

February 2009 Vol. 2/2

Program News

Tribe Requests Your Input for Services to the Community

The Chehalis Tribe is hosting a community dinner and bingo night at the Lucky Eagle Casino on Tuesday, February 24, at 5 PM. The purpose of the event is gathering tribal input on services and programs offered by the Chehalis Tribe. A community assessment survey will be distributed to everyone over the age of 14. Your completed survey form will be your ticket to receive a bingo packet and tickets for the raffle. A ton of great prizes will be available including a gas barbecue, camping gear, and an iPod Nano.

If you're unable to attend the event, you can access the survey online. Print out a copy and send it to the planning department. Just go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=xK8CxhjPmwPmbd6cPr12QQ_3

TELO Lists Students Eligible for Special Incentives Program

Tawni Willis, K-12 Education Program

The TELO program would like to congratulate the following students who are eligible to participate in this quarter's "Dinner and a Movie" night: Corrie Medina, Karlea Youckton, Trisha Medina, Gary Ortivez III, Jordan Merriman, Heather Daniels, TJ Trott, Kaileen Bray, Marcus Youckton, Darrin Jones, Rikki Sutterliet, Loyala Davis, Tammy Klatush, Alyssa Charles, Little Bear Davis, Skylar Bracero, Shelby McCrory, Bobby Jones, and Ritchie Revay.

A special congratulations to Alyssa Charles for being on honor roll at Oakville.

GED Now Available

The newly-hired GED Instructor, Jolene Christensen, is now available to get your education back on track. Her office is located in the Community Resource Center located behind the tribal center.

Office hours are Monday through Wednesdays from 9 AM to 2 PM. If you are interested in getting your GED, come in and sign up or contact her at (360) 709-1745.

March Activities for the Community Resource Center

- **Mondays**
Assertiveness Training, 1-2:30 PM
Career Development, 10 am-12 noon
- **Wednesdays**
Language & Carving Classes, 5-8 PM
Women's Group, 3-8 PM
- **Thursdays**
Strengthening Families - 4:30-8 PM
- **Fridays**
Carving Class, 3-6 PM
- **Saturdays, March 14 & 28**
Cultural Activities, 1-4 PM

Contact the Community Resource Center for locations of classes at (360) 709-1745.

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER



♦ "People of the Sands" ♦

Honoring Elders: Marie Griswold



■ She enjoys time with her daughter Linda, and sister Mae at Elders events, page 3



Native Students Pass Classes and Reap Benefits

■ Our Native boys enjoy a 20-0 season playing on Oakville's basketball team. Now, they are on to State! page 2

Lucky Eagle Casino Employee Receives Prestigious Award

By Fred Shortman, Editor

What better way to ring in the New Year than with the announcement of *Native American Casino Magazine's* 2008 Leadership Award Winner! *Native American Casino Magazine* has been presenting this award for the past nine years. It is given to one hard-working tribal casino employee, a person who is committed to excellence in the workplace, the community, and in their lives. This person mentors others, knows what it takes to lead, and never gives up.

This year, Rodney Youckton, Director of Administration and Community Relations at the Lucky Eagle Casino, and one of our own at the Chehalis Tribe, is such a person. He's been working for the casino for the last four years, having received training in the casino in various areas.

Chris Buitron, Development Manager for the Lucky Eagle Casino, submitted a nomination letter to the magazine. He said, "When I was asked if there was anybody you'd like to nominate for the award, it was an easy choice for me to write the recommendation letter for Rodney Youckton. With all that he's learned and accomplished since he started work for the Lucky Eagle Casino, Rodney was the obvious choice."

Rodney was quoted saying, "A huge heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone at the Lucky Eagle Casino and Chehalis Tribe. All I've done is follow in the footsteps of our Executive Team, managers, supervisors, and tribal leaders. What great leaders we



Rodney Youckton, Director of Administration and Community Relations, and a Chehalis tribal member, received the *Native American Casino Magazine* 2008 Leadership Award.

have at the casino and Chehalis Tribe! I could not have done any of this without your support and encouragement. At first, I often wondered what I was doing and why at this phase of my life? The nomination in itself was such an honor. But, to win the award? Very overwhelming! The Leadership Award is a recognition of the leadership at the casino, Chehalis Tribe, and, most of all, my parents!! This is by far the greatest place that I have worked for. I am looking forward to more exciting and fun journeys in our lives. Once again, I just can't thank everyone enough."

See Award, page 4

Busy Hotel Begins to Add Another Suite

By Fred Shortman, Editor

The Eagle's Landing Hotel has begun construction to convert the exercise room to a standard hotel room, which will bring the total rooms available to 70. The decision to convert the exercise room into another suite was due to low usage of the room. The average age of the clientele is 50 and above, making the decision an easy economic choice.

The hotel received a permit from the tribe, and started construction on February 4. Don Terry, Chief Building Inspector, will periodically monitor the construction to ensure that all building codes are met. Clark Phillips, Superintendent for Saxas Construction Company LLC, was hired to help supervise the conversion. They've hired sub-contractors, Travers Electric, Cornell Plumbing and Sound Dry Wall, to complete the expansion. The room is scheduled to be finished by the first of March.

Glen Brydges, General Manager, Eagle's Landing Hotel said, "We had a great year last year, with a 93% occupancy rate. That's the best occupancy rate that I've ever seen in my 40 years managing hotels. So far this year, the numbers have been strong, even with the economy being the way it is. Our location enables customers to enjoy the activities available in the area while staying at the hotel. The casino is a main attraction with a great variety of dining, special events and gambling. The hotel and the casino maintain a strong working relationship making all this possible."

Valentine's Day has been booked up for a month. Rooms are often booked a month ahead of time. To make a reservation, call

See Hotel photo, page 4

EOT III is Now Open to the Public

By Fred Shortman, Editor

The Tribe has been busy preparing for the opening of the EOT III Store in Grand Mound adjacent to the Great Wolf Lodge. The construction company has finished the store and fueling station. The fuel pumps for the trucks aren't finished yet, but are planned to be available before the Grand Opening, March 11, 12, 13. Watch for flyers for special events for that day. It's exciting to see what the new location and business venture will bring the tribe.

The Personnel Committee has been working with the New EOT III Management Team in an effort to fill the new positions at the store. Anna Hartman said, "This was a huge effort by everyone involved to hire this many positions. I would like to extend a huge thank to the Personnel Committee for interviewing the

applicants. Thanks and great job!"

On February 13, vendors, construction workers and employees were hustling around preparing to open the following morning. Charles "Duffy" Black met with new employees to schedule their shifts. Manny Medina worked with vendors to get their products on the shelves. There are three cashier positions still open.

At the soft opening on February 14, Dan "Bones" Gleason performed the blessing. Margaretha Richardson helped Chairman

Burnett cut the tape, officially opening our new EOT family member to the public. The new store hours are 5 AM to 12 PM daily.

Community members showed up with big smiles. Some of the tribal elders and members purchased gas at the new store. As the store's "open" sign went up, the first non-tribal customer was Carol DeJong from Sheridan, Oregon. She was celebrating her daughter's birthday at the Great Wolf Lodge. She needed some gas, and the newly-opened store was right there to help.



Here's your new EOT III store team! Top (LR): Billie Uden, Joe Hartman. Middle row: Tony Olney, Frank Boyd, Max Lyons, Jon Jack, Brandon Brainard. Bottom row: Manny Medina, Julie Decker, Terry Craighead, Mary Simpson, Rita Benda, Gary Ortivez Jr., Duffy Black.

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter
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2 Oakville Acorns Basketball Team's Effort Leads to Undefeated Season

By Fred Shortman, Editor

Have you been keeping track of the boy's and girl's Oakville High School Acorns basketball teams? The boy's high school basketball team is the only undefeated high school basketball team in their division finishing the season with a record of 20-0. They are the number one seed going into district play to be held in Montesano starting the second week of February.

The Oakville girl's basketball team, coached by Tracy Bray, struggled through the season, but came through in the clutch in a wildcard game to make the district playoffs.

Oakville High School boy's basketball coach Jamie Berg said, "I've been the head coach for Oakville High School for



Top row (LR): Anthony Pender, Blake Hansen, Tucker Reinitz, Bryan Witt, Coach Jamie Berg, Asst. Coach Mathew Riippa, Berry Peterson, Rikki Sutterlict, Doug Boyd, Elwin Johnston; Middle row (LR): Asa Hutchings, Andrew Knotts, Darrin Jones, Jr., Izaha Powell, Ronnie Rosbaugh, Bobby Jones, Junior Jack; Bottom row (LR): Daniel Jones, Tucker Johnson, Cody Berresten, Richie Revay.

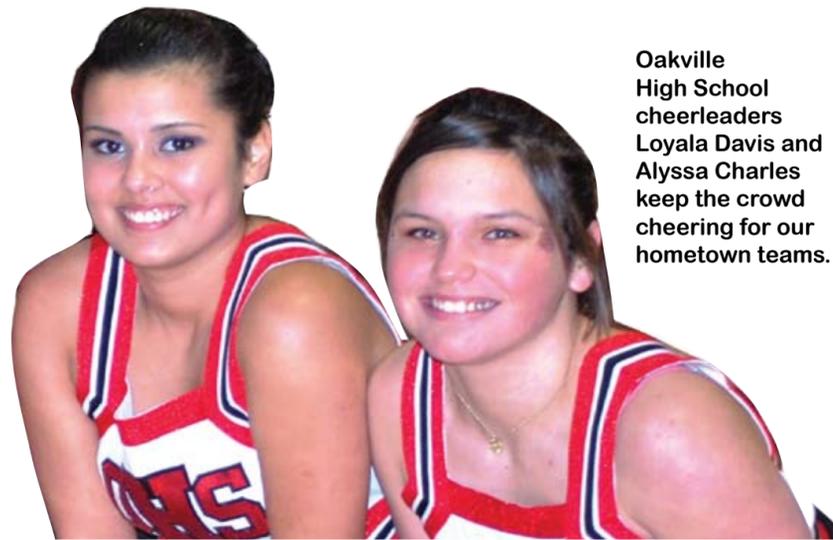
five year. In past years, I've seen Native students struggling to stay eligible to play in sports. It's thrilling to see more and more players committing to achieving their academic goals thereby maintaining their eligibility to play sports."

He continued, "I have a theory of 'shoot for the moon and land on the roof.' At the beginning of the season, the players set goals to have an undefeated season, to win first in district playoffs, and to win the state championship. Seeing the talent the team had when it all started, I believed it was possible. Izaha Powell returned as a senior and has demonstrated great leadership. Barry Peterson, a transfer student, gave our team an even stronger possibility of making our goals achievable. Rikki Sutterlict stepped into his role, and wouldn't be drawing as much attention. All the other players assisted in developing into their roles to assist making this team as good as it is. I won't forget to mention the fan support. The fan support this season has been huge. This is the largest group of fans that I've seen since I start coaching. It's great to have fans rooting for you at all the away games, too."

(Look for Joyce Thomas' article in next month's issue.)



Skylar Bracero makes a free throw for the Oakville girls basketball team.



Oakville High School cheerleaders Loyala Davis and Alyssa Charles keep the crowd cheering for our hometown teams.

Tribe Continues Efforts to Beautify the Old Hamilton Farm Property

By Fred Shortman, Editor

Two years ago the tribe purchased Brookside Farms, also known as Hamilton Farms, located at 165 Howanut Road. The old milk barn is being converted into a tribal fish hatchery.

The property development plan calls for the disposal of four large barns and pole buildings. The tribe's Department of Natural Resources is waiting to award the bid to a contractor in order to accomplish this task. As you can see in the picture, all buildings marked in red shall be torn down. The tribe plans to keep the buildings marked in green and put them to good use. The contractor who wins the bid is responsible for disposing of all debris. This will give

the hatchery a more aesthetic pleasing look and greatly improve the property.

One of the barns located in the back near the Black River received damages in the snow storm. It will soon be replaced with a 50 X 60 foot storage building. Fortunately it was insured, so the tribe is awaiting reimbursement from the insurance company to help fund the replacement of the building. The additional space has the potential for renting as storage space. The tribe's Realty Program has been renting or leasing property that has already been purchased to help assist in the operations and maintenance of the lands.



The tribe continues to improve the Hamilton Farm barns. The green dots are buildings that will be kept; red dots signify buildings to be removed. One building will be remodeled as a 50 X 60 storage shed.

Tribe's Fish Hatchery on Track

by Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist

The new fish hatchery is taking shape with the interior cleanup complete. Kast Painting and Light Construction Company has been sandblasting and painting through the first two weeks of February. They are using a special paint and sealing it with an epoxy to prevent moisture from damaging the interior. Heating issues have slowed down the process, but work will soon be completed.

The electrical work has been put out to bid and will be getting started as soon as the interior is finished.

Aqua Sierra Inc. is the hatchery design company. Representatives will be out on February 19 and 20 for the final measurements and logistics planning. We are hopeful that work will begin in March and proceed quickly.

We will find out how many volunteers we have to work with at the

meeting on February 10. Another meeting is scheduled for March 10 at 5 PM at the hatchery building. With enough volunteer help we can get the exterior painted quickly and create a beautiful new building in the process. Tribal artists will be invited to assist in the beautification of the building. Please come to the meeting to see the development and help give your input for future elements for your hatchery.



Andy Olson and Keith Kramer meet with an electrician and construction company supervisor to plan work on the interior of the hatchery.

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter



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

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

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The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation...

"People of the Sands"



Honoring our Elders:

Marie Griswold

“...loves to spend time with other Elders as they basket weave”

Marie Griswold was born in 1930 to Gertrude Parsons-Connors and Edward Connors. Her grandparents were Elsie Benn and Charlie Parsons and her great-grandparents were Melinda (Davis) Benn and Jake Benn. Marie has three older sisters: Mae Palmer, Geraldine, and Barbara, and two younger sisters: Alberta and Delores. Her first marriage to Allen Fricke, Sr. lasted 10 years and they had three children: Linda, Allen Jr., and Laura. She's been married to Ray Griswold for 36 years. He had two girls, Cindy and Kim, from a previous marriage. They have 11 grandchildren.

By Marie Griswold and Fred Shortman, Editor

When Marie's father and mother, Edward and Gertrude Parsons, were married, Marie's Grandfather, Charlie Parsons, gifted them an 80-acre farm. Everyone had chores: feeding the cows, pigs, chickens, and tending a large vegetable garden.

Marie remembers her father plowing the fields with two horses. Marie and her siblings rode the horses for fun, often three kids at a time. When one horse got tired of carrying the kids around, he refused to move, letting everyone know their time was up.

Marie says her parents taught them many life lessons. "If something needs to be done, do it. If anyone needs help, help them. If you have more than you need, share it with others. It was a good time, because everyone in our community helped out."

She has fond memories of how hard her mother worked raising five girls. Her mother loved quilting: Every bed had a hand-sewn quilt on it. There was a large quilting frame set up in the living room. It rolled all the way up to the ceiling, and when unrolled, it showed quilts that were being worked on. Friends and family came over, working together sewing each quilt by hand. Marie says, "I remember the smile that my mother had on sewing day. She looked forward to working on the quilts with other ladies."

During the fruit season Marie's mother would take the girls blackberry picking. Once while picking, her mom quietly waved her hand for everyone to follow her to the car. Marie remembers the incident saying, "On our way home, our mom told us that there had been a black bear eating berries on the other side of the bushes!" Marie still loves to go out and pick wild blackberries.

Marie has fond memories of her Granddad, Charlie Parsons, who visited them every Sunday evening for dinner. He always brought gifts for the girls. He gave Marie her first doll.

Marie remembers looking forward to the end of school in early summer. The sisters would shed their shoes and wouldn't put them back on until September. Marie liked

swimming with her friends at the river, behind their house, under the Sickman Ford Bridge or the Balch River Bridge (which no longer exists), "Anna and Louis would lead us on a picture-like trail. The trees and brush made umbrella covers which left the trail muddy. I remember the cool mud oozing through my toes," says Marie.

Marie's dad fished with nets, using a rough hand-carved dugout canoe that he kept under the Balch River Bridge. Because he wasn't a tribal member, one of the girls would have to get up a 5 AM and accompany him in the canoe. All the children learned to paddle a canoe at a very early age. "Fish used to be more plentiful back in the 30s," recalls Marie. After the fish were caught, everyone helped to salt and can.

To help out community members in the late 30s, Marie's parents donated part of their land to the school system for a garden. CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and WPA workers raised produce that was canned and given to the grade school for school lunches.

Marie remembers the army using the upper wooded part of the family's property for maneuvers. "There were some draw backs to having them there," says Marie. "When they were there, planes would fly right over their heads, forcing them to dive for cover." (It was practice to see how they would handle actual plane attacks.)

Marie has good memories of the soldiers. "They liked showing us their wooden guns. When they left, life returned to normal."

Marie's Aunt Maggie and Uncle Johnny Benn lived nearby. "We loved them dearly, and visited them as much as we could. Johnnie would show us his wooden leg and tell us his stories when he was in World War I. Aunt Maggie loved basket weaving, but focused on knitting sweaters and socks. She had a spinning wheel to make her own wool."

"We would go with Aunt Maggie and Uncle Johnny to the Christmas Eve celebration and other events that were held at the old tribal hall. I loved

the Tribal Days Tournaments, and all the games for kids. My biggest competitor was Irene Youckton. She was fast! There were potlatch lunches where everyone brought food to share."

Marie says she always thought Maggie and Johnny led an exciting life, because they trained and raced horses. They travelled to fairs and race tracks to enter their horses. "We loved watching them train their horses for the races," says Marie.

Marie's great-grandmother, Melinda Benn, lived a little farther down the road. "She enjoyed basket weaving, and she was a master weaver. We would watch her great skill and she promised that she would teach us to become master weavers. Unfortunately, she passed away before this could happen."

Grandmother Melinda Benn gave each girl a basket. "We had many of her baskets in our home. They were used for storing, beadwork, blankets and other items. When our farm house burnt down, all of our belongings were destroyed, including the baskets. Uncle Johnnie opened his home for us to live."

In middle and high schools, Marie was a cheerleader. Her closest friends were Bernice Secena, Roberta Wolff and Bernice Beckwith. Marie excelled in school, taking extra classes and graduating a year early.



Marie is a well known Master Basket weaver. Her husband, Ray, helps her gather basket-making materials and likes to work with wood.

After graduating high school Marie married Allen Fricke, Sr. The couple raised three children, Linda, Allen, Jr., and Laura. Marie was a stay-at-home mom until her children graduated. She was a 4-H volunteer, and active in her church. Allen and Marie divorced, and Marie moved to Olympia.

Marie went on to attend school, held managerial jobs and was a decorator. She married Ray Griswold in 1973, and the couple raised Ray's two daughters, Cindy and Kim Griswold.

Marie and Ray live in Olympia. Ray enjoys woodworking and helping Marie gather materials for making baskets. Marie is a well known master basket weaver and is a NNABA Board Member. Marie says, "After I retired, the urge to return to my roots began. I began participating in tribal affair. Ray I both enjoy attending lunches and breakfasts at the Elders Center. It's been fun getting to know the children of the people I grew up with."

Looking back on her life, Marie says, "All these experiences, like our farm house burning down and our mother's long illness and her leaving us too soon, prepared us to accept every day as it comes."



Marie (left) was a cheerleader for Oakville High School. This photo was taken in 1946 when she was a sophomore.

Tribal Staff Profiles: IT Administrative Assistant and Head Start Director

Hello, my name is Theresa "Terry" Youckton. I am currently the IT (Information Technology) Administrative Assistant. I was hired in August 2008 and my office is located next to the tribe's Resource Office.

I like my job here with the IT Department. Everyone keeps me busy handling work orders, purchases, scheduling technicians, and billing for the different departments of the tribe. I handle customer service coordinating outside companies for services to repair systems. I also take care of paying bills, mail, purchase orders, copying, filing, phone calls, e-mail's and requisitions within the IT Department. The IT Department's workload has grown with the addition of our new enterprises.

On a personal note, I have six children: Derek, Giles, Brenna, Owen, Jacinda, and Kendall. I have four grandchildren: Malia, Wyatt, Annabelle, and Tyler. My parents are Melvin L. Youckton and the late Leona Stevie (Capoeman) Youckton. My grandparents are Clarence and Jessie (Hayden) Youckton, and Joseph and Theresa (Underwood) Capoeman.

I grew up and lived here all my life, and graduated from Oakville High School. I attended Centralia Community College where I received my AA degree in Social



**Theresa Youckton
IT Administrative
Assistant**

Science in December 2007. I have worked for the Chehalis Tribe for many years, starting out as a youth worker and was assistant cook for both Rosetta Klatush and Gladys Brown, and was a cook for the Summer Youth Program. Recently I worked at the Chehalis Head Start Program for five years. I was a cook for the Chehalis

Tribe Elders Program for a little less than a year. I worked at the front desk reception for a short time before I received my job as Administrative Assistant.

My interests are attending the Oakville Indian Shaker Church where I am currently the third elder on our church board. When I have time outside of work and church, I enjoy doing basket weaving, crocheting, and beadwork.

I have survived cancer two times. I encourage my children and everyone else to get an education by telling them it's never too late to go back to school. Set a goal for yourself and accomplish it. The one thing I wanted to do after surviving cancer was to go back to school and get my degree and I did. I hope more of our tribal members further their education so they can work here to help our tribe.

Hello, my name is Lloyd Commander, and I am the Chehalis Tribal Head Start Director. My birth parents are Lita Wannassay, (Umatilla), and Leo Hoptowit, (Yakima). I am an enrolled member/citizen of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Oregon.

I was born and raised in The Dalles, Oregon. From birth to age two, I lived with my dad and his wife Isabelle. My dad, Leo Hoptowit, married Isabelle Lewis (maiden name). She was Chehalis and grew up in Oakville. My dad was a commercial fisherman on the Columbia River and out on the ocean near Ilwaco.

At age two and a half, I was adopted by a non-Indian family, Walter and Grace Commander. This was before the Indian Child Welfare Act became law.

I like to joke when I tell people that I have 17 brothers and sisters. They are from three different families and I am still trying to get to know them all and our extended families, too.

I graduated high school in The Dalles, attended the University of Oregon, and received a Bachelor Degree, in Music Education in 1986. In 1990, I earned a Masters Degree while attending Nazarene Theological Seminary.



**Lloyd Commander
Head Start Director**

When I was Director of Education for my tribe in Pendleton, Oregon, I got to know many of my family members on my mom's side. I discovered that I was named after my grandfather, Lloyd Wannassay and that matches the name on my birth certificate.

I've been married to my wife, Paula, for 16 years. We live with our dog Moxie, two cats, one corn snake, and three lizards. Together we had owned, and operated a pet shop in Pendleton for three years. Paula has a great way with all animals and they sense it when she is near them.

Paula and I love to go to the movies every week and we love to eat salmon and elk chili. Also, I am a professional musician (sax, clarinet, and Indian flute) and have performed with several jazz bands, and blues bands. Currently I perform solo gospel concerts at churches in Washington and Oregon.

One of my sisters, Sophie Hoptowit, is a medical doctor for the Cowlitz Tribe in Longview. We love visiting their family on a regular basis.

Lastly, I have a passion for working with young children and their families. I enjoy very much working for the Chehalis people here in Oakville. Thanks for allowing me to serve you and your children. It is a great experience!

4 Hotel



Deb Kydland, front desk clerk, checks with Saxas Superintendent Clark Phillips asking when construction was beginning that morning to prevent disturbing clientele. In the background is Glen Brydges, Hotel Manager, observing the construction progress of the room.

Think Ahead to Get a Higher Education

By Racheal Mendez, Higher Education Coordinator

You will be pleased to hear there are 23 students enrolled in college. Four of those students are part-time students, and three students are going for their bachelor's degree. Just this last fall quarter, one student received his bachelor's degree at The Evergreen State College.

If are you interested in attending college this next fall, be sure to fill out the Chehalis Tribal Scholarship Award packet. Your packet will need to be completely finished before the quarter starts. Also start thinking about applying for admission to your school of choice. Most universities have deadlines, but with community college you still have time! If college is not what you're interested in, now would be great time to start thinking of other educational goals like technical schools or vocational programs.

As you do your taxes, focus on different ways to finance your education. A great way to start would be by filing for your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2009 and 2010 school year. Although FAFSA is not required for the Chehalis Tribal Scholarship Award, I extremely encourage you to file for FAFSA as soon as possible. By submitting a FAFSA you will be reviewed for grants, work study and maybe a large amount of other additional funds assist you in your higher education goals.

Besides thinking of admissions and FAFSA, I have been working on putting together a college fair for this April. I hope to have more information this upcoming month. Any questions, contact Racheal Mendez at (360) 709-1698.

Espresso Stand to Reopen After Flood

By Fred Shortman, Editor

In the December 2008 issue of the *Chehalis Tribal Newsletter*, it was reported that the tribe had recently purchased the espresso stand by the EOT II gas station. The business was just starting to build up clientele. It was closed when it was damaged in the December flood. Though sandbagged by employees, it still received about ten inches of water inside.

David Youckton, Enterprise Director, said, "Repairing the flood damage was put out to bid. Carter Construction was hired to repair the building. It's a good thing to help our community by hiring a local construction company to do the work."

Chris Richardson mentioned that with springtime coming, there is a threat of flooding, so the stand is getting repaired and raised later to prevent future damage.

Zach Carter, the construction company owner said, "The main thing was to dry out the building.

This took about three days, tearing out the insulation and dry wall. It'll take another week to complete this project."

He also added, "Extra shelving is needed to provide storage for cigarettes." He is working with Bev Starr to organize the interior.

Bev Starr, manager of the espresso stand, said, "It'll be exciting to open up again. The employees are also looking forward to serving the public. There will be new sign advertising both the espresso and drive through cigarettes."

The espresso stand will reopen this month.



Zach Carter, Carter Construction, works on the inside of the espresso stand to repair flood damage.

Leadership Award

(continued from page 1)

Leadership Award Recommendation Letter

Submitted by Chris Buitron to *Native American Casino Magazine*

"Leaders come in various roles, as we well know. There are political, spiritual, military, educational, and intellectual leaders, to name a few areas. Although there would seem to be a huge difference between the spiritual and military leaders, there exists some common ground based on characteristics they both possess--characteristics that are common to all leaders. Leaders are "focused" and almost religious about their avocation. They are excellent role models, and part of role modeling is helping others become the best they can be. They share the quality of giving more than they receive, and they are empathetic as well as compassionate. So, with this short prelude on leadership, let me say that our nominee contains all these characteristics and more.

"It was as if the position was tailored for Rodney because he is natural community volunteer. He is on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Native American Advisory Council, American Red Cross Real Heroes Program, served three years on the board of directors for Dispute Resolution Center, served on LEC Regional United Way Program, is on Business Leaders Network-Thurston County Juvenile Coalition.

"However, community work is not the only endeavor that makes Rodney an inexhaustible leader. Since retiring from his county job and taking the position in the casino, he decided to get more fully involved within the tribe and its many activities. He attends council meetings and is a member of the Chehalis Canoe Family. Last year, he paddled on a traditional journey that his ancestors travelled for hundreds of years.

"To know Rodney Youckton, and once he meets you he does not forget your name, is to know a leader who takes pride in his tribe, his family, and his personal ethics. While in his presence, you feel like you are the most important person in the world. He gives you his full attention, makes sure he understands what is being said, and does whatever he can to satisfy or resolve your request. Rodney has a serene, almost spiritual demeanor that makes you feel peaceful and secure when visiting him or when meeting him in the casino.

"As Rodney worked in the many different departments of the last four years, he made an incredible number of friends and instilled many with his work ethic and his need to always be respectful of others. Rodney's humility glows from within and sparkles when he uses humor to draw attention away from himself. He is energetic and inquisitive, and this combination means Rodney is always moving, doing, keeping, or searching for the answers that help make him a better leader and/or makes others better than they were.

"To go into a completely new field/career, obtain a college degree, and become a successful executive, while entering your 50s, is reason enough to be named the Native American Casino Leadership Award winner."

Elders' Monthly Birthday Dinners Bring Families Together



Yvonne Peterson and her sister Trudy Marcellay enjoy a meal together as they talk with their brother Curtis DuPuis. Steve Medina, in the background, is one of the "Birthdays of the Month."

By Nancy Romero, Elders Coordinator

On Wednesday, January 28, the Elders' monthly birthday dinner was held in the Steak house at the Lucky Eagle Casino. The birthday-of-the-month Elders must be present at the dinner to receive casino gift vouchers from the Elders Program.

This is a great time for the Elders to have family members come sit, visit, and enjoy a delicious meal together. There are usually about 40-50 Elders present each month! A cake was brought in and everyone sang the "Happy Birthday" song, honoring and

celebrating this special day with them. January birthdays were Steve Medina, Albert Gilmore, Mimi Cayenne, James Gunnels and Shirley Kay.

For February, the birthday list is: Jean Haltom, Jo Aldrich, Donald Brown, Terry Middleton, Catherine Nemeth, Lois Poling, Ronnie Pikutark, Mae Palmer, Susan Sanders, Jerrie Simmons, Thomas Heck, and Virginia Canales. If you happen to see any of these Elders around, stop and wish them a happy birthday!

Tribal Member Daryl Shortman has started his own online business. There are many health, beauty and home products available. Check out his web site

Koolrox.mychoice.com

If you have any trouble contact him at 360-858-7405 or E-mail at whitetiger4686@yahoo.com

Come Join Us for Pilates! at the Wellness Center

Clinic PT (Physical Therapy Room)

Every Tuesday and Friday at Noon

Wear Comfortable Clothes & Come to have Fun!!

CPR Class

at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center

Saturday, March 11 & 12
8 am - 12 noon

Instructor Joe Dickerson

Cost: \$25 per person

Please contact Christina Hicks

273-5504 ext. 1741 to save the date that works best for you.

Mammogram Clinic

Friday, March 13, 2009
9 AM - 3 PM

Free snacks and incentives
Breast care information
Door prizes including a Pendleton blanket

For more information, call
Christina Hicks, 273-5504, ext. 1741

Indian Education Parents Meeting

Thursday, March 4
at 5 pm

at the Youth Center

Dinner and Raffle will be available for all those that attend.

Will Writing Clinic

A Northwest Justice Project

Tuesday, March 18, 2009

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

at the Wellness Center

Are you an Elder age 60 and over? Would like to get help with drafting a will? You will need to bring your Individual Trust Inventory Report. For more information contact Christina Hicks (360) 709-1741