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 school.

See GLOVES / page 4
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 the event, comedian Mylo Smith shared: “Creator bless these rowdy and rough bunch of crazy grandmas and grandpas!”

Former Chehalis Tribe Chairman Don Secena introduces himself.

More than 400 gather for luncheon
Chehalis Reservation hosts elders from across the region for warm and welcoming celebration

Chehalis elder Curtis DuPuis thanks everyone.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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 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.
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 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.
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.
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 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

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

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.

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.
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.
MAY BIRTHDAYS

LONDYN ADAMS
BOBBY RECKWITH
STEVEN BROUARD
TONY BROWN
JOSEPH BURNS
SAVANNA BUSH-BIRD
AURORA CARTER
BRANDON CASH
ILLIAS 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 PANNUK
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
ARTE ROMERO
RAELYN ROMERO
RAYMOND ROOF
SHEYLEE ROSBAUGH
ROSALINA SANCHEZ
GERARDO SANCHEZ
AIDEN SECENA-SANDERS
ADDISON SEKISHIRO
ALEXANDER SHORTMAN
TIFANY SIMMONS
ASA SIMMONS
ROBERT SMITH
JAMIE SMITH
ELI SNELL
VIOLET SNELL
Rikki SUTTERLICT
SUNDAY TEJEDA
THOMAS TROTT
AUSTIN VIGIL
FAWN WITTWER
FARLEY YOUCKTON
ANN-MARIE YOUCKTON
JESSE YOUCKTON
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@chehalistribe.org.
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.

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.

Honoring veterans

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.
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.
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 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.

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

Members of the Chehalis tribal community can check out the Chehalis Basin Strategy’s website at 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.