

# The Tenino Independent

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Photo by Dan Fisher

Members of the Tenino High School Class of 2026 take their seats facing the stadium stands for the school's 114th commencement ceremony, held Friday, June 5 at Tenino Beaver Stadium. A total of 66 THS seniors received their diplomas during the ceremony.

## THS presents diplomas to 66 graduating seniors

Led by Valedictorian **Ross Keershaw** and Salutatorian **Milo Harrington**, the Tenino High School Class of 2026 was launched into the future at the school's 114th Commencement Exercises, held Friday, June 5 at Beaver Stadium.

THS Principal Scott Hyder welcomed the hundreds of parents, relatives and friends who filled the stadium for the 6 p.m. ceremony, and despite a heavy rainfall that deluged the area at 5 p.m. and blustery winds over the next hour, the weather gave a break to the crowd during the ceremony itself, which began with the seniors parading in front of the grandstand and taking their seats on the risers facing the stands.

After the THS Choir began the program with the National Anthem under the direction of Jeannie Crain, Hyder introduced the special guests in attendance and gave the Principal's Address, followed by a musical selection from the THS band (including several of the graduating seniors), directed by Andy Bowerly.

The rest of the program included student speeches by Harrington and Kershaw; Faculty Speaker Kristin Nilsen; a choir performance of "For Good" from "Wicked" and Class Speaker **Alissa Jenness**.



Photo by Dan Fisher

**Milo Harrington, salutatorian for the Tenino High School Class of 2026, speaks during the June 5 commencement.**

Superintendent Clint Endicott then presented the class, and the Presentation of Diplomas was conducted with senior Chloe Suess reading the graduate names, then announcing the Turning of Tassels.

Scholarships were distributed to members of the Class through the Centralia College Foundation, the Tenino Lions' Club, the Tenino Eagles' Club, the Williams Family and a number of Community scholarships were also awarded.

Also announced were Department Awards to individ-

uals.

In Science, honorees were **Athena Cauland, Connor Hanbaum, Kershaw, Luka Summers** and **Eva Wegeleben**. For Math, they were **Miguel Espinoza, Riata Hale, Harrington, Kershaw, Justin Schlesner, Brody Slusser** and **Summers**.

English honors went to **Cole Borup, Causland, Hailey Creekpaum, Haley Huber, Haley Miller, Carter Mounts, Lilyana Sanders** and **Suess**, while History honors went to **Huber, Jensen, Kershaw, Alexandria McMakin, Miller, Mounts** and **Rogers**.

**Hailey Kirkwood** and **Miller** won Psychology honors and Business Marketing awards went to **Eric Bowe, Kershaw** and **Mounts**, while Choir honors were extended to **Chita Coleman, Macie Hanratty, Novaleigh Roe** and **Sanders**. Drama awards were won by **Miller** and **Hailey Johnson** and Band honors went to **Bowe, Ansel Campbell, McMakin, Samantha Smith, Suess, Chase Stiltner** and **Peyton Whitaker**.

World Language awards went to **Henry Czuleger, Chloe Grayless, Kershaw, McMakin, Sevrin Mickelson, Miller** and **Wegeleben**, and THS Athletes of the Year were **Grayless** and **Whitaker**.

In Art, honorees were **Leyna Burkevics, Creekpaum, Sanders, Taylor Lynn Sturgill** and **Wegeleben**, while Shop honors went to **Zahary McBroom, Leah Noll, Stiltner** and **Whitaker** and FFA honors were won by **Baylee Ahrens**.

**Jensen** and **McMakin** received ASB honors while **Hector Morales, Mounts** and **Jaileen Woodward** were honored by Physical Education and **Huber** was given the Tenino Strong Award.

Link Leaders were **Coleman, Jensen, Makaela Kashani, McMakin, Mickelson, Kollin**

**Pattison, Rogers, Brody Sayers, Koltan Sheldon, Slusser** and **Whitaker** and NHS honors went to **Ahrens, Kershaw, Margot McIntie, Schlessner, Suess, Jordan Wade** and **Wegeleben**.

Graduates wearing honor cords (red for grade-point average of 3.0-3.49; silver for 3.55—3.74 and gold for 3.75-4.0) were **Ahrens, Garcie Anewee, Borup, Causland, Coleman** (all red), **Creekpaum** (silver), **Kyra Dirks** (red), **Espinoza** (silver), **Grayless, Hale, Connor Hanbaum** (all red), **Harrington** (gold), **Huber** (silver), **Jensen, H Johnson** (both red), **Kershaw** (gold), **McIntire** (silver), **McMakin, Pattison, Rogers** (all red), **Sanders** (silver), **Sayers, Macie Scharber** (both red), **Schlesner** (silver), **Slusser, Smith** (both red), **Stiltner, Suess** (both silver), **Summers, Wade** (both red), **Wegeleben** (silver) and **Woodward** (red).

The rest of the THS Class of 2026 was **Keyna Anderson, Kaendanc Bowe, Briana Contreas, Gabriel Divelbiss, Austin Johnson, Makaela Kashani, Aiden Leslie, Gavin Maurer, Roy McKague, Quin Mohney, Jesse Morris, Rylan Nelson, Marvin Phillips Jr., Tamara Snodderly, Devyn Spears, Owen Whitaker** and **Leland White**.

## Fatal collision on I-5 in Lacey

A 50-year-old man from Forest Grove, OR was killed and his passenger injured when his vehicle was struck from behind while traveling southbound on Interstate 5 at milepost 115 in Lacey just before midnight on Friday, June 5.

The collision caused the 2019 Ford Mustang coupe driven by victim Steven L. Hargis to roll onto its passenger side before coming to rest in the trees on

the right shoulder. Hargis was declared deceased at the scene. His passenger, Scarlett O. Hargis, 20, also from Forest Grove, was injured and transported to Providence St. Peter's Hospital. Both were wearing seat belts.

Their car was struck by a 2023 Mazda CX-8 driven by Oscar A. Herrera Rodriguez, 21, from Lacey. Herrera Rodriguez had two passengers, Carlos E. Cabrices Ruiz, 18, and a 15-year-

old whose name has been withheld.

All three were wearing seatbelts, and none of the three were injured. The CX-9 came to rest on the right shoulder.

The roadway was blocked for seven hours and 50 minutes. The WSP report lists speed as the cause of the collision and notes that no drugs or alcohol were involved.

## Rochester man involved in injury collision west of Olympia

A collision on Sate Route 8 at Summit Lake Road at about 6 p.m. Friday, June 6, sent one driver to Capital Medical Center in Olympia.

Avery L. Jones, 20, of Olympia, was driving a 1999 Honda Accord was traveling westbound

on SR 8 when his vehicle struck a 2014 Volkswagen Jetta driven by Michael L. Deel, 42, of Rochester, who was exiting from Summit Lake Road N.W. onto eastbound SR8.

Both were wearing seat belts, but Jones was injured in the col-

lision. Failure to yield was listed as the cause of the crash, and no drugs or alcohol were involved, according to the WSP report.

The roadway was blocked for 46 minutes.

## Yelm officer injured in collision

A 36-year-old Yelm police officer was injured Saturday, June 6, when the black 2006 Ford Ranger pickup he was driving struck another vehicle while turning from northbound Killion Road S.E. onto State Route 510 Alternate in Thurston County.

The Ranger struck a 2025

Ford Explorer utility vehicle travelling eastbound on State Route 510 Alternate, injuring driver Anthony E. Franich, 24, of Eatonville and his passenger, Jacob J. Mortimore, 28, of Yelm.

Mortimore and the police officer were transported to Providence St. Peter's Hospital. Franich was

treated at the scene and released. Franich and Mortimore were wearing seat belts, but the Yelm officer was injured. Both vehicles suffered "reportable damage" according to the Washington State Patrol report. The police officers name has been withheld. The roadway was closed for two hours, 38 minutes.

## Legislative Bulding targeted by inebriated vandal

OLYMPIA — At approximately 1:15 a.m. Thursday morning, June 4, a Washington State Trooper heard loud noises near the northwest corner of the Legislative Building, the operational center of the state's Capitol Campus. From a distance, the trooper observed a single male suspect throwing large rocks at the windows of the first floor. As another campus trooper arrived on scene, the suspect fled in a white 2009 Chevrolet Malibu and a pursuit ensued.

Additional troopers, as well as the Olympia Police Department, joined in the pursuit. One trooper's vehicle was struck by the suspect's car but had little damage and there were no injuries reported. The suspect turned onto the power station service access road on the east side of Capital Lake. He left the access road and successfully navigated a wooden bridge on a pedestrian walkway before crashing shortly thereafter. The Washington Department of Enterprise Services Security Operations Center's cameras located the suspect prone near the railroad

tracks as the south end of Marathon Park. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident by the WSP and the Olympia Police officers.

The suspect was identified as 21-year-old Clayton Stephen Seaborn. A sobriety test was administered and the suspect was arrested for DUI, Assault in the 2nd Degree and Malicious Mischief in the 1st Degree. He is currently in the Thurston County Jail.

Early assessment of the building indicates that no illegal entry was gained. Thirteen office window sets were heavily damaged as well as two doors by large rocks and, evidently, the suspect's fists or hands, as blood was found on several windows. The protective film installed on the windows after previous vandalism effectively denied entry and limited interior damage. The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) is conducting cleanup, removal and restoration services. For more information on damages and costs of repair, contact the DES at media@des.wa.gov.