January 2010

Vol. 3/1

Program News

Carnival for Native Art to Sell in Gift Shop

The Lucky Eagle Casino wants to showcase Northwest Native Tribal Art, and will be hosting an Open House in the Event Center on Saturday, January 30 (exact time TBD), to find Northwest Native artists who would like to sell their art through the Casino Gift Shop.

Who Should Attend: Anyone who believes they can create Native Northwest art that would honor the Casino, and that people would be proud to own. Items that are needed are baskets, beadwork, carvings, drums, dream catchers, jewelry, paddles, paintings, shields and other artwork.

How to Register: To pre-qualify or for more information, artists should contact Merrill Goldstein, 360-272-2000 ext. 245, or email merrill@luckyeagle.com

Available Display Space May be Limited: Register early to ensure your attendance. Deadline to register is January 22, 2010. Buyers will be present to evaluate the offerings. Orders might be placed at the show or sometime after.

Behavior Health's New CD

Staff Hours Have Changed

Behavior Health CD staff, Gail and Tammy, hours have changed: Gail's schedule: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 4-6 PM, Youth Center

Thursdays, 4-6 PM, Youth Treatment Group

Wednesdays, 4-5:30 PM, Phase 2, Adult Treatment Group

Any questions, contact Gail at 360-709-1682.

Tammy’s schedule:

Tuesday and Thursday, 4-6 PM, Adult IOP Group

Any questions, contact Tammy at 360-709-1682.

Assessments are done on Mondays and Wednesdays. Individual assessments are done on Fridays.

Wear Red on February 5

Heart disease is the number one killer of women in America. Wear red on Friday, February 5, for National Wear Red Day. Together, we can bring a voice to this silent killer and help save lives.

Expanding Tribal Enterprises are Focus of Annual Meeting

At the tribe’s 2009 Annual Meeting, past Tribal Chairs were honored for their dedication in assisting the tribe get to where it is today. Pictured (L-R) are Darby Williams, Tracy Jacobson, Donald “Don” Vashaw, and Virginia “Doby” Torrey.

By Fred Shorman, Editor

The annual meeting at the Community Center was well attended by many tribal members. Presentations from the Lucky Eagle Casino, Great Wolf Lodge and our Chehalis Tribal Enterprises were very well received.

This year’s meeting was postponed for a month due to the increase of the swine flu. This was the first annual meeting to be held in the new Community Center. The main meeting was held in the gym, and the tribal departments were available in the gathering room answering questions and providing information about their programs.

Enterprise Reports

The Lucky Eagle Casino asked Rodney Youckton to present on how the casino was working early, and hoped that next year we could wait for more rain and higher flows before fishing started again. The results showed how much better the fishing was for bright Coho when we wait for more rain and higher river flows. The Coho that were caught were large and averaged well over 10 pounds.

Everyone expressed concern about fishing early, and hopefully next year we can wait for more rain and higher flows before the fishermen go out. The fisherman did an exceptional late season with several hundred fish being caught. Most of them were hatchery origin. This reduces the impact on wild fish.

The fishermen made over $27,000 from their Coho, making this a very successful year. We collected over $300 in fish taxes that will go into the Fishermen’s Fund. We have smoked over 500 pounds of fish to sell at the casino, hotel, and convenience stores.

More Fish, New Fish House and Fewer River Weeds are a Reality, Thanks to Tribe and Tribal Fishermen

The 2009 Coho fishery started in late October and the tribal fishermen caught lots of fish, but they weren’t the nicest fish, with lots of Red Coho brought in. We waited until we had more rain and higher river flows, before fishing started again. The results showed how much better the fishing was for bright Coho when we wait for more rain and higher river flows. The Coho that were caught were large and averaged well over 10 pounds.

We hope to include smoking smoked fish at the Great Wolf Lodge in the future.

Fish House Update

The new fish house is great! Our program has added a new digital scale to make fish buying much more accurate. The fish house has a loading dock which makes loading fish much easier. We also were able to purchase a giant refrigerator with two rooms for keeping fish fresh longer. With these new facilities and equipment, we are hoping to begin more processing in the future. Selling value-added products such as caviar and canned salmon. This new building has lots of room to grow and be developed into a great asset for the fisherman.

Traditional Fishing with Traps and Weirs

I want to introduce some selective fishing

Chehalis youth participated in their first piano recital

Youth piano lessons help them play professionally and with pride, page 2

Elders honored with dinner to celebrate Christmas

Elders enjoyed visiting, dinner, and a gift exchange. Then they shared their memories of past holidays, page 3

2009 Christmas Party was Bigger and Better Than Ever

By Fred Sherman, Editor

The 2009 Community Christmas Party was held at the Lucky Eagle Events Center on Sunday, December 20. You could see the whole room filled with tables and wall-to- wall people. It is always an outstanding and well-attended event. Cheryle Staut, Events Coordinator, and her volunteers did an outstanding job. What a way to get your gift or spend a little extra time with your friends and family. Cheryle had many activities scheduled like Bingo, a raffle for Elders, adults and youth, dinner and pictures with Santa.

Bingo is a popular, family-fun game to attempt to win a special gift. This year the game was opened by having one adult and one youth winner per game, making it more enjoyable by all. In between the games, Cheryle drew names for each division for the raffle.

I was encouraged to go up and volunteer to sing “Twelve Days of Christmas.” Before I started, I invited anyone who wanted to sing with me to come up on stage. To my surprise, there were a bunch of children who came up to join me. They did an awesome job as they shared the rules, singing loud and proud. Thanks to all the children who sang with me.

The Lucky Eagle Casino and their employees once again provided an excellent dinner. Seafood and prime rib never fail to be favorites. Of course Elders are invited to be served first. The youth council also jumped in to serve the Elders who requested it.

Magician Jeff Evans performed magic tricks for the children. It was quite entertaining for the children as they laughed and giggled while they were surprised with these magic acts. He’s been performing magic tricks since 1998 for the casino. His first

See Community, page 4
The Chehalis “Soaring Above the Influence” Youth Group proudly display their certificates after successfully participating in their first piano recital. All of the youth participated professionally, and agreed that it was exciting and fun. Pictured (L-R) are Kelsey Bray, Kirsten Secena, Chayse Youckton, Roberta Youckton, and Lorrie Bonifier, Prevention Coordinator.

By Fred Shortman, Editor

The “Soaring Above the Influence” Youth Group has been preparing for their first piano recital at the Music & Me Winter Recital on December 18 at Centralia’s Church of the Nazarene. There were about 100 friends and family who attended this great recital.

There were children of all ages and skill levels playing the piano at the recital. The Christmas music they performed was played very well, indeed. It was an awesome feeling seeing the children so focused on playing the piano. They practiced hard for the love of music and to make their families proud. As they performed you could hear the beautiful sound of the piano echoing across the room. It was awe-inspiring. It was a rewarding experience for the children and the adults who came to listen.

Four of our Chehalis tribal youth performed at their first recital. They sure played Jersey Old Saint Nick professionally! Kelsey Bray (age 10) Kirsten Secena (age 10), Chayse Youckton (age 8) and Roberta Youckton (age 11) practiced hard for this recital with their teacher Susan Lancaster. One youth took on the task of performing together, which is not easy. The four did an exceptional job. As they were playing, you could see grandparents and parents smiling proudly. They are looking forward to the next recital to be held in May, hopefully at our new Community Center. Music is such a special way to communicate. Our program is working on providing other types of lessons such as guitar and drums. These classes will be scheduled at the Community Center. Guitar lessons will be held on Thursdays from 4-5 pm. So if you have anyone interested in joining our “Soaring Above the Influence” Youth Program, please contact Lorrie Bonifier, Prevention Specialist, at 360-309-1717, or come by her office at the Wellness Center.

Four Chehalis Youth Make Beautiful Music at Piano Recital

The idea of a census is to produce “a complete and accurate count of the people in the United States” (U.S. Census Bureau). It’s important to Indian Country because the decennial (every 10 years) census determines Congressional representation. That is why the census is conducted: It was written into the Constitution.

But beyond that, because of Native Americans’ unique legal and political status, we qualify for federal funding across a broad range of programs. This includes funds for housing, health care, education, job creation, environmental services and so on.

The census or www.census.gov.

Governor’s Disability Council Seeks Volunteers for Two Open Positions

OLYMPIA, Wash. – The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council is seeking volunteers to fill two open positions on the Governor-appointed member organization. The Council’s preference is to fill the vacant positions with two parents or guardians of a person with developmental disabilities; however, self-advocates are encouraged to apply for the positions. The Council is hoping to fill the vacancies with representatives from the following counties: Clark, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pierce, Whatcom, Okanogan, Ferry, Douglas, Lincoln, Grant and Adams counties. Council members will hold a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment for a second term. The Council covers all expenses, including travel and meals and lodging.

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council is an organization that promotes the values of self-determination, independence, inclusion, integration and productivity for people with developmental disabilities. The 33-member organization consists of self-advocates, family members, service providers and government agency representatives.

“Our job as council members is to support our community, advocate for people with disabilities and make sure people with developmental disabilities, and keep a close eye on what’s happening in government and our communities,” said George Walker, Council Chair. “It is so important that our council members represent all of the diverse communities throughout Washington. That’s why we are encouraging people of color and other interested candidates from more rural areas in Washington to apply for the positions.”

The application deadline is April 30, 2010. For more information or an application, please contact Linda West at (360) 586-3572, or outside the Olympia area, 1-800-634-4473. Linda can also be reached by email at: linda.west@commerce.wa.gov.

The Confedred Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation...

“People of the Sands”

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter

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Submission deadline: 6th of each month
Deadline: Each month

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Don Scuncio, Vice Chairman
Jessie Goodrick, Treasurer
Cheryl Stier, Secretary
Dan Gleason, Sr., 5th Council Member

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On Thursday, December 17, the Elders held their Christmas Party in the Gathering Room at the new Community Center. Nancy Romero and her little elves helped prepare the room, decked it out with red and green Christmas colors and decorations. The Christmas wreaths were made by the Elders during a wreath class and were simply outstanding. The table-top arrangements were made the night before by Nancy and her daughter Scarlett.

There were smiles and greetings as the Elders arrived and saw the candlelit tables, and the festively-decorated room. They weren’t there for just the food, but the opportunity to sit down and visit with friends and family. Sharing past Christmas memories, and updating their grandchildren’s activities. The feeling in the room was overwhelming.

There were 70 Elders and spouses in attendance, one of the biggest and happiest Christmas dinners yet! It was so good to see everyone.

Nancy didn’t forget the giving either. Not only did her family help with decorating, they provided the drinks. Gifts were given to each Elder – candy, handmade wreaths, and candle arrangements. Everyone was touched, knowing that “It’s the thought that counts.” The gift exchange between the Elders was another part of the celebration.

As the dinner winded down, the microphone was passed around for each Elder to wish season’s greetings. Many shared some of their memories about past Christmas. What an honor it was to be invited and listen as the Elders shared their stories.

Cindy Andy sang a song that Murphy Secena requested at a Christmas at the Shaker Church. It was cute and a lasting memory. Some of the stories talked about how their parents would sneak presents into the house, while they were attending the Christmas Eve program at the tribal center. When they entered their homes, low and behold, Santa had left presents for them!

Back then life wasn’t easy and families didn’t have a lot of money, so they really appreciated even the most humble gift. Thanks to all from Nancy Romero who acknowledges that Christmas is the time for giving, and the volunteers really gave of their time and sincere effort. Many thanks go to Amanda, Cody, Rayna, Scarlett and Ray Romero. We can’t forget the cleanup crew for donating their time. Thanks Brian Benda, Tom Hayden, Derek Youckton, Casey Pickemell and Darin Jones. Your help was greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping to decorate. Thank you to Brian and Tom who got a fried tree because the fake one was missing branches. And thanks to all who helped clean up and restore the center back to normal.

And thanks go to the Lucky Eagle Casino for providing such an excellent seafood and prime rib dinner, and to the chefs, Kevin Bray and his assistant.

What a spectacular way to end such a great year!

When I was growing up, my uncle, Mike Secena, and his sister-in-law, Priscilla Secena, are delighted that Santa dropped off special gifts just for them.

Elder Josephine Aldrich wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She thanked all the volunteers who helped put the dinner together. Also pictured are Garnett Aldrich (middle), and Ray Griswold.

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Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

I apologize for not having an arts and crafts area for the youth. I want to thank the people who put a lot of time into helping me this year: Carla Thomas, Boe Thomas and Goo Goo. They’ve done so-o-o much for me. I had meetings after meetings and they stepped up and helped me.

Also I would like to thank the Lopez Family, David Burnett, and Don and Mary Seccia for shopping for me, especially on such a busy weekend before Christmas. I know it was a mad house in town.

I also want to thank again Carla Thomas, Janie Thomas, Goo Thomas, Bobbi Jones, Ritchie Revay, Buddy Boyd, Nette Boyd, Patricia Gitchel, Raven Thomas, Ania Hartman, Tony Medra, Malia Medra, Jerry Youkton, Youth Council members, Santa, Josie Delarova, Adam Delarova, Faithline, and all who helped at the Christmas party… THANK YOU!

There were a lot of people there this year. The youth were pretty excited! We gave away an iPod, electric razor, and a Nintendo DS. The tribal members adult got big prizes, too. We gave away a new computer, lots of gift cards, and a Flip Camera. I believe Eli Snell won the new computer and Mary DaPino won the Flip Camera. Chyler Daniels won the electric razor.

Val Pickernell won the Nintendo DS. It was fast! I always enjoy this time of year.

Kly Meas, Jr., and his son Kly Meas, Ill, visit with Santa at the Community Christmas party and were thrilled to receive their gifts.

Coho Season

At the tribe’s annual meeting.

This means that if the applicant was born before 1973, then their parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, and so on, must be included on either the original Chehalis allottee list or on the 1939 census roll. If the applicant was born after 1973, then they must have at least one birth parent who is enrolled in the Chehalis Tribe at the time of the application and the applicant must have at least 1/4 degree of Indian blood.

Past Tribal Chairs Honored

This year the business committee honored our past Chairman, Melvin Youkton, David Youkton and our first Chairwoman, Virginia “Dolly” Canales. They surprised them by giving them Pendleton blankets and silverware arrangements. They gave some heart felt thanks as they shared their insight from the past, present and future. The recognition was for all their hard work and commitment to help the tribe and support what we are doing today.

Thanks from Cheryl Stare, Events Coordinator

I would like to thank Carla Thomas for helping me get things ready and shop for raffle items, Pam Youkton and Sharon Quilt for helping me at the big table handling out bags and other gift items, and, the clean-up crew and Ray. It, for setting up the tables and chairs in the gym, and gathering and cleaning up afterwards.

Reach Beyond the Tree Tops!

Flat Roof Now Has Eye Appeal

The Elders Center and Headstart buildings’ roof project is completed. Community members by the completed roof looks “prettier.” Having an improved roof will better protect the buildings against rain and snow damage.

Employee Christmas Party Talent Contest a Big Hit

Cheryl Stare, Events Coordinator

Worst! We had some fun at our employee Christmas Party!! The talent show was huge this year. It was very exciting and so much fun. 1st Place Winner is Dan Penn, 2nd Place went to the Jackman 5 - Tracy Bry, Gail Whiteagle, Rachael MeENDER & Tana Willis they all did great performances.

I would like to thank Carla Thomas, Boe Thomas & Goo Goo for helping me this year. Kris Salmon for helping with the shopping and gift cards. The casino for the great food and the table games. To the dealers, bosses, and TGA staff for the great blackjack tournament. This was a lot of fun for the staff. I hope they all enjoyed it.

Dan Penn won first place in the show off the employee Christmas party. His dance and Blake what more! He’s a true talent and expression was brought a hug and applause Coughout his performance.