

January 2010 Vol. 3/1

# Program News

## Casino Looking 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 Chehalis Tribe, and that people would be proud to own. Items that are needed are baskets, beadwork, carvings, dolls, drawings, 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](mailto: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 360-709-1652.

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.

Squamish Island Tribe Presents the 3rd Annual  
**SA'HEH'WA'MISH DAYS**  
Feb 20th & 21st, 2010

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Little Creek Casino Resort  
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# CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER



♦ "People of the Sands" ♦

## 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



## Chehalis youth participated in their first piano recital

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

## 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 David Youckton, Melvin Youckton, and Virginia "Dolly" Canales.**

By Fred Shortman, Editor

Photo by Cheryle Starr

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 informative.

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 doing. Even with the struggling economy it was noted that things were slowing down, but the casino was still doing well. They've implemented some extra incentives to train tribal members for upper management positions.

The Great Wolf Lodge introduced their new Manager, Mike Lesky. When asked about how many tribal members were working there, he stated that there is room for improvement. They are implementing a six-week course to train tribal members for desirable positions. They also invited tribal members to tour the lodge every third Thursday of the month. You can find the sign up sheet at the front desk. The Howlin' Tornado has added a light show every night. The River Canyon Run slide was added last November. It is a fast-paced slide that hold up to 5 people.

David Youckton, CFO of Chehalis Tribal Enterprises, reported on tribal enterprises. The improvements to all four of our EOT stores are helping. The new CTE office building has been completed, increasing the tribe's capabilities to manage all our enterprises. David stated that the construction of the storage and packaging plant has begun, and this growth should increase our capital gains. There is potential

See Annual Meeting, page 4

## 2009 Christmas Party was Bigger and Better Than Ever

By Fred Shortman, 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 Starr, 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 sped up 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 mike, 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 he surprised them with magic acts. He's been performing magic tricks since 1998 for the casino. His first-

See Community, page 4

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

By Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist

The 2009 Coho fishery started in late October and the tribal fishermen found 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 is for bright Coho when we wait for more rain and higher 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 fishermen did have 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.

We hope to include selling 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 and creating 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 fishermen. By processing and creating value-added products, we should be able to increase the price paid to the fishermen and the Fishermen's Fund.

**Traditional Fishing with Traps and Weirs**  
I want to introduce some selective fishing

See Coho Season, page 4



**Fishermen are taking their catch to the new fish house. Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist, weighs steelhead to be processed and sold.**



2 **Four Chehalis Youth Make Beautiful Music at Piano Recital**



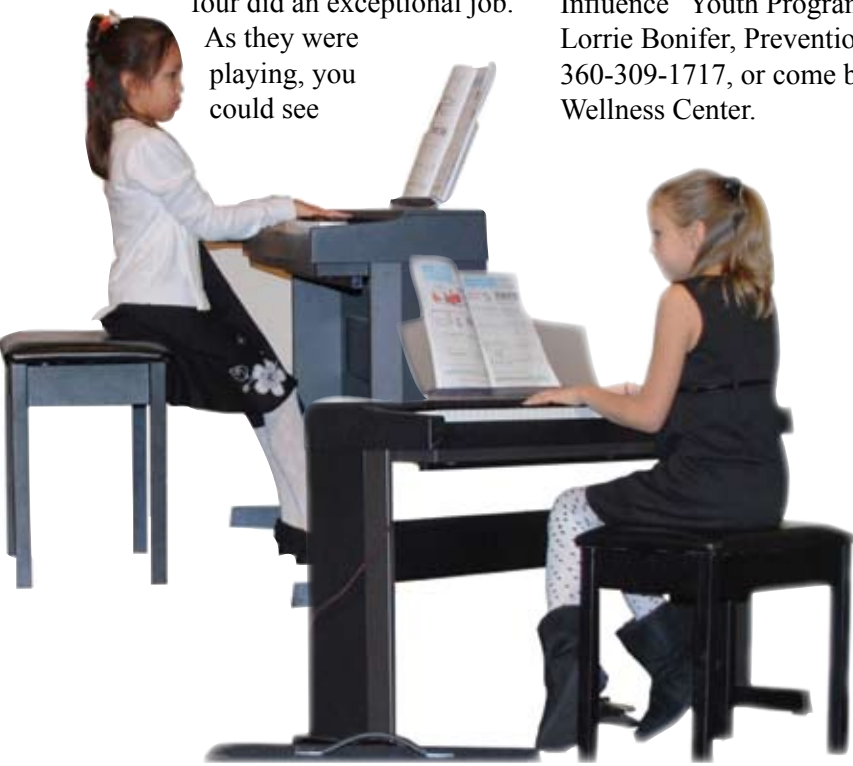
**The Chehalis “Soaring Above the Influence” Youth Group proudly display their certificates after successfully participating in their first piano recital. All of the youth played professionally, and agreed that it was exciting and fun. Pictured (L-R) are Kelsey Bray, Kirsten Secena, Chayse Youckton,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

*By Fred Shortman, Editor*

The “Soaring Above the Influence” Youth Group participated in 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. The children were all dressed up and were smiling and laughing in anticipation of their performance. They were wanting to play their best for their family and friends.

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 this, their first recital. They sure played Jolly 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. Our 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



**Kirsten Secena (L) and Kelsey Bray focus on their music as they play at the piano recital. It was a proud moment for all as they performed so professionally.**

**This Tax Season, Be Wary of “Instant” Tax Refunds: They are Really High Interest Loans**

Why pay for something you can get for free? You don’t have to pay high fees to commercial tax preparers for quick cash refunds. There are free tax services that will help you pay less and get more refunds. As tax time comes closer remember these points:

■ **KEEP YOUR CASH!** Instant tax refunds are really high-cost loans! Free tax sites have volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service who can help you maximize your tax refund and get it deposited electronically in your bank account. This way, you can access your refund money in just a few days.

■ **GET YOUR CREDITS!** Every year in Native communities, millions of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) dollars go unclaimed. If your family earned less than \$43,279 in 2009, you may qualify for the EITC when you file your return. You could get up to \$5,657 depending on your income and number of qualifying children.

■ **PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK!** Use your tax refund to achieve your family’s financial goals. Pay bills, improve your credit by reducing your debt, or save for a house, your education or a small business. Check out the 2009 Native EITC outreach tools available on their website: [www.oweesta.org/eitc](http://www.oweesta.org/eitc) or call 605-342-2771.

**Carving Canoe Provides Chance to Learn Traditional Skills**

*By Fred Shortman, Editor*

Mr. Wilson invites people interested in learning to carve to attend the carving classes. The dugout river canoe is partially finished with a few people diligently working on it. The bottom stage of the canoe is almost finished. With the winter weather being so cold and nasty, the canoe has been moved inside the wood shop. This provides a more comfortable work place. It also solves daylight issues that the winter months create. There has been some brainstorming on the use of the canoe. Completion of the canoe by the spring would allow it to be

used to fish for the Salmon Ceremony. What a fitting and honorable way to use the canoe! Tribal members have been working on other projects including paddles, rattles, and little canoes. There have been donations of different kinds of cedar, too. The donations have been greatly appreciated. If you have a project that isn’t finished, find the time and come on in. There is also a plan to host a barbecue night. So watch for flyers. The carving classes are Wednesdays and Fridays, 3-5 PM, and Saturdays, 2-5 PM. Contact Dan Penn at 360-709-1747.



**The dugout river canoe has been moved inside of the wood shop. The phase of carving the bottom of the canoe is almost finished. Pictured are (L-R) Antonio Sanchez, Sid Smith, Jodie Smith and John Penberth.**  
Photo by Master Carver Dave Wilson

**Your 10 Minutes Filling out the 2010 Census Will Give Voice to More Natives**

The idea of a census is to produce “a realistic and accurate portrait of America.” It’s important to Indian Country because the decennial (ten year) census count determines Congressional representation. That is why the census is conducted: It was written into the Constitution. But beyond that, because of Native American’s 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.

Qualification for funding is based on census data. Our Tribal Leaders use the census data for grants and planning. The census short form includes just 10 questions and takes only a few minutes to complete. Please take the time to provide this information that can greatly help. We hope all questionnaires will be in the mail by April 1<sup>st</sup> but the enumerators will continue to work on gathering data through July. For details go to: [www.census.gov/2010](http://www.census.gov/2010) census or [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org).

**Governor’s Developmental Disabilities 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 also encouraged to apply for the positions. The Council is hoping to fill the vacancies with representatives from the following counties: Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Okanogan, Ferry, Douglas, Lincoln, Grant and Adams counties. Selected council members will hold a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment for a second term. The Council covers all expenses, including travel to meetings, meals and lodging. The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council ensures that people with developmental disabilities receive the support, treatment and other services necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential. The Council also develops public policy recommendations, which promote 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 important policy issues that affect 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](mailto:linda.west@commerce.wa.gov)

**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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Don Secena, Vice Chairman  
Jessie Goddard, Treasurer  
Cheryle Starr, Secretary  
Dan Gleason, Sr., 5th Council Member

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter Staff:  
Fred Shortman, Communications Coordinator



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



# Elders Show Us How to Have Fun at Christmas



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.

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 prepared the room, decking 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 candle-lit 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 out 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 Pickernell and Darrin Jones: Your help was greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping to decorate. Thank you to Brian and Tom who got a fresh 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 cooks, Kevin Bray and his assistant.

What a spectacular way to end such a great year!

## Tribal Elders Sign Up Early to 3 Enjoy Fun February Activities

- Here are some fun activities for tribal Elders during the month of February.
- Please sign up for activities one week in advance at the Elders Center, because some activities have limited space. Contact Nancy Romero, Elders Coordinator, at 360-709-1877 for more information, or changes in the schedule.
- Tuesday, February 9-**Blanket Classes**; 5-8 PM (first seven Elders) at the Elders Center
  - Friday, February 12-**Valentines Dinner**; 5-7 PM at the Elders Center
  - Tuesday, February 16-**Movie and Dinner**; in Lacey van leaves Elders Center at 2 PM
  - Wednesday, February 17-**Bingo Dinner**; 5-7 PM at the Elders Center
  - Friday, February 19-**Meet and Greet Charro**; 7 PM (first ten Elders) at the Lucky Eagle Casino
  - Tuesday, February 23-**Pie Baking Classes**; 5-7 PM at the Elders Center
  - Wednesday, February 24-**Birthday Dinner**; 5-7 PM at Sizzlers in Lacey

## Higher Education Grants Available for All Ages

Currently individuals 60 years of age or older may qualify for tuition and fee reductions at Centralia College. It is possible that there will be no tuition or fees charges. Contact the Enrollment Services Office for more information. Also the Continuing and Community Education Division offers students age 50 or over a "Life Long Learner" cost reduction for courses.

All ages can apply for Pell Grants. Pell Grants are available at Centralia College. Federal Pell Grants help cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses. Nearly all universities, community colleges, and many trade and technical schools accept these grants. For more information call 1-800-4-FEDAID.

Another opportunity for higher education is the University of the People. This is the world's first tuition-free, on line academic institution. It is dedicated to the global advancement of higher education. Google University of the People and find out if this opportunity might benefit you.

## Chehalis Tribal Enterprise Offers Open Positions Every Week!

Looking for a job? Check out our job postings if you're interested in working at any of the End of the Trail Stores, or the Eagles Landing Hotel.

Current job postings and blank applications are available at the new CTE administration office on Anderson Road, as well as the HR office at the tribal center. Contact Brenna Youckton at 360-273-1251 ext.100 or ext.112.



Levi Sanchez and his sister-in-law, Priscilla Sanchez, are delighted that Santa dropped off special gifts just for them.



Tony Medina (R) stopped to chat with Dan and Annie Jones. When Dan received the microphone to speak, he said. "I am thankful to be here this day, celebrating Christmas with the Elders."

# Staff Profile: EOT III General Manager and Community Health Coordinator

Hoyt, my name is Manny Medina and I'm the General Manager of the EOT III in Grand Mound. My parents are Jacqueline (Black) Medina and Arthur Medina. My great-grandparents are Nancy Beckwith and Murphy Secena. I have one sister who works with the youth, Marla Medina, and a half brother, Marco Black, who lives in Taholah. My sister and I both grew up on the Chehalis Reservation and graduated from Oakville High School

I started work at the End of the Trail 1, the "Lil Store", as a cashier after I graduated from high school. From there I worked my way into a supervisory position. When the "Big Store" opened, I advanced into the Assistant Manager Trainee position under Ron Myers. While working I took classes at Centralia College in Business Management. It was tough, but I dedicated myself to learning as much as I could.

When I was growing up, my uncle,



## EOT Store III General Manager

Mike Medina, took me in and mentored me with encouragement stressing the importance of a good education. All through high school Uncle Mike gave me a goal: If I graduated he would give me his 1923 T Bucket roadster. So when I graduated from high school, he kept his word and gave it to me. I enjoyed spending time with him working on cars including my T Bucket.

I was young and the car was really powerful, but fortunately I matured enough to stay out of trouble.

Since working here I've seen a lot of employees and managers come and go. The changes and improvements to our business enterprises have been great. Good management and support helps improve our enterprises. I'm very grateful as a tribal member to be given the opportunity to be a part of the continued growth. Hard work and determination equals success.

Hello, my name is Christina Hicks. I am an enrolled member of the Chehalis Tribe. I have lived here all my life. I married Dean Hicks on Valentine's Day, 1992. My parents are Jerrie (Shortman) Simmons (Chehalis) and the late Michael W. Simmons (Quinalt). I have three brothers from my parents' marriage, but have a total of seven brothers and two sisters from my dad. I also have my precious little dog, "Odie."

My interests are basket weaving, supporting the Canoe Family on the Canoe Journeys, attending the Indian Shaker Church, and spending time with my family (which is the most important one.)

I started working for the tribe back in 1994 as a Community Health Representative (CHR). I attended Grays Harbor College and received an EMT license. I continue to have a current CPR/ first aid card. I have received all kinds of training in the health field.

I then started working for the tribe in the Native Women's Wellness Program, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program,



## Community Health Coordinator

part time. Then I was asked to add the Title VI --part C, Family Caregiver Support Program to my duties. This program is available for family members who take care of Elders. My title was changed to Community Health Coordinator, a full-time position.

This is a worthwhile position. Our program has Will Writing Clinics for tribal Elders who are over 60 years old, and there are monthly health education classes.

I like my position since it keeps me involved with the Elders. The Elders are like caretakers of our past. I love to hear stories about when they were growing up, what life was like for them when they were young, and what they use to do here on the rez. I encourage everyone to take time to say hello to our Elders, let them know you care about them, spend some time with them and get to know their stories.

My office is located in the Wellness Center. You can reach me at 360-273-5504 ext.1741 or chicks@chehalistribe.org.



## 4 Community (continued from page 1)

ever show, at the Golden Eagle Restaurant, was a success, and he’s been invited back ever since. He has also been seen at other holiday parties in the banquet rooms. He said he was honored to be invited and enjoys visiting with tribal members.

There was also a scavenger hunt for everyone. The youth were seen running around looking for the hidden stickers.

Then Anna announced, “Santa is here!” You could hear the excited whispering of the children as they strained to locate him in the crowded room. When their age group was announced, the children ran to line up. They couldn’t contain their excitement for a picture with Santa. Their smiles were huge as they left the room with their gifts. Thank you, Santa!

**Thanks from Cheryl Starr, Events Coordinator:** This year’s Christmas party, WOW! We were very busy. It came so fast!



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, Boo Thomas and Gus Gus. 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 Secena 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, Junior Thomas, Geo Thomas, Bobby Jones, Ritchie Revay, Buddy Boyd, Nette Boyd, Patricia Gitchel, Raven Thomas, Anna Hartman, Tony Medina, Marla Medina, Jerry Youckton, Youth Council members, Santa, Jodie Smith, Dolly Canales, Bones Gleason, 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 member adults 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 DuPuis won the Flip Camera. Chyler Daniels won the electric razor.

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

**Kly Meas, Jr., and his son Kly Meas, III, visit with Santa at the Community Christmas Party. The kids excitedly awaited their photos with Santa and received their gifts.**

## Coho Season (continued from page 1)

techniques in the coming year. The selective fishing would involve traditional techniques like fish traps and weirs. Using selective fishing techniques, we can limit the impacts on wild fish while collecting the best quality hatchery fish and selected wild fish. This would allow more fish to be caught with less impact on the fish that are not of commercial value but have great value on the spawning grounds.

Selective fishing has another advantage: It doesn’t injure the fish or leave any marks making the fish more valuable. I’ve heard of selective gear fishermen selling Chum for over five dollars per pound. These fish normally don’t break the dollar-per-pound mark. We could market the selective-caught fish as a green sustainable product and really make top dollar. This will only be tested for the first few years, but maybe we could change to more selective gear and less gill nets in the long term. This would benefit the fish, fishermen and the rivers, allowing more wild adults to return to the gravel. This type of fishing could really work well in conjunction with the new fish hatchery.

### New Fish Hatchery

Speaking of the fish hatchery, we are finally up and running and will have eggs in the incubators soon. We are going to collect wild fish from their spawning grounds and

simply increase the survival rate to release and allow migration to the ocean. We want to begin with Chum salmon since they have been really reduced in numbers in the Black River over the last ten years. If Chum are unavailable, we will use Coho, but we will not be focusing on Coho since they are incredibly prolific in the Chehalis system and its over 400 tributaries. We will focus on Chum, Fall and Spring Chinook, and Winter Steelhead with the goal of increasing commercial catches and reduce impacts on wild fish.

### Aquatic Weed Removal

In the coming year, we will be working on a few grants that we were successful in getting. One is another aquatic weed removal project working on Parrot Feather. This project will begin at the mouth of Lincoln Creek and work down to the Whickett property on the west side of the Chehalis River just past Sickman Ford Bridge. The other project will be done on the Whickett property and adjacent land owned by the WDFW and Eldon Lonborg. This project will open over 14 miles of habitat by removing barriers to salmon and steelhead on Davis Creek. Hopefully everyone will be able to enjoy the benefits of these projects and goals we have set for the coming year.



Construction is in the beginning phase for the Cigarette Stamping and Storage Building on Anderson Road. The two-story building will allow the tribe to save storage costs and expand its cigarette stamping enterprise.

### Reach Beyond the Tree Tops!

**FINANCIAL LITERACY NIGHT**  
Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm  
Tribal Center

Learn how to utilize one of your most important resources – **money.**

For more information, contact the Chehalis Loan Program at (360) 709-1631.

### Strengthening Families Class

**Starts on February 11**  
**Sign up before February 4**  
**7-Week Course**

This worth-while program assists parents/ caregivers and youth (10-14) to build stronger family relationships. Families will grow and learn together to gain communication skills, preparing them for the adolescent years.

Contact Lorrie Boniifer at 360-709-1717 or email [Lbonifer@chehalistribe.org](mailto:Lbonifer@chehalistribe.org) for more information.

## Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)



**Tribal Chairman Dave Burnett handed the microphone to Elder Helen Sanders during the question and answer portion of the enterprise report at the tribe’s annual meeting.**

for increasing the number of rooms at the Eagles Landing Hotel. The Hotel General Manager Trainee position has been filled with a tribal member, Lucy Hill.

The Constitution Committee reported on their efforts to gather information from tribal members regarding needed constitutional amendments and the BIA process that would be needed to make changes to the current tribal constitution. A primary focus of any changes would start with tribal enrollment eligibility and the current freeze on enrolling new members. Under the current Chehalis constitution, a person is eligible for enrollment into the Chehalis Tribe as follows:

- (a) *All persons of Indian blood whose names appear upon the official census roll of the reservation as of January 1, 1939, and all persons who were original allottees of land within the boundaries of the Chehalis Indian Reservation as established by the Executive Order of July 8, 1864, and their lineal descendants who are living on the date of the adoption of this constitution and bylaw* (April 16, 1973). (There is no specific blood quantum requirement for persons born before April 16, 1973.)
- (b) *All children born after the approval of this constitution* (July 11, 1973) *to any member of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation who possess one-fourth (1/4) degree of Indian blood or more.* (Parent must have at least ¼ Indian blood.)

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 ¼ degree of Indian blood.

### Past Tribal Chairs Honored

This year the business committee honored our past Chairman, Melvin Youckton, David Youckton and our first Chairwoman, Virginia “Dolly” Canales. They surprised them by giving them Pendleton blankets and flower 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 Cheryle Starr, Events Coordinator

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

## Flat Roof Now has Eye Appeal



**The Elders Center and Headstart buildings’ roof project is completed. Community members say the pitched 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 Starr, Events Coordinator*

Wow! 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 Jackson 5 - Tracy Bray, Gail Whiteagle, Racheal Mendez & Tawni Willis they all did great performances.

I would like to thank Carla Thomas, Boo Thomas & Gus Gus 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 at the talent show during the employee Christmas party. His dance and trance-like expression brought laughs and applause throughout his performance.**

