Chehalis Tribal NewsLetter

July 2009
Vol. 2/7

Program News

WIC’s New Food Choices Coming in October

By Patty Suckin, Registered Dietitian with SPIRN

Check this out:

• Fully breastfeeding moms will get the biggest WIC food package! More food than in the past including: canned tuna, salmon, sardines or mackerel, eggs, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and beans.

• Breastfed babies over six months will get the most infant foods - baby food meats, jarred baby fruits and vegetables, and baby cereals.

• Postpartum moms not breastfeeding will be eligible for WIC for only six months after the baby is born.

• Breastfeeding moms are eligible for WIC for one full year after the baby is born.

• The amount of formula provided for infants will be reduced.

• No juices until after one year old.

• Children age two or over will receive 2%, 1%, or fat-free milk only (whole milk will not be available).

• Children’s packages will include one pound of cheese only.

• 1-4 years old and women will receive vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables.

• 1-4 years old and women will receive 100% whole wheat bread, tortillas, oatmeal, bulgur or brown rice.

For additional information, contact Debbie Gardipee-Reyes at 360-462-3227 or c/o SPIRN, P.O. Box 904, Chehalis, WA 98533. Web site http://www.doh.wa.gov/ch/wic/newsfoods.cfm.

You can Help Others with Health Insurance

Do you or some one you know want to have more meaning in your life? Do you want to do something satisfying and of great service to your community? Then become a Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) HelpLine volunteer. As a free service offered to consumers by the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, we need volunteers who want to help others in Lewis, Thurston, and Mason Counties get access to health care coverage.

The only qualifications we require are:

• A desire to help people in need
• No affiliation with an insurance company
• No medical, legal or financial knowledge required.
• Willingness to provide unbiased information

We train our volunteers to answer questions about health care coverage, make referrals, help evaluate and compare options, facilitate elections, give presentations, provide office support, and much more.

You don’t need health insurance knowledge - all you need is a desire to help others out of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner in Tumwater.

For more information, call us at 1-880-562-6000 and tell the operator you want to talk about volunteering for SHIBA.

Tribe Honors High School Graduates and Encourages Them to Continue Education

By Jason Gillie, TELO Education Coordinator

June 16 was a night to remember for all.

The TELO program was busy all week long preparing for the banquet which honored eleven graduates and their families.

The room was decorated with beautiful balloons and decorations. The Lucky Eagle Casino provided parttime chefs and lasagna.

Two-hundred-and-fifty people turned out to share in this momentous occasion!

After dinner, Chairman David Burnett opened the evening with a short speech assuring the graduates that the Chehalis Tribe is behind their decisions and wished them a bright future.

Next in line to speak was the nervous Higher Education Coordinator, Rachel Mendoza. She encouraged each graduate to seek their calling in life. She also mentioned the happiness and fulfillment in life can happen if one does what they love. High School was simply a stepping stone to a greater life.

After Rachel’s speech, JJ Shortman ruffled off the names of each parent or guardian.

Each family picked a gift of their choice from prizes ranging from a George Forman grill to gift cards for restaurants such as the Olive Garden, and Red Lobster.

The keynote speaker for the night was Rodney Youckton, who encouraged all graduates to pursue their educations. He read a poem to the graduates titled “The Race” by D.H. Groberg. The poem was touching, and encouraged the young adults to never give up. Sometimes life gives us hard times and we feel discouraged, but if we try hard and get ourselves up again, we can accomplish whatever it is we want. TELO would also like to see graduates work with us to become a tribal health care technician.

Economy Affects 2009 Fireworks Season

By Fred Shortman, Editor

The tribe’s annual fireworks season is a time for families to set up small businesses to earn a little extra summer money. The fireworks stands are located throughout the reservation; Thunder Valley 1 and Thunder Valley 2. Top of the Hill, Thunder City Mall, Indian Country, Moon Road and one stand at the Tribal Center parking lot.

This year, the tribe made accessible a new place to set up – “Thunder Alley.” There were 99 stands set up throughout the reservation, which was 23 more than last year.

Each year stand owners select the location for their stand, naming their stand, building it, painting and then filling it with stock. That’s just the start. Then the owner hires and schedules employees.

It’s interesting how each stand owner approaches sales and decides on the stock to sell. Many fireworks stand owners depend on their return customers who they refer to as “Repeats.” The veteran stand owners are always looking forward to building a bigger customer base.

Many of the new fireworks stand owners are learning the ropes to selling fireworks. It is a highly-competitive business and many have difficulty their first year. This year, because of the economy, some didn’t make a profit after paying expenses. Andy Smith said “It was my first year as a stand owner. I was glad to make a little more than I did when I was just a helper for someone else.”

Many customers traveled great distances, continuing their annual Fourth of July tradition of coming home to Chehalis at a Chehalis tribal stand. Some customers purchase fireworks to celebrate a birthday, wedding or even save some for the 4th of July.

Fish and Smiles are Caught at All of Tribe’s Annual Head Start Fatherhood Fishing Day

By Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist

The pond was stocked in preparation for the Head Start’s Fatherhood Fishing Day. On June 11 the weather was great for fishing and enjoying the outdoors together with family. This year the Natural Resources Department suggested the use of the tribal property in Grand Mound for the Fatherhood Day. Everyone was happy to see the new location, and that there was no mud.

Last year was miserable: It was cold and rainy and the field was muddy.

This year we had partial clouds and not too hot weather and the kids loved it almost as much as the adults. The Fisheries Department arranged for over 500 fish to be stocked the day before and they proved to be very tasty, although some were hoping for more bites. Greg Burnett was a great host, since we were using his leased pasture. He moved his horses out of use, and they had done a great job of eating the grass so it was much easier to get around.

The smiles were plentiful with catches of crappie, sunfish, large mouth bass, northern pike/menno (Chub), and the stocked trout. Head Start provided lunch supplies and Fisheries barbecued the hotdogs and set up the spread for the kids and their parents. Altogether it was a great day and we are all looking forward to next year. There was talk of an event this summer, so keep your ears open and watch for the posting.

See Graduates, page 4

See Fireworks, page 4

Honor an Elder

Feb. 7, 2009

Honing June “Tiny” Jones

She loves to attend church, and says, “It’s a good way of life.”

page 3
Tribe’s Drum-Making Class Illustrates Significance of Drums to Native People

By Dianne Devlin Cultural Coordinator

On June 20, 17 community members attended a drum making class sponsored by the Cultural Program which offered two types of drums: a small hand held Salish drum and a small version of the Seattle Eagles drum. The drums were made out of branches with rawhides cut to a specific length for each person, wrapped rawhide tips. Each drum stick was made from branches with wrapped rawhide tips.

After participants completed their drums, they made drum sticks out of branches with wrapped rawhide tips. Each drum stick was cut to a specific length for each person, so that they would feel comfortable while drumming. A second class will be offered in the latter part of July with the remaining materials left over from this class, 22 adult Salish drum kits and 25 children drum kits. Most of the adult drum kits were used for this class. This means that most of the Salish drum kits are for children. We hope many parents and grandparents will make a special gift for their budding traditional singers.

Drums Have Long History

Drum making dates back hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Because of the types of materials used, most drums did not survive to tell us their secrets. We know that drums fall into three categories: Simple-headed drums, double-headed drums and single-headed drums, all of which are beat with sticks of many shapes and sizes. Most graduates and recite excerpts from "Oh the Places You’ll Go!" by Dr. Seuss. Each graduate received a graduation medal made by Elder Evelyn Penn. They also received graduation photos, a certificate and a hard pack which was purchased with money raised by the parents of the graduates. The drum making class was a special meal for the families and community. We would like to thank the Business Committee, Tonya Medina and the Youth Center staff, the lucky Eagle Casino, the parents of the graduates and the Kiwanis club for community support for this event. It was a time of celebration and joy.

Why You Keep Your First Drum

The drum is a powerful instrument and is broadly considered to be the first musical instrument used by humans. Indigenous people throughout America refer to the drum as the "heartbeat of Mother Earth." Drums are used for dances, ceremonies, games and music. In the United States, the drum has a history that dates back to pre-Columbian times. Rims made of wooden cylinder drums, and small pottery drums found in Central Mexico, Peru, and other parts of America date back to AD 700. Older models most likely existed but survived to the elements.

It is our tradition that the first time you make something, you must give the item away, but not if you make a drum. When you sing with the drum you have made, you are giving a gift each and every time you sing with it. Instructor and Chehalis Tribal Elder Elaine Pickernell, age six, trim deer hide before assembling it on a drum ring.

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter

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By Lorrie Bonifer, Prevention Specialist

On June 17, Jesse Youckton and Meghan Sullivan, from a non-profit organization called Tool, a group that focuses on youth violence, alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention in Thurston County, helped lead a tobacco trash clean up day which began at the Youth Center. The event occurred in collaboration with the Chehalis Tribe Substance Abuse, Tobacco Prevention Program and the SDPI Diabetes Programs. Healthy breakfast smoothies, and a healthy lunch was provided to all the volunteers. Using gloves and plastic bags, over 15 participants walked around the Youth Center, the baseball fields, Head Start and Elders Center, Tribal Center, and the Wellness Center collecting approximately 10 pounds of cigarette butts, cigarette and chew packages, etc.

Discarded cigarette butts, packages, and other tobacco-related debris pose a significant litter burden. Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world. Cigarette butts are non-biodegradable, and they find their way into storm drains and then end up poisoning fish and birds in our waterways as well as polluting our rivers and oceans.

Butts are also a potential hazard to young children. Parents and emergency rooms report incidents caused by children ingesting cigarette butts. In addition, children can be burned by adults holding cigarettes by their sides, which are just at the right height of children’s faces and arms. Discarded cigarettes can also be a danger to children who are barefoot or who pick up the butts with curious fingers. Cigarette butts also pose a significant fire danger. Kicking more young children than all other unintentional injuries combined according to the University of Wisconsin- Madison, and is regularly commented on by the public.

Youth are also very impressionable. They watch their parents and Elders, learning from their behaviors more than their words. When youth are exposed to adult role models smoking tobacco, youth will start smoking and socializing is socially acceptable. The risk for children becoming tobacco users is increased when the role models of their friends and family are smokers. Tobacco smoke is dangerous to children at any age, but young children are still developing that are being inhaled and exhaled. Tobacco smoke is a major cause of children's lower respiratory tract infections. Infant death syndrome (SIDS) and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) also adds to the risk. The Substance Abuse, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, Lorrie Bonifer, the Youth Center and TOGETHER! Staff are working to collaborate on other tobacco trash clean up events (see flyer page 4). All litter that is collected will be presented to the Business Committee this fall. We will be reviewing our community to consider potential opportunities to better protect the health of all of our tribal members including our children and Elders. More systems are in place to prevent our youth from taking tobacco. Our youth are more educated and tobacco awareness programs are more prevalent. If you are interested in quitting smoking or working toward clean air policies, please contact the Chehalis Tribal Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Lorrie Bonifer, the Hazards of Smoking.

On Kick-Butt Day, volunteers and youth picked up about 10 pounds of cigarette butts and other tobacco-related debris. Among the volunteers were Jesse Youckton, Meghan Sullivan, Johnny Atkins, Anne Marie Youckton, Isak Hofstetter, Zachary Vanuelpol, Middle LR: Shane Clay, Rush Bird, Leo Daniels, Front: Meghan Sullivan, Jared Simmons, Jesse Youckton. Not pictured: Kirsten Secena, Tianna Kalama and Dewey Gleason Wheeler.

Event Teaches Children About the Hazards of Smoking


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I am proud to be a member of the Chehalis Tribe. I was born June 9, 1934 at home on the reservation to Oldis and Odaldys Beckwith Brown. My Chehalis grandparents are Ernest and Lizzie Beckwith. My great-grandparents are Suzie Sickmon and John Beckwith. I have been married to Jake Jones for 54 years. I met him by going to the Little White Church, and I have been going to church ever since. It is a good way of life, both exciting and challenging. We have three daughters, Francine, Vonne, and Ray Secena, Jr. I have a son, Reggie Sanders and one son, Dennis. We have 17 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Hello, my name is Geraldine (Gerrie) Sanders. I currently work in the Accounting Department as the Accounts Payable Manager. I enjoy working for the Chehalis Tribe and my work in the Accounting Department keeps me very busy. There are always new ideas and new software to learn. My significant other is Ray Secena. Jr. I have a son, Reggie Sanders and four grandchildren, Sidney, Jayden, Ray Secena, III, and Raquel Sanders, Jr. and Rosetta Wells Klatush. My grandson, Sidney was born in 2008. My granddaughter, Rosetta was born in 2010. My grandson, Ray Secena, III was born in 2012. I attended Centralia College for a short period of time.

I was hired to work at the front desk answering the telephone for 20 cents an hour. My salary was raised to 25 cents an hour. I was hired to work at the front desk answering the telephone until 1985.

I was transferred to a new position called the Accounts Manager. Funny, I still have my first job description signed by Chieftain Virginia. I have been in the Accounting Department for 33 years!

Margie Youkon and I were the only two employees in the Accounting Department for many years. Gradually more employees were hired and we received more funding through grants and contracts. Presently there are 13 employees in our department.

Since being involved with the Chehalis tribal community, I love watching baseball, and even played the game when I was younger. I've been fortunate to attend numerous canoe races, foot races, wheel barrow, and tag. At the end of the day my dad and grandpa played Mahal games under the old oak tree.

Another memorable holiday was Christmas Eve at the old school house. Frank Paul from the Chehalis Class, and brought treats for everyone who attended. When missionaries had school the children practiced music, drama and reading. When the night came each child would stand on stage and recite their part. I remember, “There was never a dull moment.”

Later my dad became a logger. He worked hard all his life. My mom was a hard worker too. She could do anything, even fix cars. All of us kids came of age helped with doing chores, getting wood and picking berries.

When I was in the ninth grade, we moved when my dad got a job logging in California. While living there I graduated from Arcata High School in 1952. During the summer months, I would return to the reservation for extra money for school clothes. I worked for local day camp. We also enjoyed catching the truck with everyone for a big celebration to work at the hoip fields in Chehalis.

While going to the Little White Church, I met my husband and we have been married for 54 years. He would bring his family to the Little White Church services. We would also go and attend camp meetings at Little Boston. Jake was a kind and gentle man. At 70 years of age I accepted. We were married and had a family. I have been living in Little Boston for about 45 years which I enjoy. I like going back to Oakville to visit family and friends. My life there brings back so many fond memories.

As my children grew a little older, I went to work, then onto college. At the age of 47 I received my bachelor’s degree from Antioch University in Seattle. I worked for many years in the Early Childhood Program here in Little Boston. I still teach Early Childhood classes for Northwest Indian College to staff at the Early Childhood Program.

In the early years, there wasn’t much business available for the tribe. My grandpa Earnest Beckwith was the chairman at one time. Seems like the Indians existed and BIA handled the business or else they told tribes what they could do. I have been involved with the Chehalis Tribe since I was a child. Chehalis Tribe has made recent years. The tribe is good to our senior citizens. Thank you to the tribe for the benefits.

Tribal Staff Profiles: Accounting and Communications Coordinator

Gerrie Sanders, Accounting Payable Manager

Editor for the Newsletter

Although illicit drug use by teens is declining, now there’s a threat from the other end – adults. Prescription drugs provide benefits when used correctly under the care of a health provider. But when abused, these drugs can be dangerous as illicit drugs. Parents and caregivers are the first line of defense in addressing this troubling trend.

Seventy percent of people age 12 and older who abuse drugs say they get them from relatives and friends. Others may abuse their own prescription medicine. Teens also report that these drugs are not hard to find. About 40 percent of 12th graders say that painkillers are fairly easy to get, and more than half say the same about stimulants.

What to do about this problem? Think about your home. What prescription and over-the-counter drugs do you have? You can take a quick survey to find out. Here are some tips to access to these drugs and help keep your teen drug-free:

- Safeguard all drugs at home. Monitor quantities and control access.
- Ask for a drug-free environment and use all drug, including not sharing medicine and always following the medical provider’s advice on drug use.
- Be a role model by following these same rules yourself.
- Properly conceal and dispose of old and unused medications.
- Ask friends and family to safeguard their prescription drugs as well.
- Talk to your teen about the dangers of abusing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
- These are powerful drugs that, when misused, are just as dangerous as illegal street drugs. Tell your teen not to use them.
- To learn more about teen prescription drug abuse, visit www.TheAntiDrug.com or call 1-800-878-2880 to request free materials. Contact Lorrie Bonifer at 360-790-1717 if you have any questions or the Tsatswam Council for treatment information.

June and her husband, Jake Jones, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their children (LR) Dennis, Janet, Yvonne, and Francine.

For more information, contact Chehalis Tribal Police, 360-273-7051

Brenn Bar Notice

Due to dry conditions a burn ban has been call until further notice.

No burn barrels
No burning yard debris
No camp fires
No lighting fireworks

On Kick Butt Day, youth collected over 10 pounds of cigarette butts. This year, “This is your child, it’s 4TH.” Good day.
Tribe Receives United Way Award for Helping

By David Burnett, Chairman

The Chehalis Tribe was given “Special Recognition” by the United Way of Thurston County for 2009. The award was given at the annual meeting of the United Way. The recognition was due to the long-term partnership the tribe has had with the county and the surrounding region. I am proud of the tribe and the bridge it has been building by our donations. We have made a real effort to bring the tribe and our communities together to help our neighbors, to encourage youth to work, and to support their efforts. Over the past five years, the tribe has donated over $850,000 to local charities.

The Chehalis Tribe considers support for local non-profit organizations, primarily those in Thurston, Lewis, and Grays Harbor counties. We give greater consideration to organizations providing human services to organizations providing human services to our neighbors, to those that provide educational opportunities to our youth, and to projects or events that help bring our communities together.

Walter Lewis weighs in next customer. The stand “Black Magic” was located at the new Thunder Alley location and painted by Wakisa Wittwer.

Director of Government and Public Relations Jeff Wornek (left), Chairman David Burnett, and Assistant General Manager Ena Myers accept the Special Recognition Award given by the United Way of Thurston County. The Chehalis Tribe received this award for their contributions to local counties’ non-profit organizations.

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Fireworks

By David Burnett, Chairman

We understand the joke. Every trifecta has a fit of laughter -- not laughing at the stand owners. The Chehalis Tribe is proud to support the United Way of Thurston County, and to support their efforts. Over the past five years, the tribe has donated over $850,000 to local charities.

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