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The April 3 grand opening of the new Elders Center gave the community a chance to explore the building.

# Elders Center opens doors

*Beautifully crafted building features traditional longhouse details with an eye to the future*

By Jacob Secena

Community members celebrated completion of the Chehalis Tribal Elders Center with a grand opening ceremony on April 3.

The project started in the fall of 2021. The spacious center taps into a traditional longhouse approach with concepts contributed by tribal elders and the Elders Committee.

Using personalized input from community members, the center

promotes a healthy and sustainable place for our elders' future events and meetings.

The building's slanted roof, wooden walls and log support beams reflect the cultural significance of a longhouse, bringing the community together.

"It's rare to get to work with so much wood construction," said Ron Phipps, project manager and superintendent of Pease Construction.

The previous Elders Center inspired

See **ELDERS CENTER** / page 2

## Gloves capture creativity

*Business combines baseball and art*

By Frazier Myer

Chehalis tribal member Ryan Burnett decided to swing for the fences when he created Rhyno Gloves.

His vibrant business offers a unique form of custom-designed artwork on baseball and softball gloves.

Burnett has found a way to express his creativity while staying involved with the game he is passionate about.

## Love of the game

Burnett has always had a fondness for baseball. Baby pictures of him with a baseball in his hands before he could walk attest to that. He played all through high

See **GLOVES** / page 4



Many Chehalis tribal elders, including Helen Sanders, Charlotte Lopez and Don Secena, attended the ceremony.



Former MLB pitcher Josh Richardson shows his custom glove from Rhyno Gloves.



# ELDERS



**Former Chehalis Tribe Chairman Don Secena introduces himself.**



After the event, comedian Mylo Smith shared: "Creator bless these rowdy and rough bunch of crazy grandmas and grandpas!"

## More than 400 gather for luncheon

*Chehalis Reservation hosts elders from across the region for warm and welcoming celebration*

The 2023 Chehalis Tribal Elders Luncheon had a triumphant return April 20 at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first Elders Luncheon hosted by the Chehalis tribal people since 2018.

More than 400 elders from tribes across the region traveled to celebrate together. Upon arrival, they each received a bag with gifts from tribal departments. Elders also had a chance to win raffle prizes throughout the day.

After guests finished their salmon plates, they were treated to a performance from comedian and wellness speaker Mylo Smith.

The Chehalis Elders program and employees of Lucky Eagle and Chehalis Tribal Government prepared for weeks leading up to the gathering, which is one of the largest the tribe holds on the reservation.



**After a long hiatus, the Elders Luncheon on April 20 was a special treat for tribal elders to spend time together.**



**Chehalis elder Curtis DuPuis thanks everyone.**



**Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush helped serve meals during the event.**



## ELDERS CENTER

*From page 1*

the more robust space that will provide the tribal elder community a wonderful place to meet for feasts, events and entertainment. With the tribe growing and prospering, the need for new building space also increased.

"The new Elders Center will be a place for elders to gather and visit with each other and the youth to tell stories and pass down traditions and hopes for the next seven generations," said former Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr.

The building was blessed by Elder Wayne Barr before doors opened for the celebration.

Elders were treated to a delicious first meal of prime rib or traditionally cooked salmon prepared in the new fish pit.

Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush helped out in the kitchen as he prepped plates and served the elders.

Thank you to everyone who made this event successful!

**The newly constructed Elders Center is packed with potential for the growing Chehalis Tribe.**

**The building uses rich wood and state-of-the-art features throughout.**



“It's rare to get to work with so much wood construction.”  
— PROJECT MANAGER **RON PHIPPS**

The center provides a sleek kitchen, lounging and dining areas, meeting space, an outdoor fish pit and traditional touches.



## GLOVES

From page 1

school and now participates in recreational leagues and all-native American tournaments (hardball and softball).

Though he found many ways to keep playing the sport after high school, Burnett wanted more opportunities to stay connected with the game he loves. That's when he started to focus specifically on baseball gloves – one of the main pieces of equipment.

### An idea is born

Burnett wanted to help others with their skill sets and development. At first, he started by breaking in different brands of baseball gloves to prep them for game usage. That's when he realized he could create something unique by personally designing the gloves to make them stand out and draw more interest.

He described his start in designing gloves as “a lot of trial and error.”

“My first glove that I tried designing didn't work out so well,” Burnett said.

The design bled. He then started thinking of methods to make the designs permanent. That is when Burnett found a specific ink that creates a solid color dye on the glove.

His business took off from that point and has become supplemental income for Burnett, who works full time as a patrol officer for the Chehalis Tribal Public Safety Department.



### Custom designs

Burnett's background with art is limited. He took a couple of art classes in school but only worked with a few different mediums and did not study any form extensively.

When starting a design for a client, he asks specific questions to learn more about the customer's background. This helps Burnett develop one-of-a-kind designs for each individual.

Burnett has created various designs to represent his customers' cultural backgrounds. These include Hawaiian, Samoan and various Native American styles from different regions of the country.

Working closely with clients has given him the opportunity to explore patterns and styles of different tribes. Burnett makes sure to learn as much about each culture's art so he can respect traditions.



### Work in progress

It took time and practice for Burnett to become comfortable designing for others. He started the passion project and shared his first glove to social media in 2015. He explained that he used the glove as a “trial and error glove,” which he placed out in



Ryan Burnett's baseball glove art was displayed at the Washington State Museum of Natural History.



the rain to see what types of ink would bleed and what would be permanent.

The first piece he designed was inspired by Quinault Indian Nation and included totem poles on the outside webbing of the glove.

To create the permanent design, Burnett uses India ink. He loads a pen-marker with the ink and completes each design freehand.

### Unique gloves get attention

He said he didn't think it was possible to turn his hobby into a profession and make money until 2019 when one of his gloves was entered in an art contest hosted by the Washington State Historical Society. His work was displayed in an exhibit at the Washington State Museum of Natural History in Tacoma.

See **GLOVES** / page 5





# Officers formally join Public Safety team

Corrections officers Jordyn Bagwell and Hunter Fields officially became the newest members of the Chehalis Tribe Public Safety team during a swearing-in ceremony March 15 on the Chehalis Reservation.

Chehalis Tribe Chief of Police Kelly Edwards directed the ceremony in which officers took their oath to protect and serve the tribal community.

Family members and fellow Public Safety staff attended the event to show support for the new additions.

**From left: Jail Manager Scott Williams, Corrections Lieutenant Alicia Potts, Corrections Officer Hunter Fields, Corrections Officer Jordyn Bagwell and Chief of Police Kelly Edwards.**



## GLOVES

*From page 4*

Burnett said that when a piece is entered into the contest, a sales price is listed on the item. His glove was purchased, which proved there was a market for his niche gloves. People became interested in purchasing Burnett's Rhino Gloves and business has increased.

## Looking ahead

"I try not to have my own style because I like to stay as diverse as I can be," Burnett said. "I just wanted to be an artist without a label."

During the first few years designing gloves, Burnett said he intentionally did not use Native American designs because he didn't want to limit the possibilities and be viewed as an artist that only creates that style of work.

A major reason Burnett wanted to get into glove design was to stay close to the sport he loves in a way that promotes creative freedom. He sought to add flare to the game and hopefully draw in the younger generation.

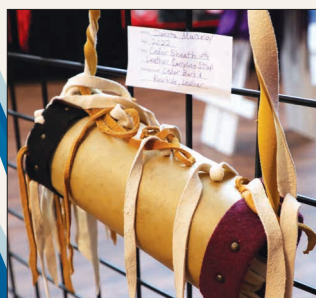
Burnett found a method to stay involved while evolving the game. His work has even caught the eye of MLB players. Strict guidelines prevent custom gloves in professional games, but they can be used during practice or saved as collector's items.

Burnett said he enjoys the challenge of designing gloves with subtle artwork.



**MAY 26-29**

## Chehalis Tribal Days MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



- Men's hardball +1 token
- Women's softball +1 token
- Co-ed softball +1 men's token and +1 women's token

**\$350 entry per team**

- ✓ Make checks payable to: Chehalis Tribe, P.O. Box 536, Oakville, WA 98568

**Awards: First through fourth place, MVP, all-stars and best bat**

**BLOCK OF ROOMS AVAILABLE AT  
LUCKY EAGLE CASINO & HOTEL**

Call 360-273-2000 or 800-720-1788

## 5TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT

Chehalis tribal members who are interested in displaying their art should contact Sheilah Bray at 360-709-1783 or [sbray@chehalis-tribe.org](mailto:sbray@chehalis-tribe.org).

## 15TH ANNUAL CANCER WALK

Show your support with family and friends!

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES & MORE

**Contact:** Call Philip Youckton at 360-709-1752, email [pyouckton@chehalis-tribe.org](mailto:pyouckton@chehalis-tribe.org) or text 360-688-3380 for questions about the tournaments, Cancer Walk, Coastal Jam or vendor spaces

**FOOD VENDORS:** Chehalis tribal members only



# HEALTH/WELLNESS

## Employees Wear Red in support

Chehalis Tribal Government employees showed their support for the women in their lives on National Wear Red Day on Feb. 3.

Staff gathered at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center for a photo and to help bring recognition to the risk of heart disease.

Studies show that 80% of cardiac concerns can be prevented with education and lifestyle change.

Visit [www.wearredday.org](http://www.wearredday.org) for more about the movement.



## Need diapers?

Diapers are not cheap. Often, those in low-income families face high costs and limited supplies of this essential need.

One in three parents in the United States struggles with diaper scarcity.

Diapers are a necessary expense in raising children. When supplies are low or absent, it can add to the challenges of maintaining consistent childcare and steady employment.

SPIPA is excited to be able to provide diaper distribution services to eligible tribal members.

The Diaper Distribution on Reservations Project works with other SPIPA Programs to deliver diapering needs to eligible families with children residing in the SPIPA service area.

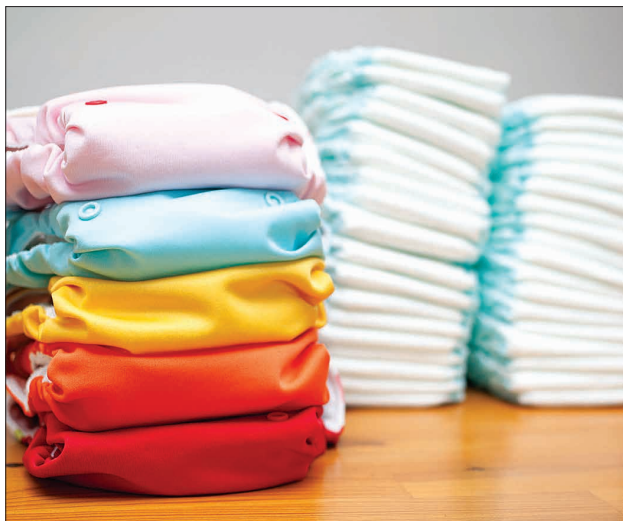


### Eligibility

- At least one household member is enrolled in a SPIPA consortium tribe
- Must meet income guidelines
- You are eligible to receive diaper distribution if you qualify for:
  - Food vouchers
  - LIHEAP/weatherization
  - USDA Foods
  - WIC
  - Workforce Development Programs

### MORE INFORMATION

Fill out the form at [spipa.org/family-and-community-resources](http://spipa.org/family-and-community-resources). For questions, email [ddor@spipa.org](mailto:ddor@spipa.org).



## Program offers fresh, local food

For a limited time, South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency is partnering with regional disadvantaged farmers to provide tribal members with fresh local produce, meat, eggs, dairy products and bread (not all items will be available at the same time).

### Availability

Items will be offered monthly on a first come, first served basis (one pickup per household). Each month will feature different items. Boxes are limited. Please allow priority to elders and low-income households.

### Eligibility

You must present proof of Chehalis tribal ID at time of pickup. No holds or pickups for others.

For more information, call 360-426-3990 or go to [spipa.org/family-and-community-resources](http://spipa.org/family-and-community-resources)

### Next pickup date

Food will be available from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. May 19 at The Community Center (while supplies last). Boxes will contain bread, eggs, ground beef, potatoes and oranges.





# Tips to stretch your budget

Saving money on a limited budget can be difficult, but it is possible. Here are ways you can save on daily expenses:

## Create a budget/stick to it

- Know your income and your expenses.
- Understand the difference between needs and your wants.

## Clothes and toys

- Shop thrift stores instead of buying new items.
- Check local clothing banks at churches or nonprofits.
- Check out Facebook groups.
- Take advantage of yard and garage sales and buy clothing in the next size up for your child.

## Community resources

- Join a local buy-nothing site on Facebook to exchange items with members of your community.
- Borrow from a friend or neighbor.
- Find out what assistance your local family support center offers.
- Attend free local community events and library programs for fun.



## Don't forget

- Give your child time. It is far more valuable and needed than toys.
- Keep water and snacks in your car to avoid costs of eating out.

MAY 19TH-21ST 2023

CHEHALIS TRIBAL  
COMMUNITY CENTER

# YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

BOYS AND GIRLS  
HIGH SCHOOL AND  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

\$300 ENTRY FEE  
1ST, 2ND, 3RD  
PLACE PRIZES  
ALL NATIVE +1

CONTACT  
LEROY BOYD  
(360)628-7537

GO TO [WWW.LUCKYEAGLE.COM](http://WWW.LUCKYEAGLE.COM). USE OFFER CODE "YTTRIBE"  
DURING BOOKING (ROOMS ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED)

## WIC support

**NEXT DATE: JUNE 8**

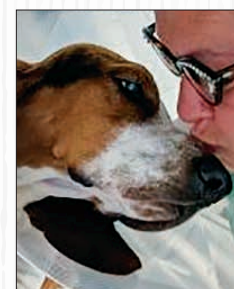
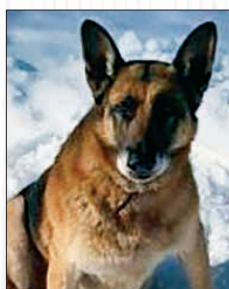
WIC foods meet the special nutritional needs of pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum moms; infants; and children up to age 5. WIC supports successful breastfeeding.

### CONTACT

Phone call appointments continue through August. We will call you on your appointment day. Call Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689

### FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY FOR WIC

Go to [doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/wic/wic-eligibility](http://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/wic/wic-eligibility).



**DONATE NOW**

## Help for pets

Our nonprofit agency Rez Animal serves the Chehalis, Nisqually, Shoalwater Bay, Squaxin Island and Skokomish tribal communities

THANKS TO DONATIONS, WE OFFER:

- Animal rescue
- Adoption
- Spay/neuter services
- Emergency vet care

253-370-6392, [rezanimals.com](http://rezanimals.com)



# YOUTH

## *Sweet St. Patrick's Day*

On March 16, the Chehalis Tribal Early Learning classrooms used evidence to locate the St. Patrick's Day leprechaun.

Youngsters followed the trickster's trail and worked on a plan to track him somewhere on the tribal campus.

Accompanied by parents, guardians and teachers, the classrooms walked through the

main Tribal Center halls following a path of green footprints. As they entered the Tribal Center, they were greeted by Chehalis tribal employees who offered holiday-themed candy and gifts for the kiddos.

Thank you to everyone who donated treats for students to enjoy during this adorable holiday celebration.



Chehalis tribal staff helped Early Learning and Head Start kids celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a treasure trove of candy.



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

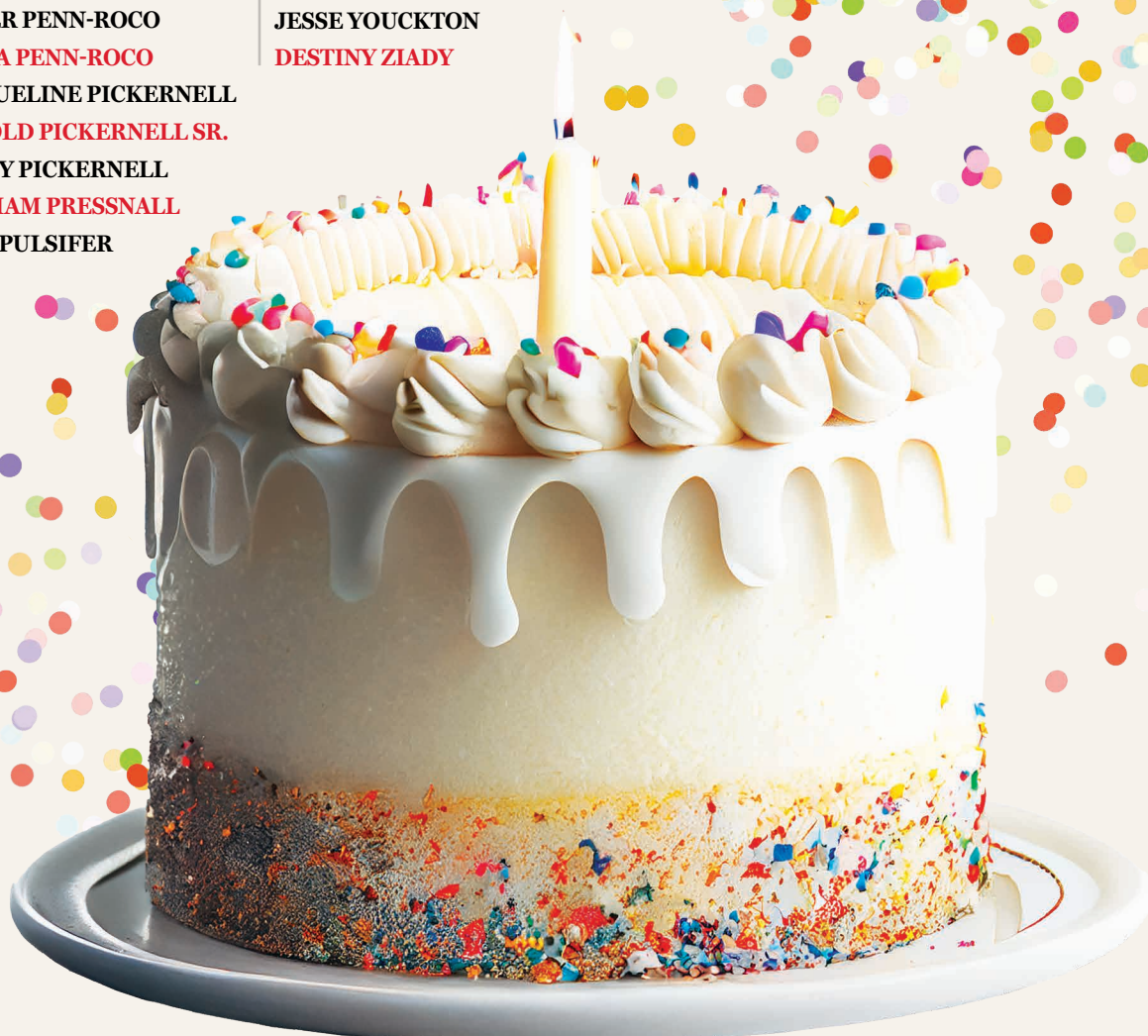
LONDYN ADAMS  
BOBBY BECKWITH  
STEVEN BROUARD  
TONY BROWN  
JOSEPH BURNS  
SAVANNA BUSH-BIRD  
AURORA CARTER  
BRANDON CASH  
ILIAS CHARLES  
LUCILLE CUSH  
CHYLER DANIELS  
LEO DANIELS-MEDDAUGH  
RODNEY DAVIS  
MATTEO DELGADO  
JOSEPH DUPUIS  
CURTIS DUPUIS  
LINDSEY FAGA  
ADAM FLORES  
COLE FULTON  
TIERA GARRETY  
JANET GLEASON VAN  
STEGALL  
DUANE GLEASON-  
WHEELER  
JESSIE GODDARD  
ROGER GOLDMAN  
MICHAEL HALTOM  
DAMIUS HANSEN  
GAVIN HERNANDEZ  
VALEA HIGHEAGLE

MERRY BETH  
HOFSTETTER  
CHRISTIAN HOHEISEL  
PATRICIA JONES  
JOEL JONES  
SERENITY KLATUSH  
AIREL KLATUSH  
PAULA KLATUSH  
JANICE LATCH  
STEESHA MCJOE  
LAUREN MCALISTER  
DANTE MCGEE  
TEIN MEAS  
ARTHUR MEDINA  
SARAH MOORE  
EMILY MORDHORST  
SHAWN ORTIVEZ  
NORA ORTIVEZ  
ELIJAH PALMER  
TERESA PANNKUK  
AIDEN PARKINSON  
AMARA PENN  
ROBERT PENN  
AMBER PENN-ROCO  
SASHA PENN-ROCO  
JACQUELINE PICKERNELL  
HAROLD PICKERNELL SR.  
BRADY PICKERNELL  
WILLIAM PRESSNALL  
LELA PULSIFER

JOAQUIN ROBLES  
ARTIE ROMERO  
RAELYN ROMERO  
RAYMOND ROOF  
SHEYLEE ROSBAUGH  
ROSALINA SANCHEZ  
GERARDO SANCHEZ  
AIDEN SECENA-SANDERS  
ADDISON SEKISHIRO  
ALEXANDER SHORTMAN  
TIFFANY SIMMONS  
ASA SIMMONS  
ROBERT SMITH  
JAMIE SMITH  
ELI SNELL  
VIOLET SNELL  
RIKKI SUTTERLICHT  
SUNDAY TEJEDA  
THOMAS TROTT  
AUSTIN VIGIL  
FAWN WITTWER  
FARLEY YOUNCKTON  
ANN-MARIE YOUNCKTON  
JESSE YOUNCKTON  
DESTINY ZIADY

## SEND IN JUNE WISHES!

We would love to feature your messages to family and friends celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Please send your name, the full name of the person you want to send the wish to and a high-resolution picture (if desired) to [news@chehalistribune.org](mailto:news@chehalistribune.org).







# Honoring veterans

Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, in partnership with the Chehalis Tribe, held the 20th annual Veterans Day Dinner on Nov. 11 at the casino's events center. The gathering pays tribute to those who have selflessly served in the country's armed forces.

The event honors the national holiday with a hearty meal, a raffle of various gifts for veterans and an open stage for those who would like to offer their heartwarming stories of resiliency.

The Lucky Eagle Food and Beverage team prepared a simple yet elegant buffet-style meal of salmon, chicken, red potatoes, salads and cupcakes for dessert.

**It was an evening of honor, support and remembering sacrifice as family, friends and those who served in the United States' military branches attended the 20th annual Veterans Day Dinner at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel in November.**



Veterans Day is an important holiday to show gratitude to the brave men and women who protect the United States.

The first celebration began in 1947 in Birmingham, Alabama. It kicked off with a parade and other festivities.

Veterans Day in Indian Country has significant importance with Native Americans serving a crucial role in historical wars such as Navajo Code Talkers in WWII and Marine Corps Cpl. Ira Hayes in Iwo Jima during WWII.

This year's dinner proved a huge success with a roomful of veterans and their families and community members joining together in solidarity.





Wa-He-Lute Indian School students and staff give a drum performance at the Hazel Pete basketry conference.



# Masterful weaving

*Traditional handmade art taught during two-day conference*

The Hazel Pete Institute of Chehalis Basketry hosted a weaving conference on the Chehalis Reservation on Feb. 17-18. The event was open to the public and hundreds of people came to learn from master weavers.

Other forms of traditional handmade art were also taught at the conference, such as beading and painting. The event was designed for all skill levels, from beginner to accomplished.

## FEATURED ARTISTS

Some of the featured artists and their mediums included:

**Trudy Marcellay** (traditional cedar hat)

**Donna Choke** and **Anthony Choke** (cedar headbands)

**Billie Higheagle** (sweet grass medallions)

**Coby Higheagle** (wapus bags)

**Gabe Higheagle** (cedar storage basket)

**Whitney Higheagle** (wire weaving over precious stone)

**Dakota Marcellay** (painted cedar items)

**Kris Miller** (cedar necklace)

**Elaine McCloud** (cedar tunic on dolls)

**LaVerne Squally** (cedar basket necklace)

**Gail Whiteeagle** (cedar basket kits)

**Skylar Whiteeagle** (cattail berry basket)

**Kimberly Miller** (Skokomish tool box/basket)

**Laverne Kearns** (beaded dream catcher/earrings)

**Morningstar** (beading projects, moccasin kits)

**Ed Carrier** (traditional weaver/demonstration)



## MORE INFORMATION

For questions and to register for future conferences, contact Yvonne Peterson at **360-490-6559**.



# CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

## The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, 'People of the Sands'

Articles and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of this publication or the Chehalis Tribal Business Committee.

### SUBMISSIONS

Tribal members are encouraged to submit birthday and anniversary wishes, letters, articles, photos and drawings to be considered for publication in the newsletter (materials are subject to editing). Contributing writers, artists and photographers include Chehalis tribal community members/staff.

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Frazier Myer, Audra J. Hill and the Information Technology Team

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Oakville, WA 98568

**Office:** 360-709-1726

**Fax:** 360-273-5914

### VISION STATEMENT

To be a thriving, self-sufficient, sovereign people, honoring our past and serving current and future generations.



### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Chairman:** Dustin Klatush

**Vice Chairman:** Leroy Boyd

**Treasurer:** Sheilah Bray

**Secretary:** Charlotte Lopez

**Fifth Council Member:**

Rachelle Wells-Ferguson

[chehalistribe.org](http://chehalistribe.org)

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**The Chehalis Tribal Newsletter is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation**

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# River flood plan aims to reduce damages

## *LAND committee works on alternatives to proposed Chehalis River dam*

*Contributed by Glen Connelly,  
Natural Resources Director*

Many of you have probably heard that there are people in Lewis County who are promoting a dam to try to control flooding on the upper Chehalis River.



However, the Local Actions Non-Dam Committee (LAND) is evaluating options to the proposed flood retention dam and working to

come up with a large-scale plan to limit damages created by flooding.

The committee is made up of those who represent interests in Lewis County, environmental protection professionals and people who represent tribal interests. I am one of the co-chairs.

We have hired a consulting team lead by MIG to help us design the plan. MIG and its team are creating maps to show where flood damages occur, then gathering input from people in affected communities to produce alternatives.

The goal is to come up with



**Strategies are being explored to ease drastic flooding in areas such as Howanut Road along the Chehalis River.**

a bunch of small projects that will help people, businesses and wildlife survive flooding.

The final plan is likely to feature projects such as raising hundreds of homes, buying out structures that are in dangerous areas, building small levees or routing flood waters around pinch points and purchasing nearby land to give floodwaters room to spread out.

Other projects might include flood proofing structures to

handle temporary flooding or modifying agricultural fields to stay flooded longer to keep water from flowing into neighborhoods.

LAND is engaging with city and county planners, residents, businesses, experts from state agencies and local and tribal governments to find sustainable ways to limit damages from flooding that won't cause major environmental or cultural impacts.

### GET IN TOUCH

Members of the Chehalis tribal community can check out the Chehalis Basin Strategy's website at [www.chehalisbasinland.com](http://www.chehalisbasinland.com) to learn more about the LAND Committee's efforts to help people in the upper Chehalis Basin. For more information, contact Glenn Connelly at **360-273-5911** or [cdnr@chehalistribe.org](mailto:cdnr@chehalistribe.org).