



CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

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

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CLASS OF 2026



'The future is now'

Dinner celebrates Tribal graduates as they start a new path

By Dyani Cayenne

The Chehalis Tribal K-12 Program held the 2026 High School Graduation Dinner on the evening of June 18 at Lucky Eagle Casino Events Center.

Chehalis Tribal community high school graduates celebrated for their accomplishments included: Hollie Brockmueller, Jace Cayenne, Dominic Delgado, Mailee Garrety, Remy Garrety, Madoleen Goddard, Morgan Hanna, Tristan Hanna, Damious Hansen, Tom Hayden Jr., Eli Gleason, Brady Justice, Chloe Lopez Palmer, Anastasya Lukianov, Kly Meas III, Madison Pickernell, Keira Rosado, Hunter

Shortman, Isaiah Napoleon Klatush, and Giovanni Rodas.

After everyone selected their food and sat down, Chehalis Tribe General Manager Maggie Sanders welcomed everyone to the joyous evening.

She addressed the families, graduates and other supporters in attendance.

"This ceremony is not merely a celebration of academic achievement, it is recognition of perseverance, identity and a sacred transition into the next chapter of your life. Each of you has faced challenges that shape your character

See **FUTURE** / page 6



OHS seniors honored at moving ceremony

By Dyani Cayenne

On a very sunny June 13, the community took a break from the heat as they celebrated Oakville High School's graduating class of 2026. The ceremony was held at 3 p.m. in the Oakville Gymnasium.

Our Tribal graduates were Tom Hayden Jr., Brady Justice, Hunter Shortman, Chloe Lopez-Palmer, Isaiah Napoleon, Madyson Pickernell and Giovanni Rodas.

The ceremony started with Oakville School Board members walking to their seats. Board members are Jessica George, Chrisma Juarez Sabra Noyes, Elizabeth Brockman, and OHS Board Chair Katie Bushnell.

Graduating seniors

See **CEREMONY** / page 6



Family and friends support graduating seniors on June 18 at Lucky Eagle Casino Events Center.



HOUSING



5 Oakville homes closer to finish line

Well-planned houses with mindful amenities placed on Merritt Lane and Sickman Loop

By Frazier Myer

Expansion on the Chehalis reservation continues as five new modular homes have been placed on Tribal land in Oakville.

This process has been in the making for several months and is a collaboration between Chehalis Tribal Housing Authority (CTHA), Chehalis Tribal Planning and Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund. By working together, the groups made this goal possible and helped provide homeowner's assistance to five tribal families.

Details of the project were explained in the April edition of the Chehalis Tribal Newsletter and highlighted groundbreaking of the construction on March 25. Now three months later, the site is much further developed.



Homes include:

- Two three-bedroom homes with a garage and shed on Merritt Lane.
- Two four-bedroom homes with a garage and shed on Merritt Lane.
- One five-bedroom home with a garage and shed on Sickman Loop.

Chehalis Tribal Planning Project Manager Phil Darrin has collaborated with CTHA Director



Jeanette Siufanua throughout the planning and development of the site and homes. They are working with Mountain View Homes of Grays Harbor to finalize the project.

Mountain View delivered the homes to the two locations during the final weeks of April. The first two homes were placed on their foundations on Merritt Lane on April 17. The remaining two homes on Merritt Lane were successfully

transferred on April 24 and the five-bedroom home was delivered April 27.

Darrin explained some of the amenities the homes feature that best meet the standards of modern homes. They have worked with the manufacturer to assure comfort for homeowners in their lifetime investment.

Each home has a septic, propane generator, wooden deck and a porch. Electrical units can be hooked up to solar if homeowners wish to install panels in the future. Additionally, each house has AC/heating units and come with a fireplace for heating during the cold season if that option is preferred. Also featured are quartz counters. Master bedrooms have roll-in showers to accommodate those who are disabled and Elders with mobility needs.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held when the houses are ready for homeowners to move in later this summer. The date will be announced soon.

The houses Mountain View Homes delivered to Oakville in April offer features such as roll-in showers, quartz counters and large closets. Outside are sheds and decks.



BLUEBERRY FARM

We are excited to welcome everyone back to the farm, where we have a variety of fresh blueberry options. U-pick berries: \$3.50 pound; hand-picked berries: \$5 pint, \$30 half flat, \$50 flat; frozen berries: \$20 gallon bag. Check our Facebook page for updates and harvest conditions. We look forward to sharing another delicious season with our community! The farm is at 17132 Moon Road SW, Rochester.

BLACK RIVER BLUES
BLUEBERRY
FARM



CHEHALIS
TRIBAL
ENTERPRISES
est. 2006



By Shelby McCrory

YOU KNOW THE BIG & JUICY.
now it's time to meet...

THE BIG FAMILY

BIG & JUICY
The Original.
The Classic.

BIG & JO
Piled high w/
crispy jojos.

BIG & SPICY
Drenched in heat,
Built for spice lovers.

BIG & GARLIC
Loaded w/ jojos and
garlic parmesan sauce.

END OF THE TRAIL STORES

In May, End of the Trail expanded its popular Big & Juicy Classic Chicken Sandwich lineup with three new additions: the Big & Spicy, the Big & Jo and The Big & Garlic. Customer response has been strong, with the Big & Garlic quickly becoming a bestseller. The sandwich features our classic chicken sandwich topped with American cheese, hand-breaded garlic-parmesan-battered jojos and garlic-parmesan sauce.

We are working on the EOT Rewards loyalty program that will give customers opportunities to earn rewards and access exclusive offers.

We also officially launched End of the Trail on TikTok as part of our ongoing efforts to grow our social media presence and connect with customers. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok

@EndoftheTrailStores.

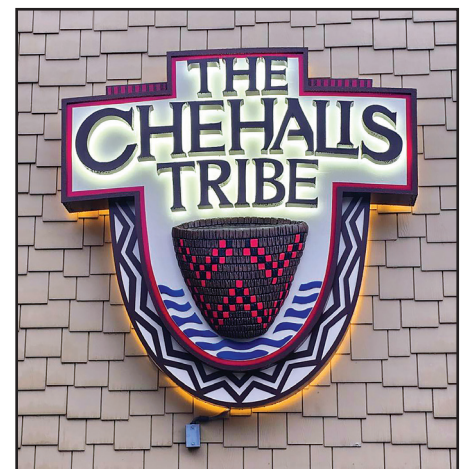
HONORING OUR IDENTITY

As part of our ongoing effort to increase awareness and visibility of the Chehalis Tribe at our business enterprises, we are proud to announce the installation of a new three-dimensional, backlit Tribal Shield sign at Talking Cedar.

The custom-designed sign features the Chehalis Tribe shield and basket imagery, creating a bold and welcoming

representation of our Tribe for guests and community members. The Talking Cedar installation is the first step in a larger initiative. Similar signage will be added to other Tribal enterprises to create a consistent and recognizable presence across our operations.

We look forward to continuing this effort and showcasing the pride, heritage and strength of the Chehalis Tribe in our community and beyond.



WE'RE HIRING! To find career opportunities, go to chehalisribalenterprises.com

Warm welcome for new team member

Communications brings Dyani Cayenne on board to connect with community, share stories

Chehalis Tribal member Dyani Cayenne recently started as the Tribe's Communications Trainee and will be helping with the publications and other multimedia for the Tribe.

Dyani was born in Olympia and has lived on the Chehalis Reservation her entire life. Her parents are Calvin Cayenne and Andrea Hawkes. Dyani's grandparents, Don and Mary Secena, played a major role in her upbringing and childhood.

She attended Oakville High School and graduated in 2025. While in high school, Dyani was the copy editor of the yearbook one year and chief editor another. She also took a digital arts class that helped with production of the OHS yearbook. Learning digital arts helped inspire her to pursue other forms of media. She has always been interested in art and drawing.

She also took a photography class in school and shot photos during sporting events at the school basketball and volleyball games. Recently, Dyani has been taking high school senior and Head Start graduation pictures. She really enjoys portrait photography.



Dyani Cayenne,
Communications
Trainee

Dyani attributes her passion for taking photos to her grandma Mary, who has captured memories at all family and tribal events for decades to keep digital archives. She has nearly 100 binders of photos.

Dyani first started working for the Chehalis Tribal Government as a summer youth worker. Throughout the various summers, she split time between departments, including Finance, Planning and Head Start.

She worked for the

Tribal Head Start program briefly before transferring to her new position as Communications Trainee.

Dyani is hoping this new role will spark her creativity and help her dive even more into her cultural side as she attends and documents Tribal events. She looks forward to weaving herself into the community and learning about interactions amongst Tribal people. Dyani will attend events that document the Chehalis Tribal people and share their stories. She's looking forward to every aspect of working in communications and becoming more involved with the Chehalis Tribe.



Early Learning registration

2026-27 school year

- Safe and secure learning environment
- All children welcome
- Bus transportation for ages 3-5
- Expectant Mothers Program with prenatal and postpartum guidance
- Free, full-time classes with qualified, friendly staff

Ready to sign up?

Chehalis Tribal Early Learning is at 420 Howanut Road, Oakville. Call 360-273-5514 or fax 360-273-0510.

Chehalis Tribal Member Financial Needs Survey

WHEN: Nov. 7 at the Annual General Council Meeting

ABOUT: The Financial Needs Survey will help design GWE programs/benefits and allow the Tribe to determine basic living costs of Chehalis Tribal member adults. The data can help decide benefits under programs administered under the Tribe's GWE Ordinance.



Raffle prizes are paid by check

- 10 people \$500
- 30 people \$100
- 40 people \$50



CALL FOR ARTISTS RFO

Oakville School District and ArtsWA are seeking an artist or team to design and create original, permanent, site-responsive artwork for Oakville Elementary School. Artists with a connection to Oakville and/or the Chehalis Tribe are encouraged to apply.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4 P.M. JULY 30 / ARTS.WA.GOV

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Rylee Adams
 Shayden Baker
 Connie Baker
 Jasmine Baker
 Carlos Bill-Sanchez
 Fau Fau Boyd
 Laura Boyd
 Rene' Bracero Jr.
 Calvin Bray
 Elizabeth Brown
 Natalie Brown
 Carmen Brown
 Candace Brown
 Frankie Brown
 Benaiah Burnett
 Arielle Burnett
 Pai'nuh'nah Carter
 Theodore Charles
 Albert Combs Jr.
 Kamryn Couillard
 Kenneth Daniels
 Nayeli Davidson
 Erin Delgado
 Alexander Flores

Allen Fricke Jr.
 Ronald Gaines Jr.
 Hector Gaines
 Elvis Gillie
 Adam Gunnels
 Sharon Hall
 Tom Hayden
 Rigoberto Hernandez
 Christina Hicks
 Marlene Hjelm
 Mikaela Hoheisel
 Jakeb Hoyle
 Kimberly Joe
 Querida Johnson
 Gloria Jones
 Eli King-Gleason
 Cecily Klatush
 Christopher Klatush
 Dale Klatush III
 Andre Kluth
 Jah'Mari Kluth-Daniels
 Chloe Lopez Palmer

Linda MacDougall
 Michelle Martinez
 Landen Mashburn
 Melissa McAlister
 Jacinda Medina
 Alica Medina
 Gary Ortivez III
 Shyann Ortivez
 Hayley Parkinson
 Jesa Penn-Roco
 Johnny Perez
 Yvonne Peterson
 Leeloo Pettit
 Frances Pickernell
 Jorja Potter
 Paula Reiningger
 Ronald Rogers Jr.
 Eduardo Sanchez
 Rick Sanchez Sr.
 Elisa Sanders
 Emilio Santiago-Youckton
 Samuel Seymour
 Grant Shortman

John Shortman Jr.
 Rhapsody Simmons
 Uilani Siufuana
 Rain Slighte
 Jodie Smith
 Gordon Starr
 Jedediah Starr
 Andrea Steckstor
 Halle Stovern
 Lexxy Tanner
 Dannu Thomaas
 Omar Thomas
 Elijah Thrailkill
 Ryan White-Eagle Bracero
 Jimmie Williams
 Farley Youckton II
 Philip Youckton
 Zola Youckton
 Andrew Youckton
 Dallas Youckton
 Lola Youckton
 Stanley Youckton

SEND IN WISHES! We would love to feature your messages to family and friends celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Send your name, the full name of the person, your wish and a picture to news@chehalistrike.org.



FUTURE

From page 1

and strengthen your spirit. Today, we honor that journey," Sanders said.

K-12 Manager John Shortman Jr. invited Lucky Eagle Food & Beverage Director James Ewen to give a motivating speech about the future that lies ahead for these young adults.

"The best part of your life is here – nothing but options and possibilities. The future is now. Your future is now. Congratulations to the class of 2026. Go change the world," Ewen said.

Next up, Chehalis Tribal Higher Education Coordinator Racheal Mendez explained her role and the resources she offers to those whose goal it is to continue their education. She asked the class of 2026 graduates to stand so they could be recognized and congratulated for their achievements.

Mendez said some of the graduating seniors are already planning to start college after summer. Hollie Brockmueller has been accepted to Saint Martin's University. Tristan Hanna has been accepted to University of Southern California in the school of

Architecture. Morgan Hanna has been accepted to University of California Berkeley and admitted to the Environmental Sciences Major in the Rausser College of Natural Resources. Many other students in the group will continue schooling at various colleges and universities.

The grads each had a bouquet of roses to give flowers to family and friends. After seniors handed out the roses, they were invited to the stage individually to receive gifts from the Tribe, which included:

- Great Wolf Lodge pass

- Talking Cedar gift card
- Sinclair gas gift card
- Casino gift card
- Youth Center check for \$500.

After everyone returned to their seats, a slide show of all the graduates played with pictures from young childhood all the way to the present. After an emotional look back on our seniors and their lives as they reached this milestone, Chehalis Tribal Business Committee members were invited onto the stage to drape each graduate in a beautiful Pendleton blanket.



Chehalis Tribal seniors are celebrated on June 18 at Lucky Eagle Casino Events Center. The event marked the end of a long road in school and an exciting new journey ahead.



CEREMONY

From page 1

followed, walking into the gym in pairs while the band played an introduction song. Once students were seated, Principal Jessica Bayless presented the welcoming speech and the student band played the "Star-Spangled Banner."

The principal talked about the journey the graduating class has gone through to reach the special day. Bayless said the students "have always kept things interesting at Oakville High School."

Principal Bayless had this message for the senior class: "As you leave Oakville High School, remember this – the world doesn't need you to be perfect. It needs you to be courageous, taking risks, learning from failures, speaking up for what matters, advocating for those around you and staying loyal to what is good. Your life will be shaped not by just those opportunities that come your way but by the choices you make where those opportunities arise."

OHS Senior Class President Emmanuel Par Torrance was invited to the stage to present the senior class speech.

"It feels as yesterday we are freshman

“Your life will be shaped not by just those opportunities that come your way but by the choices you make where those opportunities arise.”

JESSICA BAYLESS,
OAKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

watching the seniors graduate, but now we are in their shoes. We are graduating and we are saying goodbye. It really doesn't hit you until these moments like this. I grew up here with my seniors. I watched them win, lose, cry, laugh and thrive," Emmanuel said. "We started classmates, then friends and now it's family."

He then handed the podium to Lillyannah Zilsdorf, who recognized parents in the audience. Her heartwarming speech was followed by graduates handing out roses to loved ones who helped them reach the milestone. "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac played, a

song chosen by the graduating class.

Giovanni Rodas presented the John Bussard Award and gave a speech to honor Jessica Spitzer. After a teary-eyed, touching presentation, Phil Spengler took the podium to give out the Mighty Oak Award to Stephen Angles.

The Mighty Oak is chosen each year by Oakville teaching staff based on the following criteria: academic achievement and strong attendance, involvement in extracurricular activities showing dedication and responsibility and consistent follow through.

Also considered are qualities of outstanding character such as great sportsmanship, excellent citizenship, consistently following rules and procedures, no disciplinary referrals, respecting others and being a hard worker.

Near the end of the ceremony – the most anticipated moment for graduates –Oakville School District Superintendent Rich Staley delivered diplomas and presented the class of 2026.

Emmanuel led the turning of the tassels and graduates walked out in pairs to the song "I Lived" by One Republic.

It was a beautiful celebration. Congratulations to our 2026 graduates.



The Oakville High School class of 2026 reminisced and looked to the future at heartwarming graduation ceremony on June 13.

Head Start

New chapter begins for youngest grads

CLASS OF 2026



At the Chehalis Tribal Head Start graduation, the class of 2026 celebrated moving on to kindergarten. They held a graduation parade on June 3 and another graduation ceremony June 5 where they received their diplomas.



Community snapshots

Families share memorable moments



Kly Meas III



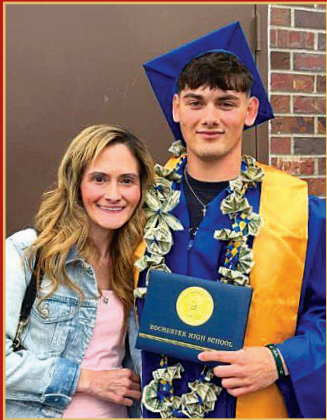
James Bushnell



Iona Williams



Central Washington University graduate Erin Delgado



Dom Delgado



Madoleen Goddard



Eighth-grade graduate Tein Tu-Liak

A journey through Chehalis culture

Student midwife gains a greater understanding of community's traditions, customs and art

By Aleshka Rodriguez, student midwife (Bastyr University)



The course Social Difference and Implications in Practice encouraged me to explore my new community of Oakville. I discovered a variety of cultures – one of which is the Chehalis Tribe – People of the Sands.

The origin of this name stems from the fact that the Lower Chehalis Indigenous people were historically situated near what is now Westport at the mouth of Grays Harbor. The area is characterized by its beaches and sandbanks. I had the privilege of exploring their community, meeting Tribal members and listening to stories about their ancestors.

Birth planning

I conducted an interview with Chehalis Tribal member Tana Boyd, asking questions specifically related to their traditions and approach to motherhood. Tana shared with me that her community is considered high-risk because many of its members experience high

blood pressure and/or gestational diabetes. This creates limited alternatives when it comes to choosing a health care provider.

Tana noted that during labor, prayers for a successful delivery are an absolute essential, as is the support of close family members during such a beautiful moment. Water birth is a preferred option because it serves as a reminder of who they are and where they come from. The care of both the mother and the newest member of the family is of paramount importance to the Tribe.

This opportunity to learn more about them live and in living color as we say back on my island has led me to appreciate and value diversity even more deeply. Learning about their traditions, values, language and experiences has given me a clearer understanding of their strengths and needs from the perspective of a midwife.

Tribal members often choose the same health care providers. This suggests it's a priority to select providers who demonstrate cultural sensitivity and humility. It also highlights the importance placed on birth planning. Gaining insight into their ancestry, values and traditions has provided me with a more comprehensive and empathetic perspective on their culture.

Community Center, Head Start tour

I had the opportunity to explore my new

community in Oakville and connect with the Chehalis Tribe. I took a tour of the Chehalis Reservation, including an interior look at the Community Center and Head Start facility. I was able to interview my hosts to learn more about their customs and history.

During the tour of the Community Center, I was introduced to their artwork and specialty crafts. I viewed baskets made from the following materials:

Red cedar bark: They use the inner bark, which is cut into flexible strips to form the main structure and body of the basket.

Cedar roots: These are separated, cleaned and split to create a strong, durable base, often utilized for coiled weaving techniques.

Bitter cherry bark: Traditionally used for outer layers or decorative elements to create geometric patterns or dark designs.

Additional materials: They often complement these with sweet grass and bear grass to add color and texture to their creations. Using these same materials, they also craft hats, fans, and even necklaces.

The tour I took of the Head Start facility was focused on connecting more closely with the early childhood education aspect of the community. Tana mentioned to me that her care center incorporates the introduction of her culture's dialect, regardless of whether the children are members of the Tribe.

**MEET AT PAPAS DINER
FIRST ANNUAL
EVERY SATURDAY
FROM 7AM – 10AM
THROUGH LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

Have Breakfast or Just Have Coffee

Diaper distribution

**10:30 AM-1:30 PM
JULY 24**

**CHEHALIS
TRIBAL
COMMUNITY
CENTER**
Call 360-426-3990

You might qualify for diapers, wipes or pull-ups! Households on or near Tribal lands and enrolled in programs such as WIC, SNAP or TANF might be eligible

CHEHALIS TRIBAL MEMBERS MARINERS BASEBALL TICKETS

CONTACT: Kelsey Bray at kelsey.bray@chehalistribe.org or 360-709-1781; Jodine Duenas at jduenas@chehalistribe.org or 360-709-1721

Limited tickets available. You must provide an email to have tickets sent. Chehalis Tribal members ages 18-54 and those who haven't signed up before will be given priority

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
July 4	Toronto Blue Jays	1:10 p.m.
July 5	Toronto Blue Jays	2 p.m.
July 17	San Francisco Giants	7:10 p.m.
July 18	San Francisco Giants	5:08 p.m.
July 21	Cincinnati Reds	6:40 p.m.
July 22	Cincinnati Reds	12:40 p.m.

USDA FOOD PICKUP

**10:30 AM-1:30 PM JULY 24
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

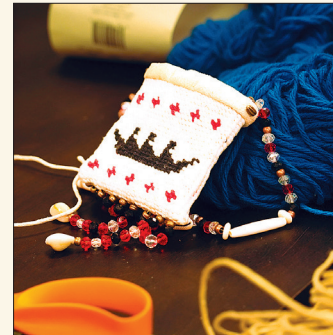
If you or a member of your household are enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe or you live within reservation boundaries, you might be eligible for SPIPA's program. The USDA food pickup offers food to fill up your freezer, refrigerator and cupboards. Items are first-come, first-served. Must show Tribal ID at the time of pickup.

LEARN MORE:
Call 360-426-3990

ELDERS

Creativity abounds

Chehalis Tribal Elders participate in various classes at the Chehalis Tribal Elders Center, keeping their skills sharp by making tribal-related arts and crafts. Recently, Elders completed weaving projects and enjoyed a Pendleton wool sewing class. Elders learned how to sew vests, pouches and other items.



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

Tribal members are encouraged to submit birthday and anniversary wishes, letters, articles, photos 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/staff.

STAFF

Communications Coordinator Frazier Myer, Communications Trainee Dyani Cayenne, Designer Audra J. Hill and the Information Technology Team

TRIBAL CENTER

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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

Chairman: Dustin Klatush
Vice Chairwoman: Sheilah Bray
Treasurer: Farley Youckton
Secretary: Cheryle Starr
Fifth Council Member: Thomas Trott

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

Happy birthday

Tribal Elders celebrate with food and friends

Sharing your special day with friends is a gift. Chehalis Tribal Elders enjoyed commemorating birthdays on June 25 at the

Elders Center. The menu included lemon chicken pasta, caesar salad, and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

- June Jones
- Beverly Bishop
- Eric Beckwith
- Waypeimahquah Choke
- David DuPuis
- Mario Robles
- Suzanne Ortiz
- Winona Youckton
- Edward Sanchez Sr.

- Hector Canales
- Leona Clary
- Stacy Youckton
- Brian Benda
- Marvin Youckton Jr.
- Darian Washburn
- Cheryl Ogle
- Susan Sanchez (welcome!)
- Charles Blacketer (welcome!)

