Tribal Chairman David Burnett (left), Vice Chairman Don Secena (with cap), tribal staff and construction crew wait for a blessing of the land by Dan Gleason, Sr., for the tribe’s new community center.

Fun, Learning and Teaming Up to Happen Within Walls of New Community Center
By Sarra Burnett-Lisle, Planning Administrative Assistant

You asked for it! With the guidance of tribal members and the business committee, the planning department has set into motion the construction of your new Chehalis Tribal Community Center at 461 Secca Road. In 2002, a facilities master plan was developed, including the construction of a new Public Safety Building and the Wellness Center. The Community Center is the last piece of this plan. On Wednesdays, September 10, Dan “Bones” Gleason, Sr., blessed the land as it was getting prepared for construction. There were fifteen tribal members there to witness the event. You could see the smiles on their faces, and the high expectations of continued improvements for the tribe. This Community Center will provide many new opportunities for all our tribal and community members. It will be a new place for our youth, elders and tribal members to work and have fun, and will offer new offices, a gymnasium, activity rooms, a swimming pool, library, computer room and kitchen.

The youth wing will be dedicated to our youth, and includes a large area for after-school activities and offices for youth program staff. The library will have research and fiction sections, as well as computers with internet access. Near the library will be six classrooms that can be used by the youth, education, and cultural heritage programs.

The education and cultural heritage programs will be housed at the new community center. With these programs working closely together, they can offer more options for us to learn about our tribe.

See Community Center, page 4
See Hatchery, page 4

Elders Keep Basket Weaving Alive by Sharing Their Knowledge with Youth

Elders Show Youth How to Gather Sweet Grass and Cattails
By Marie Griswold, Chehalis Elder

The first week of July, several Elders and several youth traveled to Bowerman field in Hoquiam to harvest sweet grass. This is one of the few remaining areas where sweet grass grows, and it is protected. In the last ten years, the field has diminished to about a quarter of what it used to be. Different areas are experimenting with growing sweet grass with limited success.

The purpose of this trip was to gather materials for the Elders Program, and to teach the youth how to properly gather sweet grass and cattails. We have a responsibility to preserve our traditions, and keep the art of basket making alive.

Youth learned that when gathering sweet grass, care must be given to not pull up the roots of the plant. This will ensure the grass will continue to grow for years to come. The gathering time is from July to October, and done at low tide. A very important rule is to gather only the amount you can use.

Our permit allowed us to harvest cattail, too. We harvested it on the return home. After the harvest, the group returned to the Elders Center to clean the sweet grass. Each grass is washed individually by one, using fresh water to rinse all salt water and mud. The grass is layered on drying racks, and turned every two days. It will take two weeks until the drying process is finished. Sweet grass is used for foundations of baskets on main weavers.

Cattails only need to be separated for cleaning, then dried. The drying process is the same as drying sweet grass. After the drying process is done, the cattails are separated by size, tied and are ready to use.

It is great working with the youth, teaching them the process of harvesting sweet grass and cattail. They are our future basket weavers! 
Tomahawk Stadium Hosts Another Exciting Baseball Season

By Fred Shortman, Editor

Another successful baseball season has sadly come to an end. What a season it was, with six different baseball and softball tournaments. The Community Field, or Memorial Baseball Tournament started the season in May followed by five more tournaments. Half a dozen baseball and softball tournaments were dedicated by the families in memory of those who have passed, to honor them in a game they loved to play, and to watch their kids continue to play. Each of the memorial tournaments provided free dinners for all to enjoy and share each other company and remembrance. The families would like to thank the volunteers for assisting in making each tournament a success. It’s great to see our Tomahawk Stadium continue to host baseball tournaments and honor our baseball tradition. It’s exciting to hear the sound of the announcer’s voice, and the cheering of the crowd, and to visit with competitors, friends, and family. It fills us with pride to see the sportmanship displayed after a game between competing teams. Who that fun-filled baseball season? Coed softball tournaments with five teams. Family members came out of the woodwork to play in this tournament! Many of them had practiced for years. It was great to witness how they honored Leo by showing up and playing the game he loved. Tournament Director Patty Youckton was assisted by Cheryl Starr. It was the first annual tournament sponsored by Leo’s wife, Linda, and family. They also provided an awesome meal, free to everyone who participated. The family would like to send out special thanks to Muckleshoot for donating the food, to the Chehalis Eagle, and to everyone who helped, played and honored Leo by having a great time. It was fun and it made everyone feel good.

The tournament results are as follows: 1st – Juanita’s Team; 2nd – Outlaws; 3rd – Choke’s Team; 4th – Rive’s Team; 5th – Outlaws

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter
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Articles and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers of this publication or the Chehalis Tribal Business House.

The Chehalis Tribal Newsletter encourages tribal members to submit letters, articles, photographs and other material for publication. These are subject to editing.

Contributing writers, artists, and photographers are encouraged to submit materials for consideration.

Submission deadline: 5th of each month
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Business Committee
David Barnett, Chairman
Don Secena, Vice Chairman
Joe Smith, Secretary
Joe Goddard, Treasurer
Joey McCoy, Secretary
Chehalis Tribal Newsletter Staff:
Fred Shortman, Communications Coordinator

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation...
...People of the Sands
Lucky Eagle Casino Expansion Almost Complete

By John Setterstrom, General Manager

The Silver Oak Lounge is scheduled to begin its transformation this month. The lounge will have a completely new look and feel, including a bar, furniture, and a signature silver oak tree that will tie in perfectly with the warm outdoor-streetcape theme of the Casino.

The modular buildings will be removed from the rear of casino making way for additional parking and easy deliveries. The administration is currently in the process of moving into the new office building. Communication and coordination is more efficient than it has ever been with all departments being under one roof. As always, I have an open-door policy; please feel free to stop by to discuss any issues on your mind or to just say hello.

Our goal is to complete all projects completed by mid-November, just in time for the holiday season. Thank you for your support and providing us with the ability to meet the needs and expectations of our customers.

Bobby Bush
TELO K-12
Program Assistant

Hello and good day to you. My name is Bobbie Bush. I am an enrolled Chehalis tribal member. My grandparents are Mae Smith and Phillip Bush, and my great-grandparents are Katherine (Tobin) Edward Smith - Chehalis.

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same time, the Chehalis Tribe has limited its impacts on the Chinook runs through conservative fishing or conservation closures of all commercial fisheries, such as the closure for spring Chinook in 2008.

Salmon for Market and Dinner Table

We don’t think that hatcheries will replace wild fish, but with proper management and working with the right stocks and species, we could supplement the Chehalis Tribe’s commercial and sport fishing opportunities with hatchery fish – good quality fish for the market or the dinner table.

Netting More Jobs

In addition, we hope to create more jobs through increased recreational and commercial opportunities for tribal members. The hatchery could partner with commercial fish-buyers and caviar producers. The tribe’s fisheries plan and products will not only increase profits for the tribe and fishermen, but create many jobs, such as jobs in aquaculture, fish-processing, caviar production, smoked salmon sales, fishing guide services, sit maintenance, and access fees.

This will bring many great educational opportunities for tribal and local youth, from head-start to high-school and beyond. There are several local private aquaculture businesses that could employ tribal youth trained at the Chehalis Tribe’s salmon hatchery. Youth will have a chance to take ownership of their resources and their river.

Great News: We are Winning the Battle Against River Weed

By Andy Olson

The Chehalis Tribe again battled the noxious weed, Brazilian elodea, in a battle for control of the river. I’m glad to report that we seem to be winning. The tribe’s crew from the Chehalis hatchery and volunteer crews have removed most of the weeds in that area, and are now winding down the season.

This year, our crew pulled nearly 18,000 pounds of Brazilian elodea! This removal will help the river flow correctly without retaining damaging sediment that suffocates salmon eggs and causes more severe flooding in the Chehalis Watershed. The elodea also slows the water flow, which prevents salmon migrations. This slow-moving water is a critical habitat for invasive salmon predators like small mouth bass, large mouth bass, sunfish, rock bass and yellow perch. Thank you to all who worked hard to control this invasive weed.

Hooking New Fishers

We are also looking at selective-catch fisheries, using traditional weirs and traps. If we do this, there is great potential for partnerships with groups such as the CCA (Coastal Conservation Association). This partnership would break ground in new tribal fisheries in Washington State. This selective fisheries could benefit new tribal fishers who do not have family fishing grounds. It would be a way to recruit young fishers, and encourage and enable them to carry on the tribe’s fishing culture and heritage.

In the meantime, we will be providing classes to new fishers on netting, netting, pole-fishing, river and heat safety, and fish preparation. These classes are tentatively planned for the fall and winter fishing seasons.

Pitch in, be Patient, then Fish, Fish, Fish

Much of the work involved in the hatchery construction and operation will depend on volunteers, the Fish Committee, and the Fisheries Program. We will be calling upon the community to help guide and run the Chehalis tribal salmon hatchery. Volunteers will help in many ways from painting to spawning fish to collecting wild fish for brood stock.

The hatchery will operate on a year-round basis producing four batches of nearly 40,000 fish each year. We must all be patient as it can take as many as 5-7 years to see an increase in productivity and fish size. We are confident this project will thrive and help restore the salmon fisheries of the past to the Chehalis people and those communities surrounding them.

Program Teaches that Lifestyle Change Helps Prevent Diabetes

By Cathy Visser, Nutritionist

Changing lifestyle habits is a process that takes time and is best accomplished through a variety of teaching methods. Helping people prevent the onset of diabetes through nutrition education and discussion is a good place to start. Another good way to teach nutrition is to show people how to shop, handle and prepare food. After all, we eat food, not vitamins and minerals.

During the past six months of working with DPP staff and participants, I have learned a lot about how people eat and why we make the food choices that we do. In our busy society, food choices are often based on convenience and cost. With some planning and a few cooking skills, it is possible to eat better even if your interest or ability to cook is limited.

And if you enjoy cooking and trying new things, your chances of improving your nutritional status through learning new ways to buy and prepare food is even greater.

Some of the foods we’ve prepared so far include: fruit and yogurt smoothies, ground turkey spaghetti sauce, lentil tacos, vegetarian chili, and whole grain quick breads and muffins. More recently, we’ve explored ways to stir fry just about any meat and veggie to make a quick, economical, healthy and delicious meal. Fortunately, many of the folks who participate in DPP already know a lot about cooking. I constantly get feedback about dishes the group likes to prepare that are healthy and or things they’d like for me to modify so that they are more nutritious.

We plan to continue to teach DPP participants’ new and different ways to prepare healthy meals. My goal is to eventually produce a Diabetes Prevention cookbook to share with everyone who has an interest in eating a healthy diet. I also think it would be great to include DPP Participant stories, favorite recipes and pictures in the cookbook. If you have ideas about what you’d like to see included in such a cookbook, don’t hesitate to contact me, Cathy Visser, or Pat Diodonne at the Chehalis Tribal Clinic, or call me at 273-5904.

Benefit to Veterans

Veteran Appreciation Day

Tuesday, November 11

The Chehalis Tribe invites area veterans to join us as we pay tribute to your service and value. You deserve it!

General Council Annual Meeting Election Day

Saturday, November 8, 2008

10:30 - 5:00

Youth Center

Eagle Casino

The community center will have two wings. The south wing will house tribal archives and community spaces. The north wing will include a full size gymnasium, pool and fitness room.

Wellness Center Extends Monday Late Start for Nasty Days

The clinics are Monday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
Tuesday: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesday: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Thursday: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Any questions please contact us at 273-5504 for scheduling or doctors schedule.