Program Help Members of Two Tribes Get Jobs
By Barbara Churchill, Vocational Rehabilitation Program Lead Counselor

The Chehalis/Skokomish Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program received a grant through the Department of Education for five years! Both tribes have provided a Vocational Rehabilitation Program since 1993 and look forward to serving you for the next five years.

Part of the service we will provide an informational newsletter which will be mailed out three to four times a year. It will offer information on a variety of disabilities, alternative therapies, career tips and success stories.

The purpose of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation is to provide a culturally appropriate and community-based program of services. Some of the services focus on the individual’s strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and self-defined choices. We help clients understand their barriers and help turn them into abilities.

We are located in the Resource Center (old clinic) behind the tribal center. Any questions, please contact Barbara Churchill, Project Manager, at 360-709-1633 or Dorothy Goddard, Counselor, at 360-709-735.

Special Nikes Available for Chehalis Tribal and Community Members
The Nike Air Native N7 fitness shoe is built to address the specific fit and width needs of Native American clients. Developed, and fit testing, in partnership with the Native American community.

The Nike Air Native N7 fitness shoe is being made available for Chehalis Tribal and Community Members.

To order, please contact Ed Office at 98568 or Orinda (old clinic) behind the tribal center. Any questions, please contact Barbara Churchill, Project Manager, at 360-709-1633 or Dorothy Goddard, Counselor, at 360-709-735.

Multi-Generational Native Women’s Health Fair Helps Over 115 Women Stay Healthy with Experts and Workshops
By Christina Hicks, Community Health Coordinator

On Thursday, May 13, the Native Women’s Wellness Program held the Multi-Generational Native Women’s Health Fair at the new Chehalis Tribal Community Center. We had ladies attend from the Chehalis tribal community, Cowitz Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, Quinault Tribe, Oakville, Seaside, Aberdeen, and more. There were over 115 ladies who attended.

This event was held to support National Women’s Health Awareness Week (May 9-15). It was a time for our tribal community women to come learn and take care of themselves. Women are the backbones of our families and communities.

There were 30 vendor tables: The American Cancer Society, National Cervical Cancer Coalition-Pac NW chapter, Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging, Olympic A.A.A., A.D.A.S., Living Well with Chronic Conditions, DSHS, SHBDA, Providence Sound Home Care & Hospice, Native Wellness Institute, SPDAH-Comprehensive, Cancer, Tribal Bear Project, Colon Program, Journey Women, Cocopa, and Chehalis tribal programs: Native Women’s Wellness Program, Clinic, Dental, Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, Tribal Resi Pet Program, Tribal Housing Authority, Heredity, and several different massage tables, reiki, and acupuncture.

Six Chehalis Teams Add to the Success and Fun of Tribal Youth Basketball Tournament

Youth enjoyed competing in the first Chehalis Youth Basketball Tournament to be held at the Tribe’s Community Center. Pictured (L-R) top row are Marcus Youckton, Carola Thomas, Gary Ortiz, III, Jordan Bird, and Coach Bruce Klutatsch, Sr. Front is Alex Youckton.

By Carla Thomas, Events Coordinator Assistant

We first would like to say thanks to our Chehalis Tribal Youth Basketball Tournament volunteers. Many thanks to Diana Pickermell. She was totally devoted on our opening day of the tournament. She was our official bookkeeper. She stayed throughout the entire day, so thanks so much, Diana, for such devotion!

While she was on the books, her sister, Frances Pickermell, was keeping the clock and scoreboard running. You really deserve props for that one as well. Thanks for stepping up and volunteering when we really needed someone! You didn’t abandon us.

We can’t forget thanking Darious Jones and Deidra Hawks. They stepped up to the plate and did a great job on the score board.

Also there was Angry Youckton, and Bruce Klutatsch who were there for us in so many different aspects of the tourney, taking garbage out, keeping the score book, and coaching when our lil’ team needed!

The teams were in three divisions and finished in the following order:

18 and Under Boys
Nisqually - MVP Jordan - All Stars: Kurtis, Rikki
Skok - MVP Ter - All Stars: Berry, Cedric
Chehalis Bobby - All Stars: Bobby Jones, Rikki Sutterfield, Cody
Chehalis Fluore
LaPah
Chehalis Marky - All Star: Marky

See Basketball Tourney, page 4

Huge Storage Building, RV Park are Newest Additions of Chehalis Tribal Enterprises
By Fred Shortman, Editor

Storage Building
You can hardly miss the new building at the main entrance to the reservation along Anderson Road. It’s the Chehalis Tribal Enterprises storage building. I’m reminded it is a “storage building” and not a “warehouse” (with lots of coming and going and in and out operations). Indeed, the building is designed to store tribal goods, records, artifacts and other miscellaneous items.

The building is 150 feet wide and 170 feet long, or 25,500 square feet. It is designed with a substantial enough foundation for a future second story mezzanine. The building looks “good size” from the outside but, when I walked inside, I was truly impressed and uttered a “whoaah” as I comprehended how massive the area actually is.

The purpose of this structure is to consolidate, store, have access to, and be able to retrieve tribal records, equipment and supplies which were being stored in as many as 17 off-reservation-located, leased facilities. This new building allows for consolidation and provides adequate space for proper filing, easy access, and retrieval when needed.

The interior space is subdivided into secure storage spaces for each tribal department and provides secure limited access.

See Enterprise, page 4

See Health Fair, page 4

V ocalational Rehabilitation Counselors help clients explore and understand their barriers and help turn them into abilities.

The doors opened at 10:00 am with a prayer from Pati Kimwia, a Cowitz tribal member who brought women from the...
Youth enjoyed spending the weekend creating and recording music for the first ever Chehalis Tribal Youth Music Academy. Pictured (L-R) top row are Tony Medina, Todd Denny, Elaine McCloid. Middle (L-R) are Issack Hofstetter, Denay Young, Savanna Bird, Kiahla Pickernell, Valerie Pickernell, Jerry Youughton, and Kathy Horn. Bottom row are Jordan Tanner, Daniel Gitchell, Bradley Gitchell, Jordan, Nathan Wittwer, Roberta Youughton, and Jubilee Kainz. In front is CJ Youughton.

Kelly Horn of the Washington State Youth Suicide Program presented a Youth Allies Workshop that focused on three critical areas: Show you care – Ask the question (are you thinking about killing yourself?) and – Call for help (1-800-273 TALK). She said “The more we build protective factors for our youth, the less likely they are to be depressed and, possibly, suicidal. The Music Academy serves as a protective factor in that it provides a way for youth to express their thoughts and feelings in a productive, healthy way. It allows them to share a message of hope to others.”

Elaine Elmer McCloid remarked, “I have a personal interest in the project since my sister died from complications of a suicide attempt. I tell my story and share my pain so hopefully it helps someone and helps prevent support. The kids were enjoying themselves once they got comfortable, working hard yet having fun. The use of music to spread the message about suicide prevention really touched me.”

Sindick Bura and Kurtis Kelly, members of the Nooksack music team, helped fuel the passion for music creativity with high energy musical performances and youth song writing mentoring. MMA staff, including professional recording engineers and musicians, worked with youth, parents, and elders to record both traditional and contemporary music. The voices of many talented included budding poets, traditional drummers, and hop lip girls. The Academy included daily suicide awareness workshops, music making development as well as jam sessions. Todd Denny said, “Our goal is to break the silence and deny regarding suicide in our Native communities. To achieve this, there were frank exchanges with young tribal members. We are taking an important step toward health for future generations.”

Though the April sessions end this weekend, the music created by the Chehalis youth lives on. Following the weekend with the youth are preparing them to present their music as peer educators at a community CD release celebration this June. Watch for flyers. A unique component of the Academy enables tribal youth to evolve into an ongoing peer education group which will continue to attract other youth. The final CD will include over 28 songs professionally recorded for distribution to the participating youth and the community.

Program partners that were instrumental in achieving the music program goals are the tribal youth program staff, including the Chehalis Business Committee, Youth Program Director Tony Medina, Tribal Health Program Coordinator Cindy Gamble, Heritage Program Coordinator Elaine McCloid, Grant Writer Amy Loudenslager, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the Washington State Youth Suicide Program, the Chehalis Cultural Center and community members to submit letters, articles, photographs, and drawings to be considered for publication. These are subject to editing. The Chehalis Tribal Newsletter encourages volunteers always make it successful, and many thanks to Valerie Klats, and Frank Boyd. It was great watching the youth record the special gifts.

Chehalis Youth Creative Innovative Suicide Prevention Music CD

By Todd Denny, Music Program Coordinators

In April there were 32 youth and 14 adults who gathered at the Chehalis Tribal Youth Music Academy. The group spent four days immersed in examining personal challenges they face at home, in their community, and at school. During the Academy, the youth learned and recorded an original cd of poetry and songs devoted to cultural preservation and breaking the cycle of violence, alcohol, drug abuse, and suicide. The project, funded entirely by a grant from the Port Angeles Area Indian Health Board, prepared Chehalis youth for their work as music peer educators in their community and schools. The idea for the Academy began with a collaboration between Mary Gambacorti, Andy Gutierrez, Tony Medina, who enthusiastically supported the idea. Amy Loudermilk, tribal planner, provided valuable technical assistance, as did the Chehalis Business Committee, that provided a letter of support to the grant proposal reviewers. Amy stated, “the grant was a great fit and an excellent project to work with our youth.”

Under the guidance of Tribal Youth Program Director Tony Medina, Heritage Program Coordinator Elaine McCloid, and Music Mentor Coordinators (MMA) Program Directors Todd Denny and Jose Gutierrez, the tribal youth were deeply involved in creating a poignant CD that will be powerful when youth and elders communicate. The Academy helped facilitate that connection. Initially, they shared their knowledge and personal stories of their own experiences to express their personal feelings about suicide, a difficult and important issue for all tribal communities.

Chehalis Senior Honors Basket Weaver

Weaving Tradition for Cultural Arts Credits

By Diane Devlin

On May 14, 18-year-old Shelby McCorry featured her handmade cedar hats in the Chehalis Tribal Community at the Gathering Room located in the new Community Center. Shelby talked about the process of how she created the skills she had engendered from years of watching, learning and finally doing. Shelby showed how the finished hat was made from the woven cedar graduation caps. In recent years, these class caps have graduated from public schools have opted to use a cap woven from cedar, rather than the customary cloth cap. “I knew we have done it before here, but I didn’t know we had the skills,” Shelby replied.

Shelby, a senior at Oakville High School, spent the past two years with the Chehalis Tribal Cultural Center learning to weave. She used the basket weaving skills from gathering to final products. The Chehalis Cultural Center is one of the oldest basket making families in the area.

Her great-grandmother is Master Basket Weaver Katherine Bunt and aunts include Master Basket Weavers Cindy Andy and Master Basket Weaver Marie Griswold. There is a saying in my family that we use the skills of a person who picks up the art of weaving so easily: We say, “It’s in the blood.”

Shelby not only picked up the art of weaving, she has the skills to teach others as well. In fact, she was selected as one of a few “Youth Featured Weavers” during the 2009 Nooksack National Basket Weavers Conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge. Shelby was delighted to share and pass on her knowledge of weaving to younger generations from around the community. When told by her instructor during her junior year at Oakville High School that she needed to develop and implement a project for a cultural art credit prior to graduation from high school, Shelby had no doubt in her mind what her project would be. Shelby wanted to give back to her community by sharing her weaving skills, which she had learned from her family, and access to participating in tribal sponsored weaving classes. Shelby took upon herself to attend “The Red Cedar Hat Club”.

Shelby McCorry is an Oakville High School Senior who has made the commitment in passing on weaving traditions.

Youth Learn Language, Cedar Wood While Making Gifts for Moms

By Fred Shortman, Editor

In April youth made an assortment of gifts for Mother’s Day. What a special way to honor mothers and recognize the love and time they commit to raising their children. The youth were involved in classes in the Cultural and Youth Center classrooms. They were focused and committed to finishing their projects so they could present them to their mothers.

Cultural Center

At the Cultural Center classroom, children, parents, and the youth learned and making handmade cedar roses. This two-day class involved decorating pots with Elders Sherri Pipkunik and Diane Devlin. Their commitment greatly assisted the completion of these projects and they also assisted by Elaine Elmer McCloid in the making of cedar roses. On a special note, the Penobscot Cultural Center has “Happy Mothers Day” in the Chehalis language placed on each individual pot and the youth learned how to say “Happy Mother’s Day” when they presented the special gifts.

Oakville Senior Honors Chehalis Basket Weaver

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Jeanette WhiteClaw was born to Elsie (Beckwith) and Alfred Pepion. She is 64 years old. Her maternal grandparents were Lizzie (Williams) and Ernest Beckwith. Her paternal grandparents were John and Julia Pepion. Her only sister, Carol, has already passed on.

Jeanette’s mother, Elsie, had five brothers and four sisters, and her father came from a large family from the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana. He had nine brothers and ten sisters. Several of her father’s sisters lived to be over 100 years old. She has 27 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She has been married to Richard Hazen since 1997.

Elders Can Continue Living at Home by Using These Easy Safety Tips

For the majority of Native American elders, living at home is their preference and, in most cases, is the preference of first and foremost. Unfortunately, many elders have to leave their homes because they have difficulty or some difficulty in carrying out simple changes you can make in your home that will make living at home safer and more comfortable. There are simple changes you can make in your home that will make living at home safer and more comfortable. You can begin making some of these simple changes right now.

Increase Lighting Throughout Your Home
- Open the curtains and use natural light.
- When you have to turn on lights, replace them with higher wattage bulbs, especially the lights over the counters and stove in the kitchen, in the bathroom, on porches and sidewalks, and in entrance halls and stairways.

Walk Safely
- Remove all rugs that you could slip or trip over.
- Remove clutter in the hallways, doorways, and stairs so you can walk safely and don’t hurt yourself.
- Remove or replace any worn or torn carpeting and linoleum. Nail down tiles so they don’t slip or buckle. There are special non-slip floor bands that are easy to put in or stick on.
- Make sure no nail heads are sticking out.
- See if someone can put handrails in the hallways so you have something to hold on to for support and balance.
- Wear shoes or slippers that are flat, non-skid, fit well, and are comfortable.
- Have grab bars handy for the bathroom and shower and extension cords in each room so you can move around safely without tripping.
- Paint or put bright colored tape along the edges of stairs so you can see where each step begins and ends.

Make Your Bathroom Safer
- If it is hard to sit on the toilet, you can buy a piece that attaches to your toilet seat to make it easier to get on and off.
- Change your toothbrush to one that allows you to control how hot the water is so you don’t burn yourself.
- Put a non-slip mat or a rubber mat on the floor of the tub or shower so you don’t slip and fall.
- Have someone put grab bars around the bathtub and near the toilet so you have something to hold on to. All that is necessary is a screwdriver or a tape measure.
- If you have trouble balancing or get tired easily when taking a shower, buy a bath bench to sit on while you shower. It is so much easier for you to take your shower.
- If you are interested in some grab bars, shower mats, walkers, canes, or a portable toilet, and you are an elder, please contact Christina Hicks at the Chehalis Tribes Wellness Center at 360-709-1741. You must be an elder over age 55.

Bankruptcy is a legal procedure for people or businesses unable to repay their outstanding debts. The two most common types of personal bankruptcy are Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. Chapter 7 is for chapters of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. Filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy is generally considered a worst-case scenario because the results are so long-lasting and far-reaching. Chapter 7 bankruptcy typically remains on your credit report for up to 10 years and it is very difficult to obtain credit, buy a home or rent, get insurance or a job.

It’s also expensive and complicated. Chapter 7 bankruptcy can cost thousands of dollars in up-front lawyer’s fees, plus fees for a court filing, mandatory credit counseling, and budgeting courses, and Chapter 13 is even more expensive. Under Chapter 13 (“reorganization”) bankruptcy, an administrator or trustee is appointed to sell most of your assets, except from certain exemptions that are primarily your primary residence, a car, clothing, home furnishings and work tools. Pensions and 401(k) accounts are typically protected as well. Once assets are liquidated, the trustee distributes the proceeds to your unsecured creditors. In exchange, many unsecured debts, such as credit card and medical bills, are discharged. However, secured or fixed debts, such as mortgages, student loans, taxes, alimony and child support are not discharged.

Eligibility for Chapter 7 is determined by a “means test” to confirm that your income does not exceed a certain amount. The court uses the means test to determine whether or not you have sufficient money available to make at least minimal payments to creditors under a Chapter 13 plan. If you fail the means test, your case will be dismissed or converted to a

Chapter 13 filing. Chapter 13 bankruptcy typically remains on your credit report for up to 10 years. Also, you must wait eight years after having a discharge before filing again. Under Chapter 13 (“reorganization”) bankruptcy, debts with steady income are discharged, but you might otherwise lose, in exchange for agreeing to have some to repay creditors over a three-to-five-year period. You are assigned a trustee with whom you develop a proposed debt repayment plan.

The bankruptcy court decides whether to accept or alter the plan, or to dictate another plan. After it’s approved, you and your creditors are bound by the plan’s terms. Generally, you make payments to a trustee who in turn distributes the funds according to the plan’s terms. Once all payments are completed, the court will formally grant a discharge of your debts.

Chapter 13 bankruptcy typically remains on your credit report for up to seven years. Also, you must wait at least two years after having debt discharged before being able to file Chapter 13 again.

Under bankruptcy law, before filing for bankruptcy you must first receive credit counseling from a government-approved organization within six months before filing. To find an approved credit counselor in your area, visit the U.S. Trustee Program at www.uscourts.gov. In addition, after filing but before your debt is discharged, you must also complete an approved debtor education program. (Go to www.justice.gov/ust/info/topics/bapcpa/de approved.html to find one.) You must receive certificates of completion from each group in order to proceed with your bankruptcy.

Honor your Elders: Jeanette WhiteClaw

Jeanette smiles and waves to her fellow Elders as she and her husband arrive at the Elders Christmas dinner.

This 1956 photo was taken at the Little White Church during the Christmas program when Lorraine was eight years old. Pictured behind (L-R) Worsor and Janette’s sister Carrol Joe.
18 and Under Girls

Taholah - Ly, Alicia
Chehalis - Jordan, Tammy
14 and Under Boys

Chehalis Marky - All Stars: Geo, Jacob and Jordan
Chehalis Ray Ray - All Stars: Oscar, Shaun, Logan

This was a fun, happy-go-lucky opening tournament. It was an exacting one to say the least. There was the very first-ever Point Contest (first ever in Indian Ball). Everyone was invited to participate. Our own Kayley Trent from the Chehalis Tribe took it for the girls division. Dustin Larkin won the boys division. The winners of this event received $20 cash prizes. It was a fun event and we should make this an annual event... Aaaye.

Another new one for us is the MVP’s from our 18U championship game, receiving $100 cash prizes. Winners of this were Cedric of Skok (2nd Place) and Jordan of Nisqually.

As you can see, the Chehalis Tribe was represented by having six teams in the tournament. This was awesome because without them this whole thing would have been half as fun. We are all thankful and feel very fortunate that we have a lucky break the way things worked out. It was an awesome tournament. This was awesome because our 18U championship and everyone had fun as they demonstrated their basketball skills on the court.

Enterprise

(continued from page 1)

access. Space was designed in collaboration with the tribes to accommodate the needs of the departments at EOT II along Anderson Road.

The 2.6 acre site is being developed by Chehalis Tribal Enterprises as a 34-site RV park, complete with water, electricity, WiFi, and a sanitary dump. “Mt. Chehalis” was created as the first stage of site preparation and it will soon disappear as the work on the site progresses. Confederated Construction Company (CCC), the tribe’s construction entity, is the prime contractor for the RV park.

Chehalis Tribal Recreational Vehicle Park Site Plans

Basketball Tourney (continued from page 1)

In the 18U girls division pictured here is Taholah playing Chehalis during the Youth Basketball Tournament. The game was close and both teams battled hard, with Taholah coming out on top. Dustin Larkin made the winning basket to make it a close game losing by only 1 point.

In the 18U boys division pictured here is Chehalis playing Taholah during the Youth Basketball Tournament. The game was very competitive and everyone had fun as they demonstrated their basketball skills on the court.

2010 Fisheries Steering Committee Seasonal Summary

By Andy Olson, Fisheries Biologist

The Chehalis Tribe Fisheries Program is staying busy even when they aren’t fishing. This past fish hatchery season has been open and fish are in the building. Sheena Tanner is happy to have some fish to care for, and looks forward to watching them grow. The fish are Rainbow Trout that will be released at the pond property for the Fatherhood Fishing Day on June 18th. More fish are in the works and eggs will be online in the near future. Hopefully some of the fragile runs can be helped by the Chehalis Tribe conservation effort and recovered with the hatchery.

The Steelhead season wasn’t as bleak as the Spring Chinook last year, as good numbers of fish returned and we had lots of large fish caught. The fishermen began to catch Steelhead in December and fished until February operating on a two- to four-a-week schedule. The fishermen made just over $13,000 and paid out over $500 in fish tax to the Fishermen’s Fund. The Steelhead averaged over eight pounds, and the biggest fish was over 23 pounds. During the 2009-2010 Steelhead season, there were usually excellent flows for fishing and 15 fisheries participated. There are lots of fish that really enjoy nice with amenities like the new digital scale and the large two-room walk-in coolers. The space available for us is great and we look forward to expanding the use of the fish house with processing.

We didn’t have any huge returns this year, so impacts on fish from them should be small, and the downstream migrant trap has counted lots of Spring and Fall Chinook and thousands of Coho. Hopefully ocean survival conditions are good and we can look forward to an upturn in the number of fish returning to the Chehalis.

The Spring Chinook forecast doesn’t allow for a commercial fishery this year, but the Salmon Ceremony fish will come from the Chehalis River and there will be a Tribal Salmon Ceremony for 2010. The fisherman will remember what happened in the 80’s with Steelhead, but most likely the coast will have plenty of fish returning to the Chehalis.

Health Fair (continued from page 1)

Cowiltz Tribe.

The ladies were given aaffle ticket, and a passport, which they took to each table for someone from each table to initial. Once this was completed, it was pronounced to the registration table for a gift bag. Each gift bag included breast health information, pink ribbon car magnet, key ring, bracelet, sun screen, lotion with SPF 70, and a pedicure.

The passport created interaction, ensuring that all tables were visited, and information was exchanged. Along with the blood pressure and diabetes screenings, H1N1 shots were also available. All the ladies had their pictures taken. They were printed on the spot and given to them in a frame.

There were also four different workshop presentations.

• Julie Rogers from Tribal Bead Program presented a 30-minute presentation on Hepatitis C, STD’s and HIV/AIDS.
• Rose Osborne from the Cancer Prevention Manager, did a healthy cooking demo and made homemade “chili mac.”
• Theresa York, a Chehalis tribal member, talked about the importance of women’s health screenings, monthly breast exams, CBE, and mammograms, and talked about her own battle with breast cancer and answered questions from the audience. Christina Hicks also talked about the NWWP, and mentioned that each of the NPPA tribes have this program. She also asked the ladies who did monthly CBE and mammograms to raise their hands, and also asked which they had “do not screenings” to raise their hands. Only a few had a raised a hand.

• Loren Stone, from the National Cervical Cancer Coalition-NW Pacific Chapter, did a presentation on HPV, cervical cancer, and screenings, and answered questions. All those workshops had about 35 in attendance.

There were door prize raffles every 30 minutes, the grand prize being a one night stay at the Eagle’s Landing Hotel. Also given away were two $500’s gift cards, Grand Buffet gift certificates, two $25 Shell Gift Cards, G-Technology T-shirts, bags, travel mugs, aprons, bath sets and lots more.

Thanks to all the sponsors that helped make this successful health fair: AVON, DISCO-tobacco funds, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and the Office of Women’s Health.

Facilities Master Plan

Thursday, June 4
4 PM - 6 PM
At the Community Center

The Chehalis Tribe Facilities Master Plan Team will have an open house style event on June 4th.

• The Team Presents the completed Facilities Master Plan.
• The Tribal Governance will present a new site plan update, and show how the various departments are working on their respective facilities and updates.

The open house location is at the Tribal Center, 1811 or email emyers@chehalistribe.org.

members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Upgrading Your Current Address with the BIA Can Find Big Money.

Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) is the term used for an Individual Indian Money (IIM) account whose current address information is not available to the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST). Some WAU accounts have thousands of dollars just waiting for account owners! Two account holders were glad they stopped by the OST outreach booth at an American Indian Festival in August of 2009. When the account holders updated their address information, they found that one account held more than $41,000 and the other had a balance over $6,000.

To find out if you have a WAU account, go to the OST website at www.doi.gov/ost/wau. Each of the listed names represents an account which may contain money for the account owner. However, some accounts have only land ownership interests. The Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC) is another source to check. Call the TBCC, toll free, at 1-888-678-6536 Monday through Friday from 6 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday from 6 AM to 11 AM.