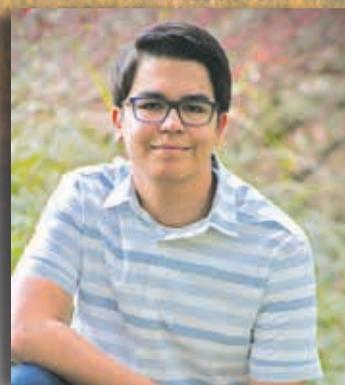




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Yelm's Top 10 Graduates Ready for Life After High School

Kya Ramirez

Kya Ramirez, daughter of Robert and Shaun Ramirez, will graduate from Yelm High School with a 4.0 GPA at the top of her class and as the 2021 valedictorian.

Ramirez's favorite subject is math, because she loves challenging herself and problem-solving.

She's involved in cross country and track, which she said are mostly team sports, even though many people think of them as an individual sport.

"The sense of teamwork and pushing each other to be the best athlete we can be is why I am involved in cross country and track," Ramirez said.

She was the first senior representative to serve on the Yelm School Board. She also served as the Yelm Future Farmers of America vice president, the National Honor Society vice president, the Associated Student Body secretary and was the youngest secretary to serve on the Thurston County Fair Board.

"There have been a lot of great memories throughout my high school career," Ramirez said. "The best one I've experienced was signing with Saint Martin's University to run on their cross country and track team under an athletic scholarship."

She couldn't decide on her favorite teacher, opting to include Mr. Mounts, Mrs. Wolf, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Nash, Ms. Scotto, Mrs. Summers, Mrs. Sneed and Mr. Johnson in her lineup.

"The most extensive advice I would say to incoming



**Kya
Ramirez**

freshmen is to keep track of all your community service hours starting from freshman year to senior year of high school," Ramirez said.

Her best study tip is to start studying early, instead of the night before the test.

Ramirez said she feels the school, administrators and teachers did an excellent job implementing hybrid learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attending Saint Martin's University in the fall, she plans to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing and wants to be a nurse practitioner.

Martha Hill

Martha Hill, daughter of Ruth Hill, will graduate from Yelm High School with a GPA of 4.0.

Hill's favorite subject is choir because she loves music and the arts, and has "been singing since elementary school."

Outside of class, she likes to draw, paint, sing and does "just



**Martha
Hill**

about everything that could be considered artistic."

"I've always been a creative person when it comes to expressing myself, and I dedicate almost all of my free time to drawing, creating stories and characters and bringing them to life through my art," she said.

Hill's favorite memory from high school was seeing the "Beauty and the Beast" production, because she "knew a lot of the people in it and every single person involved did a stellar job," which showed her how much she wanted to work on a similar production in the future.

Mr. Henderson, the choir director, was her favorite teacher because of his dedication to both the subject and the people in his program.

"My advice for incoming freshmen is to not care about what other people will say to you and to just focus on yourself," Hill said. "I'm not saying to not make friends, because everyone needs a solid support system, but realize that



**Hailey
McGuire**

everyone feels so vulnerable at that time in their life that they might lash out in negative ways to compensate for their own insecurities."

Her best study tip is to take frequent breaks, because memorizing information is a process that shouldn't be done all at once.

She said online school "during the heat of COVID was horrible," so going back to a hybrid model was a welcome change that decreased the anxiety levels of herself and other students.

This fall, Hill will attend Central Washington University, where she will major in education to become a high school art or English teacher.

Hailey McGuire

Hailey McGuire, daughter of Gretchen and Ricky McGuire, will graduate Yelm High School with a 4.0 GPA.

McGuire's favorite subject is anatomy, because she likes

knowing how things work.

"When it comes to the human body, I find it especially interesting since it's the thing that we live in," she said.

She was a member of the varsity soccer team for four years and also played on a club team.

"I remember my first varsity game as a freshman. It was an away game at North Thurston and it was a tough game, but we ended up winning," McGuire said. "The best part, though, was at the end of the game when My'kel and I just hugged because we were so excited about winning our first ever high school game. Then we ended up playing together for the next three years and we made a pretty good pair, if you ask me."

McGuire's advice for incoming freshmen is to set realistic goals for themselves.

"It's great to shoot for things that will challenge you, but at some point you have to be able to take a step back and ask yourself whether or not the reward for accomplishing that goal is worth what you're going through to get there," she said. "Don't cause yourself pain, mentally or physically, just to feel a little successful."

As for study tips, she advises students to find an environment that promotes learning without distractions.

She will transfer into the Saint Martin's nursing program in the fall, because she is about two years ahead after completing classes at South Puget Sound Community College through Running Start.

"I'm planning on going into either pediatric nursing

Continued on **PAGE 4**

or labor and delivery, so we'll see where I end up, but I'm just glad to be moving on to something new and exciting," McGuire said.

Cassandra Shaw

Cassandra "Cassie" Shaw, daughter of James Shaw and Jennifer Sebero, will graduate Yelm High School with an unweighted GPA of 4.0.

Art is the subject that gives Shaw the most creative freedom, she said.

"I can communicate my psyche into tangible media," Shaw said. "I express my feelings with the arts through poetry and painting. I tell stories via creative fiction writing and manga drawing."

Shaw was involved in the Yelm Jazzline team and Future Business Leaders of America. She also served food to families in need at Yelm Prairie Christian Center on most Thursdays and participated in Key Club and Drama Club.

"I shared my excitement over my acceptance into Stanford with my favorite teachers and staff who encouraged, supported and believed in me this past year," Shaw said. "By far that moment was the most rewarding and memorable. We celebrated that my dedication to school finally paid off and that our efforts were all worthwhile."

Shaw's favorite educator was her advanced-placement world teacher Ms. Olson, "because of her passion, intelligence and ability to positively influence and inspire people."

She advises incoming freshmen to enjoy every minute of their childhoods and high school experiences instead of wanting to grow up too fast.

As for a studying tip, Shaw said organization through color coding is key.

Shaw said remote learning made it hard for her to "stay accountable and on top of" her work, adding that she felt



Cassandra Shaw

"disconnected from everything and everyone." She said the hybrid model improved her mental health.

Shaw will attend Stanford University in the fall and plans to explore different outlets for storytelling.

"After spending years creating a show intended for live action TV, I have a strong inclination to study screenwriting and directing, but I have also greatly entertained the idea of adapting it into a comic book or anime," Shaw said.

Hailey Germeau

Hailey Germeau, daughter of Danny and Roxanna Taylor, will graduate from Yelm High School with a 3.99 GPA and from South Puget Sound Community College with a 4.0.

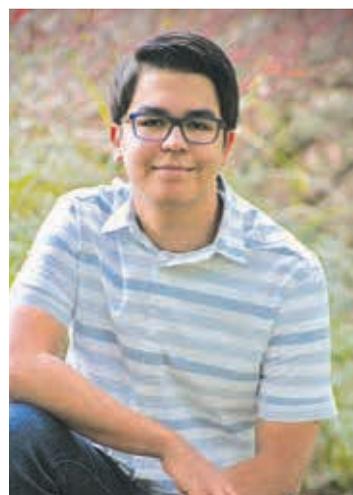
Germeau was one of the captains on the YHS dance team after a classmate encouraged her to join at the end of her freshman year, which gave her the ability "to make friends and be in a leadership position," she said.

For extracurricular activities, she participated in the National Honor Society, band and Future Business Leaders of America. Germeau also holds a job at Safeway to earn money for college.

"NHS and FBLA are some



Hailey Germeau



Myles Castaneda

of the best organizations to get volunteer experience with, as well as to connect with the community and I really enjoyed being a part of them," she said.

Her advice for incoming freshmen is to "be prepared to work hard in high school, but don't forget to have fun along the way (because) the years go by fast."

As for study tips, she wants future students to space things out.

"As tempting as it is to finish everything at the last second, if you space out your studying, you will have a better understanding of the material and it will help you develop time management skills,"



Samantha Rohwedder

Germeau said.

As a Running Start student, she said she's been enrolled in online classes.

"The experience has made me realize the importance of being in the classroom and just how much of an impact that level of communication can have on your education," Germeau said. "I am incredibly excited for everything to begin returning to normal in the next school year."

As for her post-high school plan, Germeau said she will attend the University of Washington in the fall of next year to pursue a major in mechanical engineering with a minor in environmental studies.

Samantha Rohwedder

Samantha Rohwedder, daughter of Melissa Spencer and Mark Rohwedder, will graduate from Yelm High School with a 3.994 GPA.

Rohwedder's favorite subject was sports medicine, because she loved the class environment and the hands-on nature of the subject.

For extracurricular activities, she was involved in the Washington Career and Technical Sports Medicine Association as a student officer for two years and the Thurston

County Dog 4-H project with her dog, Elsie.

She has been part of the YHS girls varsity basketball team all four years of high school, and was the team captain for the past two years.

"My favorite memory from high school were the pre-COVID football games, where we got dressed up in school spirit and cheered on our team," Rohwedder said.

Gary Clinton was her favorite teacher because he pushed her to become a better person.

"My advice for incoming freshmen would be to take it one step at a time because a lot is going to be thrown at you," Rohwedder said. "I would also encourage them to join at least one school activity, whether it be a sports team or club."

She said her best study tip is to plan out time to study well before the night before a test.

Participating in school remotely was "really tough" for Rohwedder, because she likes the social aspect of school and getting out of her house, so hybrid would have been a welcome change, but she ended up staying home from school to ensure that she remained healthy enough to play basketball for the entire season.

Rohwedder will attend Boise State University in the fall and plans to major in health science to obtain her pre-med degree. She then wants to go to medical school to become a practicing doctor.

Myles Castaneda

Myles Castaneda, son of Natalie and Salvador Castaneda, will graduate Yelm High School with a GPA of 3.994.

Castaneda's favorite subject is history, because he loves learning about "how past events have impacted the present and continue to impact our future," he said.

Having been part of the

National Honor Society, Yelm Jazz Band and DECA, he has been active in extracurricular activities.

"I don't think I have a single favorite memory in high school," Castaneda said. "Instead, I cherish all of the moments I was able to spend with my friends both in and out of class."

His favorite teacher was Mr. Pierson, who Castaneda described as "down to earth, straightforward and extremely fun."

Castaneda advises incoming freshmen to simply enjoy their time in high school and make as many new friends as possible.

"My best study tip would be to write down your most important notes the night before and then quickly review those notes right before your test, so they are fresh in your mind," he said.

He said remote learning was "not fun at all," due to lost social interactions with his friends.

"Sitting at home and not being able to talk to your friends and classmates in-person sucks," Castaneda said. "I'm glad the school has switched to a hybrid schedule because it allows us students to finally interact with each other again."

After high school, Castaneda will attend Central Washington University to major in professional flight with the hope of becoming an airline pilot one day.

Bryce Cerkowski

Bryce Cerkowski, son of Angie and Justin Cerkowski, will graduate from Yelm High School with a 3.99 GPA.

Cerkowniak's favorite subject is math, which he plans to use in a future career as a civil engineer.

Part of the YHS cross country and track teams, he said the sports have shown him that "hard work will always pay off."

His favorite memory of high



**Bryce
Cerkowniak**

school is from his junior year, when his cross country team took seventh at state.

"It was a very memorable moment because it was the highest finish ever by a Yelm team and it was a rewarding finish because of the work the team put in all season long," he said.

Apart from sports, Cerkowniak is a member of the National Honor Society.

Mr. Hume was his favorite teacher because of his teaching style and classroom management technique that fostered learning in a tangible way.

"My advice for incoming freshmen is to not be afraid to ask questions," Cerkowniak said. "When you need help or you are confused, always ask. Otherwise, it will be much harder to learn."

Cerkowniak's main study tip is to set aside dedicated time to study.

He said "participating in remote learning was definitely interesting and challenging," adding that it was harder to learn remotely because it was more difficult to ask real-time questions, so going hybrid was a welcome change.

After high school, Cerkowniak will attend Gonzaga University, where he will study civil engineering and compete on the cross country



**Victoria
Crow**

and track teams.

Victoria Crow

Victoria Crow, daughter of Stefanie and Lance Crow, will graduate from Yelm High School with a GPA of 3.977.

Crow's favorite subject is art because she enjoys making things, though math is her favorite academic subject.

Every Tuesday at noon, she goes to Southworth Elementary School to volunteer in a second grade classroom.

"I have many great memories from high school and just a different experience in general," she said. "From switching high schools because of the military moves to doing schooling during COVID has made my high school experience very interesting. ... My favorite memory from high school is from the time I spent at Southworth Elementary this year."

One of Crow's favorite teachers is Ms. Scotto because "she gives work that is hard enough to challenge you to learn, but not beyond your ability."

She advises incoming freshmen to stay up-to-date with their assignments.

"My best study tip is to review past work," Crow said. "Teachers will give you the information to succeed and will often tell you what information



**Natalie
McLaughlin**

to remember. Listening to your teacher and reviewing old work will ensure that you understand or show where you should ask questions."

Remote learning was "not as great a shock to me as it was for many others," Crow said, adding that she's done online school during ninth and part of 10th grades.

After high school, Crow wants to attend Brigham Young University in Idaho to get a degree in early childhood and special education.

"The degree allows me to have multiple choices on what job I want," she said. "The job I have my mind set on is a teacher, but I am planning to be flexible. I want a job involving toddlers to third graders with or without special needs."

Natalie McLaughlin

Natalie McLaughlin, daughter of Michael and Susan McLaughlin, will graduate Yelm High School with a 3.97 GPA.

McLaughlin's favorite subject is history, because she thinks "learning about our country's history and how it came to be is one of the most beneficial things we can learn as students, and as future active members in our community," she said.

Volleyball has been a huge part of her four years at

Yelm, McLaughlin said. The friendships and memories she's made on the court with her teammates and coaches are "some of the fondest memories" she has from high school.

She has been an officer in student government and Future Farmers of America, a member of the National Honor Society and was the student school board representative for Yelm.

"My favorite memory would have to be volleyball's first win my sophomore year," McLaughlin said. "I don't know how long it had been since Yelm volleyball actually won a game. I remember everyone jumping out of their seats and the spirit section running to the court to swarm the team. It was such a great moment and I am so proud to have been a part of it."

Having enjoyed many teachers at the school, she eventually settled on Mrs. Summers as her favorite, because she was a teacher that not only made her like math, but also helped out and listened.

"The best advice I can give to incoming freshmen is to be open minded," McLaughlin said. "The great thing about Yelm is we have so many different activities and clubs for so many different people. It took a lot of convincing and I had to build up a lot of courage to audition for the musical my junior year. ... So even though something may seem scary or outside of what you usually would stick to, trying something new can open you up to so many new possibilities, lessons and friendships."

McLaughlin's best study tip is to write things down, which she said helps a person remember the subject material.

She said learning through the COVID-19 shutdowns made school a challenge for her, when it wasn't as difficult before.

Attending University of Washington in the fall, McLaughlin said she will major in history and political science to eventually pursue a master's degree in secondary education.



Congratulations

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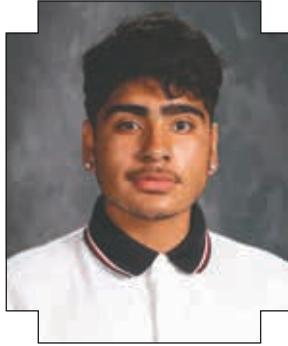
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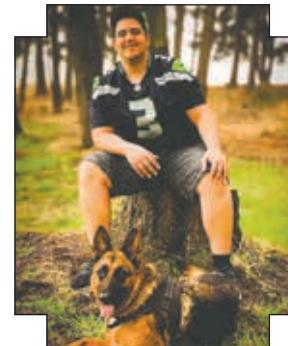
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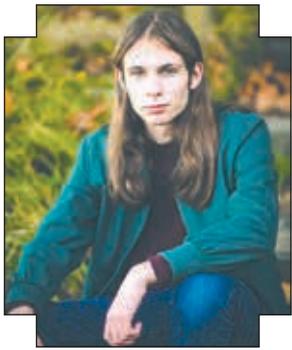
Silvia Barnes



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Adam Beardslee



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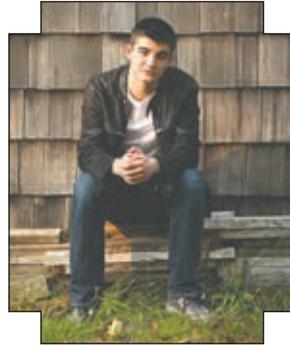
Maya Blank



Dominique Bonfe



Lindsey Booth



Evan Bravo



Alexander Brown



Alyssa Brown



Rian Browne



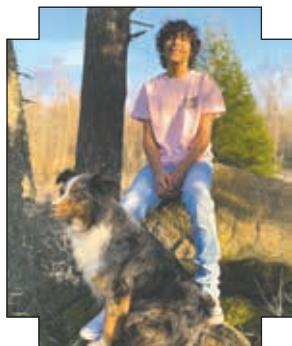
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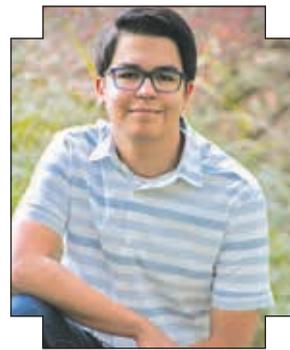
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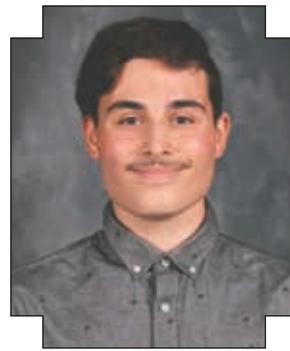
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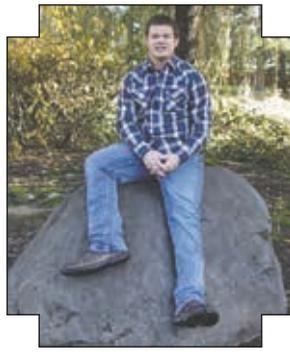
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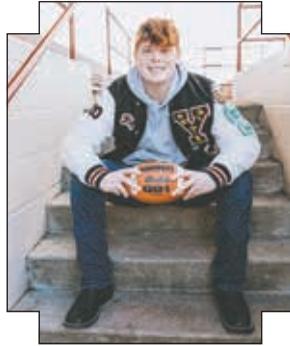
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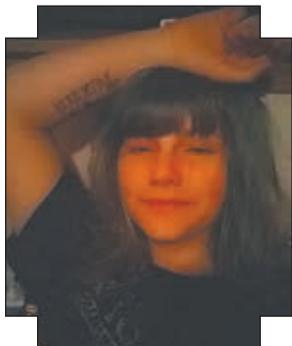
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Ethan Doyle



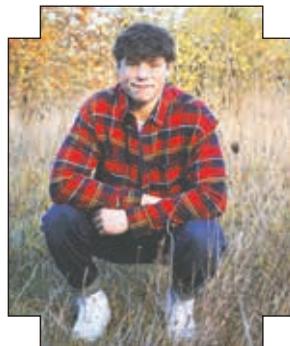
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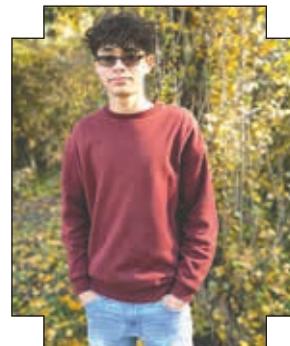
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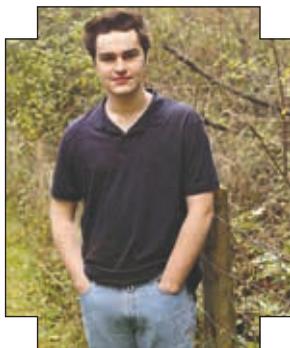
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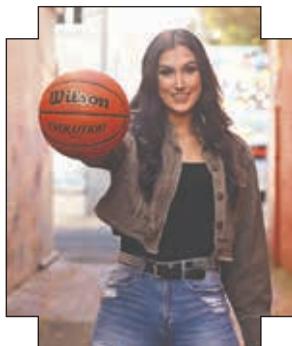
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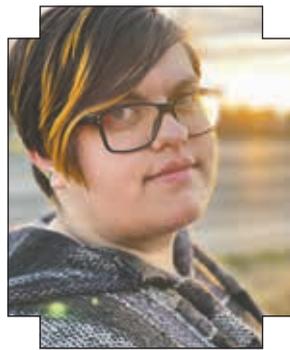
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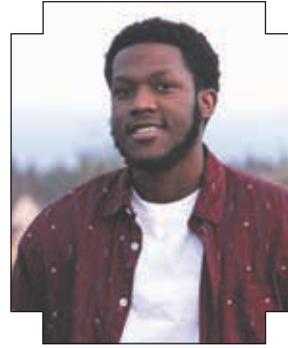
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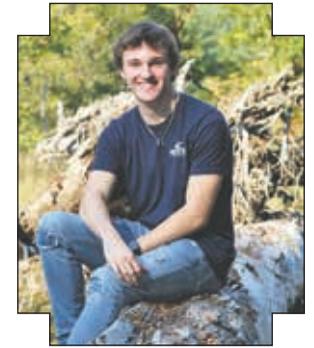
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Tina Kiehn



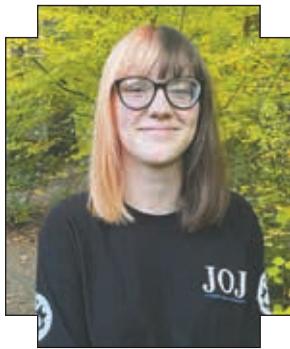
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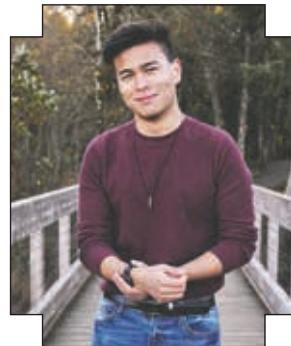
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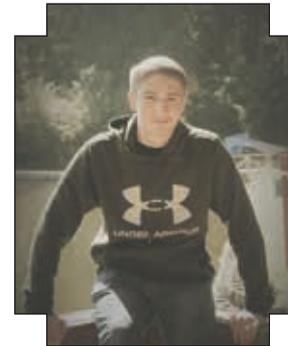
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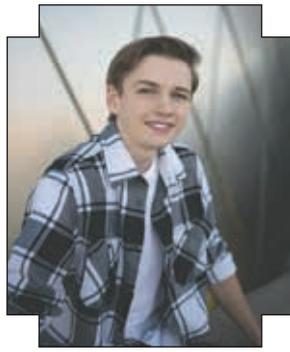
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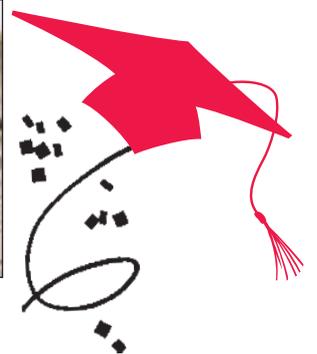
Sean Rohwedder



Nakoda Rosen



Aidan Rosenberg





William Russell



Jazmin Russell



Sophia Sanabria



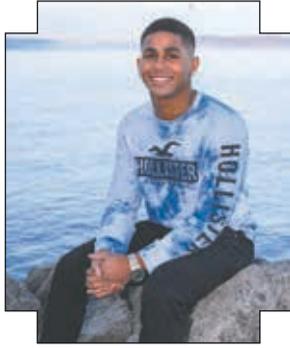
Dezhooone-Nailain Sanchez



Kyle Sanchez



Makenzie Schiedeck



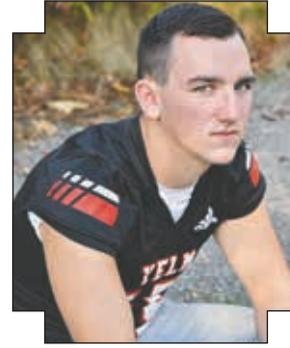
Jabari Schouweiler



Lily Schwaesdall



John Scotto-Rodriguez



Zane Shaffer



Blake Sharpe

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Juliana Sheedy



Megan Sherwood



Breanna Short



Mina Siatuu



Jayce Silver



Kristopher Simas



Trenton Sledge



Kenneth Smith



Layvion Smith



Mackenzie Smith



Isabella Snyder



Arianna Sohnrey



Nicholas Some



Casey Sparks



Nicole Spinoso



Joshua Spradlin



Faith Stemple



Cyrus Stephens



Emily Stevens



Lia Stewart



Evan Stocks



Ethan Stoddard



Janessa Sutton



Joshua Sweezer



Kayley Teixeira



*Kalyakorn
Theppunkulngam*



*Andrew
Michael Therens*



Megan Thomas



Tayler Thomas



Brooke Tolar



Jessica Torrez



Precious Trahan



Skylar Trovillo



Ethan Valois

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~ The Sprouffske's

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Taylor Vanderbie



Angela Vassar



Rebecca Venuto



Ashlynn Villegas



Nikolas Viramontes



Angelina Walker



Deiondre Wallace



Garren Walter



Elizabeth Weiser



Dakota West



Madison Wheeler



Madison White



Charlie Wigren



Logan Wilkes



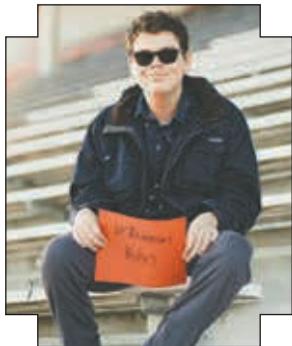
Issac IV Williams



Tyson Williams



Wyatt Williams



Bodin Williamson



Noah Wilson



Airianna Wilson



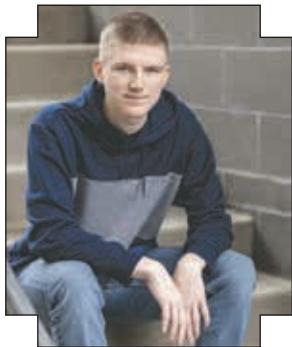
*Christopher
Joel Wind*



*Lashondra
Winklebleck*



Justin Workman



Ethan Yabsley



Jay Yates



Kylee Yates



Michael Yeagley



Shareef Yousos



Cadence Zumwalt

2021 YELM SENIORS

Not Pictured

Hunter Acosta

Destini Anderson

Kegan Anthony

Blake Austin

Ilan Azpilicueta

Jacob Bagwell

Jared Bagwell

Wesley Baker

Kody Birch

Ashley Burk

Jordan Byrd

Juan Miguel Cabasal

Maleah Campbell

Matthew Carlson

Maria Chavez Torres

Selena Cibrian

Makayla Cichy

Branden Clough

Cassidy Cox

Sebastian Creamer

Benjamin Dagum

Kyle Danielson

Corbin Davila

Ariana De Jesus

Katie Desrosier

Savannah Ehresman

Kaylee Emmons

Ana Epotowa

Esmeralda Esquivel

Fern Farmer

Erin Foster

Hailey Fox

Caleb Gallegos

Mariah Garrett

Jackson Goninan

Tyler Gumeson

Eric Hernandez Madriz

William Johnston

Isabell Kangas

Robert Kuhn

Amanda Kohler

Ashleigh Kunchick

Marie Lang

Dayton Larance

Francisco Lucatero Lara

Isiah Martinez

Emmanuel Mendoza-Iniguez

Yahssel Mojica

Leilani Monjaraz Gonzales

Jilian Pena

Mya Pierce

Madison Roberts

Angelina Roginela

Angelina Romero

Gabriel Soper

Taylor Stailey

Levi Stamm

Brendan Strate

Princess A'yanna Sullivan

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Alexus Vaugh-Mcclurg

Evan Wallenborn

Ryder Wells

Reece Wick

Layne Wies

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Rainier's Top 5 Grads Look to the Future

Kaiya Craig

Kaiya Glenchante Craig, daughter of Kristina and David Craig, will graduate from Rainier High School with a GPA of 3.709.

Craig's favorite subject is language arts, because she can be creative.

"I can create a whole world, as well as express my thoughts and feelings. Learning how to write has always come naturally to me, and I love to experiment with poetry, short stories as well as research papers," she said.

Part of the volleyball team her freshman year, Craig called the experience "the best decision" she could have made, though she decided to focus on school work the rest of her high school career.

As a full-time Running Start student at South Puget Sound Community College, she has devoted all of her structured time to school, but Craig said she loves to read, ride her bicycle, spend time with family, play the ukulele and write for fun.

"My favorite memory from high school is probably freshmen prom at the children's museum in Olympia. Being at a small school, all four grade levels at Rainier High School were able to attend. I remember it was a sunny day, with some rain throughout the evening, and everyone was just able to breathe, have fun and live in the present moment," she said. "It is a memory that I will treasure forever."

Craig's favorite teacher was Mrs. Caldwell, who taught language arts.

"My advice for incoming freshmen is to, as much as you can, take care of yourself through the process," she said. "Especially as students and teachers have been impacted by the pandemic, my first suggestion is to simply try and focus on the positive. Whether that is your friends, family, sports, volunteering opportunities or even just that one teacher you can



connect to, just try and use the resources you have of support to motivate you."

Her best study tip is for students to take notes.

"As a full-time Running Start student, I chose to transition to all online courses three months before the transition for schools to go online," she said. "I just wanted to see if that would work for me, as I enjoyed the online class I had taken my first year as a Running Start student."

Craig plans to attend Evergreen State College in the fall. Having already completed an associate degree, she will start as a junior.

Amanda Knutz

Amanda Knutz will graduate from Rainier High School in the class of 2021 as valedictorian.

Knutz will attend Montana State University in Bozeman this fall to earn her bachelor's degree in prenatal nursing.



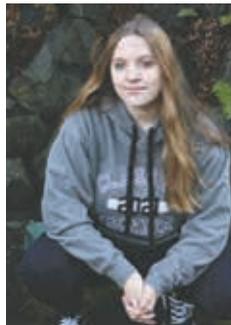
Emily Karnes

Emily Karnes, daughter of Michael and Angie Karnes, will graduate in the class of 2021 from Rainier High School.

Karnes' favorite subject is environmental science because she said she has "grown up around it so much."

She was involved in volleyball and fastpitch. She loves "playing sports and having a loving team," she said.

For extracurricular activities, Karnes was involved in Future Farmers of America, in a christian camp



as a counselor and at her community garden.

"My favorite memory from high school is honestly just making friends and playing sports," she said. "My favorite teacher would be Mrs. Chatman mainly because she is practically my second mom."

Karnes' advice to incoming freshmen is to not procrastinate "because it is a pain in the butt to get caught up again."

The best study tip she has is to not study at midnight, because there will be no true remembrance of the subject material, she said.

"I thought it was new and interesting but hard to adjust to," Karnes said of remote learning.

She plans to attend Centralia College to get her associate degree and later attend Central Washington University to pursue a degree in special education.

Ethan Watt

Ethan Watt will graduate from Rainier High School as the class of 2021 salutatorian.

Watt will either go into an apprenticeship for carpentry in Yakima, or join the armed forces to work for the Office of Security Investigations.



Hayden Wiiki

Hayden James Wiiki, son of Michelle and Wayne Wiiki, has a college GPA of 4.0 and will graduate from Rainier High School with an overall GPA of 3.9.

Wiiki's favorite subject is Japanese.

"It is an incredibly inter-



esting and fun language to learn with very rewarding results as you continue practicing," he said.

Years ago, he played basketball, but hasn't played for a while. Wiiki was also part of the robotics club and the drama and theatre club at RHS.

"Robotics were some very formative years for me as I made a lot of long-lasting friendships and learned a lot about engineering and programming principles," Wiiki said. "Drama club was simply extremely fun and gave me a lot of good memories to look back on when I think about the plays I performed in: 'Crazytown' and 'CLUE On Stage.'"

His favorite memory from high school was "almost any day of drama practice," Wiiki said. "The environment during rehearsals and line readings was just so homey and comfortable that it was always a good time. It also helped to bond a bit with a lot of other people. I wish I could relive those days."

Mr. Cornwall was his favorite teacher, having led both the robotics and drama programs.

"Freshman year is a very awkward and difficult time, at least it was in my experience," Wiiki said as advice to incoming students. "But as the next four years go by things get easier, relationships get less dramatic and weird, and things start to make more sense."

His number one studying tip is to "study smart," he said.

"Create outlines for essays, make well organized notes, read things multiple times if you don't understand them and don't be afraid to split up the work across several days to lessen the workload," he said. "Make sure to enjoy free time as well, because if you study too hard you'll burn yourself out."

He studied remotely through online courses at South Puget Sound Community College during the pandemic, saying the experience gave him more time to complete work, but offered less of an ability to confer with instructors.

After graduating with an associate degree along with his high school diploma, Wiiki plans to seek out an electrician's apprenticeship.



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2021!

RAINIER



Sandra Carroll



Makala Cook-Gray



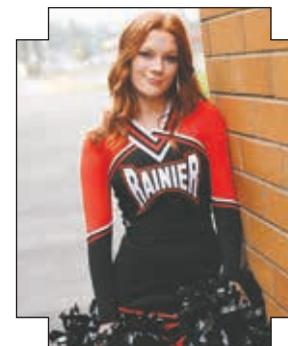
Kaiya Craig



Jaden Davis



Carson Edminster



Kylie Van Elsacker



Alia Garner



Emma Gayman



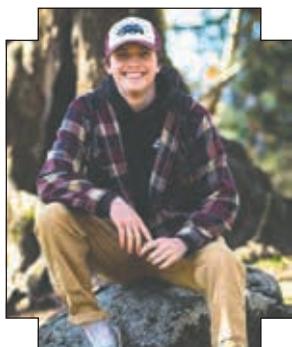
Steven Gehrig



Michael Green



Riffe Holmes



Colton Howells



Emma Hudson



Alexandra Ingham



Kayleb Jackson



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Makenzie Justice



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Ashlyn Knaack



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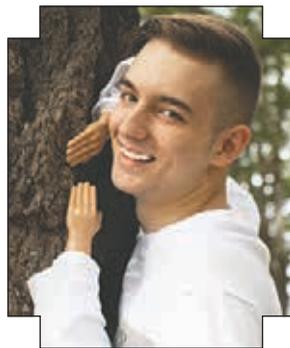
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Hannah Nieman



Isabel
Pacheco-Ortiz



Evan Polzin



Gabriel Price



Aden Sandiford



Brianna
Swearingen



Dakota Slenning



Victoria
Wadsworth



Ethan Watt



Hayden Wiiki

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