

March 2009

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2/3

# Program News

## Protect Your Trust Lands

By Helen Sander, Chair, Allottees Association

If you own a large acreage or a small undivided interest, you should be aware of the laws that affect that land. You can attend meetings to learn how to protect yourself and your family trust interests.

The Allottees Association and Affiliated Tribes of the Quinault Reservation hold committee meetings at the Chehalis Elders Building starting at 10:00 AM every third Saturday of the month. We would appreciate a large number of landowners to attend this month's meeting on March 24th. The committee plans to collect questions to take to the April 18th meeting in Aberdeen with Mike Kupka, Trust Officer, Office of the Special Trustee; Herb Westmorland, Superintendent of the Olympic Peninsula Agency; and Greg Masten, Superintendent of the Taholah Agency. The April 18th meeting will be held at the Olympic Peninsula Agency, 1296 Skyview Drive, Aberdeen.

I have heard so many of you talk about certain land allotments being yours because your dad or mom said so. In the old days, many individuals did not legally establish what their land wishes were. If undivided interests were not surveyed and deeded to certain members of the family, then you may find you don't actually own that allotment.

If you have any question contact Helen Sanders, Committee Chair at 360-259-0368 or 360-273- 5548. See you at the meeting!

### Free Legal Help Available

The Northwest Justice Project's CLEAR system provides free civil (non-criminal) legal services for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer. If you have any questions about a civil matter, and are low-income or an Elder, you can call the toll-free CLEAR line at **(888) 201-1014** from 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Monday to Friday. Press 5 to speak with the CLEAR Native American Specialist, Brooke Pinkham.

### Grand Mound School Thanks Chehalis Tribe

By Rachael Ledbetter, School Counselor  
Grand Mound Elementary

The staff and students extend a big Grand Mound Elementary Thank-You to the Chehalis Tribe for their very generous contribution to the Americorps program at our school for the 2008-09 school year.

This sponsorship is currently funding some critical educational and human needs of our students, such as homework club, reading groups and lunch-time study groups. Currently, 83 students are benefiting from these services. Some additional benefits for our community include support of the ROOF community center in student after-school activities, and community service projects.

CHEHALIS  
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NEWSLETTER



♦ "People of the Sands" ♦



## Head Start Program Continues to Bring Families Together

■ The Valentine's Day Sock Hop had Head Start children dancing to the music, page 2



Oakville High School Alumni Dale, Sr., and daughter Colleen Klatush support Oakville Acorns basketball teams at the State Basketball Tournament at the Yakima Sundome. This year was the largest fan turnout seen in years.

## Community Shows Support for our Native Basketball Players

By Joyce Thomas, Receptionist and Youth Support

No one could not have foreseen such a great season. They weren't even ranked; eventually they were ranked fourth in the state. At one point, the team was undefeated at 20-0, though they had not played some of the contenders. That was before the snow and flooding delayed many of the games. We had a lot of natives playing for the Oakville Acorns boys' basketball team and the tribe really pulled together for our youth. Many fans showed up for the home games, district, and even state.

The most important games and finest moments include the games against the Taholah Chitwhins on the Quinault Reservation. We played them three times throughout the season and again at the district tournament. The first two games against them were home games with a record number of fans attending the second

game. No one came to lose.

The day we traveled to their court, the tension was high. The press considered the Oakville fans "loud." Two charter buses transported students, alumni, and community members, and a caravan of cars escorted the team to Taholah. It was something out of the movies, only better! We were living it!

The noise started when our boys rolled out of the locker room. Berry Peterson and Rikki Sutterliot got loud roars when their names were announced along with the other starters. The game started fast and loud. At halftime, the scoreboard read 31-24 with Chitwhins in the lead. The Acorns hit the boards strong in the second half to win this series 61-54. The press called it an upset bid. What makes this rivalry memorable is that some of the Acorns are either family and or

See Basketball, page 4

## Honoring Elders: Katherine Davis-Barr



■ She enjoys sharing and teaching our youth the Chehalis Language, page 3

## Training Boosts CT Gaming Staff

By Earl McWhorter, Director of Chehalis Tribal Gaming Agency

In 2007, the Tribal Gaming Agency, with the encouragement and blessing of the Chehalis Tribal Gaming Commission, put together a Trainee Program for Chehalis tribal members. This program was presented to the Business Committee, who unanimously approved it, and the program was started in January of 2008.

The purpose of the program was to train and prepare tribal members to successfully test and interview for the position of tribal gaming agents or other positions in the department. Tribal Gaming is responsible for making sure operations (casino employees) and patrons follow all rules established by the casino, the tribe, and the federal government. We ensure that the casino gives a fair and honest game to the patrons, and the patrons don't cheat or steal from the casino.

This program involves more studying and paperwork than any of the trainees realized. Each trainee was sent for training in gaming scams, slot auditing, and interrogation, among others. They have weekly training modules and a monthly test to make sure they are on track, as well as a final test at the end of the year. Three out of four (to be hired full time) the first year is a major success. Because of this program (the only known one in the state) our department of 18 has 12 members that are Chehalis tribal members.

The training program started with four positions. After the first year, two agents were promoted to full-time agents (Russ Baker and Albert Ortivez) and one was promoted to inspector (Courtney Youckton Brown.) All three have completed their year of training and passed their testing.

See Training, page 4

## Tribal Employee Receives Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award

By Ena Myers, Assistant General Manager

It is not very often that an individual comes along who has all of the technical expertise, is very willing and dedicated, and "fits in" with a tribal environment. We are fortunate to have found someone like Kris Salmon who is all of these things. In September, Racheal Mendez submitted to the Native American Finance Officer Association (NAFOA) a letter nominating Kris for Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the year. Kris wasn't aware of this. What a surprise when she was given the award!

Kris Salmon came to work for the Chehalis Tribe almost 10 years ago at a very critical time. During the time she has worked for the tribe, our governmental revenues have increased in excess of 400%. At the same time, our enterprise operating revenues have increased over 350%.

When any organization experiences growth at this pace, it is critical to have key personnel in place who understand more than just debits and credits. In a tribal environment that is historically resistant to changing the way we conduct business, it is impossible to rapidly make adjustments to fiscal policies that keep pace with such rapid

growth.

Our system has relied upon the strength of key people doing their jobs, and doing them well. Kris has been one of those key people. I want to say "thank you" to Kris on behalf of the Chehalis Tribe. We believe the Native American Finance Officer Association (NAFOA) has selected a very deserving recipient for the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of the Year!

When Kris accepted the award, she commented about looking forward to sharing the award with her staff, who really are the people who made it possible. She also recognized the leadership of the Business Committee and thanked them for their support. Great job and congratulations to Kris and all her staff!



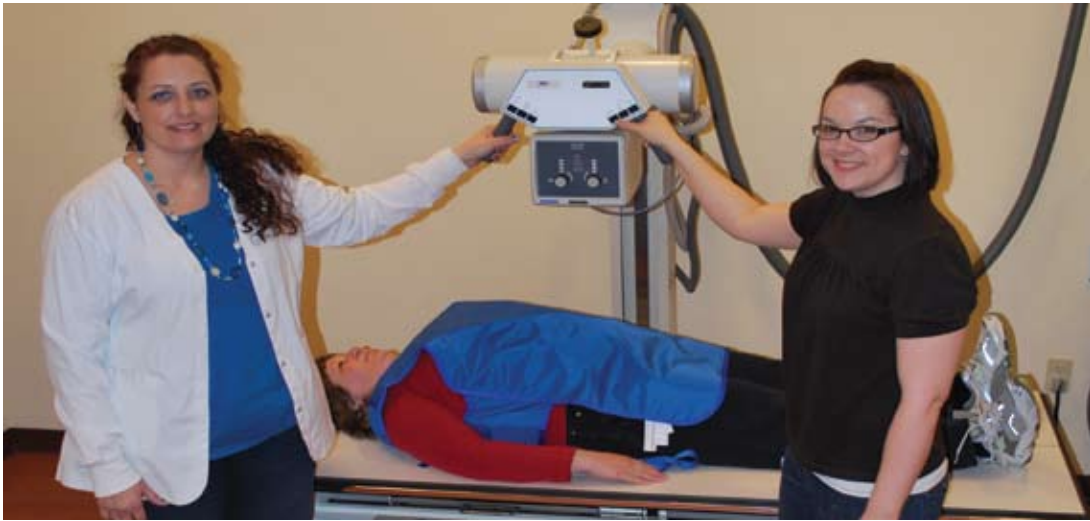
Kris Salmon receives her award as CFO of the Year. She credited the award to her staff and tribal leadership.

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Nurses Chris Olson and Cori Fluetsch are newly-trained Wellness Center X-ray Technicians. The Wellness Center staff is excited about this new tool to assist patients.

## The American Dream is Easier Now

By Fred Shortman, Editor

Owning your own home is still the “American dream” for everyone. There is land available on the Vosper property for tribal members to build homes. Rentals were built and occupied in 2007. Land is being cleared for the first family owned home, with hopefully more homes to come. Tribal members can start purchasing the lots. Check with the Chehalis Tribal Housing Authority (CTHA) to find out how you can own a home on the Vosper property.

Lot 11 on Sickman Loop is going to have the first home built on the Vosper property near Balch Road. The family completed the 184 loan process, enabling them to build and own their own home.

The Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program is a mortgage program for members of federally recognized tribes. Congress created the program to increase Native American home ownership by reducing loan costs and encouraging lending on tribal lands. The Section 184 program requires a low down payment of 2.25% and offers the lowest mortgage loan guarantee cost available. The guarantee fee is a one-time cost of 1% of the loan. The guarantee fee can be financed and no monthly mortgage insurance is required.

### How to Qualify for a Section 184 Loan

- The borrowers must show they have sufficient income to pay back the loan.
- The borrowers must show they have a good history of meeting their financial obligations.
- The property being purchased must meet loan standards.
- The borrowers must provide

documentation of membership in a federally recognized Indian tribe or corporation formed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

HiLine Homes was hired to build a stick home for Lot 11. The homeowner selected a 3-bedroom home with 1,716 square feet for a cost of about \$70,000. Dave Canton, Branch Manager, said, “These homes are a more cost effective way to build.” He continued, “The construction company has a projected finish date of 140 days. If no problems arise, it should be completed in 110 days. We’ve built on other reservations, but this is our first on any reservation using the 184 Program. It’s exciting to start this new process with the 184 program.”

Don Terry, Chehalis Tribe’s Chief Building Officer will be inspecting the work as it proceeds. IHS will have the septic and water hooked up.

The CTHA is currently underway with the Single Family Residential homes at the Vosper development site. Families currently on the lot sign-in sheet will be first in line for eligibility review. In conjunction with the 184 loan program or other approved loan programs, the CTHA has the Down Payment Assistance Program to help with the buy-down process for prior approved home loans from eligible financial institutions.

Please contact the Housing Staff for more information at 360-273-7723 or Iris Friday, Section 184 Coordinator, NW Office of Native American Programs at [iris.friday@hud.gov](mailto:iris.friday@hud.gov)

## Winter Steelhead Season Ends, Next Season Brings New Hatchery

By Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist

The Chehalis Tribe has concluded its 2008-09 Winter Steelhead commercial fishing season. It was a fairly good season, although low water conditions contributed to a lower return of adult Steelhead. The fishery was slow until a freshet from the spring rains increased the numbers of fish. The economy caused the price of Steelhead to be lower than the last few years. Around 700 Steelhead were caught by tribal fishers for a total income of over \$14,000.

The tribe is building a hatchery facility that will create seasonal jobs to process, deliver, smoke, and package the tribe’s catch for retail sales at the Casino, Eagles Landing Hotel, the End of the Trail stores, and, hopefully, the Great Wolf Lodge. The hatchery will also help build up the runs of Winter Steelhead for the future of the Chehalis Tribe’s commercial and recreational fishers. The Fisheries Department is planning to move its offices down to the new building being built near the fish hatchery. The new building can therefore be designed with processing facilities, storage for Fisheries enforcement, and staff

boats and equipment. It would also allow the Fisheries Department staff to be in one place near the hatchery rather than going back and forth when the hatchery needs extra attention. During a flood, for example, the hatchery will require extra effort by employees to protect the fish. They will need to ensure the power is on, the pump system is functioning, and the fish are fed on a regular schedule. We will be having a hatchery volunteer and informational meeting on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the hatchery.

WDFW forecasts that 53,000 wild Fall Coho will return to the Chehalis River. The Spring Chinook run was low again this year and is forecasted to be below the escapement goal of 1,400 adult fish with a prediction of 1,018 returning adults. The low escapement means there won’t be a commercial Spring Chinook fishing season in 2009 for the Chehalis Tribe. There will, however, be an opportunity for a Salmon Ceremony. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Fisheries forecasts and the Chehalis Tribe’s fisheries.



This magnificent 28 pound steelhead was caught by Dennis Cayenne in his net about eight years ago. He had it stuffed and hangs in the DNR building.

## Sock Hop Gets Families Dancing

By Jamie N. Ortiz, Head Start Family Services

On February 12, Head Start had a *Valentine’s Day Sock Hop* at the youth center. The Head Start Program has these events to provide families with opportunities to have fun with each other, as well as to interact with other families. These functions contribute toward in-kind hours which are required for program funding. We are planning many more fun family nights for the near future.

Teachers provided CDs of music played daily in the classroom. Beth Dodge and Jamie Ortiz enjoyed being the DJs for the night. The kids had so much



Head Start children enjoyed playing with balloons and dancing. It was a fun-filled event for everyone.



fun as they knew the songs and had a blast showing their parents how they dance at school.

We had a little area set up with a Valentine’s Day backdrop for the children to have photos taken with their families. Sue Ortiz helped out when our camera wouldn’t work. All the kids took turns attempting to be the one to break the piñata. They were all quick to jump in and fill their treat bags with candy and toys!

Jamie Ortiz, Beth Dodge, and Sarra Burnett-Lisle decorated the Youth Center with red, pink and white balloons of all shapes and sizes, streamers, banners—it



## Women Learn to Make Cedar Roses, Prevent Breast Cancer

By Christina Hicks, Native Women’s Wellness Coordinator

On February 13, Culture and Heritage Programs combined with the Native Women’s Wellness Program to provide an opportunity for tribal and community members to learn about making cedar roses and preventing breast cancer. Held at the Wellness Center, lunch and raffle prizes were provided for everyone who attended.

Over 30 people learned how to make cedar roses. The instructors were Diane Devlin, Culture Coordinator, and Elaine McCloud, Heritage Coordinator. People laughed and had fun as they shared each other’s company while making the roses. Cedar roses seem simple to make, but technique is very important to work effectively with the material. It was a wonderful valentine gift that will last a lifetime.

In addition to making cedar roses, information about breast cancer awareness was handed out to help women reduce the chances of developing the disease.



Lucille Cayenne made a beautiful cedar rose.

Here’s some important information:

- All women can get breast cancer—even those who have no family history of the disease.
- The two most important factors for breast cancer are being a woman and growing older.
- Women diagnosed with early breast cancer, when the cancer is small and has not spread, have a high chance of surviving it. Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early. Get one every year starting at age 40.

■ You can help reduce your chances of developing breast cancer by engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight, and limiting alcohol intake.

Through early detection and improved treatments, more women than ever are surviving breast cancer. Any questions contact the Wellness Center at 360-273-5504.

## 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.

Contributing writers, artists, and photographers include Chehalis tribal community members and staff.

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## Business Committee

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Fred Shortman, Communications Coordinator



**The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation...**  
*“People of the Sands”*





# Honoring our Elders:

## Katherine Davis-Barr

**“...enjoys watching her great-grand children play in sports”**

Katherine Davis-Barr was born in 1920 to Marion and Bertha Petoie-Davis. Her grandparents on her mother’s side are Charley Petoie and Emma Heck. On her father’s side her grandfather is Elizah Davis. Katherine has six siblings: Christine, Dan, Evelyn, Elsie, Eleanor, Cindy. She has been married twice. Her second marriage to Jim Barr lasted for over 20 years. There were six children between the two marriages: Josephine Aldrich, Ray Jones, Annie Jones, Jimmie Jones, Maynard Jones and Wayne Barr. There are many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Katherine is a die-hard Chehalis Tribe sports fan, and went to every game Oakville High School played this season. She is very proud to see our youth playing in sports and working hard to stay in school.



**Katherine with her sister Cindy, her son Wayne Barr and his wife Maria at the NNABA Conference. Katherine and Cindy are well-known Master Basket Weavers.**

Katherine was born on the Chehalis Reservation to Marion and Bertha (Petioe) Davis. They lived on Pearson Road which they referred to as the Ol’ Ranch. Their family raised chickens, cows, horses and a big vegetable garden. They traveled around in a horse and buggy. Life wasn’t easy. During lean times, her mom cooked “Lockemeen”, which is water with flour, sugar, and dumplings.

Her dad worked in the woods as a logger in his earlier days. He was also a fisherman, fishing in the area that is presently called, “The Swings.” They made a camp at the river to process, smoke and can the fish.

When it was harvesting time for huckleberries, their family, along with her aunt, would pack up their wagon and head up to Mt. Rainier. They would go as far as they could and leave the wagon at the falls. Then they would pack what they needed and continue on up the steep, winding trail to get to the berries. She remembers being

strapped onto “Brownie” the horse, and hearing her auntie tell her dad, “Strap her real good, so she won’t fall off.” There was one spot that was real narrow and the horse stumbled, but she wasn’t too worried because she trusted the horse. Her dad had to help by pushing Brownie past that narrow part of the trail. At the berry area, there were a lot of Native people from other tribes. “When we arrived at the camp, the view of Mt. Rainier was so beautiful, it seemed like you could just reach out and touch it,” recalls Katherine.

After a house fire destroyed the home on Pearson Road, they needed a place to live. The Old Boarding House, located at the Stanley Petoie property, was being torn down. Her father was given one of the out buildings. With the help of other families, they built a sled out of two by sixes and pulled the house with a few horses. Katherine was in the house when it was moved. She remembers thinking it

was really neat as the building shook as it was pulled along by the horses. When the house was situated, and as time went on, her father added more rooms. It was sad day when it had to be condemned due to termite damage.

The driveway that circled the house was built because her mother was learning to drive an old Ford. The driveway also served as a fire break to protect the house. In those days, there were no fire departments on the reservations, so most houses that caught fire could not be saved. Everyone had to be prepared to fight grass and prairie fires with shovels, pitch forks and wet burlap

bags. Fires were often caused by logging slash burns on a nearby hill. At the time, the reservation was all prairie. The slash burns would sometimes send embers to the prairie and ignite it.

Katherine doesn’t have many memories of her older siblings, as they passed away during a flu epidemic during a harsh winter.

She does have memories of being sent with her sister, Elsie, to the Indian Hospital in Tacoma that treated Native children who had tuberculosis. They were housed in buildings big enough to hold 12 children per room. Katherine was place in “Ward D” and her Elsie was placed in “Ward E.” Katherine remembers sneaking out of her room to visit with her sister.

Katherine remembers staff lining up the children and marching them in step to the cafeteria. All the children did chores like mopping and laundry. Some of the children passed away there from TB. Katherine befriended a boy from Alaska named Tommy. Unfortunately he died from TB at the hospital.

School officials determined that Elsie would not recover from TB and sent her home. Katherine and Elsie stayed in contact by writing letters. When Elsie was too weak to write, her mother wrote for her. After Elsie passed away from TB, her dad came to the hospital to bring Katherine home. But school officials resisted. He told them, “I am her father, and I’m taking her home!” He then loaded her up and returned home.

The Indians back then had to travel to find work to help support their families. Some worked in the hop fields in Chehalis. There were temporarily housed in segregated shacks while working in the fields. At night they would sit around a campfire and play bone games until late in the evening.

Katherine remembers picking strawberries

where the blueberry farm is now. It, too, was prairie, and camas would grow in abundance. The soil was really good for growing strawberries and the farmers would let the Indians come and harvest the camas plants. The farmers thought of them as weeds. It was nothing to get a hundred pound burlap bag full of camas.

Katherine remembers Pioneer Days held at Borst Park in Centralia. Everyone would dress up for the parade. Silas Heck’s wife helped Katherine dress up with a shawl and beads. They all loaded up in an old truck, and hung blankets on the sides for decoration. This was the “Chehalis Tribal Float” entry in the parade.

Katherine is an accomplished basket weaver, quilt maker, doll maker and loves to crochet. She learned how to weave baskets from her mother, Bertha. Her first basket was a raffia and cattail coil basket. When she finished, it was really rough, but Bob Choke came over and told her, “That’s a nice basket. I want that basket.” He bought it for five cents.

Katherine worked hard learning the weaving style her mother taught her. She is a member of NNABA. Says Katherine, “It’s really nice to see all the young people getting interested in basket weaving.”

Katherine is the Chehalis Tribe’s language teacher. There currently are no fluent speakers,except Katherine. She says she is happy to help Dan Penn, the Language Coordinator, teach the class. Even though Katherine knows many of the different Coastal Salish dialects, she says, “Sometimes it’s hard to remember some of the words. It can be difficult because there isn’t anyone left who speaks it fluently. But with practice and Dr. Kinkade’s Chehalis Dictionary, we can all learn. It makes me happy to see all the young people learning the Chehalis language together.”

# Tribal Staff Profiles: Assistant General Manager and Fisheries Biologist

Hello everyone! My name is Ena Myers and I am the Assistant General Manager at the Chehalis Tribe.

I’m a country girl at heart. I was born and raised in Northern California. My parents divorced when I was pretty young. My mom is a nurse so she had some horrible hours. My grandparents took me in and raised me—what a blessing! With only my Mom’s income, we didn’t have much, but I am really grateful for the resourcefulness that taught me.

After I graduated from high school, I joined the Navy. I was able to travel and spent time in Florida, Illinois, and Iceland. I wouldn’t change those experiences for anything! I met my husband in Iceland (he was in the Marine Corps and guarded me). We married and he got transferred back to the States. About five months later, I found out we were pregnant. I couldn’t go to sea, but the military wouldn’t station us together either. I resigned and moved to North Carolina with him. Our daughter was born, and it wasn’t too long before we were pregnant again. My husband got out of the Marine Corps, and we moved back to Northern California where our son was born.

Finding jobs turned out to be a lot harder than we ever anticipated. To ensure that we would always have options in the future, we both started college. Being young parents, working, and going to school was a challenge. We attended community college where I earned an AA



**Ena Myers, Assistant General Manager**

in Business Management (his was in IT) and then I transferred to a private college for a BA in Organizational Leadership.

When the kids started school, I was ready for something different than corporate America, so I changed jobs. I worked in social services, excited to be able to help people. Unfortunately, obstacles and managers who didn’t really care meant that we were not really able to help the people who needed it most.

I had started a Masters program in psychology when a job came up with the local casino, and the general manager asked me to apply. He assured me that I would find the work environment much more rewarding, and that I would actually see positive impact from my efforts. I trusted him on that and I’m so glad I did. I changed my Masters to Business Administration and spent the next portion of my career growing with my Redding Rancheria family. These were some of the most rewarding and fulfilling years of my life.

A job opportunity for my husband here in Washington led us to some serious soul searching. It was really difficult for me to leave a job and people I loved, but making this move has been an incredible plus for our family. I’m so grateful to the Rancheria and now to you for inviting me into your community and allowing me to be part of the great work that we are blessed to do every day.

Hi, my name is Andy Olson. I was born in Astoria, Oregon in 1973, to Janice and Randall Olson. My father is a Lutheran pastor, and my mother is an admissions clerk at the Lakewood Health Center.

Growing up, I lived in Seaside and Salem, Oregon, and Kent, Washington. When I was 14, we moved to Montana, where I was really able to embrace the outdoors, hunting and fishing.

With my trusty ‘68 Jeep Waggoner, I explored the wilderness surrounding Helena. I bagged my first buck when I was 15, and have been hooked on hunting and fishing ever since.

Cancer in my left knee slowed me down a little when I was a teenager. I was treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery to remove the tumor and a great deal of my muscles and tendons. Even though I lost my hair three different times, the worst part was not being able to go on a fishing trip to Saskatchewan with my uncle due to not having enough white blood cells.

Aside from the outdoors and fishing, my other passion is cooking. I love to cook and make people happy with tasty meals. I’ve had jobs such as a dietary manager, and nursing home kitchen manager.



**Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist**

I moved back to Washington in the summer of 1997 and received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries in 2000. I’ll soon have a Masters of Environmental Studies.

In 2001, I found my wonderful wife, Chris, on the Internet. We met and fell for each other.

She was living in Eureka, California and planning to move to Tacoma. I intercepted her and we were married in 2003 in Leavenworth.

After my graduation from college, I began working for the Washington Department of Fis and Wildlife as an Atlantic salmon surveyor looking for escaped farm-raised Atlantic salmon. We found hundreds of escaped Atlantics outside the largest Atlantic salmon farm on Scatter Creek. I got to know the Chehalis basin during my work because we surveyed most of the Chehalis River tributaries and the Chehalis River itself.

I began working for the Chehalis Tribe in 2005. It’s exciting to continue my work here building the Fisheries Department and the tribe’s fish hatchery and commercial fisheries. My future goals are to build a fish processing facility and fisheries compound and more community involvement.



4 **Basketball**

(continued from page 1)

friends of the Chitwhins. After the game, there were hugs and handshaking among fans and well wishes for the players.

**ON TO STATE**

Bouncing and rebounding ahead, the team would eventually play and defeat Taholah again in Districts. The Taholah Chitwhins placed third and the Acorns got second with both teams on their way to state. It made the heart swell with pride at the state tournament in the Yakima Sundome to see other native schools being represented by the Tulalip Heritage, Lummi Nation, Taholah, Neah Bay and Wellpinit. The atmosphere was totally different than

the regular season. Everyone’s allegiances switched back and forth as we watched and rooted for the Chitwhins and vice versa. It was a new comraderie in the making. That has carried over to bring Taholah and Oakville boys together for rez ball.

The loyal fans made it over the pass to root on the Acorns, even alumni Dale Klatush, Sr. and Helen Sanders were there to lend their support. Those who couldn’t make it were at home listening to the games on the radio. The Acorns played three games to win their first game at state playoffs in 39 years.

**How the “The Handier Man” Became a Business-Savvy Man**

*By Fred Shortman, Editor*

Dustin Couillard and his wife Heather started their business, The Handier Man, two years ago. They discovered the ins and outs of running a business by trial and error. They promoted their business by word of mouth. Then Heather developed a website to help with advertising. When they found out about the Chehalis Tribal Loan Program from Diana Pickernell, they immediately signed up. With childcare provided, it was easier for them to commit to the 8-week course. Heather said, “Diana Pickernell, Barb Churchill and the classes were great! We learned a lot, made some new friends and are now completely set up for success.”

When they took the loan class offered by the tribe though the Tribal Loan Program, they didn’t know what the class could teach them, as they had already been in business for two years. Dustin already had all the skills he thought he needed, after all, he had been in construction for 12 years. However, the class taught them a lot about what it takes to run a financially successful business.

During the class they shared some of the mistakes they made with the other students. Dustin and Heather wished the class had been available before they started up their business. It would have assisted them greatly in building the business. They are very grateful to the tribe for offering the classes, and put forth their best effort to learn everything that was taught. Trying to make a living in the construction business is very competitive. The class assisted them in building a stronger, more smoothly running business.

**Finding His Roots at the Chehalis Tribe**

Dustin is 29 years old and became a Chehalis tribal member in 2006. He is a very down- to-earth and talented man. He was placed in a foster home at birth. At six weeks of age, Dustin was adopted by Duane and Sherry Couillard of Olympia. He didn’t know who his biological parents were, until at age 25, he hired a private investigator to find them.

One year and many emotions later, Dustin found out that his biological parents were Janine and Jay Sanchez, Sr., a Chehalis tribal member. And they had been living fewer than 30 miles away! Dustin also did not know he was Chehalis. Dustin discovered that he has two full brothers (Jay

Jr. and Adam), two half brothers (Tony and Kaylen) and two half sisters (April and Jaylen.)

At 16 years old Dustin was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, but the disease didn’t stop him. It just made him more determined. He said, “You have to make the best of it. Life doesn’t end by having this disease. It’s not simple. You have to take care of yourself, and do all that’s necessary to stay healthy. My wife and four kids inspire me to maintain my health.” Dustin has suffered from

ketoacidosis (a complication from diabetes) in the past. Having no health insurance prior to being an enrolled Chehalis tribal member, Dustin is very grateful that he now has access to health care. “It helps keep me out of the hospital. I am able to have my insulin and never go without it,” he said.

**Learning It All**

Dustin was very grateful to have worked with his adoptive grandfather, John Clifford, who taught him basic carpentry skills. He learned plumbing from Heather’s brother in-law, and did new construction plumbing. As a plumber, it was often necessary to wait for other work to be completed. Not wanting to be idle, Dustin would offer his labor to learn more about other trades. This helped him to expand his knowledge in other fields.

Dustin is a jack of all trades, with skills in carpentry, plumbing and lawn maintenance. He likes new challenges and his motto is to never be satisfied with anything but excellent workmanship. “There is no job too small. I enjoy being busy, and working with my hands,” he said.

“The Handier Man” is a husband and wife team with no other employees. Dustin and Heather complete work with high integrity and follow-through, and put much effort in being cost effective. That’s why The Handier Man has a 90% customer return rate! The business really provides “a handier man” to hire for painting, tiling, fencing, flooring, drywall, plumbing repair, custom woodwork, lawn maintenance, rental property maintenance, disability ramp construction, and cabinet installation. So if you need something done, contact this Chehalis tribal member owned business, The Handier Man, at 360-705-0334 or log on to [www.thehandierman.com](http://www.thehandierman.com).

**HIGHLIGHTING OUR BOYS**

By now most fans can associate a number with a face—Bobby Jones #30; Berry #23 and Rikki #5—they’re the “shizzle.”

Starter Berry Peterson’s game performances gained him a lot of respect and press coverage. The Yakima newspaper had “players to watch” listed and Berry was one of eight with the tidbit reading: “potent scoring tandem with Izaha Powell.” Rikki Sutterliet represented the team with pride and style. An occasional foul was the only thing that slowed him down. He was awarded a “sportsmanship medal” at the state tournament.

Bobby Jones (aka: BOB) played swing throughout the season and started a couple of times for varsity. This sophomore is a rising star who shines in all sports, including

baseball and football.

Twins Darrin and Daniel Jones will be graduating this year and both played relief. The up and coming fly boys to watch for next year are: Doug Boyd, Junior Jack, Michael Boyd, and Richie Revay, who all played swing and showed off their skills on the JV court and as reserve for the varsity team.

The Acorns finished the regular season as division champs with their 20-0 record. They are recognized for bringing the community together. Whether it was the high energy or the heat of the competition, they made us all proud. The boys in red and white are top notch both on and off the court.

**Thank you for an outstanding season! Everyone is so proud of you and your accomplishments.**

**Training** (continued from page 1)



**Courtney Brown, Albert “Bert” Ortivez, III, and Russ Baker are Chehalis tribal members who have completed the Tribal Gaming Agents classes. TGA Instructor and Director Earl McWhorter is on the right.**

Courtney Brown came from Food and Beverages and said, “I became interested in becoming a Tribal Gaming Agent through my dad who worked as a gaming agent for a while. One of my biggest challenges was learning the gaming aspect of the position.” Russ Baker said, “Having come from the table games, my biggest challenge was gaining confidence in using my verbal skills to enforce the rules and regulations of our department. I’m confident that will come with experience.”

Albert “Bert” Ortivez III said, “My experience in table games helped me in that area, but it’s still overwhelming with everything we learned in this course. I still

love all the challenges—each day there is always something different going on.”

We are continuing this worthwhile program and have added two additional trainees, Grant Shortman and Robert Penn. There are two more openings for trainees. If you are interested, turn in an application at the tribal Human Resources or the TGA office. Tribal members should be proud of the Gaming Commission and Business Committee who worked together to make this program a reality and a success. They will received their official certificates as gaming agents at the April 7 General Council.

**Start Your Morning with a Home-Cooked Meal by the Elders**

*By Fred Shortman, Editor*

Every Tuesday during March and April, from 7:30-10 AM, there will be an Elders fundraiser to raise funds for their special events. Elders are leading by example, raising funds to assist their program. (This strengthens my thoughts of, “Give me a help up, not a hand out).”

Starting March 3 tribal employees could hear the announcement for the breakfast fundraiser. Employees were seen with to-go breakfast boxes as they headed back to their offices to eat their breakfasts prepared by the Elders. Those who chose to eat at the Elders Center could sit at tables and visit with employees and Elders.

This fundraiser will continue throughout

the month, so if you skip breakfast at home, come over to the Elders center and order a hearty breakfast.

Great job, cooks! Doll, Joan, Nadine, Janice, Gloria, Evelyn, and Nancy, what a great way to start the day. Also, thank you, Robert, for being the cashier.

Nancy Romero, Elders Coordinator expressed, “On behalf of the Elders and myself, we would like to thank everyone who has come over to the breakfast and lunch fundraisers. It is a great success. The Elders have made over 600 dollars! Thank you so much again, and we all hope you enjoy your breakfasts, and hope to see you next week!”



**Joan Martin, Nadine Burnett, Dolly Canales, and Nancy Romero prepared and served corned beef and cabbage for the St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser. There will be Elders fundraisers throughout April on Tuesdays. Look for flyers.**

**Commodities Delivery Dates at the Youth Center**

**April 17, May 15, June 17  
8 am - 1 pm**

Contact Shirley or Bonita at 360-438-4216 or 360-438-4235 for more information and applications for commodities

**HARLEM CROWNS!**

**PRESENTING THEIR FABULOUS BASKETBALL CIRCUS**



Wednesday  
April 8, 2009 at 7 PM  
Doors open 6:30 PM  
Everyone Welcome!  
Sponsored by: Chehalis Tribal Youth Center  
Drug and Alcohol Free Event

Raffles and Door Prizes

**WIC Program Dates**

**(Women, Infants and Children)**

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

**8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**at the Wellness Center**

The WIC Program provides healthy foods and nutrition information for you and your child up to age 5.

Bring your child, medical coupons or paystub, and identification.

Contact Deb Shortman at 306-273-5504 for more information.

**Family Caregiving Class**

**Thursday, March 30, 2009**

**4 - 6 pm**

**at the Wellness Center**

**For more information contact Christina Hicks at 360-273- 5504 ext. 1741**