March 2009 Vol. 2/3

Program News
Protect Your Trust Lands
By Helen Sanders, Chair, Allottees

By Joyce Thomas, Receptionist and Youth Support

Community Shows Support for our Native Basketball Players

No one could have foreseen such a great season. They were a team in the making, eventually they were ranked fourth in the state. At one point, the team was undefeated at 20-0, but they had lost all of the games. The lost games were against the Taholah High Chitwhins on the Quinault Reservation. They were ranked fourth in the state. At one point, the team was undefeated at 20-0, but they had lost all of the games. The lost games were against the Taholah High Chitwhins on the Quinault Reservation. The Acorns boys’ basketball team and the Taholah Chitwhins in the lead. The Acorns hit the game started fast and loud. At halftime, the scoreboard stood at 34 to 24. This was a great season. They weren’t even ranked; no one could have foreseen such a great season.

Grand Mount School Thanks Chehalis Tribe
By Rachael Ledbetter, School Counselor

The staff and students extend a big Grand Mount Elementary Thank-You to the Chehalis Tribe for their very generous contribution to the Americans project at our school for the 2008-09 school year. This is in recognition of the tribe’s generosity and continued help to our school.

Training Boosts CT Gaming Staff
By Earl McPherron, 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 Trainer 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. There are four to five (to be hired full time) the first year is a major success. Because of this program (the only one in the state) our department of the Chehalis Tribe has 18 tribal members.

The training program started with four positions. After the first year, two agents were promoted to full-time agents, and the program was expanded to hire full-time agents for the second year.

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 were fortunate to have found someone like Kris Salmon who is all of these things. In September, Rachel Mose was 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.

The grant application 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%.

Tribal Employee Receives Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award

By Ena Myers, Assistant General Manager

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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, 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 change 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. Kris believes the Native American Finance Officer Association (NAFOA) has selected her because she is very deserving recipient for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Year Award.

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!
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 Crighton, Cultural Coordinator, and Elaine McClaud, 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’s a wonderful valentine gift that will last a lifetime. In addition to making cedar roses, information about breast cancer awareness programs combined with the Native Women’s Wellness Program encouraged the women to help reduce rates of developing the disease.

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter

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Articles and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of the 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.

Submission deadline: 6th of each month
Printed Monthly

By Fred Shortman, Editor

The American Dream is Easier Now

Owing your own home is still the “American dream” for everyone. There is land and homes on almost every corner 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 planning the lots.

The Chehalis Tribal Housing Authority (CTHA) is finding out how you can own your dream home. Lot 11 on Sikum Loop is going to have the home built on the Vesper property near Balch Lake. The family completed the 184 loan process, enabling them to build and own their dream.

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 guarantee cost available. The guarantee fee is a one-time cost of 1% of the loan. The guarantee fee can be financed and is mortgaged.

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. They must also be a participant in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

- Bill Hines was hired to build a stick home for Lot 11. The homemaker 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. No problems, a shock for us, and we’re done 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 working with the Single Family Residential homes at the Vesper development site. Families currently on the list sign-up 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 loan homes from eligible financial institutions.

Please contact the Housing Staff for more information at 360-273-7723 or Iris Friday, Section 184 Coordinator, NVW Native American Programs at (360) 273-5914.

By Christina Hicks, Native Women’s Wellness Coordinator

Women diagnosed with early breast cancer, when the cancer is small and has not spread, have a much better 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.

Women can begin their breast cancer journey with a beautiful cedar rose.

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation...People of the Sands...
Katherine Davis-Barr was born in 1920 to Marion and Bertha Petoe-Davis. Her grandparents on her mother's side are Charley Petoe and Emmera Heck. On her father's side her grandfather is Eliza Davis. Katherine has six siblings: Christine, Dan, Evelyn, Eileen, Connie, and Cindy. She has been married twice. Her second marriage to Jim Barr lasted for over 20 years. There were six children between the two, including three 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 Davis-Barr enjoys watching her great-grandchildren play in sports. She is a country girl at heart. I have always enjoyed watching my grandkids play in basketball and football. Katherine was born on the Chehalis Reservation in Marion and Bertha (Petoe) Davis. She lived on Pearson Road which they referred to as the Og's Ranch. Their family raised chickens, cows, horses and a big vegetable garden. They traveled around in a horse and buggy. Life was much easier duringlean times, her mom cooked "Lockenmeat" which is water with flour, sugar and egg. 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 prowl and smoke the fish. When it was harvesting time for backhendars, their family, along with other families would head up to Mt. Rainier. They would go as far as seven miles up the mountain to get the fish. Their father would pluck the fish and then head back down. They would pack what they needed and continue on up the steep, winding trail to get to the berries. She remembers being strapped onto "Bronzie" the horse, and hearing her auntie tell her dad, "Stop her real good, so she won't fall off." There was one spot that was real narrow and the horse stumbled and the line wasn't quite correctly tied, so she protruded a bit. Katherine got a little bit scared. They didn't want to stop the horse. Her dad had to help to push Bronzie past that narrow part of the trail. At the berry area, there were a lot of Native people from other tribes. "When we showed up, my view of Mt. Rainier was so beautiful, it seemed like we really had to reach out and touch it," recalls Katherine. After a horse fire destroyed the home on Pearson Road, they needed a place to live. The Old Boarding House, located at the Stanney Petoe property, was being torn down. Her dad tore down the old buildings. With the help of other families, they cleared the spot and raised the horse sites and pulled the house with a few horses. Katherine was in the house when it was moved. It was a real neat as the building about half way along by the horses. When the house was situated, and as time went on, her father added more rooms. It was still when it had to be condemned due to termites during. The driveway that circled the house near to where her mother was learning to drive an old Ford. The driveway also was where Katherine remembers picking strawberries and continued to be a favorite. In those days, there were no fire departments on the reservations, so some houses that caught fire could be very difficult to put out. Katherine had to be prepared to fight grass and prairie fires with shovels, wheel forks and wet burlap bags. Fires were often caused by lightning 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 again.

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 older sister Elsie to a hospital in Tacoma that treated Native children who had tuberculosis. "When we arrived at the hospital, they took them in buildings big enough to hold children per room. Katherine was placed in "Ward D" and her sister was placed in "Ward E." Katherine remembers sneaking out of her room to visit with her sister.

She became interested in cooking and baking. Katherine helped lift up the children and marching them in to step in the cadet line. That was like being dressed like a marching and laying up. Some of the children passed away from TB. Katherine beheld her dad's face. Katherine informed Tommy. Unfortunately, he died from TB in the hospital.

School officials determined that Elsie would not recover from TB and sent her home. Katherine had a little horse called "Brownie." He then loaded her up and returned home. Katherine remembers having to stay in contact by writing letters. When Elsie was too weak to write, her mother wrote for her. Katherine feels grateful for her dad's love in the hospital to bring Katherine home. But school was not permitted. He told them, "I am her father, and I'm taking her home!"

"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. W. Kirkaldy's Chehalis Dictionary, we can all learn. It makes me happy to see all the young people learning the Chehalis language together."

Hi, my name is Andy Olson. I am the Assistant General Manager for the Chehalis Tribe in 2005. It's exciting to continue working on behalf of the Chehalis Tribe to preserve our history and future. I moved to Washington State in the summer of 1997 and received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries in 2000. I'll soon have a Masters of Environmental Science. In 2001, I found my wonderful wife, Chris, on the Internet. We met and fell for each other.

Katherine is a member of NNABA. Says Katherine, "I'm really nice to see all the young people getting interested in basket weaving." Katherine is an accomplished basket maker. She teaches the class. There currently are no fluent speakers among the Chehalis. Katherine says she is happy to help Dr. Puenn, the Language Coordinator, teach the class. Everyone can then learn many of the different Coastal Salish dialects, she says, "It's a great tool to hand to some of the words. It can be difficult because there isn't anyone left who speaks it fluently. But with practice and Dr. W. Kirkaldy's Chehalis Dictionary, we can all learn. It makes me happy to see all the young people learning the Chehalis language together."
How the “The Handler Man” Became a Business-Savvy Man

By Fred Sherman, 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 promised business by word of mouth. Then Heather developed a website to help the business. She immediately started getting requests for work and childcare provided, it was clear they had to commit to the 8-week course. Heather said, “I’m the only kid with a daughter and half brothers (Tony and Jaylen.)” and Sherry Couillard of Olympia. He didn’t find them.

We learned a lot from some new friends and are now completely self-reliant and set up for success.”

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

During the class they shared some of the mistakes they made with the other trainees. Dustin and Heather wished the class had been available before they started up and learned a lot from the class.

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, Robert, for being the cashier. Dustin felt he labored in the business, they were very grateful to the tribe for offering the class and teaching them their best effort to learn everything that was taught. Trying to build a living from construction, he ran his own business. Very competitive. The class taught them in building a stronger, more smoothly running business.

Finding His Roots at the Chehalis Tribe’s Tribal Youth Center

Dustin is 29 years old and has been a Chehalis tribal member in 2006. He was a very down-to-earth and talented man. Dustin was diagnosed with diabetes at age 16 years old, after his brother was diagnosed. Dustin didn’t have to take care of himself, and do all that is necessary to stay healthy. Dustin is a very down-to-earth and talented man. He learned plumbing from Heather’s brother-in-law, Robert, for being the cashier.

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