



# Clash of tribal titans. Round 3

By Micheal Rios

Tulalip vs. Lummi. Hawks vs. Blackhawks. Round 3. For the Northwest 1B District championship.

First, a quick refresher. Round 1 went to Tulalip at home, 68-63, in a thrilling game that saw the Hawks overcome a 15 point 4<sup>th</sup> quarter deficit. Round 2 went to Lummi at their place, 74-79, in another instant classic. In that game, Heritage jumped out a 13 point lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup>

quarter, then trailed by 17 points to start the 4<sup>th</sup>, before falling just short of pulling off another comeback.

Both early rounds went to the home team. Both also featured a Tulalip team digging themselves into double-digit deficits in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter before going into high gear and producing incredible scoring barrages. But now, we're in the championship rounds. What would round 3 have in store?

See **Hawks**, page 3

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## Operation Heart to Heart

PG 6



## Captain Kirks smoked salmon

PG 5



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syacəb, the weekly newspaper of the Tulalip Tribes

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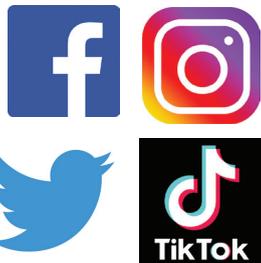
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Volume 46, No. 06  
February 15, 2025  
Published once-a week by Tulalip  
Media & Marketing  
6406 Marine Drive, Tulalip, WA  
98271 360-716-4200  
Deadline for contribution is  
Monday, with publication on the  
following Saturday.

In memoriam:  
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### Hawks from front page



In front of an estimated 500 excited basketball fans filling a jampacked Lummi gymnasium, chants of “Tulalip power!” rang out early as the Hawks found themselves down 0-5 ninety seconds in. Trailing 0-7, Amare Hatch splashed a 3-pointer to put Tulalip on the board, 3-7.

After the offense was slow to produce, trailing 3-12, Heritage’s defense stepped up and forced four Lummi turnovers. Those defensive gems jump started the Hawks offense with high-speed transition buckets. With that infusion of easy buckets, Tulalip took a 15-14 lead into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

A figurative lid on the bucket resulted in the boys unable to knock down a 3-pointer after getting several quality looks and being unable to convert. Six minutes into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Tulalip had yet to score and trailed 17-24. Davien Parks finally broke the seal with a nifty elbow runner with ninety seconds to go until halftime. Lummi immediately responded with back-to-back buckets of their own. Another Heritage 3-point attempt clanged off the rim as the halftime buzzer sounded. Tulalip trailed 19-29 midway through.

On their second possession of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, guard J.J. Gray pushed the tempo and found forward Davien in the corner who quickly shot and splashed a much-needed 3-pointer. Five minutes later, Lummi called a timeout to get their players a breather while leading 38-27.

All the missed 3-pointers from Tulalip allowed Lummi to settle into a 2-3 zone defense, which basically begged the Tulalip boys to keep shooting from outside. With the offense

still struggling, it was again the defense the made for a highlight. J.J. managed to steal the in-bounds pass and took it coast to coast for a layup to cut the deficit to 10 points, 32-42.

Entering the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter down by 10 points marks the third straight game vs Lummi where our boys trailed by double-digits and looked to make an epic comeback over the game’s final eight minutes.

The fighting spirit took hold early in the 4<sup>th</sup> as freshman Peyton Hatch showed his touch with a beautiful up and under reverse layup, followed by his brother Amare converting an and-1 on the very next possession. With the brothers cutting the deficit in half in mere seconds, 39-44, the crowd was electric and chants of “Defense!” roared from fans who did their best to fire up the Hawks. After forward Ziggy Miles cleaned up a miss with a well-timed offensive rebound and put back layup, he tightened the game at 41-44 with only four minutes left to play.

Unfortunately, that aforementioned lid on the bucket continued to stymie Tulalip who kept shooting away from deep and just couldn’t buy one when it mattered most. The game was all but over with 11 seconds to go when a 3-pointer by J.J. finally found nothing by nylon. His bucket made the final score 48-52. The 48 points marks a season-low in scoring for Heritage.

With the loss, Tulalip can still take solace in a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at Districts and an automatic advancement to the Tri-District tournament. Early odds makers predict Tulalip and Lummi will meet again at Tri-Districts. Round 4?! Get your popcorn ready.

# Hawks soar past Highlanders, 73-28



By Micheal Rios

After routing Grace Academy by 42 points, 69-27, in the opening round of the District 1B boys basketball tournament, the Tulalip Heritage Hawks (16-1) hosted Providence Classical Christian (7-7) on Saturday, February 8.

Dawning their white home jerseys in front of the Francy J. Sheldon gymnasium faithful, the Tulalip boys put on a clinic in game plan execution. On offense, they wanted to prioritize their speed and athleticism to force an up-tempo game. While on defense, they wanted to hound the only Providence ballhandler and prioritize gang rebounding to keep Providence's 6'4 behemoth from easy buckets in the paint.

From the opening tip, the boys stuck to their priorities. Guards J.J. Gray and Amare Hatch put constant pressure on Providence's primary ballhandler, making him uncomfortable and forcing him to commit turnover after turnover. Their pressure ignited the offense with one transition bucket after another. The Hawks commitment to

gang rebounding kept Providence's big off the glass and denied him any clean looks. Remarkably, Tulalip's defense didn't allow a single bucket in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. A quarter in which they dominated to the tune of a 22-3 lead.

The Hawks extended their lead to 42-13 at halftime, 57-22 by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and led 70-24 midway in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when coach Shawn Sanchez put his bench players in. With the W all but secured, freshman Deveyon Wells splashed a 3-pointer to the excitement of his friends and family watching from the stands.

The boys 73-28 trouncing of Providence including the most well-rounded scoring output of the season. All five starters scored in double figures. Davien Parks led the way with 21 points, J.J. scored 13 and Ziggy, Amare and Davis each added 10+.

"Our energy and effort output on both sides of the ball really stood out this game," said coach Shawn post game. "We played Providence twice during the regular season. That experience allowed us coaches to come up

with a game plan to take away their strong suits. Our boys executed that game plan and you could see how much Providence struggled to get into their offense sets.

"I trust our boys to be able to full court press a team for four quarter of playoff basketball because we worked all season to develop that constant defensive intensity and energy. Now, it's

time for all that hard work to show when it matters most," he added. "Looking forward to our matchup with Lummi and even beyond, to Tri-District's and Regional's, our success is going to come from having the mental discipline to stick to the game plan and to continue executing the way we've done all year."

# Captain Kirks smoked salmon, part of General Council gift giving

By Wade Sheldon

For generations, fishing, hunting, and gathering have been essential to sustaining Indigenous communities throughout the seasons. The coastal natives of the Salish Sea, for instance, mastered the art of smoking meats, extending their food supply while preserving traditional practices.

What was once a natural aspect of daily life transformed into a struggle as Indigenous peoples fought for their fundamental rights to fish in the waters that have nourished them for generations. The Boldt Decision in 1974 marked a significant turning point, restoring rights for Tulalip and many other tribes to reclaim their cherished fishing and hunting locations.

In the spirit of collaboration and community, tribal elder Kirk Jones, a lifelong fisherman and advocate for the Tulalip Tribes, is partnering with the Board of Directors and a select group of Tulalip small businesses. Together, they are creating unique offerings for upcoming General Council gifts, reflecting their shared commitment to the community.

Join Tulalip News as we explore the stories behind these small businesses in a six-part series that highlights the work enriching their lives and strengthening the broader community.

Becoming a small business owner is no trivial pursuit. While transitioning from a 9-to-5 job to owning your own business may seem to mean working around the clock, the freedom to provide for your-

self and your family brings genuine joy, especially as you see your dreams materialize.

Kirk learned the art of smoking salmon at a young age by observing his relatives. “When I was young, I would watch my uncles hang the fish to smoke after chum season. Around age 10-12, I gained a true appreciation for fishing and what it takes to curate the fish,” said Jones. He recalls, “Back then, all anyone used was salt or rock salt, which made everything salty and dry like jerky, almost like leather.”

As a young adult, he took on more responsibilities and experimented with different flavors and styles of smoking through trial and error, incorporating technological advancements like the Big Chief Smoker. He used honey, brown sugar, lemon, and homemade brines, a mixture of salt water. Today, Kirk uses a smoke shack, a small shed with a fire pit on the floor. He brines and coats his salmon before hanging them up to be smoked.

Living off the land has been an essential aspect of Kirk’s life, shaping his existence through berry picking, hunting, and fishing. He says, “I have my boat and crew, and we fish whenever we can, smoking the fish we catch. I find other sellers to keep my stock up when I’m low. I truly enjoy the life I’ve built; doing what you love hardly feels like work.” Kirk’s expertise in smoking salmon and his dedication to his craft exemplify the hard work and passion in the Tulalip community.

This dedication extends beyond Kirk’s work to other





Tulalip artisans whose creations reflect tradition, creativity, and innovation. Explore the creative world of Amoreena Anderson's enchanting sugar scrubs, elevating self-care. Discover Elishia Stewart's vibrant jams that tell sweet stories. Experience the beauty of Jen Tracy's majestic orca paintings. Enjoy Bibianna Ancheta's nourishing homemade chapstick, and the rhythmic elegance of Walter Moses's Cedar Clappers, blending tradition and innovation.

This year's General Council gifts are more than mere gestures—they are a showcase of

Tulalip craftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit. Designed to celebrate the resilience and creativity of the community's artisans, these offerings provide a unique connection to locally made products. The gifts will be distributed at the General Council meeting on April 12, ensuring that each recipient takes home a piece of Tulalip tradition and artistry.

If you would like to enjoy some of Kirk's smoked salmon, you can purchase it from him on his Facebook or call him at (425) 346-1769.

## Operation Heart to Heart: Delivering smiles and promoting inclusion

By *Kalvin Valdillez*

A cargo van and a school bus were filled with high school students from Marysville Getchell High School. On the morning of February 11, they were enroute to a number of different schools located within the Marysville School District. Their mission, to bring smiles to their fellow students by way of songs and gifts, was officially underway and has become an event that hundreds of special needs students and MSD faculty look forward to every year.

Operation Heart to Heart has been in effect over the past several years and is an amazing way for the MGHS students to show love to special needs classrooms each Valentine's Day season. The participants are all members of either the Marysville Getchell Native American and Friends Club or the Leah's Dream Activity Club, or both.

MGHS Senior Charley Dick, President of the MG Native American and Friends Club, shared, "It's nice to be able to go see everyone and to see all the smiles on everyone's faces. It makes me feel like our club is doing good things and positively affecting the community, because we're all about inclusion, building community, and making a good impact."

The club members were warmly welcomed at each school with hugs and high fives as many students recalled engaging with them



at previous gatherings. Operation Heart to Heart also gives the special needs students a break from their classroom settings as they greet their visitors in their school's hallways or on the playground outdoors.

At each school, after brief salutations, MGHS special needs instructor, Jim Strickland, retrieved his guitar from its case and kicked things off with a classic country song that many students knew and clapped and sang along to, "You are my sunshine". Following Mr. Strickland's ballad, MSD Native liaison, Terrance Sabbas, led a traditional Lakota song on a hand drum, which was met with an uproar of applause from the kids, many of whom couldn't contain

their excitement and jumped up and down with joy upon hearing the cultural jam.

The students were then gifted goodie bags with items such as coloring books, stuffed animals, bubble wands, fidgets and paint kits. The backpacks were tailored to each student's sensory needs, making the experience even more heartfelt and personal.

Amy Sheldon, Tulalip tribal member and MGHS Special Education Native American liaison, expressed an overall excitement to see inclusivity celebrated by students in today's school system. During the Heart to Heart event, Amy beamed with pride as she watched the club members interact with the students at all eight



campuses, which included Quil Ceda Tulalip Elementary, Grove Street Elementary, Totem Middle School, and Marysville Pilchuck High School.

Said Amy, “We started doing Heart to Heart because the Native American and Friends Club wanted to be able to give back to kids who are in self-contained classrooms, and it’s continued to grow over the years. We want to make a difference and bring a change of the culture, you know, inclusion and acceptance of everybody. And we like to see the joy on everyone’s faces. The club worked after school to get everything packed and ready to go. This year, we were able to give out 255 bags through the whole Marysville School District for all the self-contained classrooms.”

Operation Heart to Heart relies solely on donations for the gift bags, and unfortunately this past year there were not as many donations as in previous years. Thankfully, Leah’s Dream Foundation was able to pitch in some funds to ensure that each student walked away with a Valentine’s Day party favor. So, if you are reading this and would like to contribute to next year’s initiative, you can do so by visiting [LeahsDreamFoundation.org](http://LeahsDreamFoundation.org).

When asked how it felt to see all the smiles throughout the day, Amy stated, “It makes me real-

ly happy. My daughter has autism. She’s 28 now and I wish she had stuff like this when she was younger. There is a lot of negativity going on in the world we live in now and to keep giving back to others is so important, so everyone knows they matter. I think we’re making a difference, like with bringing unified sports to our schools. We’re doing a lot of amazing things, and I think it’s important to highlight the good.”

In total, the clubs visited five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Both of the clubs will continue to host events and activities for the remainder the school year. Be sure to follow the MG Native American and Friends Club and the Leah’s Dream Activity Club Facebook pages for more information.

“This is really important to me, because I just want to make sure that everyone feels included,” expressed Charley. “It’s really nice to know that we’re making a lot of these kids’ day. It’s important to let them know that they have a community, that they have people who care about them, because a lot of students do face bullying. Knowing that they’re included in activities like these and knowing that when they do go to middle school and high school, that they have people who are there for them and who will give them that safe space is important.”



# Pinning their way to perfection



By Micheal Rios

In the world of high school sports, true dominance is rare. Maintaining a season-long undefeated streak? Even rarer. But this '24-25 school year, the Marysville Pilchuck wrestling squad didn't just aim for success, they aimed to rewrite the history books.

Culminating with a dominant 62-15 match victory over archrival Marysville Getchell, the Tomahawks did just that. They finished the regular season with an unblemished 17-0 record and, in

doing so, cemented themselves in school history as the most formidable team to ever step onto the mat.

From the very first match versus Shorewood, when they dominated 67-12, it was clear that this team was something special. They opened the season with a statement victory, setting the tone for what would become a relentless march toward perfection. Match after match, they took down all opponents, including incredible shutouts over Archbishop Murphy, 84-0, and Kamik, 81-0. Over and over again,

the M.P. boys outworked and outlasted every competitor who dared to stand in their way. With a combination of lightning-fast takedowns, relentless chain wrestling, and impeccable mat awareness, they dictated the pace in every dual meet.

Tomahawks head coach Marcus Haughian has been leading M.P.'s program for six years and knew early on that this squad had the makings of something historic. "A lot of these kids I've coached since they were wrestling in youth program. I knew we really had the makings of something great when many of them decided to come to M.P. and continue wrestling together," he said in the immediate aftermath of the Berry Bowl victory. "It feels amazing. I've seen first-hand how much time, dedication, and hard work this team has put in day in and day out. They deserve all the accolades for coming together as a real team and accomplishing something historic."

Among his coaching staff are two Tulalip tribal members, Tony Hatch and Sam Davis, who, as history would have it, coached Marcus when he was an M.P. wrestler years ago. Coach Marcus couldn't praise their efforts

and guidance enough as being instrumental to the program. "Tony meant so much to me when I was a high schooler. I still call him coach even though we are colleagues now. And having Sam as a lead youth wrestling coach be here and offer his insights from coaching several of our wrestlers since they were just little kids is invaluable. We have a bunch of tribal kids in this program. They are some of the toughest kids I know. Being able to further develop the connection between Tulalip and Marysville through our wrestling program is something we, as a coaching staff, are proud of."

While wrestling is the ultimate individual sport, this Tomahawks team thrived on unity. Each wrestler contributed, but a few standouts rose to the occasion time and time again. Senior captain Danny Vergara dominated his 175-pound weight class with a series of flawless headlocks, fireman's carries, and picture-perfect double-leg takedowns, securing crucial victories in high-pressure situations.

"For me, being a captain is all about showing everyone that's younger how to practice the right



way, how to work hard, and how to practice good sportsmanship regardless if you win or lose,” shared Danny. “This team know how to work hard. We sweat our butts off, literally, to maintain our wrestling weight and practice every day to make each other better. It’s all that hard work that drives us to be perfect.”

Meanwhile, 120-pound phenom Garrett Turner has stunned the competition with explosive ankle picks, powerful tilts, and relentless riding time, proving that the future is just as bright as the present. In fact, it’s widely assumed by his coaches that Garrett (33 wins) will break former M.P. icon Drew Hatch’s all-time wins record (42 wins) either this post season or early next year.

“The wins have been great, but for me the real highlights of this season have come in practice,” shared Garrett. “Our biggest and best competition is in this locker room because we know what’s on the line for us. Our practices have been full of blood, sweat and tears, and maybe a curb stomp or two, but that’s because iron sharpens iron and we’re always grinding to get better.”

One of the most thrilling moments of the season came when 106-pounder Javohn Henry executed a textbook cradle in the final seconds of a match that seemed up for grabs. The Tulalip senior secured a dramatic fall that sent the home crowd into a frenzy. Proving this team isn’t solely relying on talent, they have the grit to persevere and overcome as well.

“Most people have no idea how much discipline it takes for us to maintain our weight through an entire season. Every pound matters for us and you can miss weight just by weighing in a couple ounces heavy,” explained Javohn who in also known as the heart and soul of Tulalip Heritage’s defensive unit on the football field. He seamlessly transitioned from his bulkier safety/linebacker build to a lean, mean 106-pounder on the wrestling mat.

“Playing football for Tulalip and now wrestling for Marysville, it’s cool to see all the community and support who follow just sports in general. Of course, it helps when the teams are good, but I know for me I feed off that positive energy,” continued the dual

sport 17-year-old. “I’m proud to be adding to this history of Tulalip tribal members who showcase their athletic talents as Tomahawks. We got a bunch of Tulalip representation on this team and now we’re a part of the greatest team in Marysville Pilchuck history. How great is that? It’s a legacy to proud of. That’s for sure.”

Seasons come and go, but undefeated records are forever. With the regular season over, the focus now shifts to the postseason where several Tomahawks intend to become State champs. Given what they’ve managed to accomplish to this point, there’s no telling just how much more history they are going to make.





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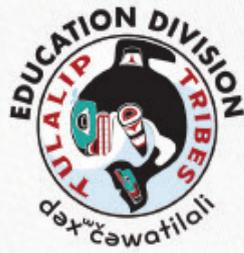
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