
MEGAN CHRISTJOHN
JACOB CHRISTJOHN
ALYNN CLANCY
SIDNEY COLE
JENNIFER COOPER
BELLA COULARD
EVA DELAMATER
ALIA DUPUIS
CURTIS DUPUIS
JAMES DUPUIS
JEREMY FANNING
JOYCE FANNING
ROBYN FIELDS
SAMUEL FLORES
LAURA FRICKE
DANIEL GITCHEL
PATRICIA GITCHEL
DANIEL GLEASON
JAMES GUNNELS
TRISTAN HANNA
MORGAN HANNA
ANNA HILL
CAMERON HJELM-SNELL

Wynoochee Charley Siufanua-Boyd: Happy birthday!

ALEXANDER HOHEISEL
EZRAH JACK
WILLIEFERD JOE
CHERYL JONES
DARRIN JONES
JUNE JOSEPH
SHIRLEY KAY
SUSETTE KLATUSH
SHYANN KLATUSH
ULISES KLATUSH
MARIAH KLATUSH
NATHANIEL KLATUSH
CHEYENNE MARCELLAY
CRYSTAL MARTINEZ
MAKAYLA MASHBURN
avery mcjoe
MIYA MCALISTER
JOHN MCCORY
DARYL MCCORY

ANNA MEAS
MAX NORGARD
MATHEW OMAN
MYA ORTIVEZ
MAKAYLA ORTIVEZ
JAYZEN OWENS
TRACI PARKINSON
RAVENHAWK PENN
ROBERT PHILLIPS
KATHRYN PICKERNELL
CHRISTOPHER PICKERNELL
DIANA PICKERNELL
LAUREN QUILT
NIKOLAS ROMERO
JAILEEN SANCHEZ
ZANE SANZHEZ
KELEEN-JAY SANCHEZ
WYATT SANCHEZ-ALLENBACH
BRODY SANDERS-BOYD
DREAMA SECENA FERGUSON
PATRICK SIMMONS
WYNOOCHEE CHARLEY SIUFANUA-BOYD
AKASHA SLIGHTE
TAMIKA STARR
JAXON STARR
BENJAMIN STARR
WYATTE WITTWER
LESLYE WYATT
RODNEY YOUCKTON
MARGRET YOUCKTON
JOHN YOUCKTON
DEREK YOUCKTON
CHEYNE YOUCKTON
CHAYSE YOUCKTON-BONIFER
ALLISTAR YOUCKTON-LEGG

KAMILA ZAYTSEV

BELATED WISHES

Kly Meas:
Happy birthday Prince Kly.
Grandma lova, lova, lova you!

Kirsten Secena: Happy birthday to my amazing great niece. We love you so much.

Melanie Hjelm: Happy birthday to my beautiful cousin.

Bladen Zahner: Happy birthday to my nephew. Much love.
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

JEFFERSON BIRD
MICHAEL BOYD
DARYL BOYD JR.
DARYL BOYD SR.
KELSEY BRAY
VIRGINIA “DOLLY” CANALES
LUKE CAYENNE
LINKIN CHARLES
JOURNEE CHARLES-CAYENNE
TOMMY COLSON
LAYNE COLSON
MARLA CONWELL
STEVEN CORTEZ-NAPOLEON
LEVI DUPUIS
MARY DUPUIS
NORMA FLORES
XAVIER FLORES
TIMOTHY GARZA
MAGGIE GLEASON
TOM HAYDEN JR.
THOMAS HECK
KIMBERLY HECK
SHADOW HERNANDEZ
HALISA HIGHEAGLE
LILIA HOHEISEL
ALAYNA JESPERSEN
MACKENZIE JONES
SHYLOH KINKADE
TYLER KLATUSH
HEATHER KLATUSH
KAREN LECLAIRE
CHARLOTTE LOPEZ
BRADYN LOPEZ
RAY-RAY LOPEZ
YEVGENI LUKIANOV
CHOAN MACDOUGALL
DAKOTA MARCELLAY
SHELBY MCCRARY
AAAYAH MEDDAUGH
TERRY MIDDLETON
CATHERINE NEMETH
DEVIN OLNEY
ALBERT ORTIVEZ III

ALBERT ORTIVEZ-HICKS
MEADOW OWENS
SABRINA OWENS
KILYNN OWENS
BAILEY PARKINSON
CHASE PEREZ
STEPHANIE PICKERNELL
LOIS POLING
AMY POTTER
BONNIE QUIRKE
JENNIFER REVAY
JOSEPH REVAY
RITA RIVERA-HERNANDEZ
ZEDIKIAH SANCHEZ
CATHERINE SECENA
RAYMOND SECENA
SHAYLAH SEYMOUR
FRED SHORTMAN
ATTICUS SIMMONS
PATRICK SIMMONS JR.
JERIE SIMMONS
CHERYLE STARR
MEI-LIEN TANNER
CHRISTOPHER TEAGUE
CARLA THOMAS
STAR THOMAS
SHARON TOLBERT
MARIAM VASSAR
KESAWIN WASHBURN
DAKOTA WILKINS
RILEY YOUCKTON
STEVIE YOUCKTON
COLETON YOUCKTON
ZAYDEN YOUCKTON
KAYDEN YOUCKTON
ANDREA YOUCKTON

Left — MacKenzie Jones: Happy birthday to my sister! Love you so much, from Shelby.
Below — Levi DuPuis: Happy 4th birthday!!! You are so loved, from Mom.
Bottom — Journee Charles-Cayen: Happy birthday!

Tyler Klatush: Happy sweet 16 son! Keep being the great young man that you are. You have a bright future ahead of you. We love you so much. — Dad.
Put a spring in your step with a foot check

Diabetic patients should have their feet checked by a podiatrist at least once a year, even if obvious foot problems are not present. Make sure feet are in good shape by scheduling a visit to podiatrist Deborah Behre, DMP, at the Wellness Center. She will be available from 8 a.m.-noon March 22.

Prevention is key
- Control blood sugar levels.
- Exercise every day.
- Take medication as prescribed.

Nerve and vascular damage
In diabetics, this often can cause:
- Loss of sensation or feeling called neuropathy – may not feel heat, cold, something in shoe or pain from infection
- Poor blood flow causes difficulty in healing (risk for ulcers and gangrene)

Check feet regularly
- Redness, sores, blisters, calluses
- Ingrown toenails
- Numbness or open sores
- Cold to the touch or change in temperature
- Loss of hair on toes and foot

Clean feet every day
- Wash with mild soap and warm water.
- Dry well, especially between toes.
- Never soak feet (can increase dryness).
- Lightly apply lotion or moisturizer to feet.
- Do not moisturize between toes.
- Check toenails once a week. Cut straight across.
- Apply foot powder between toes.

Socks and shoes
- Always wear socks and shoes to protect feet from hot, cold and foreign objects.
- Wear white, natural fiber (cotton or wool) socks.
- Soft, padded socks help avoid blisters and sores.
- Socks with no seams are best.
- The top band of socks should fit comfortably. Wide, generous bands are often better for comfort.
- Have shoes professionally fit.
- Change shoes once a day to alter pressure points.
- Check shoes daily for pebbles or foreign objects.
- Wear sturdy, supportive shoes that fit well and have a generous width and deep toe box.

Movement is important
- Put your feet up when sitting to decrease swelling.
- Wiggle toes and move ankles periodically to increase blood flow.
- Do not cross your legs for long periods.

MORE INFORMATION
Call the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center at 360-273-5504 to schedule an appointment.

Delicious, heart-healthy fish dinner hits the spot

Salmon with Crushed Blackberries and Seaweed

INGREDIENTS
2 cups fresh blackberries
2 cups fresh seaweed
Coarse sea salt
4 wild-caught sockeye portions
3 tablespoons sunflower oil, plus more as needed
2-3 tablespoons dried wakame seaweed
Fresh chive stems for garnish

DIRECTIONS
1. In a medium bowl, crush half the blackberries using the back of a fork. Add the remaining whole blackberries, stir and season to taste with salt; set aside.
2. Pat salmon fillets dry with a paper towel. Season with salt on both sides.
3. Roast in a traditional manner or heat a large, heavy saute pan or cast-iron skillet over high. When the pan is hot, add 3 tablespoons oil and carefully swirl it around to coat the bottom of the pan. When the oil begins to shimmer, place the fillets in the pan, flesh-side down, and sear until the salmon picks up some color and releases easily from the pan, 1-2 minutes. Flip the fish, reduce the heat to medium and continue cooking until cooked through, about 2 minutes more, depending on the thickness of the salmon.
4. Transfer fillets from the pan to a warm plate and tent with foil until all fillets are cooked, making sure to get any of the salmon skin that may stick to the pan.
5. Divide the salmon among plates, serving it skin-side up. Top with the blackberries, then garnish each plate with the seaweed and a few chive stems.
We can prevent diabetes together

Children need 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day to prevent diabetes. Youngsters learn to be active by watching their parents. Show them how much you care about their health by setting a good example. Children love playing with their parents. Ask your child to go outside and play with you instead of watching TV and playing video or computer games. Any movement is better than none. Try some of these cheap, easy and fun ways to move with your kids:

Housework help
Ask your child to sweep the floor, vacuum or dust. Make chore time fun and see who can fold clothes and put them away the fastest.

Walk and seek
Ask your child to help find the greenest leaf in your yard or neighborhood. Look for flowers at the park or take your child on an early evening frog walk. You’ll find frogs near street lights.

Ready, set, go
Take any chance to challenge your child to a race. You can race from one street light to the next, race to your car or a tree in your yard.

Dance time
Turn on the radio or play an upbeat CD. Show off your best dance moves. Ask your child to try out the moves. Make it a contest.

Fun and easy
Write each of these activities on a piece of paper: 30 jumping jacks, 15 situps, bend and touch your toes 10 times, run in place for 30 seconds, go on a walk. Fold each and put it in a bowl. Let your child pick out a square each day and do the activity together. Think of more activities you can do and add them to the bowl.

Routine
Ask your child to remind you to do a moving activity each day. Your child’s future health depends on you.
Manny Medina’s proud legacy honored

CTE pays tribute to pioneering contributor to chain of stores


Manny was a monumental part of the development of the tribe’s convenience stores. CTE honored Manny by putting up memorial plaques at three of its stores on reservation land. The plaque reads:

IN HONOR OF
MANNY MEDINA

A beloved Chehalis tribal member, began his career with the End of the Trail convenience stores at the “little store” across from the Chehalis Tribal Center. Manny was a friendly face; his service was the highlight of visiting the store. When the tribe decided to open End of the Trail 2 on Highway 12, Manny was an important contributor to the design and layout of the store – he eventually helped design the End of the Trail 3 at Great Wolf Lodge and the Flagship End of the Trail in Grand Mound.

From cashier to senior manager, Manny took great pride in his role in the management of the stores. He was a wonderful teacher and mentor to the staff of the End of the Trail stores, leaving lasting impressions on each employee he worked with. Manny is greatly missed and remembered as the friend, teacher, and co-worker that he was.