



Graciela Ornelas unwraps a bumblebee costume during the second annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

Lighting the tree

The second annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony took place in the Tribal Community Center on Friday, Dec. 12. About 75 people attended the event that was organized by the Tribe's Culture Committee, Youth Council and Youth Prevention program. Presents were donated by Toys R Us and were distributed by the Youth Council to all the children in attendance. The crowd sang Christmas carols and pizza was served.

From left, Nokoa Mercier, Tiffany Mercier, Izaiah Fisher, Kendra Steele and Aspen Wilson lead the Christmas carol



singing during the second annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. The youth are part of the Tribe's Youth Council and Tiffany Mercier, Youth Education's administrative assistant, and Steele, Youth Education's recreation assistant, are the primary adult advisers to the council.

Visit the Tribe's [facebook](#) page to see more photos

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Hospice seeking Native jewelry

The nonprofit Willamette Valley Hospice in Salem is planning a used jewelry sale in the spring as a fundraiser and is seeking donations from talented Native jewelry makers. Those who would like to donate can contact Hospice board member Steve Bobb Sr. at 503-876-3118. ■



Happy 2nd Birthday
Arya Clark
Love, Mommy, Daddy
& Brother Logan.
We love you so much!

Cowlitz homelands are miles away

RULING continued from front page

things, the Cowlitz Tribe's traditional homelands are about 60 miles farther north in the Toledo, Wash., area.

In addition, Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler, whose district the proposed casino would be located in, also has voiced her opposition to the Cowlitz proposal. ■

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