

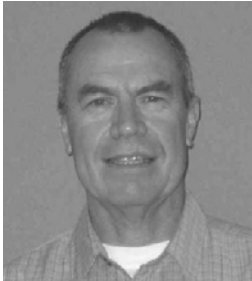


# Cowlitz Indian Tribe

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 1  
2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

## YOOYOOLAH!

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am thrilled to announce to all of you and to rejoice with you that as of March 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015, **THE COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE NOW HAS A RESERVATION!**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director Stanley Speaks signed final deeds accepting our land into trust which establishes the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Reservation on a most historic day for all Cowlitz, past and present. Our first ever Reservation provides us with the same opportunities other federally recognized tribes have access to, finally bringing the Cowlitz to a level playing field. The Secretary of the Department of Interior has now acquired land for the Cowlitz.

Our landmark court decision was issued by United States District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein on December 12th, 2014. It dismissed the appeal by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's opponents and reaffirmed the Federal Government's decision to take 152 acres in Clark County into trust for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

After 160 years of hard work by generations of our tribal members and leaders seeking a Reservation within our aboriginal lands, all Cowlitz people are now welcome to come home. We are no longer a landless tribe. Injustices done to Cowlitz people and the absence of federal services afforded other federally recognized tribes with a reservation has ended. The Cowlitz Reservation offers new opportunities for all of us to flourish in our aboriginal land and the community which the Tribe is establishing will sustain us for generations to come.

After years of perseverance and determination, the Cowlitz Tribe is poised to build our casino. This will be a very busy time for our Development Team. The Cowlitz Casino is now scheduled to be completed for a grand opening in the summer of 2017 which is based

on our construction timelines. We are planning to break ground for construction as soon as January 2016. Development Board has chosen Friedmutter Group out of Las Vegas as the Architect and a general contractor for the project design build contract. After reviewing proposals from three general contractors with Friedmutter and the Salishan-Mohegan team, the Development Board selected a local builder with extensive casino experience as our general contractor for the project. We are now working on plan development and selection of sub-contractors. Work on the intersection improvement project is moving forward on the same schedule. Our consultant expects to complete the Intersection Justification Report (IJR) approval by mid-summer. The construction contract will include all casino construction, construction of the primary reservation roads, utility infrastructure for the reservation and construction of the interchange. All of this work will be included under a guaranteed price with an agreed upon schedule. Sewer planning continues with the City of La Center, while an appeal of their sewer service to the reservation is in process. La Center leadership is rigorously pushing to gain final approval. An onsite sewer system remains an alternate option. Financing for the project is a major effort. We have a strong position in the market now due to all the gains we have made in the last year. Bringing the land into trust has brought a major impact to our project.

Earlier this year, our tribal-state compact was approved by the state gambling commission. We were the **ONLY TRIBE** in Washington State without a compact prior to this important sanction. With the compact, we have begun to lease our slot machine allocation to other tribes, bringing vital leasing revenue to the tribe for the very first time, a tremendous new resource for Cowlitz people. We will have secured long term leases for 850 machines. In addition, we signed a short term lease for 50 machines. We will continue discussions

with additional Tribes for leasing our remaining machines. The leases signed so far will produce annual revenues of about \$2.9 million. We will need to return the allocation to Cowlitz Gaming Authority when we commence operation of the Cowlitz casino when all appeals are done. Any terminals beyond the tribe's allotted terminals would have to lease from other tribes, however. Upon opening the Cowlitz casino, we will be able to lease additional machine allocations since we expect to open with 2000 machines. We expect that number to grow quickly to 3000 if market projections are true. Initially, a wager limit would be set at \$250, but after a year the limit could increase to \$500. The tribe could also have as many as 3,000 "tribal lottery player stations," with as many as 2,500 in one facility. The compact will be applicable for casino operation to allow for two gaming facilities. One could have as many as 75 gaming tables, and a second could have up to 50 tables.

The approved Compact amendment X-1 adds more terminals to statewide allocation which is needed for our casino. Governor Inslee has signed the compact amendments and has transmitted them to the BIA for approval which we expect to occur within the next few weeks. After it is approved, it will add 100 machines for each tribe and include an allowance to increase the pool of terminals available statewide so we will be guaranteed a sufficient supply of terminals needed for our gaming operation.

We are now able to access many opportunities that come with having trust land:

- Interest-free or low interest-rate loans from USDA
- Rural Development Program services for housing-related infrastructure, water, sewer, improvements; tribal members would be able to access these if parcel were in trust
- Households purchasing cars without sales tax in Washington State
- Natural resources grant funding -- Tribal Wildlife Grant Program (wildlife restoration grants);
- Indian Business Development program
- Numerous financial assistance and social services programs (e.g., tribal burial assistance, tribal work experience program, disaster assistance, emergency assistance, adult care assistance)
- Employment Assistance for Adult Indians
- Vocational Training for Adult Indians
- Tribal court grants

- DOT expansion grants -- to expand tribal transportation programs
- Emergency management grants for police and fire department
- Education grants
- USDA Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Transportation - expanded transportation service delivery area and enhanced service to members and resulting from more funding options
- Economic development opportunities such as;
  - Convenience Store
  - Gas/fuel compact
  - Property taxes burden will be reduced
  - Tobacco compact
  - Alcohol compact

Now that our reservation has been established, tribal members will receive an exemption from state taxes on your purchases. Federal law prohibits the state from taxing an Indian on their Indian country. Thus, the Cowlitz Tribe and its citizens do not owe state or local taxes for purchases of services and items that are delivered to them in on the reservation. An advisory note from the Department of Revenue is included in the newsletter to make sure you are aware of the documentation required for this exemption.

We must give many thanks to Washington State University (WSU) for their support of Cowlitz students. The University announced recipients for the MOU and Plateau Scholarships.

Plateau Native American Scholarship ([native.wsu.edu/tribal-liaison/scholarships/plateau.html](http://native.wsu.edu/tribal-liaison/scholarships/plateau.html))

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must be an enrolled member of OR show proof of ancestry from a tribe or tribes known as Plateau Salishan, Sahaptin, or Kootenai. Financial need, academic performance, and essay statement will determine selection. Preference given to students pursuing undergraduate degrees and to students pursuing a field of study within the College of Liberal Arts. This scholarship is renewable.

Cowlitz Recipients: Emma Johnson, John Reichel, Shay Workman and Tyler Workman

MOU Tribal Scholarship ([native.wsu.edu/tribal-liaison/scholarships/MOU scholarship.html](http://native.wsu.edu/tribal-liaison/scholarships/MOU scholarship.html))

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** The

MOU Tribal Scholarship was developed through the Provost Office of WSU for members of the ten tribes that are signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with WSU. Each award is for \$2000 per year for new incoming students. New incoming students include freshmen and transfer students. The award is renewable.

Cowlitz Recipients: Emma Johnson and John Reichel

Our D218 Scholarship program is well received with a record high of 50 applications this year. We thank the education committee for all their hard work and volunteer time.

The Health and Human Services Department has experienced rapid growth over the last several years. To better meet the needs of the tribe, we restructured the leadership in HHS with a focus on succession planning. Steve Kutz was appointed as Director of the Health and Human Service Department. Jim Sherrill moved to the position of Deputy Director, to focus on Human Services.

We cannot move forward to implement the proposed changes to the Health and Human Services Department without first acknowledging how the Department got to this point: with surplus revenue, long term CARF accreditation in place and AAAHC accreditation underway, a beautiful new clinic and wonderful new facilities in Vancouver and Seattle, and credibility among leaders in Washington D.C., and in our own regional tribal, state and local governments.

These accomplishments have been achieved under the stewardship of former Director, Jim Sherrill. In partnership with Director Steve Kutz, Jim has guided the growth of the Department in scope, scale and quality each year. Our organization has its challenges too, but these challenges are the problems that come with rapid growth and our growth is an indicator of success in serving our community. I welcome the chance to continue to work with Jim and Steve as their roles evolve and our organization restructures.

A consultant's performance review reported that "the Health and Human Services Department must meet ever increasing regulatory demands, to optimize the service delivery. The consultant was impressed by the passion with which many employees approach their work and their commitment to the Cowlitz Tribal mission. "The Department has high quality, skilled and dedicated professionals who have

the ability to masterfully execute health care delivery to the Cowlitz Tribe's patient population. This is a strength that other comparable organizations we have reviewed do not possess and provides a strong base on which the Department can build." stated the consultant. After a careful financial review, they also reported "the Seattle Clinic covered all of its operational costs and added additional revenue to the (HHS) Department bottom line." The consultant provided further recommendations that have been addressed.

We brought in an outside consultant to facilitate discussions on improving effectiveness of committees, boards and the Tribal Council. We are moving forward on additional board and council training as well as strategic planning to insure we meet the needs of our tribal community as we build our economic strength and insure the best use of our revenues and resources.

Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing's new low income Elder Housing Complex, at Saint Mary's, is increasing occupancy in the efficiency apartments and the 1 bedroom condo-type units. Please call (360) 864-8720 for further information.

We have stayed to the high road since we applied to take the land into trust in 2002. We prevailed when our Record of Decision was issued and appealed by the La Center Card Rooms, the Grand Ronde Tribe, Clark County, the city of Vancouver and other plaintiffs. They have appealed the district court decision to the Appeals court in Washington DC.

Our new Cowlitz reservation is a huge victory, and we are confident that we will prevail in appeals court, with both justice and historic fact supporting our case against the opponents, who are fueled only by greed. We have received a strong and positive decision in federal district court, and we WILL prevail in this final step.

Thank you all for being actively involved in your government. We can all share pride in the accomplishments of the Cowlitz Tribe. Cowlitz history is unfolding before our eyes as we build a legacy for all future generations to come!

AMR  
Tribal Chairman William Iyall





## FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

The year 2015 will forever be remembered by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. On March 9th of this year, our Tribe for the first time in history got trust

land and a reservation authorized and recognized by the Federal Government. The signing of the Trust Deed in Portland by Regional Director of BIA is another important step forward for Cowlitz People. I am confident the Federal Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. will uphold the long awaited decision from last year that allows this land to be our initial reservation. We will be able to move forward with additional funding and programs that were withheld from us because we were a landless Tribe. I am proud to be part of the dedicated and hardworking team that continues to work for the Cowlitz Tribe and our people.

There are many other important and exciting things happening for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. We continue to make changes in the Health and Human Services Department. It is important that recommendations made by our outside consultants be followed through, and the recommendations made by our Members be given consideration, so we can make our Health Programs stronger and continue to provide excellent quality health care for our Tribe.

I really hope we can improve our communication and our ability to provide timely information to our People. I had to submit this article on April 20, 2015, and I am unsure when this newsletter will be sent out. In the past, it has taken months for members to receive their newsletters. We can and must update our website and provide more timely newsletters to our members.

It will be important for Tribal Members to attend the June 6, 2015 General Council meeting. There will be important elections for the General Council Chairman and Secretary positions, along with six Tribal Council positions. There will also be a vote on second reading for a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow eligible individuals to apply for Cowlitz Tribal membership when they turn 18 years old. The proposed amendment would allow otherwise eligible individuals to apply for enrollment when they turn 18, for a one year period. The amendment will need a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote to be approved

and would then take effect immediately. I fully support this narrow enrollment change to allow enrollment of eligible Cowlitz who, for whatever reason, did not get enrolled by a parent or guardian in the past.

We will be able to rename the main street on our reservation. It is now called 319th Street. I know together we will agree on an appropriate name. I favor some variation of Cowlitz Street, Cowlitz Way, or something to that effect. We will also have new side streets that will require new appropriate Cowlitz Names. I encourage members to bring their ideas and suggestions to our General Council meeting. This will be a great discussion to have. I always enjoy talking to our Cowlitz Members, Family, and Friends, and look forward to seeing many of you at the June meeting.

Philip Harju  
General Council Vice-Chairman



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Human Resources had 11 job openings posted at one time on the Cowlitz website which was a record high for the Tribe. We are very proud of the growth at the Tukwila, Toledo, Longview, and Vancouver sites. The Administration department hired a full time Tribal Administration Manager who works in Longview and Vancouver to support facilities at both sites.

Facebook: The Tribe's Facebook page ([facebook.com/cowlitzindiantribe](https://www.facebook.com/cowlitzindiantribe)) generated quite a buzz in March with 142,990 people reached during the week our land was signed into trust. Legislatures, reporters, and tribal chairs "like" the page and share posts. "Like" Cowlitz Indian Tribe to join the social media community on Facebook. All recommendations for Facebook posts can be directed to Administrator, Whitney Devlin at (360) 577-8140.

Website: [Cowlitz.org](http://Cowlitz.org) has a team of individuals working with the IT Specialist to improve the website. Links to Reservation news articles are now provided and tribal contact information is easily accessible. All recommendations for website publications can be directed to IT Specialist, Dan Meyer at (360) 577-8140 or [dmeyer@cowlitz.org](mailto:dmeyer@cowlitz.org)

Child Care: On behalf of the Tribe, the Cowlitz Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) leads as representatives in committee meetings to guide implementation and continue building on the commitment to high quality services for children, families and communities.

On Thursday, April 30th CCDP staff facilitated the first event with families and providers. During the session, program staff discussed the importance of First Aid/CPR, provided teachings of creating medicine bags with special guest appearance from Chairman Iyall, gifted children's books and CDs which promote Native culture in structured learning activities for providers, parents and children, and a child care provider won a \$25 gift card for groceries.

New flyers for the program are now filtering to mailboxes, in lobbies, schools, Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Facebook and Cowlitz.org. The background on the flyer shows a beautiful traditional Cowlitz (Mary Ki-ona) basket which was acquired last year for the Tribe. On the new flyers is our newly adopted slogan - "Child Care and Development Program fosters STRONG BODIES and HEALTHY MINDS." The phrase is not only designed to attract parents with catchy colors and fancy bold words, but also provides an understanding of the program values.

We have space for families right now! Anyone can apply online at Cowlitz.org by clicking Resources and selecting Child Care and Development Program.

Eligible families are:

1. Enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe
2. Children are 4 weeks through 12 years old
3. Live in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, or Lewis counties
4. Meet income criteria - Ask us because it depends on your family size (amount of people living in your household).

If you are interested in the program and would like more information, please contact the Administration Office at (360) 577-8140 or apply online at Cowlitz.org (cowlitz.org/index.php/resources/other-services/ccdp). See the flyer in this issue for more information.

Other social services: Funeral/Burial Assistance is offered through our Administration Department for any enrolled tribal member or spouse, no matter where they live. The Tribe will pay up to \$4,000 paid directly

to the facility handling the arrangements applied to the disposition of the decedent and tomb. Burial Assistance, LIHEAP, food commodities, and food voucher program are managed by Randy Russell. Contact the Administration Department for an application and information at (360) 577-8140.

Whitney Devlin  
Administrative Executive Assistant



## GRANTS UPDATE

Grants awarded:

### Natural Resources Department:

The Tribe's annual grant application was approved for the

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant. The grants are intended to help tribes build their ability to carry out environmental protection, and to produce written environmental protection plans for the Tribe's reservation land. Eventually, the approved plan, which must conform to federal laws, would allow the Tribe to run the land, air, and water protection programs that EPA administers.

### Health and Human Services Department:

The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Tribe another major five-year grant for the vocational rehabilitation program. The program, managed by Shari Hughes, helps those disabled by mental or physical conditions to find employment, through job training referrals, building basic work-readiness skills, and exploring resources the program has gathered. Counselors work from the Longview and the Vancouver offices.

Cowlitz County awarded the Tribe a contract to help prevent mental health and substance abuse problems in American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Therapy for the county youth will feature the Healing of the Canoe curriculum, developed by the Suquamish Tribe, in cooperation with a research project of the University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. The program uses values and behaviors that are important in canoe journeys to convey life skills to children from 14-18 years old to give them a sense of cultural belonging, optimism, resilience, and to help prevent substance

abuse and the development of behavioral health problems.

Tribal Treatment (chemical dependency) program manager Sybil Iverson will supervise the project.

**Pending grant decisions:**

**Administration Department:**

We have applied for \$5,000 from the Potlatch Fund's Community Building program to help cover costs of the Cowlitz Youth Summer Camp this August. Camp will be held at Cispus Learning Center outside Randle, WA, and will include a focus on leadership development and learning from the Elders. Grants will be awarded in late May.

**Health and Human Services Department:**

The Tribe's Pathways to Healing (PTH) program, for those who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual assault, has applied for its second year's funding of a three-year grant from the Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy. The grant would continue PTH services for sexual assault victims. PTH staff has offices at the Tribe's Vancouver and Longview buildings and work closely with the Tribe's other health and human services department programs.

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) conducts a colon cancer screening and prevention project that the Tribe participates in. The project supports the tribal health clinic's colorectal cancer educational/screening/diagnostic testing and referrals. We submitted a resolution supporting SPIPA's application for continued federal funding.

**Natural Resources Department:**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund is considering our request for just under \$500,000 to continue the considerable work the Tribe has done to restore critical habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead. Project activities would be conducted on and near Otter Creek Island in the Cowlitz River. To increase the quality and quantity of spawning, rearing and adult holding habitat for the fish, there would be engineered log jams and gravel deposited at the site to improve a side channel and the spawning grounds. The project will need partners who can bring more funding to implement and complete the project. Restoration biologist Eli Asher would manage the grant and is working to line up those commitments.

In addition, the department has other habitat restoration projects in competition for funding through a process in Washington State.

**Transportation Department:**

Department Director Kim Stube and I completed and submitted a grant application to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for operations and planning for Cowlitz Tribal Transit Service (CTTS). The WSDOT grants continue to be crucial support for CTTS's service in rural parts of Cowlitz and Lewis counties, near I-5. Grant awards will be announced in spring 2015 and funding would begin next July.

In addition, we have a transit grant application pending with the federal Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. The \$25,000 we've requested would supplement the pending WSDOT transit planning grant. The project would study the feasibility and other aspects of establishing a "deviated fixed-route" between Toledo and Longview and of expanding transit into north Clark County. The federal grant awards will be announced in late summer, with funding beginning in October.

**Grant applications denied:**

**Health and Human Services Department:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a five-year grant for Indian tribes to reduce and prevent diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

Indian Health Service's (IHS) Joint Venture Construction Program.

**Natural Resources Department:**

Eulachon (smelt) grant from NOAA.

Jan Healy  
Grant Writer

**HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS**

**Housing Student of the Year Shay Workman**

Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing is proud to highlight this pleasant young lady as our first Student of the Year! Shay was one of the few college students in the nation to receive the President's Award for Outstanding Student in 2014. An Environmental Science major, Shay has consistently maintained a 3.6 GPA and will graduate soon with a BA. She not only is a full time student, but works to support herself too. In the words of CITH Academic Counselor Lenny Bridges, "Shay is an excellent example of hard work and determination." Tribal Housing would like to thank Shay because she is always very pleasant, respectful and considerate. Congratulations, Shay!





Shay Workman

**Lack of funds:** Due to lack of funds, Cowlitz Tribal Housing now has a waiting list for assistance. Many tribes have a 5-10 year waiting list, ours is currently about 6 months. We have not received our 2015 grant yet; when we receive it, we will begin working through the waiting list in the order received.

Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing welcomes you

to the tribe's beautiful new low income Elder Housing Complex, located in Toledo, WA. A variety of accommodations are available from efficiency apartments to 1 bedroom condo-type units. Rent is calculated on a sliding scale according to income and size of unit. Small pets (dog or cat) are welcome. Please call (360) 864-8720.

**Rental and Mortgage Assistance:**

Tribal Housing offers help with rent or mortgage to qualified tribal members for up to 6 months.

**Student Rental Assistance:**

College students enrolled in a minimum 12 credits per quarter may receive rental assistance.

**Down Payment Assistance:**

Tribal housing is thrilled that more and more tribal members are applying for down payment assistance, allowing CITH to help members realize their dream of homeownership. Qualifying members can receive up to \$20,000 for the down payment on a home.

**Help to avoid foreclosure:**

Tribal members affected by the current mortgage crisis should call the following number to get help to avoid foreclosure: 1-888-995-HOPE (4673). The website for the Making Home Affordable Program is: [makinghomeaffordable.gov](http://makinghomeaffordable.gov). This website is VERY informational and will explain new options such as HARP – Home Affordable Refinance Program and HAMP – Home Affordable Modification Program. It also explains other foreclosure alternatives such as a short sale and a deed-in-lieu.

**Well and Sewer Repair or Replacement:**

By co-coordinating with Indian Health Services we are able to bring clean water and sanitary living conditions to members in need.

**Homeownership or Financial Counseling:**

For free homebuyer education classes conveniently located in your own city, go to Washington Homeowners Resource Center: website: [homeownership-wa.org](http://homeownership-wa.org).

**Do I Qualify for Assistance?** Qualifications are based on family size and income and are different in each county.

**Who do I call for help ?**

Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing:  
(360) 864-8720

Sheryl B.

Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program (CITVR) has Resource Rooms in two sites; Longview and Vancouver. The Vancouver site has a large room with computers, furniture for relaxing and reading any of our Lending Library books, a Job Board, crafting supplies and more. In Longview we have computers, books, Job and Event boards, beading and crafting supplies.

Throughout the year, CITVR will be offering classes in employment issues and life skills. These classes are for VR clients; enrolled Native Americans with a disability in our service area. Cowlitz Tribal members who are not clients may attend the classes as space permits.

We designed a four (4) part **Job Readiness Module**. The first two classes are on Resume writing. The first, **Resume 1**, consists of determining a person's skills and abilities, particularly transferrable skills, and writing the foundation for your resume. **Resume 2** consists of creating your resume and cover letter as well as tailoring your resume to fit a specific job. **Job Search and Networking** is a class that teaches how and where to look for employment, how to use social media to search the job market and networking skills to increase your opportunities for employment. The fourth class, **Interview Skills**, provides helpful hints for a successful interview and provides a Mock Interview.

All classes are taught by our CITVR staff with significant experience in these areas. We are also planning Personal Finance classes which will include; Budgeting, 1040EZ tax forms, banking and credit, utilizing grocery and other coupons and additional ways

to save money.

CITVR will be developing a calendar for May/June classes. That information will be on our Facebook page and in our Monthly Newsletter. Please visit our Facebook page and "Like" us at: Cowlitz Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Our Monthly Newsletter is e-mailed and posted by the fifth of each month.

If you would like the Newsletter e-mailed to you, please contact Jennifer Neal at (360)575-3318, she will be happy to add you to our mailing list!

For more information on the Job Readiness or other classes, please contact Jennifer Neal at our Longview office; (360)575-3318 or Kristi Akers at our Vancouver office; (360) 397-8828.

Shari Hughes  
VR Manager



## HEALTH BOARD REPORT

We are excited to announce there has been work on the Cowlitz Health and Human Services Strategic Plan. The Health Board met and took

the entire weekend to address the needs of our people. The discussion was focused on increasing access to clinic appointments, offering insurance coverage, building up our community by offering more family focused services and improvements, the list was long and attempted to bring more coverage, benefits and community building services to our Cowlitz people. This plan has one to five year time frames.

There has been funding put into the 2015 Cowlitz Health and Human Service (HHS) budget which will allow the Strategic Planning to get started. Our Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) is Indian Health Service (IHS) funding that can be renegotiated to assure we have preventative, wellness and some of the areas that we don't currently fund like Pathways to Healing (PTH) and Indian Child Welfare (ICW). This will allow us to holistically take care of our Cowlitz Nation.

Below are the Strategic Plan identified areas and ideas of ways to improve HHS services:

1. Increase community Engagement- Sexual Health Education, Youth Chemical Dependency Prevention, Classes for clients/community, Health Edu-

cation Classes, Outreach to increase users, Two Spirited Education, Youth Health Education, Health ED Programs at all locations, Native Garden and Elders Activities.

2. Increase Access to Services- Expanded Clinic Hours, Cowlitz first priority in Behavioral Health, same day Crisis response, 24 Hr Crisis , Night and weekend Mental Health hours, Crisis medication appointments within one week, expand ICW, more open to all members regardless of disability, support to Families at Risk Before Intervention, system for Meal Tracking

3. Expand Medical Services- Pharmacy, X-Ray, In-house Lab services, Medical in Vancouver, Medical in Seattle, Naturopathy, Massage Therapy, Urgent Care, providers at St. Mary's, Optometry, Wellness Center, Podiatrist, Plan B availability,

4. Continue to Improve Standards of Care - IPC Model, Pediatric Doctors, Board Certified Providers, Case Management, Internal Medicine MD, Patient Management, Wrap Around Behavior Health Family Services, use of prescriptions for addiction, never turn a family in crisis away and more support for Indian Child Welfare.

5. Integrate Services - Co-Occurring Treatment Services, Adult Mental Health Services with medication management, Cultural Mentor, Spiritual Healer, Sweat Lodge, Healing Circles, Cowlitz Culture in Treatment, Mentorship Program (elders and youth), partner with others for summer internship opportunities, Elder Services in Seattle and Vancouver, Health Education services in Seattle and Vancouver, Life Skills Coach-Case Manager, Domestic Violence Services in Seattle, Family Case Managers, Family Preservations Services, Life Experiences- Services outside the office, Plan B available at PTH.

6. Expand Services offered to the Community - Alcohol Drug Information School, Alternative Mental Health (life coach, yoga, stress reduction), Behavior Health for Veteran Services, Gambling Treatment, Recovery House, Business Opportunity, Youth (high school age)-Preparing for the Future, Employment, Training, Education for all members within the Contract Service Delivery Area, Educational Planning (help applying for financial aid, skill building), Youth Summer Job Training, Elder Center outside of St. Mary's, connect to animals, dental services in Longview, dental services in Seattle, Dental- General, Youth In-patient Chemical Dependency Treatment, Money Follows the



Person Program, Assistance with Advance Directives, Elders program outside of St. Mary's, Head Start, Child Care Center, New Family Support to Prevent Children's Administration Involvement, Social Work Function and Legal Support for Families.

7. Engage in funding conversations on a Policy Level - Pathways to Healing as an allowable IHS service, funding for ICW

The Health Board has been working on evaluating the health programs. Last year there was an efficiency study conducted for the Longview, Seattle and Vancouver clinics that identified areas of improvement. There are many areas needing improvement but some of those highlighted were Clinic patient efficiency, billing and policy improvements. The HHS Director has been working on the changes.

The April 2015 Tribal Council had a joint meeting with Health Board to discuss health insurance premium purchasing. Ed Fox the Health Director from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe came to present. He was discussed possible ways to bring the premium purchasing of insurance to Cowlitz to benefit our Tribal members. This program could allow us to pay for Medicare part B and D of our Elders. We have asked the HHS Director to bring back the numbers of Medicare participants we have in the Contract Service Area and hope to move forward with being able to help our Elders.

The Health Board meets every month after Tribal Council. We are open to all ideas and questions. Please feel welcome to attend our meetings they are open to our Cowlitz Tribal Members. We work very hard, often meeting until almost midnight. Please contact the Chair Cassandra Sellards Reck at (360) 513-1243 or csellardsreck@hotmail.com with any questions.

Cassandra Sellards Reck  
Health Board Chair

## ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT

Our current enrollment criteria have been in effect since January 01, 2006. Applicant must be a direct lineal descendant of a Cowlitz Indian and Applicant must have a parent (mother/father) on Cowlitz Tribal Roll and Applicant shall be no older than 12 months of age.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TRIBAL CONSTITUTION for SECOND READING and VOTE at JUNE 06, 2015 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING:

Article II Membership Section 1.

1. That those on the roll of February 14, 2000 are or were a direct lineal descendant of a Cowlitz Indian or Métis resident in the Cowlitz aboriginal area and associated with Cowlitz people before January 01, 1856, such documentation passing the review of the Enrollment Committee and the Tribal Council, and

2. That direct lineal descendants not enrolled on February 14, 2000, are eligible to petition for enrollment on the basis that their parent appeared on the roll of February 14, 2000, even if that parent is deceased, and

3. That direct lineal descendants eligible for enrollment shall have a parent listed on the base roll of February 14, 2000, even if that parent is deceased, and the applicant shall be no older than twelve (12) months of age, (the proposed change would add the verbiage) effective January 01, 2006; or the applicant is 18 years of age and not more than 19 years of age effective June 06, 2015.

Our current total enrolled population is 3385. In February 2015 the Tribe enrolled 11 infants. As I write this article there are 21 pending applications to be forwarded to the Enrollment Committee for review at their April meeting. There were 8 tribal member deaths reported to the office since the Fall newsletter: Monte D. Farron; Douglas C. Aalvik; Gary L. Hernandez; Richard E. Clarke; Kevin P. Maurer; Elsie R. Janke; Robert L. Bennett; and John A. Forespring Sr.

Please remember to keep the tribal office informed of your contact information as it changes; names, addresses, and phone numbers.

Randy Russell  
Enrollment Officer  
(360) 575-3310 Direct

## **COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE** **CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

fosters **STRONG BODIES**  
and **HEALTHY MINDS.**

### **What?**

A voucher program by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe which pays a portion of child care costs.

### **Who Qualifies?**

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families who reside in Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Skamania Counties, who also meet the income requirements, and children are 4 weeks through 12 years old.

### **How to apply?**

Submit an application online at [Cowlitz.org](http://Cowlitz.org).

### **We Care**

Child Care and Development Program staff assists families with child care costs and help to improve the quality of care. We are not child care providers.

### **Providers**

All providers must be CPR/First Aid Certified and meet the Child Care and Development Program health and safety requirements.

### **Program Resources**

First Aid/ CPR  
Cultural Resources  
Lending/Gifting Library



1055 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite B  
PO Box 2547  
Longview, WA 98632

360-577-8140 **T**  
CCDP@Cowlitz.org **E**

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



**HONORING THE SPIRIT OF ALL  
COWLITZ PEOPLE**

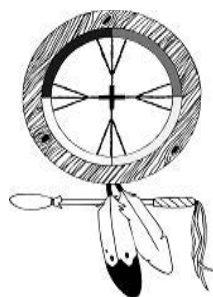
**16th Annual Cowlitz Pow Wow**

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Toledo High School, Toledo, WA

1242 State Route 505

Grand Entries at 1pm and 7 pm



Spread the word to family and friends – it’s time to Pow Wow, and do we have a celebration for you! All are invited to join in on our traditional celebration as we present the 16th Annual Honoring the Spirit of All Cowlitz People Pow Wow on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Toledo High School gymnasium. Cowlitz Headman and Headwoman dancers Nathan Hooton and Teri Graves will be your hosts, along with Ed Wulf (Yupik-Athabaskan) as Arena Director and Don Ryan (Cowlitz) as Master of Ceremonies. Host Drum is Ninja Foot of Portland, Oregon and Honor Drum is The Allen Family Singers of Auburn, WA. Grand entries are at 1 PM and 7 PM.

Events for the day include honoring Veterans at grand entry, vendor booths, drum groups performing, competition dancing with cash prizes, smoked salmon, a 5 pm salmon dinner, raffles, and the program for kids at approximately 6 pm during the dinner break. Concessions will also be offered throughout the day both by the Committee and by food vendors, with a variety of choices.

This event is possible primarily due to



2015 Headwoman Teri Graves

revenue generated with the variety of merchandise, including this year’s shirts, and Cowlitz Tribal logo-wear purchased at the General Council meeting in June and again at the Pow Wow. Please continue to support us by purchasing items, as your assistance is important in funding our annual Pow Wow for a number of years. Another fund-raiser that will also be of help is the homemade cinnamon rolls with juice or coffee just prior to the General Council meeting in June. Monetary donations are also welcomed, anytime. We accept cash, check, and debit/credit.



2015 Headman Nathan Hooton

The winner of our 2015 Artwork Contest is Mark Cox! Congratulations! It is a United States Veteran themed design which is fitting since our Head Dancers this year are both Cowlitz Veterans.

Updates related to our pow wow can be found at the Cowlitz tribal website ([cowlitz.org/events](http://cowlitz.org/events)) or “Like” us at Cowlitz Indian Tribe Pow Wow on Facebook to keep posted on our

activities! There you can find information about vendor details and registration forms as well as contact information for some of the Committee members. Take ownership in this significant cultural event by being a part of our Pow Wow Committee or become a volunteer! We welcome your interest, your help, and your support throughout the year, including the day of the Pow Wow. Specific information on whom to contact in order to help your tribe present this annual, successful event is located on our website or contact Pow Wow chair Suzanne Donaldson Stephens at [suzanne@donaldson-enterprises.com](mailto:suzanne@donaldson-enterprises.com)

Suzanne Donaldson Stephens  
Pow Wow Committee Chair





## NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT (NRD)

### Climate Change

It has been noticed this past winter in Cowlitz Country that it has been one of the warmest on record, and the snowpack in the mountains is way below normal. We are on track for a dry summer and a potentially dangerous forest fire season. You have heard through news reports that warnings have already come out through the State of Washington of a projected dry summer. California has begun implementing water conservation policies to try and curb the effects of a water shortage. Thinking of the needs for salmon, this isn't good news.

There are other worries that the effects of climate change are having. There has been worry connected to the health of the oceans of the Pacific Coast. The largest worry is the issue of ocean acidification and reports of a dying shellfish population as a result. Scientists indicate that the rise in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere is related to ocean acidification. Too what extent climate change is having an effect on salmon resources is not currently fully understood. It is certainly an issue to be wary of and to be mindful of preparing ourselves.

Climate change impacts have become more and more evident in the scientific community. It is urged that we take precautions this upcoming summer to try and do our part in conserving water and to be careful when camping or enjoying the outdoors. NRD is working with other natural resource agencies and interests in the region to participate and implement activities to prepare for the short term of a projected drought this summer and the long-term planning to seek ways to curb the negative effects of climate change. NRD will work with Tribal Leaders to address this concern and we will continue to try and find ways to protect valuable traditional resources to the Tribe as we move forward.

### Another Office location

We have recently added another office location for the NRD in Vancouver, WA. This is a testament to the current and projected growth of the De-

partment. Of note, our salmon restoration program has really started to take off, which created a need for additional office space. We currently have 15 salmon restoration projects that we are or have completed to date, and have applications in this year for 10 additional projects. We have identified other needs associated with water quality issues, forest management activities, wildlife concerns, resource use management, etc. that we continue to seek support for. It is anticipated that the NRD still has tremendous room for growth. We plan to seek continued growth for the Department and continue to take steps to be a regional leader when it comes to our natural resources. I project that it won't be long before we have outgrown the additional new office and we are looking again for space to house the NRD.

### Smelt and Sea Lions

We were fortunate to see a great run of smelt this past winter. Our smelt research crew has been working tirelessly to document the smelt run on the Cowlitz River and other runs up the Columbia River. With all the concerns of climate change, we currently don't see impacts in regards to smelt. There was something we did notice this year that is becoming more evident in our homelands. That is the increasing population of sea lions observed in the Columbia River and in the Cowlitz River, which on some occasions, all the way up to the first dam on the Cowlitz River. Sea lions are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, which means nobody is allowed to hunt or kill them. Since 1972, the population of Sea Lions has exploded in or near the Columbia River. This has caused for considerable alarm in regards to salmon and smelt that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler recently introduced legislation in Congress to allow for the lethal killing of sea lions in the Lower Columbia and tributaries. We reviewed the draft legislation and based on Tribal Leadership direction, the NRD has been actively involved in seeking permit authority for us to lethally kill sea lions as part of the legislation. There are records showing that Tribal ancestors in the region actively hunted sea lions in our homeland area. We are working to clarify historic record and to push for inclusion to be an active manager if the legislation passes. The intent is to address the concern of their impacts to important resources and to have a direct

role in managing the sea lions population in our area. If anyone knows of historic accounts whether written or oral in regards to our ancestors harvesting sea lions, please contact us so we can get this important information.

### Water Quality

We have been actively engaged with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Washington (WA) regarding current proposed updates to water quality policy in the region. You would be surprised as to the amount of pollution that industry and other sources send into our waterways. Although great strides have been achieved in the past to clean up pollution, there is still much more that we need to do. We are coordinating with other tribes in the region to join forces to clean up our water. Fish in our diet has been shown to increase health and wellness, and it is also important in continuing our cultural traditions. It is also vital to eat salmon and other fishes that are clean from toxic chemicals. EPA and WA have proposed rules that are being considered to take additional steps to clean our water. The tribes believe that it isn't enough for our protection. We will do what we can to support the coalition of tribes working on this and try to keep our traditional foods clean.

### Other

We continue efforts on numerous other projects including an upcoming huckleberry restoration project and policy representation on many natural resources issues within our homelands. Please contact me if you would like to understand more about the projects and programs we implement for the Tribe.

Taylor Aalvik, Director  
 Natural Resources Department  
 (360) 577-8140

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC)

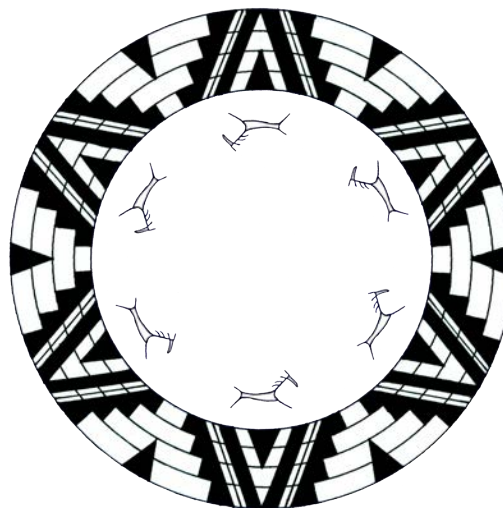
With the news of our Tribe receiving our long awaited reservation, it has heightened attention in regards to economic interest and business development for our Tribe. The EDC has worked in the past to establish a revised Economic Development Code to assist in fostering responsible economic growth for our Tribe out-

side of gaming development activities. We are ready to work with Tribal Leaders in the development of business planning and review of opportunities that are likely to be seen in the future. We also aim to work closely and coordinate with other activities and planning for our reservation.

Our focus is to conduct research and develop the necessary documents that we would recommend to Tribal leaders as a base for making informed decisions about business development for the Tribe. We also look for capacity building opportunities and recommend ways for infrastructure building for Tribal leaders to utilize for supporting activities, such as seeking staff support. There have been many outside entities already seeking to establish partnerships with us. Some may be genuine, and potentially others that may see more for themselves than us. As a committee, we aim to be wary of the opportunities that come before us and to be patient in regards to this new world of our reservation status and what it means toward economic development. We see a lot of good in the near future and are positive about the potential and anticipated economic future we will have. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to understand more about our activities.

Taylor Aalvik, EDC Chair  
 (360) 577-8140

# Save the Date



## 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COWLITZ TRIBAL HEALTH WALK

Saturday September 12, 2015

9 am - Noon

Lake Sacajawea, Longview, WA

## CULTURAL RESOURCES BOARD

The Cultural Resources Board is proud to announce the upcoming year's events. The Board meets before the Tribal Council meeting at 7am at St. Mary's and all are welcome. We are looking for a youth representative to join the Board. Anyone interested please contact Cassy Reck at 360-513-1243.

The June Encampment is June 5-7 before and after the June General Council meeting. We are able to camp on the Cowlitz Landing Property also known as the Vader Property in Toledo near Betty's. Meals will be provided. Come Friday to enjoy dinner and a camp fire. Saturday is the General Council meeting. Breakfast at St. Mary's will be an opportunity to support the Pow Wow who is selling cinnamon rolls for a fundraiser. Lunch is after the meeting and Dinner will be a BBQ provided by the Tribe. Bring your camping equipment we will have porta potties. The 1st Salmon Ceremony will be on June 7th at 10am at Olequa Creek Boat Launch. We gather at the bank on the water to welcome the Cowlitz Canoe which will have our ceremonial salmon. Afterwards we will have a Salmon Traditional dinner at St. Mary's. All are welcome. riving Directions: From I-5 take exit 57, to west 01 miles, turn left on Barnes Drive, go 2 miles, turn right on Imboden Road, go .1 miles, turn left on Miekler, go .3 miles to boat access.

Youth Summer Camp will be on August 20-23 at Cispus WA. The Youth Board will be having a Pre-Registration so please contact our Chair Melody Pfeifer at (360) 562-5185 or the Vice Chair Cassy Reck at (360) 513-1243. The Youth Board is planning some amazing experiences including a zip line and rope line course.

Canoe Journey dates are being planned. There is discussion by the Canoe Committee about pulling down the Columbia River, celebrating at Ft. Vancouver then continuing pulling up the rivers and joining the northern Tribes at a Lake Washington mini-journey. All are welcome e can always use more volunteers and pullers. For more information please contact the Committee Chair, Devin Reck, at (360) 513-5886 or Vice Chair, Don Van Mechelen, at (360) 943-4462.

Huckleberry Camp will be on August 27-31 at Swift School House located next to the Pine Creek Ranger Station at 15311 Forest Road 90, Cougar WA.

98616. This is a family camp and all are welcome. Meals and food are provided. This camp is about 30 minutes from our aboriginal Huckleberry picking area. Please bring your camping equipment, warm, cold and swimming gear. Surprise Lake is located in Indian Heaven and is a wonderful relief from a long hot day of picking huckleberries. We have porta potties and a covered area for gathering and camp cooking it's wet.

Drum Group Thanksgiving Gathering will be on November 20 at 6pm at St. Mary's in Toledo, WA. Please bring a potluck item to share. We will play bingo and have a white elephant gift exchange. This event is always a lot of fun. Gather together to remember why we are thankful. All are welcome. For more information please contact Cassy at (360) 513-1243.

## YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

**August 20-23 at Cispus WA.**  
**For Pre-Registration contact**  
**Melody Pfeifer at (360) 562-**  
**5185 or Cassy Reck at**  
**(360) 513-1243**

Youth and Family Christmas Party will be December 12th at 10am with a lunch provided for families. For more information contact the Youth Board Chair Melody Pfeifer at (360) 562-5185 or Vice Chair Cassy Reck at (360)

513-1243.

Drum Group Christmas Gathering will be December 18 at St. Mary's at 6pm. This is a traditional dinner and potluck. We play a dice game with Patty Kinswa-Gaiser that is a lot of fun. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

Throughout the year, Michael Hubbs is offering language classes at St. Mary's teaching the lower Cowlitz Salish. For all who are interested please contact him at (360) 219-3214.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Cassandra Sellards Reck  
 Cultural Resources Board Secretary

## SWIFT SCHOOLHOUSE WORK PARTY (JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> AND 28<sup>TH</sup>)

The Cowlitz Tribe owns a piece of property that we call the Swift Schoolhouse that is directly west of Mount St Helens. The Schoolhouse was abandoned when the mountain erupted in 1980 and students never returned. The Tribe received the property from PacifiCorp a few years ago as mitigation for their development on the Lewis River.

The property site has been used for a few years



by Tribal families and youth groups as a base camp to access the huckleberry fields in Indian Heaven. Although the schoolhouse is boarded up and in disrepair the site is beautiful and is in an important part of our historical territory. Last year the building was reroofed and had some of the interior demolished in order to begin to repair the building. Also the grounds and fencing need some repairs and work.

We would like to pull together a work party to work on the fence, grounds, and finish demolishing the interior of the building so we can work to restore it and create a site that could be used year around if we wished. The road is kept plowed past the schoolhouse during the winter. With the building and covered outdoor area we can better utilize it for accessing the forest resources year round in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

on site and nearby at Eagle Cliff store and Pine Creek Campground. There is no running water on site but pay showers are available at Eagle Cliff store. We are asking volunteers to bring their own meals and water at this time but that could change if we are able to get volunteers to cook for the work crew. Those final details will be available later. We will ask volunteers to bring their own tools to include wheelbarrows, small chainsaws, shovels (both bladed and flat), rakes, hammers, pry bars, and weed eaters, mowers, come along or winch, acetylene torch to heat up the bent fencing so we can straighten it, barb wire stretcher, and camping and or RV's or whatever else you think you might need to work with and to camp outside. The building is not useable. If anyone has a skidder or brush hog it might be helpful. We are working to get a large dumpster on site. We are planning on having portable toilets on site.

The schoolhouse is located 46 miles east of Woodland (up the Lewis River) on highway 503 that changes to state route 90. The schoolhouse is located at the junction of route 25 and 90, just a short distance past the Pine Creek Information Center. It is 46 miles and takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes to drive there from woodland, WA on Interstate 5.

Aaron Workman, our facilities manager, will be coordinating the work party and he can be reached at (360) 957-8098 or by email at aaronw@cowlitz.org He will be working to arrange the volunteers. Any further questions you can always call me at (360) 731-2885 during the day, evening or weekends.

Stephen Kutz  
Tribal Council Chair

### COWLITZ DRUM GROUP

The Cowlitz Drum Group is open to all Tribal Members who wish to learn our Cowlitz songs. Check out our Facebook page for dates and locations. You can also contact Cassandra Sellards Reck at (360)513-1243 or csellardsreck@hotmail.com or Patty Kinswa-Gaiser at (360) 520-2578.

We hope to see you there!

# MEN'S HEALTH EVENT

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Cowlitz Tribal Health Clinic  
1044 11<sup>th</sup> Ave • Longview, WA  
For more information contact Pam McCall or  
Maggie Miller at (360) 575-8275

**10:00AM - 3:00PM**

Meet Colin the Colon • Get a Health Screening •  
Sample Traditional Foods • Fitness Demonstrations

Awesome Prizes Ruffled Off Every Hour  
Sporting & Outdoor Gear • Tools • Car Care •  
Grilling Supplies • Fitness Equipment • Housewares

**C.O.L.O.N. Ball Tournament**  
**11:00 & 1:30**

We are trying to pull together a volunteer work crew for June 27th and 28th; either day or both, whatever times you can help with. We will be clearing Scotch Broom, small trees, weed eating, repairing the fence and taking out more drywall, insulation and other interior materials. This will prepare the shell for us to begin reconstruction. We will have some limited camping

## CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH

Cowlitz Tribal member Ryan Ward is a Senior Program Associate at the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) at the Aspen Institute. He is the grandson of Duane and Shirley Ward and grew up in Oregon. In his role at CNAY, he recently presented to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board about new opportunities that are being created for Native Youth – particularly through a national initiative called Generation Indigenous (Gen-I).



*CNAY's Ryan Ward*

Since 2011, CNAY has partnered with tribes and tribal nations across the Nation in creating opportunities—especially in leadership development—for Native youth. One program is the created Champions for Change, which is a youth leadership initiative that recognizes young Native leaders in urban and reservation communities. In late-2014, CNAY partnered with the White House and US Department of the Interior to lead youth engagement as part of Gen-I. Following President Obama's trip to Standing Rock and being touched by a discussion with Native Youth, he launched Gen-I at the White House Tribal Nations Conference last fall. The conference also included Cowlitz tribal member Josiah Welch who was recognized as a Youth Ambassador. Gen-I takes a multifaceted, comprehensive and culturally appropriate approach to improving lives and creating opportunities for Native youth, which includes a Network for Native youth, among other components, and a Challenge to get Native youth, tribal organizations, schools and tribal leaders to prioritize engage Native youth in community service projects.

Thanks, Ryan, for your work that is changing our Nation.

### COWLITZ YOUTH BOARD

President Obama invited forty high school-age Native American youth to attend the 2014 White House Trib-

al Nations Conference in Washington, DC. This past December, Native youth from communities across the country participated in the conference as Youth Ambassadors. These young people participated in breakout sessions and received mentorship and leadership training in addition to attending the Conference. Youth were chosen from categories of leadership, volunteerism and making positive changes in their communities. Cowlitz Youth Board nominated Josiah Welch for his strength in persevering challenges in his life with positivity and demonstrating leadership amongst his peers.

At the Cowlitz Annual Youth Christmas Party December 13th, Director of Housing Pat Boydston opened the doors of St. Mary's for Cowlitz Youth's biggest turnout. Families attended a full sit-down lasagna dinner with trimmings prepared by Senior Nutrition program manager Deb Mizner and staff; hands up to the cook's delicious meal. Craft projects for kids to make Christmas gifts were available. Elder Doug Mahar donated "LOTS" of his hand crafted cedar bird houses, enough for each family to receive. Kids had fun painting their houses; Seattle Seahawk colors were most popular. Elder Patty Kinswa-Gaiser made batch after batch of Christmas cookies and frosting for decorating. Santa made his grand appearance with gifts for all the excited kids, while Santa's helpers handed out mittens and stocking hats.

This winter four of our high school-age youth (Josiah Welch, Kyle Lopez, Lexis Fender, and Tristan Spahr) stepped up their leadership roles. They were invited to attend conference and symposium engagements as youth panelist addressing health and lifestyle issues in their communities as native youth.

April 10-12th Youth Board hosted Spring Camp; we welcomed many first-time Cowlitz campers. The weekend was filled with teachings from Cowlitz Health and Human Services staff from Longview, Seattle and Vancouver offices. Youth learned plants and their many uses. They seeded vegetable pots, made cedar, cottonweed sav used to sooth achy muscles. Teens trained in job search skills and how to create a resume, while younger kids learned about people dealing with disabilities. Kids received age appropriate intervention and prevention class from Cowlitz Chemical Dependency Program. Language teachings were fun for all under the direction of Michael Hubbs, Director of Cowlitz Salish Language. There was a surprise Sweet 16 party Saturday night for one of our young ladies. Disco lights, balloons, music, dancing, and cake and ice

cream. Everyone had a great time. What a surprised birthday girl!

**Upcoming events:**

NW Portland Area Indian Health Board Annual THRIVE Conference June 22-26 in Portland, OR. Native Youth Leadership Athletic Conference June 22-25th in Portland, OR.

Conferences have limited space, age requirement 13 years and older, contact Melody Pfeifer

Cowlitz Youth Summer Camp August 20-23rd 2015 at Cispus Learning Center in Randle, WA ages 7-17 Limited space, registration deadlines August 07, 2015 contact for registration and information Melody Pfeifer (360) 577-8140 or Cassy Reck (360) 513-1243.

The Cowlitz Youth Board is an all-volunteer program; our program is growing as is our tribe. We are looking to fill two vacant board positions and recruit additional fun energetic volunteers. Persons must be able to pass back ground check and enjoy working with children. Youth programs and cultural activities are funded by donations and community grants we ask for your support. If you are able to donate your time, knowledge, crafting supplies dollar contribution for the future generation of leaders. \ contact tribal office administration (360) 577-8140 or send donations to CIT Youth Board, PO Box 2547, Longview, WA 98632. Thank you! your support is much appreciated.

Check [www.cowlitz.org](http://www.cowlitz.org) for event and program information.

**CIT Youth Board:**

- Melody Pfeifer – Chair
- Cassy Sellards Reck – Vice Chair
- Devin Reck – Youth Advocate
- Claudia Tenney
- Charity Sabido-Hodges
- Patty Kinswa-Gaiser
- Jennifer McCauley



**CULTURAL  
RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT  
(CRD)**

In February the Tribe was invited to place items in the Washington State Centenni-

al Time Capsule, which will be opened in 2389. Since we didn't want to include any of our priceless artifacts or other material that would deteriorate over the next 375 years, the Executive Council decided a simple CD containing a couple important historical documents would stand the best chance of survival, as well as being approved for inclusion in the already-crowded capsule. To this end, I made a gold archival CD containing copies of Verne Ray's "Handbook of Cowlitz Indians," a version of Roy Wilson's "A Brief History of the Cowlitz Tribe," and Dale Kinkade's "Cowlitz Dictionary and Grammatical Sketch." I saved the files in a version of Adobe Reader designed to be "future proof," as well as the software itself. Hopefully the librarians of the twenty-fourth century will be able to read and share the information, but I'm sure the Tribe will be able to provide this documentation some nineteen generations hence.



*Cross-section of a twice-peeled cedar tree.*

As you may remember, the Tribe was commissioned by the Port of Kalama to carve a canoe for their visitors' center. The Canoe was housed at the Cowlitz County Historical Museum until the visitors' center opened earlier this year. The Cowlitz Museum is now planning a permanent exhibit, and they want a canoe of their own. We are negotiating a deal for a smaller (about 16 1/2 feet) vessel, and the plan currently calls for the canoe to be carved over the summer, with opportunities for Tribal Members to help see this project to completion. Keep an eye on our web site for developments.

The Tribe attends the Northwest Anthropological Conference each year, and this year's was held



in Eugene, OR. Presentations ranged from pre-1900 Chinese immigration and mining in Northeast Washington to examinations of bird and animal remains. The real attraction has more to do with the work done outside the presentations; I hear of new projects the CRD has not been notified of, am able to make new contacts and refresh old ones, and get and offer advice and assistance for a variety of cultural resources concerns. We received opinions regarding pictures of an artifact the Tribe recently acquired, and heard of changes in personnel at various agencies and how they may affect their relationships with the Tribe. This is actually a pretty expedient way to get work done: informal yet direct conversations; a clear communication of ideas, expectations, and solutions; and what mitigations or measures might be needed, all without having to set up formal meetings where the same topics might take hours to address. Once a formal meeting does take place, much of the groundwork has already been laid, making for a much faster process.

to gift the eagle to the city. We drafted a letter to that effect, and I recently read the letter at a City council meeting. The only stipulation of the transfer is that signage telling of the Tribe's donation be attached; the eagle will likely be moved during the summer to downtown Toledo.

### What Does the Cultural Resources Department Do? (Part One)

It's been a while since I've explained exactly what it is we accomplish around here; much of the work is behind-the-scenes, so it goes largely unnoticed. Here, though is the first part of what the CRD does, which I will add to in future newsletters:

- Project/permit/proposal application review: Almost every project, regardless of whether they might entail ground-disturbing activity, requires some sort of application and review process. We look at these applications--from private individuals all the way up to federal agencies--for the presence of archaeologically/culturally sensitive sites and/or areas. If we find something of interest, we can request formal consultation to address our concerns and how they may be avoided or otherwise handled in a way acceptable to the Tribe.

Some projects are of automatic concern because they are in areas already considered likely to yield significant archaeological or cultural material. In these cases, which usually occur at the state and federal level, consultation and mitigation are known to be a more lengthy process, in proportion to project complexity.



*Tribal Members after this year's Smelt (Eulachon) Ceremony.*

The plot of land along I-5 known as the Monument (or Gospodor) property is now under Tribal control, and one of the stipulations is the Tribe use the land for "cultural purposes." Most of the monuments on the property were made from poor quality timber, and have begun to rot and crumble—some more significantly than others. One of the remaining intact pieces is a large eagle, which is in a glass (or Plexiglas-like) case. The eagle was made in Taiwan, bought at auction, and installed on the Gospodor property. Since it has no real cultural value for the Tribe and the City of Toledo expressed an interest in its acquisition, we decided

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

All My Relations,  
dAve Burlingame, Director  
Cultural Resources Department  
(360) 577-6962  
culture@cowlitz.org

**Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
General Council Officers**

**June 2015**

Chair:	William lyall	817 34 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW Gig Harbor, WA 98335	253-851-7095
Term Expires	2015	Wiyall@cowlitz.org	Cell: 253-677-4833
			FAX: 360-577-7432
Vice-Chair:	Philip Harju	2115 Brown St SE Olympia, WA 98501	360-352-5630
Term Expires	2017	pharju@cowlitz.org	cell: 360-957-3036
			FAX: 360-577-7432
Secretary:	Nancy Osborne	PO Box 353 Clatskanie, OR 97016	Cell: 360-623-5675
Term Expires	2015	cowlitzhr@cowlitz.org	
Treasurer:	Dan Meyer	3308 NE 116 <sup>th</sup> St Vancouver, WA 98686	cell: 360-901-8328
Term Expires	2017	treasurer@cowlitz.org	

**Council Members  
Terms Expire 2015**

Katherinelyall-Vasquez	5203 43rd Ct SE Lacey, WA 98503	360-459-8087	Cell: 360-870-3093
Steve Kutz	622 E Cedar St Belfair, WA 98528		kivasquez@yahoo.com
Randy Russell	3830 Oak St Longview, WA 98632	360-275-9197	skutz.health@cowlitz.org
Kinswa-Gaiser	685 Spencer Rd Toledo, WA 98591	Cell: 360-508-6347	Cell: 360-731-2885
Cassandra Sellards-Reck	24800 NE Berry Rd Battle Ground, WA 98604	360-442-3074	cowlitzenrollment@cowlitz.org
		360-864-4658	pattygaiser@gmail.com
		360-666-2417	csellardsreck@hotmail.com
		Cell: 360-513-1243	
John O'Brien	839-9 Cline Rd Randle, WA 98377	360-880-4560	jobrien@toledotel-wb.com

**Terms Expire 2016**

Carolee Morris	2666 Maplewood Dr Longview, WA 98632	360-749-4995	caroleesmorris1@gmail.com
Taylor Aalvik Celine	115 S Vista Way Kelso, WA 98626	360-577-8140	taylor.a@cowlitz.org
Cloquet Cathy	2205 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave #501 Seattle, WA 98121	206-495-1020	Cowlitz@aol.com
Raphael Jerrylyall	PO Box 152 Toledo, WA 98591	360-508-1326	csraphael.health@cowlitz.org
Tim Van Mechelen	3412 Orbit PI SE Olympia, WA 98501 5005	360-485-7143	jiyall@comcast.net
	62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave SE Olympia WA 98512	360-870-2180	vtimstow@aol.com

**Terms Expire 2017**

Karissa Lowe Mike lyall	3328 Olympia Way Longview, WA 98632	360-261-4683	karissa.lowe@gmail.com
	8811 29 <sup>h</sup> Way SE Olympia, WA 98513	360-456-8720	mikenjoan@comcast.net
Lenny Bridges	312 Noel Ave Centralia, WA 98531	Cell: 360-628-2677	
Debbie Hassler	2207 SW 6 <sup>th</sup> St Battle Ground, WA 98604 9525	360-330-5718	clbridges@comcast.net
Christine Hawkins	Glory Dr Olympia, WA 98513	360-624-7040	dhassler@cowlitz.org
Rourk Monohan	7425 Ruby Dr SW Lakewood, WA 98498	360-489-9335	spenceropal@comcast.net
		253-507-5393	rmonohon@live.com
		Cell: 301-582-8345	

**Tribal Council Officers**

**July 12, 2014**

Chair: Steve Kutz, Vice-Chair: Mike lyall, Secretary: Randy Russell

**Executive Council Members**

Billyall, Phil Harju, Nancy Osborne, Dan Meyer, Steve Kutz, Mikelyall, Randy Russell  
Elected At-Large Positions: Jerrylyall and Taylor Aalvik

Cowlitz Tribal Office PO Box 2547 / 1055 9th Ave Suite B Longview, WA 98632 360-577-8140  
Fax: 360-577-7432 e-mail: cowlitztribe@cowlitz.org



**Cowlitz Indian Tribe**

P.O. Box 2547

Longview, WA 98632

Address service requested

**Don't forget our June meeting on the Saturday the 6th at St.  
Marys!**

Cinnamon rolls and coffee available from Pow Wow Committee  
(donations accepted)

Lunch is potluck, with clam chowder provided by Country Cousin

Salmon dinner on Sunday June 7 at St. Mary's following the First  
Salmon Ceremony. Watch the web site for details and directions.