



Yooyoolah!

COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2010



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Bill Iyall

Success & Challenges

Since I last wrote to you, the Cowlitz Tribe has experienced some wonderful success. We also faced some economic challenges, as did the rest of the nation.

In these tough times, our Tribe has fared better than most due to the careful decision-making by our Tribal Council and our program directors.

We have been fortunate to maintain as well as grow programs that help address the needs of tribal members, while being mindful of the long term wellbeing of our tribe, and generations to come.

The Tribal Council has been working on an amendment to the Constitution concerning how a recall petition is brought forward. I believe this effort will result in stronger, more civil governance.

The stability of our government is critical to our future, and advancing this amendment is an important step.

Your responses to the Comprehensive Plan Survey are being input into a process of comprehensive planning by staff, committees and the Tribal Council.

Working together, we are unified in ways to improve the lives of each member as well as developing economic opportunities. By employing the needs expressed in the survey in the plan, it helps assure the future success of the Tribe.

The 2009 American Recovery funds have helped the Cowlitz Indian Tribe with its facilities construction and current facilities renovations, thanks to diligent grant writing on the part of tribal program staff.

With the completion of the St. Mary's renovation, we will soon begin work on a new membrane bioreactor sewer system for this important senior housing project. Environmental permitting is under way.

We are working with the Lewis County on a cooperative system approach that would serve the surrounding community and bring revenue to the tribe. Infrastructure planning is under way for additional housing plans that would provide about 30 homes on 10 acres in Toledo.

The Department of Energy weatherization project has provided funding for an energy upgrade at the Longview offices.

White House Conference

On Thursday, November 5th, 2009, President Obama hosted the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

As part of President Obama's sustained outreach to the American people, this conference provided leaders from the 564 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and representatives from the highest levels of his Administration. The President delivered opening and closing remarks and participated in

an interactive discussion with tribal leaders.

Other interactive discussions in the areas of economic development and natural resources; public safety and housing; and education, health and labor were led by representatives from the highest levels of the Administration. It was a tremendous honor to speak on behalf of the Cowlitz Tribe, and I made use of the opportunity to

"Our fee-to-trust application has been complete for more than a year awaiting action."
— Bill Iyall

request action on our Fee-to-Trust application, urging action by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and not waiting for Congress to act.

Our application for the Cowlitz initial reservation land near La Center for the casino project has been complete for more than a year awaiting action by the Obama Administration.

The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in May of 2008, and in January 2009, the Portland office of the BIA sent its proposed Record of Decision (ROD) to Washington DC for approval by the Secretary of the

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Chairman's Report-Continued

DOI. Approval of the ROD is the formal action by the Secretary required to approve our application.

The Carcieri Decision

Interior Secretary Salazar has not acted on our application, or on any other fee to trust applications from tribes recognized after 1934, while the department reviews its general policies on trust land applications and off reservation gaming.

This delay is largely due to the confusion and uncertainty caused by the February 24, 2009 Supreme court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*.

The "Carcieri Decision," as it is called, limited the Secretary's authority under the Indian Reorganization Act (the IRA) to take land into trust for tribes that were "not under federal jurisdiction" when the Act was passed in 1934.

While the Carcieri decision clearly places some limits on the Secretary's powers under the IRA, it should not prevent the Department from taking land in trust for the Cowlitz Tribe because our Tribe meets the Carcieri "under federal jurisdiction" test.

In June 2009 we submitted an 86 page memorandum to the department citing over 260 documents from Interior's own files which show that the United States was exercising federal jurisdiction over the Cowlitz Tribe in 1934.

Tribal leaders and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) have voiced an urgent call for the Carcieri Decision to be addressed, both through legislation to "fix" the decision and through administrative action by the department.

Failure to do so risks creating two classes of tribes and will have severe impacts, especially for landless and disadvantaged tribes.

The Department's inaction has caused enormous uncertainty in tribal communities, and is perceived as a *de facto* moratorium on the processing of IRA-related requests.

It also is seen as a breach of Interior's trust responsibility.

Working with the NCAI Executive committee, we were able to gain strong backing from our fellow tribes, including political pressure and a position letter to Secretary Salazar.

We are working with the BIA Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk, his staff, Congressman Dicks, Washington Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ron Allen, as well as the NCAI and Native American Rights Fund to get the DOI to move more quickly.

We hope to have an answer soon to the Tribe's efforts to get a decision from the DOI on our trust land and initial reservation. We have been seeking federal approval for over seven and a half years and there is no excuse for further delay.

We are a landless tribe and a decision on our project should not get tied up in off-reservation gaming issues that do not apply to the Cowlitz Tribe.

Mental Health Services

We have been working with the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation on a proposal for the tribe to provide mental health services in King County at the Daybreak Star Center.

I have accepted a position on the Board of UIAT. We have now received approval from the Portland Area Office. That is good news for us and for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. We will be contracting for the shared approach to services. This will build capacity for our healthcare facilities.

It is a true honor to represent the tribe in Washington DC on several occasions during the past year.

We all look forward to the 2010 Canoe Journey when the Makah Nation is hosting this sacred annual event. Thank you for your continued support through these challenging times, your pride and enthusiasm provides great inspiration to me, to the Tribal Council and every Cowlitz Tribal employee.

The Cultural Resource Department and Cultural Resources Board deserve our support and appreciation for the 10th Anniversary Federal Acknowledgement celebration, the Smelt Ceremony and the First Salmon Ceremony.

It is my honor to serve as your Chairman. It will be truly a joyous gathering of our people in June.



VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Phil Harju

Cultural Events

2010 has already been a busy year for the Cowlitz Tribe.

On February 14, 2010 we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our Federal Acknowledgment in the gym at St. Mary's. We heard the oral stories from our members who made the historic trip to Washington, DC, in the winter of 2000.

BIA Regional Director Stan Speaks attended the celebration and gave kind remarks in support of the Cowlitz Tribe.

In March we held a smelt ceremony on the Cowlitz River at

Vice Chairman's Report-Continued

Gearhart Gardens Park in Longview. Unfortunately, there were no smelt in the river, but through the efforts of Steve Kutz, who acquired some early smelt, we did have smelt for the ceremony.

The smelt had been prepared and smoked by Jess Groll. Our Natural Resource Department is continuing to work with the Federal Agencies to preserve and protect our precious smelt runs.

Kids Camp

Also, in April, the Tribe hosted a Cowlitz Kids Camp at St. Mary's for three days of spring break. It was wonderful to hear the laughter and see the good times had by our children.

Thanks to everyone for their time and hard work on all these ceremonies and projects, especially to Cassie Sellards-Reck and Patty Kinswa-Gaiser on our first Cowlitz Kids Camp at St. Mary's.

Projects in progress

As of the time of this writing, our land into trust application is still pending at the Interior Department in Washington, DC.

We all hope that there will be a positive decision on our reservation land as soon as possible.

Work is almost completed on our new health clinic building in Longview. We hope to have a grand opening in the near future.

Work on our Tribal Court planning grant is also proceeding. Under the federal grant, Tessa Cohen, our Legal Policy Analyst and I, were able to interview the Mohegan Tribal Court Judge, his staff, and the Mohegan Elders Council. They provided valuable insight, knowledge, and information to assist us in our planning for the Cowlitz Tribe.

We have also interviewed the Court Clerk and Tribal Judge from the Squaxin Island Tribe Court. We received 139 replies to our recent Tribal Court Survey. The survey results are set forth elsewhere in the newsletter.

General Council in June

I am looking forward to our June General Council Meeting, the encampment and the First Salmon Ceremony.

This truly is a wonderful weekend for our Cowlitz Family and our many friends. I hope that as many Cowlitz as possible can attend. I know in talking to our members, that we face some challenges and concerns.

I also see and hear of the great accomplishments of the Cowlitz People.

I continue to remain confident that with the strength, wisdom and courage of our membership, the Cowlitz Tribe will continue to maintain our sovereignty, to grow and to prosper.

You have my commitment to listen, to work hard, and to give my best for the Cowlitz. I again want to thank you for the continuing honor and privilege to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.



TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Lenny Bridges

Tribal Pride

Last month, two events happened that made me extremely proud of both my daughter Charly, and my Tribe.

After six years of college study, Charly received her Master's Degree in Education from the Evergreen State College.

She was able to accomplish this major goal with assistance from the Tribe in the form of scholarships and rental assistance.

"I am proud of the priorities set by General Council." — Lenny Bridges

Hopefully, she is on her way to a productive life, doing something she loves: teaching.

I am proud of my Tribe because of the priorities that were set by General Council years ago when we decided to use Docket 218 funding to take care of our elders, educate our young, and then provide jobs, housing, and medical care for any members in need.

Housing, Education & Health

We are currently doing an excellent job of taking care of the needs of our elders, with our housing department helping with rental and down payment assistance.

We now have low-income elder-housing available with the completion of the St. Mary's project.

With funding from Docket 218, our Education Committee has awarded hundreds of scholarships, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to worthy recipients.

Our tribal health department provides top-notch medical and mental health care for any tribal member in need.

Economic Development

Our Economic Development Committee is now starting an active search to fund and develop new businesses that will put more tribal members to work.

They understand that by doing this, they are helping to ensure a positive future for the tribe, one not solely dependent on the casino.



TRIBAL COUNCIL VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Steve Kutz

I want to provide you some information on health issues as well as some of the Cultural opportunities available to members of the Tribe.

Indian Healthcare Reform

Along with all other Tribes, we have been involved in the long battle during the past few years for reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

This Act describes how the United States Government, through Indian Health Service, will attempt to meet their obligations to provide healthcare to Indians. This reauthorization was made a part of the most recent Healthcare Reform legislation.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), Public Law 94-437, expired on September 30, 2000, and was extended through 2001 in anticipation that Congress would consider the pending reauthorization proposals.

Since 2001, Congress has held hearings on the reauthorization proposals. While there have been various versions of the bill considered, the work on reauthorization of the IHCIA was not enacted into law until it was put into the recent healthcare reform bill. It is sad that the government took so long.

The reauthorization has a series of complex authorizations that will take time to understand. Also, the complex Health Reform legislation will affect all of us in some way, whether through taxes or services.

In future articles I will attempt to keep our members updated on how this will affect Tribal Members; however, the following list contains some of the timelines and programs that begin in January 2014:

1. Medicaid will be expanded to all citizens up to 133% of the poverty level. The poverty level formula is determined based on income and number of persons living in a household. Also, for the first time single adults fitting the above criteria will be eligible for Medicaid coverage.
2. States will establish Health Insurance Exchanges (HIE) where the private individual may purchase health insurance at group rates. They will not be allowed to exclude those with pre-existing conditions, there will be no lifetime payment cap, and will be guaranteed to be renewable. For those individuals between 133% and 400% of the poverty

level, insurance through the exchange will be available with some levels of subsidies.

3. The cost sharing requirements for those participating in these insurance programs through the exchange will not be required for Tribal Members who have an income of 300% of the poverty level, or less.
4. The Tribes will continue to be the payers of last resort under policies bought through the exchange.
5. Mental health and chemical dependency treatment will also be available under these policies.

Contract Healthcare

Initial funding for the Tribe's healthcare was through the mechanism of Contract Health Service (CHS) funding.

These moneys are used to pay for eligible health services for our members living in a Health Service Area (HSA). This HSA is currently King, Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark and Skamania counties, and shortly we should hear whether we have authorization to add Wahkiakum and Kittitas counties, and Columbia County in Oregon, to the Health Service Area.

In order to be eligible for this funding a tribal member must first register with the Cowlitz CHS office, and then get pre-authorization for any healthcare in advance of receiving the care. Unless it is a true emergency, and then the member must notify the CHS office within 72 hours of accessing emergency services. For more information, call the CHS office at: 360-575-8275.

Indian Health Service (IHS) also funds a healthcare system across the United States for various levels of healthcare through direct healthcare services at clinics and in some areas, hospitals run by Tribes and/or Indian Health Service.

The Rules

They do not want to pay for healthcare twice, so they also put additional rules and regulations in place for a Tribal member to access CHS funding for healthcare.

One of these is the requirement for the Tribal Member to utilize a Tribal/IHS facility if one is available and only authorizes us to utilize CHS funding if the member lives more than 60 miles from the facility, or if the member is denied services at that facility.

That means, that primary care, mental health care, chemical dependency treatment, labs, x-rays, pharmacy, dental, and optical care must be accessed by the Tribal member at one of these sites or they must receive a

denial of services before the Cowlitz Tribe can authorize the services to be received at a private provider.

In addition, CHS funding is a payer of last resort. This means that Medicaid, Social Security, and Private Insurance must pay first, before CHS can be used.

Use it or lose it

Ongoing funding for CHS is based in part on how many Tribal members utilize CHS services in any three year period. Currently in our HSA we have about 950 of a possible approximate 1,700 members utilizing CHS.

Many Tribal members living in our HSA have not registered to use or have not used CHS funding because they have adequate alternate sources of healthcare coverage and want to save the CHS for those who need it the most.

This, however, means that we are not receiving the increases in funding that we would receive if we had 1,700 users. If those who have adequate funding were to utilize a small CHS payment for a prescription or co-pay once every three years, you would help the Tribe receive a higher level of funding for CHS services for all Tribal members.

Contract Health Funding throughout IHS nationwide is not sufficient to cover healthcare for members living in their respective Health Service Areas. If all natives living in a HSA were to rely on CHS to cover their healthcare needs we would constantly be in Priority 1 coverage.

Priority 1

Priority 1 CHS coverage only funds emergency healthcare that is required to immediately save your life, limb, or sight. The Cowlitz Tribe has never had to drop our CHS coverage to Priority 1; however, we are always at risk of doing so on short notice if we are hit by one or more large healthcare bills.

If this happens, then we will immediately go into Priority 1 and quit covering routine or urgent healthcare, including prescriptions, dental, and other services.

In the event that we have all our funds obligated, we would then stop covering any CHS services. I urge any Tribal member who has healthcare coverage to not cancel their coverage since they would then be required to cover their care entirely out of pocket. I would also urge Tribal members to purchase healthcare coverage when and wherever they can do so.

For those Tribal members who live outside our HSA or in other states, healthcare of various levels should be available to you if you live near a Tribal/IHS facility. Also, remember that if you use these facilities, you are not charged any co-pays or deductibles.

Cultural Opportunities

Again this year, we will be having an encampment on the Tribal property near the Interstate 5 Cowlitz River bridge, for all Tribal members who are attending the June 5th General Council meeting. We are planning to have some cultural activities for members to participate in at the encampment.

Also, we are planning on having a Huckleberry Camp up in the Cascades in the area of Indian Heaven. This is the area between Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams. More details will be forthcoming on the Tribal website, but the tentative dates scheduled are August 22nd through August 28th.

In addition, the Tribal Canoe Family is beginning to practice and plan for the canoe journey that will end at the Makah Tribe at Neah Bay. The actual journey is scheduled to begin on or around July 5th. Please keep track of opportunities to participate in this journey by checking on the Tribal website.

If you have an opportunity to participate in any of the practices, or join us on the journey in the canoe, in a support role, or at any of the protocol and ceremonies at each stop, and most especially at the week of celebration at Makah, you may find it a life-changing experience.

Funding Support

The Canoe Family struggles for adequate funding to support the canoe journey, so we are soliciting funding support from many sources and would deeply appreciate any monetary contribution toward this journey. Donations to the Tribe are eligible for deduction on your income tax.

For donations questions you may contact the canoe family treasurer, Teri Graves at terigraves@comcast.net or at 253-209-2255.

Send your check, with a notation that it's for the Canoe Program, to:

Cowlitz Indian Tribe
PO Box 2547
Longview, WA 98632

We are still planning to hold a Cowlitz Kids Camp, but the final dates and place have yet to be determined, so please watch the Tribal website for updates.

Finally, if any Tribal member wishes to talk to me about any of these or other topics, you can reach me at skutz@wavecable.com or on my cell phone at 360-731-2885.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**CANOE**

Gerry Brickey

Canoe Family growing

The Cowlitz Canoe Family has been busy getting ready for our new season. We have been fundraising, making gifts for potlatching, and practicing.

Our Canoe Family has grown this year, and we hope many more Cowlitz people will join us. This is a clean and sober event with many of our members in recovery.

We are developing a children's dance group, and learning lots of new songs from the Cowlitz Drum Group.

Cowlitz to Makah

We would like to invite all the Cowlitz people, their friends and family to join us on our journey to Makah Nation at Neah Bay this year.

For those who would like to join the Canoe Family the upcoming events and directions will be posted on the Tribal website (Cowlitz.org).

*Sahv hi tithla*

If you can't join us but would like to help support us please donate. Gift Certificates and monetary donations would also help the canoe family to replace tents, first aid supplies and other necessities and would be most welcome.

All donations are tax deductible; you can send your check to:

Cowlitz Canoe Family
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Po Box 2457
Longview, WA 98632

Tentative Schedule

May 7/8/9/ City of Toledo boat launch for the opening ceremony, followed by a practice pull. Camping at Vader property.

May 15/ Kelso Kids Powwow for a fundraiser

May 23/24 Practice pull pending,

May 28/29/30/31/ Packwood Flea Market for a fundraiser;

Practice pulls and canoe meeting.

Sometime in June we will go to a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble; information pending.

July 3 / 4 Salmon Dinner fundraising at Eatonville.

July 6 Packing for Journey, July 7 leaving on Journey.

All dates are subject to change. Camping information for all events on web site.

Contact us

If you have any questions you may call Gerry Brickey (Ground Crew Chairperson) @ 360-270-7098 or Darlene Rhodes (ground crew) @ 360-269-4876.

Look for us at the June meeting, selling items, raffle tickets, and holding a silent auction.

We would like to thank everyone for your support and giving us the opportunity to represent the Cowlitz Tribe on the intertribal Journeys.

**DRUM GROUP**

Cassandra Sellards-Reck

Join us!

All are welcome to come drumming.

The first Thursday of each month is in Longview at the Fir Complex, at 6p.m.

The rest of each month we meet on Thursdays at St. Mary's in Toledo, Washington, at 6p.m.

All who are interested and need information please call Steve Kutz at 360-731-2885.

**ENROLLMENT**

Mike Caso, Chair

Responsibility

The responsibility of the Enrollment Committee is to oversee the Enrollment Officer.

We double check his work on enrolling new members and when he declines an applicant, and make decisions on any questions that he might have.

Our Enrollment Officer, Randy Russell, has made no errors. Randy is meticulous and exacting. Our Tribe is lucky to have him.

**FISH DISTRIBUTION**

David Russell, Program Manager

Fish on!

It is now April and the fish are starting to trickle in. At this time the fish are few but they will pick up.

There are more and more tribal members requesting fish so please be patient while waiting for fish.

If you would like to receive fish please call David Russell 360-673-2516 or Kirk Russell, Volunteer Fish Program Assistant 360-772-9935.

All donations are very much appreciated and help keep the distribution program going.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Taylor Aalvik, Chair

Revitalization

During the past year the Tribal Council has worked to revitalize an Economic Development Committee separate from the gaming activities.

Since Federal Acknowledgement the Tribe has primarily focused on getting our initial reservation, of which we are still awaiting a decision from the Federal Government.

It was the opinion of many Tribal leaders that we shouldn't wait anymore to look at developing other economic development opportunities.

The Tribal Council adopted a new Economic Development Committee a few months ago.

The committee is now open to all interested tribal members and we are focused on capacity building in many different areas of economic activity other than gaming.

Our functions include organizing an Economic Development Department, looking for grant opportunities, developing new ideas, working through strategic planning, attending trainings and workshops, and reaching out to Tribal members.

Tribal Business Incubator

One idea we are looking into is development of a business incubator program.

This is a program to build infrastructure that would facilitate the startup and development of new businesses that, after a few years, could graduate into their own facility.

It could potentially be for new Tribal-member businesses or for Tribally-owned businesses.

Business incubators could possibly provide support services such as marketing, finance and tax education, computer training, etc. There are grants available for Tribes to get funding to build capacity building this way. So we will

continue to look at this option plus other possibilities.

We need you!

We are really interested in finding new members for our committee. If you own a business or have knowledge that may assist in our development, we would like you to come participate.

Our normal meetings are usually scheduled on the first Friday afternoon-evening of each month. Please contact me or our Economic Development Committee Secretary, Rod Van Mechelen (rod@vanmechelen.net) to get on the email list for frequent updates, to find out more about activities, or to get logistical help on participating with our committee.

Tremendous opportunities await us as we move forward.

To find out more about the Economic Development Committee, contact Taylor Aalvik : 360-575-3306; taalvik@cowlitz.org



LANGUAGE

Celine Cloquet-Vogler

?acq'wo'l't sq'i'x x x'wa'?k'wu
(happy day to all)

"Without land, our gentle people, who welcomed the white man to our fruitful prairies, forests, mountains and streams, in the most beautiful country on earth, and even fought for their side during the Indian Wars, will become a footnote in history. Genocide of a race, a culture and a language will be inevitable." Chairman Joseph Cloquet testifying in 1978 before a House Congressional Committee on

Interior and Insular Affairs for our acquisition of land.

ALIVE

Beginning in 2007, Grandfather Roy Wilson, Mike and Irene Hubbs and I have participated each quarter in "ALIVE" - Ancestral Languages Indigenous Voice Empowerment.

The mission of ALIVE is to bring together the language people, advocates, programs, and governments of seventeen Western Washington Salish-speaking tribes to form an alliance that will support restoration and revitalization efforts.

Every effort is given to support language fluency within our communities as well as neighbors' communities.

With our language dictionary, authored by linguist M. Dale Kinkade, we now have audio CD's of 52 hours of his interviews – a medium he used to write our dictionary. With these tools we now face ideal granting opportunities to restore our language. In the meantime, I administer a Facebook page at "Cowlitz Salishan Lessons." You will find useful phrases common in every day conversation with your family and we encourage you to begin with these small efforts toward restoration, in honor of our ancestors.

And we always incorporate our language within Cowlitz youth activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**HEALTH BOARD**

Cassandra Sellards-Reck, Chair

IHCIA reauthorization

On March 21, 2010, there was a huge victory for the 564 federally recognized Tribes in the United States. It was a historical day with the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The House and Senate's healthcare reform bill passed by a vote of 219 to 212, which included the reauthorization of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHCIA). The IHCIA legislation has been requested for the last 10 years.

Indian Country has had deplorable health conditions for years. No other population has experienced greater health disparities than the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population.

The U.S. Commission on Civil rights reported that American Indian youth are twice as likely to commit suicide; AI/AN are 630 percent more likely to die from alcoholism, 650 percent more likely to die from tuberculosis, 328 percent more

likely to die from diabetes, and 204 percent more likely to suffer accidental death when compared with other ethnic groups.

These disparities have largely been attributed to a serious lack of funding sufficient to advance the healthcare infrastructure and the level and quality of health services for AI/AN.

Our ancestors gave millions of acres of land to secure the future of our people. Among other things, this entitles us to healthcare. The IHCIA, which was originally enacted in 1976 by Congress to address the poor conditions in Indian Country, expired September 30, 2000.

The Tribes worked endlessly during the past 10 years to reauthorize the IHCIA to expand, improve, and modernize health delivery and services in tribal communities.

Trust responsibility

The inclusion of the IHCIA in the healthcare reform bill reaffirms the government's trust responsibility to provide healthcare to our people.

AI/AN people will view this as not only important legislation but celebrate it as an important policy statement that has been enacted into law by the United States.

This new legislation will bring substantial improvements for Indian Country's healthcare by improving workforce development and recruiting health professionals in Indian Country; providing funds for facilities construction as well as maintenance and improvement funds to address priority facility needs; creating opportunities for access to and financing of necessary healthcare services for AI/AN; and assisting with modernization of the delivery of health services provided by the Indian Health Service.

This legislation will bring hope to all our communities. And the Cowlitz Health Board will work to bring the new changes and benefits to you, our Tribal members, through the Health and Human Services newsletter and Cowlitz website.

We will work hard to bring more complete coverage and benefits to all of our Tribal members. Our goal is not only to take care of our Tribal members' healthcare, but also to promote wellness.

It's an honor to be able to serve you as the Cowlitz Health Board Chair. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at 360-513-1243.

**MUSEUM ADVISORY PLANNING**

Robert Harju

At the request of our Cultural Board Chair, Roy Wilson, I have been asked to head this group.

Planning and implementing a museum is one important goal of our Cultural Resources Department and the Cultural Resources Board.

Some years ago, Roy Wilson conducted a voluntary inventory of

Cowlitz memorabilia and artifacts, but as this was over 30 years ago it is time to update our files and catalog all Cowlitz tribal artifacts, especially those at risk of loss or deterioration.

And as tribal carver I am especially interested in any carved or wooden artifacts.

So please contact me to let us know what is out there, or to attend our next planning session. Knowing

what is or might be available will assist in planning.

To contact me: 360-623-0816 or email robertharju@cowlitz.org



COMMITTEE REPORTS



POWWOW: HONORING THE SPIRIT OF ALL COWLITZ PEOPLE

Suzanne Donaldson-Stephens, Chair

11th Annual Cowlitz Powwow

The 11th Annual Cowlitz Powwow will be held at St. Mary's Center, 107 Spencer Road, Toledo, WA, on September 25, 2010.

Head Woman Dancer: Jeanifer King

Head Man Dancer: Kevin King

Master of Ceremonies: Jerry Chapman

Arena Director: Michael Brock

Toledo Cheese Days Parade

The Cowlitz Powwow Committee has been a supporter for many years.

We invite all interested Tribal members to attend with us and participate in the parade. Regalia, a Powwow T-shirt or native print is appropriate but not required.

The Powwow Committee recognizes the importance of interacting with the public on as many levels as possible.

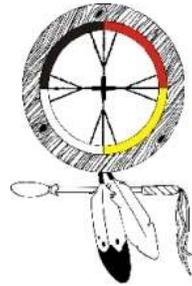
We appreciate the sincerity that the Toledo Cheese Days has expressed towards us. Contact Suzanne with questions and for participation details.

Volunteer!

Have you always thought that it would be fun to volunteer for the Powwow?

Ever thought what a great way to be part of a successful day? You are in luck!

Since the Powwow is self-supporting, it is managed and implemented by volunteers, and supported by fundraising and donations. We appreciate any help you can give whether it is a few hours or more. It is a great way to show your Cowlitz Pride!



2009-2010 Powwow Princess

Teona Kinswa was selected as the Cowlitz Powwow Princess, and is representing the tribe at various powwows throughout the Pacific Northwest. Emily Amell was runner up. Watch the Tribal website for updates and for the 2010-2011 Princess Competition Information.

Vendors

We are always looking for new Vendors. Last year we had over 30 vendors and the feedback received was that this is one of the best one-day Powwows most of them had been to.

That is why we have so many returning vendors each year. If you or someone you know sells Native crafts, sign up now for a booth at this year's Powwow. There are plenty of good spots open. So sign up now and reserve your spot.

The vendor application form can be downloaded at www.cowlitz.org under events, powwow. Vendor spots are reserved on first-come-first-paid basis.

Artwork

We are always accepting artwork to be used for the Powwow! If you didn't meet the deadline of April 15, 2010, please submit your artwork anytime throughout the year to be considered for future years.

Typically, we put artwork for each year on merchandise such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc., so please keep that in mind. Submit artwork

via email to:

powwowinfo@cowlitz.org or Cowlitz Indian Tribe Powwow 107 Spencer Road Toledo, WA 98591.

Parking

The Powwow committee is very excited to have more available space for parking. The main parking lot project in front of St. Mary's is now complete. This will allow for more elder parking spaces with easy access.

No need to worry about a shortage of spaces. The Powwow committee has again reserved the large Field near St. Mary's, which has ample space to park everything from motorcycles to RV's.

Parking attendants will be on hand to assist with directions, questions or to give a needed hand crossing the street. In the evening, all parking lots will be lighted for your security, including the field.

Thank you to Taylor, Tracy & Kayla Aalvik for representing the 2009 Cowlitz Powwow as head dancers!

Join the Committee

To be a committee member you must attend the monthly meetings and help out at various community and tribal gatherings.

For the powwow weekend, you need to be committed to work all day Friday until about 8 p.m., Saturday from about 8 a.m. to midnight or later, and Sunday from 8 a.m. until about noon.

It is a lot of hard work but the rewards are even greater. Knowing that you were part of such a wonderful event is a great feeling!

To comment, for information or to join the committee, please email powwowinfo@cowlitz.org.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS



CULTURAL RESOURCES

dAVE Burlingame, Director

Meetings

Met with WSDOT regarding the I-5 widening from Mellon Street to Blakeslee project, updating the Area of Potential Effect and archaeological progress. Ed was interviewed by Amber Ensign from Eastern Washington University. The topic was traditional plants and how they were used for both physical and mental health. Met with the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss upcoming forest practice applications (FPAs). Met in Portland with staff of Archaeological Investigations Northwest to discuss contract for Gee Creek (I-5/I-502 interchange) artwork. We will produce the art for the sign, to be put in place this summer.

Smelt Ceremony

Smelt Ceremony, March 7, 2010. No arrests were made, as people opted to dip the net into the Columbia, which was legal. Around 100 people attended, and everyone got to eat a smoked eulachon, as well as hear Ed tell a new Legend that came to him in a dream.



Smelt Ceremony, Cowlitz River, March 7, 2010—Photo by Rod Van Mechelen

Ed and I went to the Coweeman School in Kelso and spoke to several 7th grade classes. We told some history, as well as facts about our territory and how we live today. Very sharp kids with good questions; Ed brought his box of artifacts and passed them around.

Opus Site Camas Oven

NWAC (Northwest Anthropological Conference). This year's conference took place in Ellensburg; the conference is always a great place to network, meet new people and catch up with acquaintances. The oven from the Opus site in Centralia was presented in two separate

papers, and there were audible "ooooo" and "aaahhhs" when the slides were shown. The keynote speaker was UW's Eugene Hunn, who spoke of place names serving as cultural resources; he extensively referred to Mary Kiona and the Cowlitz.



Chehalis-Cowlitz Camas Oven—Photo by dAVE Burlingame

The CRD has contracted with Archaeological Investigations Northwest to produce the graphics for the signage to be installed at the Gee Creek rest stop (I-5/I-205 Interchange).

I contacted the proprietor of Earthpoint, a company that adds township and range information to Google Earth, to ask about a subscription for the Department. We were granted a year for free, with the understanding that we can be given free renewals. Having the T & R overlay greatly helps us locate cultural resources.

I sent a message to the Skamania county commissioners on behalf of the St. Martin family; members of the family discovered a locked gate which hampered their access to the Hot Springs Cemetery, which once belonged to the Family, but now it is under control of the County. I have yet to receive an answer.

Robert has been busy. He carved pieces that were given away at our recent Recognition Celebration, as well as creations Phil Harju took with him back east.

Dave and Kurt Russell distributed 4,566 salmon last year! This number includes fish taken for our ceremonies, weddings, and other events.

A stand of culturally modified trees (CMTs)—cedars—near Castle Rock has been categorized and is now protected from future timber harvests and development.

**For additional information, contact: dAVE
Burlingame, culture@cowlitz.org
Office: 360.577.6962; Cell: 360.508.1677**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Kim Stube, Program Manager

Busy season ahead

With summer fast approaching, the transit program is busy. We hope to have another driver hired by May.

We are also awaiting delivery of our new Dodge Sprinter Paratransit Van funded by WSDOT and BIA. The original delivery date was in March, but due to severe weather back east it pushed our delivery date to the end of April, so we hope that the van arrives soon.

Elders' Program

In October of 2009 the Department purchased a 2009 Ford Flex for the Elders Program.

The old van was on its last leg and they could not come up with funding to purchase a new one. So I worked with the BIA in Portland to make a contract that would fit the Elders Program needs and still fall within the transit guidelines.

New clinic

As we start into construction season we are looking at several projects.

Phase III of the new medical clinic has not been approved with the BIADOT in Portland Oregon. We have an additional survey for right-of-ways that need to be done to meet the BIA requirement and the City of Longview.

I have hired the surveyor who did the initial survey for the clinic and we have put a rush on the completion to get to the city for its review and then to the county to be recorded. From there it will be sent to BIADOT in Portland.

When the funds come from different pots everyone has their own guidelines to follow. So the move to the new clinic must wait for codes and guidelines to be completed.

Sweatlodge access

I have been asked to assess the Sweat Lodge access road to look into road, parking, and possible trail improvements, and maybe lighting. As my 2010 IRR funds start to be awarded this is one of the projects that transportation, cultural and natural resources are looking at. We will have a meeting to review what needs to be done and can be done.

Swift School House

The other joint project is the Swift School House property. Through the winter months, Taylor and I did not talk much about the project. But with spring, we will reassess use of the property and how it can fall under transportation.

What the tribe determines for the use of this property can affect how I can help. The IRR funds are Federal Highway Trust Funds and must be used for the public.

**DVSA PROGRAM**

Debbie Medeiros, Program Manager

Passionate about services

It is important to me that all Tribal members are safe within their homes and relationships. This is why I am passionate about the services that our Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program offers.

The Tribal DVSA Program started providing services to Native Americans and Alaska Natives in 2005. We provide advocacy services to Native American and Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

New name for DVSA

Recently the staff of the DVSA Program staff recognized the need

to change our name to something more culturally appropriate and less institutional. The program staff had several brainstorming sessions regarding possible names for the program.

Staff discussed the services offered to clients, and what values and ideas we try to put forth in our interactions with clients and community agencies. Input was gathered from members of the Health Board, staff from other Health and Human Services Programs, as well as the Tribal DVSA Advisory Committee.

After incorporating the feedback we received, the selection was narrowed down to three possible names. These three names were taken to Elders on April 2, 2010.

The Elders were informed about the services offered by the program and the message behind each of the three names. After discussion, the Elders voted on the name they liked for the program, our new name is Cowlitz Tribal Pathways to Healing Program.

Pathways to Healing

There are many paths to healing. Each client knows what is best for them, which path they should take. Our program helps to show clients possible ways to healing from abuse, but ultimately each client chooses their own path.

This has been an exciting endeavor for us. During this process the staff was able to reflect on their work in our community.

What is the next step? We will be having a naming ceremony. I will work toward preparing for this ceremony that will take place this summer.

If you have any questions or would like more information on services please contact me at either 360-397-8228 or 360-624-7040.

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ELDERS' PROGRAM

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Program Manager

The program is growing

The Elders Program began in 2002 with two Elders participating, and now we have 127 listed! We are looking for more Elders to come and join us, so if you are 60 or older you can come and have some fun, get a nutritious meal, play the Wii games, and do cultural activities. This program serves our Tribal Elders in Lewis, Cowlitz, and Clark counties, but will also assist with referrals in other areas.

We recently provided Elders/Youth activities during Spring Break. We hope to be able to do this more often, by utilizing volunteers and searching for more funding.



Kids Camp at St. Mary's, April 3, 2010—Photo by Teri Graves

Caregiver Support

This program is for assistance to the unpaid caregiver of Elders or grandparents raising grandchildren. Support may include respite care, training and home visits. Also connects caregivers with agencies to further assist them.

Senior Nutrition Program

Provides Congregate meals, Information & Assistance, Transportation, and Wellness checks - either by phone or home visits. We ask that you call the kitchen to make a reservation for your congregate meals. Meals are served in Toledo, WA, at the St. Mary's Center on Monday and Friday, and at the Fir Complex, in Longview, on Wednesday. Did you know that Cowlitz Elders 60 and over are eligible to participate in other tribes' Senior Meals programs and caregiver support services? Contact your local tribe for more information.

Program Staff



Senior Nutrition Staff—Photo by Sheryl Bertucci

Jennifer Johnson, a Lummi Elder is the cook assistant and transport driver.

Barbara Lindholm, Cowlitz Elder is the cook and home delivery person.

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Elders and Caregiver Support Program Manager; administers the grant, transports, cooks and provides cultural activities.



ENROLLMENT

Randy Russell, Enrollment Officer

Population growing

Our population continues to grow. In 2009 the tribe enrolled a total of 62 infants, January 2010 we enrolled 11 infants and currently have 15 applications pending review at the next enrollment committee meeting.

Please remind any enrolled family member or friend expecting a baby to request an enrollment application for their child before the child reaches their first birthday as the eligibility age is no older than 12 months of age.

Please help the office keep our mailing list current by notifying the enrollment office of any address changes. When reporting name changes or deaths to the Bureau of Indian Affairs they want a copy of the document used to legally change your name, and in the case of death, a copy of the death certificate.

You can contact me at 360-575-3310.

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GRANTS PROGRAM

Jan Healy, Grant Writer

DOE Efficiency Community Block Grant

The Tribe's project to increase energy efficiency and conserve energy at the Longview offices is nearly finished. The work included replacing all the lighting, windows, exterior doors and most of the heating and air conditioning units.

The improvements in lighting alone qualify the Tribe for a substantial rebate from the Cowlitz Public Utilities District and the offices are noticeably more comfortable for clients and staff.

Former Executive Coordinator Mike Iyall led this project, just as he was retiring. Funding came from a federal stimulus grant. The federal government website tracking the stimulus funding is www.recovery.gov.

Grants Pending

At press time, the Tribe was waiting for decisions on several major federal grant applications.

One proposal, to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, would support a new outpatient day-treatment program for chemical dependency clients who also have mental health conditions.

Another grant, from the U.S. Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans, would provide funds for the Tribe to draft and implement its first comprehensive strategic plan.

A third application, to the U.S. Department of Justice, would continue funding for the Tribe's Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault program (recently named Pathways to Healing), led by program manager Debbie Medeiros.

At press time, a decision was pending about including in our application a proposal for continued funding to develop the Tribe's justice system. Pathways to Healing is also applying to Washington State, through the Office on Crime Victims Assistance (OCVA), for continued funding specifically for sexual assault advocacy and support services and community outreach.

Notably, OCVA recently awarded the Tribe special funding for Debbie Medeiros to provide technical assistance and training to other northwest tribes that may want help with their sexual assault advocacy programs.

Culture Projects

The Tribe also has submitted several grant requests for cultural projects. We have two proposals under consideration by the Potlatch Fund.

One would allow the Tribe to catalogue and digitize some of its paper document collections. Recently, retired educator and writer Judith Irwin donated to the Tribe materials she gathered during her research into Cowlitz history.

Thanks to a previous grant from Potlatch Fund, we have copies, from the National Archives, of all the documents from the Tribe's land compensation case (Docket 218) before the Indian Claims Commission.

Our other request is to cover some of the expenses for the Tribe's participation in the Intertribal Canoe Journey Paddle to Makah this August.

Since participation in the Canoe Journey has increased and costs for the many days of travel and camping have grown, this year we have asked the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Puyallup Tribe for a little financial assistance through their charitable funds.

For help with some of the costs for Cowlitz Huckleberry Camp at the Tribe's Swift Schoolhouse property in late August, we have applied to the charitable funds of the Siletz Tribe and the Tulalip Tribe.

Finally, the Tribe will need significant funding to equip the dental suite in the new Clinic. Grant proposals are in-progress to three foundations who may want to supply "finishing funds" for our new facility.

Mary Kiona Film Project

Retired professor and author Judith Irwin now lives at University House Wallingford, a retirement home affiliated with the University of Washington's Retiree's organization.

Judith is on the committee that schedules weekly lectures for residents. Stemming from her own work on the history of the Tribe and her friendship with Mary Kona's late granddaughter, Joyce Eyley, Judith is interested in the Mary Kiona film project that Nina Atkins (Reisman) and I have been working on, with the Tribe's support.

Nina and I arranged with Judith to speak about the project at University House on Monday, April 19. We presented the main ingredients of the project and explained the pre-production phase.

In her wonderful introduction, Judith used two large topographic maps to show the ancestral lands of the Upper and Lower Cowlitz people, and their seasonal rounds and trading patterns.

My presentation covered our sources and the broader issues of land use, dams on the Cowlitz River, and Mary Kiona's testimony before the Indian Claims Commission. Nina shared stories of her great-grandmother and interviews with "old timers" in the Cowlitz Valley. The audience enjoyed our program.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Todd Bratton

Newly Eligible Medicare Beneficiaries

If you are a newly enrolled Medicare Beneficiary, you have up to six months to schedule an Initial Preventative Physical Examination (IPPE). After six months, Medicare does not cover the IPPE or costs of routine physical examinations.

The IPPE or “Welcome to Medicare” visit will cover seven preventative services including: Review of medical and social history, review of risk factors and depression screening, review of the patient’s functional abilities and level of safety, physical examination, an EKG, education, counseling, and referrals based on the information given, and other referrals education and counseling for more preventative services.

It is important that all Elders receive preventative care, and all new Medicare beneficiaries should take advantage of the IPPE.

If you are unsure about what benefits you are eligible for, please schedule an appointment with the Tribal Clinic’s Benefit Counselor, Brittany Jones, at (360) 575-3303.

IHCIA is permanently reauthorized

The federal government’s trust responsibility to provide healthcare for the nation’s 564 federally-recognized tribes was reaffirmed with the passage of the healthcare reform bill.

After fighting for over ten years to reauthorize the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHCIA), the legislation was finally permanently reauthorized with the reform bill.

There is quite a bit to be excited about in the IHCIA, but it is not yet clear how the Indian Health Service (IHS) will or must respond to the legislation.

The bill authorizes Congress to fund certain programs, but several have not yet been funded. It is also unclear how the legislation will impact the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, but it will certainly allow the Tribe to be eligible for future programs, grants, and demonstration projects.

Some key provisions include expansion of demonstration projects for Community Health Aides, programs to address providing services in rural and reservation areas, expansion of behavioral health programs including mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention, programs to address the health professional shortage in Indian Country, and much more.

For a preliminary look at IHCIA, you can review an explanation from Yvette Roubideaux, IHS Director at the National Indian Health Board’s Website. Please visit nihb.org

Health and Human Services Contacts

Vocational Rehabilitation: 360-575-3318

Chemical Dependency: 360-575-3316

Domestic and Sexual Violence: 360-397-8228

Medical Clinic: 360-575-8275

Mental Health: 360-575-8275

Contract Health Services: 360-575-8275

Elders Program: 360-864-8727

Indian Child Welfare: 360-575-8276

Benefits Counseling: 360-575-3303



HOUSING

Sheryl Bertucci, Deputy Director

Elder Housing Complex

Welcome to the Tribe’s beautiful new low income Elder (62+) Housing Complex.



St. Mary’s—Photos by Rod Van Mechelen

A variety of accommodations are available, from efficiency apartments to 2-bedroom condo-type units. Rents range from \$100 to \$652 per month, depending on size, amenities, and resident income.

All buildings are protected by a closed-circuit camera security system and state-of-the-art fire protection. All apartments are served by elevators. Small pets (dog or cat) are welcome. Overnight guests are limited to 4 nights per-month unless approved prior to stay.

The individually air conditioned and heated efficiency apartments, located in the former nuns’ quarters wing of St. Mary’s, are furnished with flat screen TV, beds, upholstered recliners, table and

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St. Mary's Nuns' Qtrs—Photo by Rod Van Mechelen

chairs, refrigerator, and convection oven with microwave.

All utilities are paid for you including basic cable TV. Rents are a straight 30% of monthly income.



St. Mary's Courtyard—Photo by Rod Van Mechelen



St. Mary's Condo—Photo by Bob Bouchard

The Condo-type apartments, which are located in the classroom wing of St. Mary's, range from studio size to 2 bedrooms.

The air conditioned units feature full kitchens complete with dishwashers and island counter space. Most have beautiful built-in bookcases to display memorabilia or collections. They are not furnished and the occupants pay their own

electricity and cable TV. Covered parking is provided.

Rents are: Studio - \$460, 1-Bedroom - \$561, 2-Bedroom - \$652

Tribal members who think they might like to live here should call our housing services manager, Gary Lowe, at 360-864-7010. Gary will provide an application and help you with eligibility. Buildings will be open for tours during and after the General Council meeting in June.

Rulemaking Committee

The Cowlitz Tribe has been honored nationally by the selection of Larry Coyle, Exec. Dir. of Tribal Housing, to be the Chairman of HUD's Negotiated Rulemaking Committee.

Larry was chosen for his skills in creating statutory changes passed by the legislature. Participants in the Committee are the top officials of HUD, the top officials from the Office of Native American Programs, and tribes through elected regional representatives.

The negotiated rulemaking process helps to solidify the government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the Federal Government.

Housing Payment Assistance

We offer qualified low income members up to \$500 per month for up to 6 months to help with rent or house payments. College students enrolled in a minimum 12 credits per quarter may receive assistance of up to \$350 per month.

Tribal Housing is thrilled that more Tribal members are applying for down payment assistance, thereby helping members to achieve homeownership. Qualifying members can receive up to \$20,000 for the down payment on a home.

Home Rehab

Roof leak? Porch wobbly? Need wheelchair ramps? Qualifying

members can receive help with home rehabilitation needs affecting the health and safety of occupants.

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 President's new Making Home Affordable Program is:

www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/

This website 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 short sale and deed-in-lieu of foreclosure.

Well and Sewer Repair or Replacement

By coordinating with Indian Health Services we are able to bring clean water and sanitary living conditions to members in need. Applications are processed by Housing, and IHS does the assessment and repair or replacement.

Homeownership or Financial Counseling

For free homebuyer education classes conveniently located in your own city, go to website: homeownership-wa.org.

We offer one-on-one counseling at St. Mary's for members who live near or simply want private guidance. Call Sheryl 360-864-7019 for a confidential chat.

Do I Qualify for Assistance?

Qualifications are based on family size and income, and are different in each county. Call Gary Lowe for confidential answer. 360-864-7010.

Who do I call for help? Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing: 360-864-8700.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Nancy Osborne, Director

Growing workforce

Eight years ago, January 2002, we had one paid employee; we now have 77 employees. We have a very good track record of retaining our employees.



Tribal Admin Office—Photo by Rod Van Mechelen

Most of our programs are grant-funded. Our Directors and Grant Writer are continually looking for new grants to further develop the departments and add more staff.

When a grant is awarded, or there is a vacancy in a department, the position is posted in all 4 Tribal offices (Longview Admin Office, Housing in Toledo, Vancouver Clinic, and Transportation in Longview) and on the Tribal website for 7 days before being advertised anywhere else.

If we do not have enough qualified applicants for a position we will then advertise in local newspapers, Indian Health Services website, and Craig's list, depending on the position. We have also advertised at colleges.

I encourage everyone interested in a position with the Tribe to visit the Tribal website weekly for job postings. In the past not many Tribal members applied for jobs, but recently we have had more Tribal members applying.

**LEGAL**

Tessa Cohen

Tribal Court Survey

Thank you to all the members who completed the Tribal Court Survey. The results of the survey are included here. There are many of you who have voiced your opinions regarding a Cowlitz Tribal Court and your comments are very insightful.

The comments will provide guidance as to where members see a possible tribal court going.

Along with the survey, research and grant-funded trainings, we have visited other tribal courts to find the best solution for the Cowlitz Tribe.

Funding for the planning and implementation stages comes from a grant from the Federal government. We are in the final stages of the planning stage and will have a recommendation report to Tribal Council for the May meeting.

For more information, please contact Tessa Cohen, Legal Policy Analyst (grant-funded), 360-575-3301; tcohen@cowlitz.org.

Survey Results

The following are the results of the Tribal Court survey mailed to members in October 2009 and available to members at the November 2009 General Council Meeting. A total of 139 responses were received and many provided valuable written comments as well. Thank you for your participation!

Question #1:

U.S. and Washington courts have a western-style structure. Do you think a Cowlitz Tribal Court should be modeled on a western-style court or be more uniquely native? Or should a tribal court be a blend of the two?

1 = Western-style, 5 = Native-style

Results:

1 - 16

2 - 9

3 - 64

4 - 18

5 - 23

Question #2:

Please rate how formal a Cowlitz Tribal Court should be.

1 = Formal, 5 = Informal

Results:

1 - 34

2 - 29

3 - 54

4 - 7

5 - 6

Question #3:

How important is the creation of a Cowlitz Tribal Court to you as a member?

1 = Not Important, 5 = Very

Important

Results:

1 - 18

2 - 18

3 - 29

4 - 23

5 - 49

Question #4:

Please rate how much Cowlitz native culture should be incorporated into a Cowlitz Tribal Court.

1 = Not Cultural, 5 = Very Cultural

Results:

1 - 5

2 - 5

3 - 51

4 - 34

5 - 34

Question #5:

Would you like to have a tribal court forum for mediation or conflict resolution?

Yes or No.

Results:

Yes - 97

No - 17

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Taylor Aalvik, Director

Smelt listed as endangered

Our past Chairman John Barnett brought forward an initiative to propose smelt for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2007.

His concerns for the smelt decline and hard fought work to have the federal government recognize their plight came through to fruition on March 16, 2010.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s fisheries service (NOAA fisheries) accepted our proposal and have announced they will list them as a threatened species under the ESA.

Although the work that John began has been successful, now the real work begins. The smelt listing now provides a mechanism for additional funds for anticipated research, monitoring, and recovery efforts to take place. We are front runners to build capacity and can be the key managers of the recovery efforts.

Ongoing efforts

The continued efforts of the department to establish the Tribe in a position of co-management authority with the State and Federal governments within traditional homelands is showing significant progress.

The national headlines associated with the smelt listing recognize the Tribe’s presence, perseverance, and strong quest for cultural survival.

The department engages in numerous activities with a broad range of resources and ecosystems.

Protecting prairie lands and working to restore the vast

forestlands and watersheds within SW Washington and NW Oregon have been a high priority even before the department was formally created in 2002.

Most of these efforts can be attributed to our ancestors and current leadership. They are the people who instilled the importance to maintain considerable values toward the health and preservation of Tribal homelands and resources.

The department would like to keep interested Tribal members informed of all the various activities we do. We are always working to find and develop opportunities to volunteer for various projects and programs.

To find out more about the department and all the important activities we do, contact Taylor Aalvik: 360-575-3306 taalvik@cowlitz.org



Mike Iyall, Executive Coordinator, Ret.

Advisory Board

In 2010 I represented the tribe at Washington State University’s Plateau Learning Center and the President’s Advisory Board meetings.

Lewis County

In 2010 I worked with Lewis County’s Emergency Management Department to develop an emergency management plan for the tribe.

But we can best help our tribal members in an emergency by working with the jurisdictions where they live. So we will need to work with other jurisdictions as well, such

as King, Pierce, Thurston, Cowlitz and Clark counties. Perhaps others will volunteer for those areas.

Our history

The Cowlitz Tribal history research that I began several years ago continues. We use that information in many areas for the tribe. Thanks to those of you who have helped me with this.

Weatherization Project

As grant administrator for the Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant that Jan Healy and I wrote, I am finishing the weatherization project for our Longview office complex.

That grant provided money for new energy efficient windows, exterior doors, interior lighting, and updated the HVAC system. This should make those offices more comfortable and save on power bills.

Thanks to Ken Jarrett, Housing Coordinator, and Pamela Anderson, Clinic Janitor, for their help in this project.

Executive Coordinator

As Executive Coordinator I retired in October, 2009, but I continue to represent the Tribe as a volunteer at meetings as directed by the Tribal Chairman. These will include meetings with Mt Rainier National Park and other State offices.



Linda Foley

Tribal activities

Since the last edition of the newsletter, I have participated in a number of tribal activities, both as your representative on Tribal Council and because of my own special interests.

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TRIBAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Linda Foley-Continued

In November I attended the funeral of one of our tribal elders, as well as the General Council meeting. In December I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the new elders housing units at St. Mary's.

Every month I have also attended meetings of most of the bodies on which I serve: Tribal Council, Health Board, the Powwow Committee, and Cultural Resources Board.

Minutes, minutes, minutes!

As I am the secretary for the Health Board and the Powwow Committee, I spend several hours each month writing the new sets of minutes and finalizing those from the previous meetings to be placed into the archives.

I take this work very seriously, as I believe accurate records of business conducted at our meetings contribute to knowledge of our history, provide an opportunity to understand how we have attained our current status, and lay the groundwork for future undertakings.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you on Tribal Council and the other bodies mentioned. I consider it an honor and a privilege.



Mike Caso

Earthquake: What to do?

The Red Cross strongly advises not running or moving around during an Earthquake. They advise you to crawl under something like a table or curling up next to a couch or bed.

Since January 1, 2010 there have been 15 major Earthquakes. At this rate there will be 60 by year's end. Last year there were 19 major

quakes and the two years before that there were 32 and 28.

Exaggerated risk?

Media reports seem to exaggerate the risk. The number of earthquakes from 2000 to 2010 is only 1/3 of the number during the 70's, 1/2 of what they were in the 80s, and 1/3 of what they were in the 90s. And they are at the same magnitudes.

But that is not to say that we will not have a major earthquake here, because we will. Sometime during the next 50 years we will have a quake that could very possibly send a 20 foot wall of sea water across I-5.

Remember the TP!

All emergency situations (Earthquake, Pandemic, Wildfire or Displacement Emergency) need the same preparedness, so that makes it easier to be prepared.

Items like food, water, toilet paper, clothes, heat, lighting, method of cooking, etc. Basically everything needed to go camping. And did I mention toilet paper. Don't laugh; of all the items you will need, the one you will miss the most is the T.P.

Ten days

You will need to be self sufficient for 10 days to 2 weeks. One of the easiest ways to prepare is to buy the 5 gallon Emergency Buckets from Costco.

Everything 4 people will need for a week for \$139.99. The main bucket does leave something to be desired and it is recommended that you also purchase the supplement bucket for \$89.99.

That is a total of \$229.98 for 4 people and you will not want for food for a week. And it will keep for 20 years. You will need water, cooking heat, and yes you guessed it, you will need toilet paper too.

Costco Buckets

I will bring both Costco buckets to the General Council Meeting in June so that everyone can see what they look like. I will donate them for the Canoe Journey raffle.



Rod Van Mechelen

Lower Cowlitz Salish Tapes

Through a grant written by Jan Healy, dAVE Burlingame and Ed Arthur obtained more than 50 hours of Cowlitz Salish interviews conducted by linguist M. Dale Kincade in 1967 and 1975.

These recordings were delivered to the Tribal office on cheap CDs. With permission from dAVE and Chairman Iyall, I ripped all of the CDs and transferred them onto an external hard drive that I donated to the Cultural Resources Department to provide more secure storage.

Next I converted them to MP3 format to burn onto DVDs for distribution to our Tribal members. Phil Harju supplied me with more than 300 DVD disks for this project, and at the June 2010 General Council meeting everybody will find one of these DVDs in their membership packet. A few of the DVDs will also include the 1964 Sahaptin interviews with Mary Kiona, which dAVE gave to me later.

If you ever get the chance to listen to Michael Hubbs speak Cowlitz Salish, you may be surprised by the beauty of our ancestors' language.

Yooyoolah!

When Tribal Council appointed me chair of the Communications Committee, with the responsibility to upgrade, edit and layout and

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TRIBAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Rod Van Mechelen-Continued

publish this newsletter, I felt it necessary to withdraw from the Education Committee due to the added demands on my time.

Currently I serve on Tribal Council, Health Board and Cultural Resources Board, which I worked with past-Chairman John Barnett to create; I chair the Awards & Recognition Committee, which I also developed with John, and the Communications Committee; I serve as secretary on the Economic Development Committee, and as the grumpy tribal webmaster.

Cowlitz Country News

Since the first of the year, I sent out almost 400 articles to my Cowlitz Country News email list and 24 bulletins. For more information about these lists, email me at rod@vanmechelen.net.



Cassandra Sellards-Reck

Health & Wellness

I serve as Chair of the Health Board, which is committed to maintaining the health and wellness of our people. We supported legislation that will preserve and provide more medical and dental coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). And we work diligently every month in Board meetings to make sure our Health and Human Services departments have all their needs met.

I am also the delegate to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. I attend meetings every three months at different Tribes in the Northwest.

We work on health and wellness issues that impact Natives across the country. Recently I testified in Seattle at a National HHS meeting about the unique situation that we have without a reservation.

I am on the executive board for the Clark County Mental Health Advisory Board and advocate for AI/AN in the area who have mental health concerns. I also serve on the Clark County Cultural Competency Committee. This has allowed me to ask the questions and advise the county on how to reach out and serve all Natives.

The Clinic is very important to all Health Board members, and I actively participate in the Quality Improvement and Managed Care Committees. Being at the clinic and working with the staff really gives me an opportunity to see how we are serving our members and members in the area from all other Tribes. Currently we serve members of about 120 different Tribes.

Cultural Activities

Involvement in the Culture Board, Drum Group, Canoe Family and Kids Programs are also part of my top priorities. Our Cowlitz Culture is alive and thriving. I am Secretary of the Cultural Resources Board and participate in planning and preserving our Culture. From ceremonies and gatherings, to how to participate at a State level in preserving cultural sites, the Board has an important role and responsibility of looking toward the future and protecting the past.



Cowlitz Drum Group with Steve Purcell, composer of the Cowlitz Honor Song. Front, left to right, Jeanne St. Martin, Ellen Harju, Steve Purcell, Cassy Reck, Cathy Raphael, Karissa Lowe; back, Claudia Tenney, Teri Graves, Becky Lowe.— Photo by Rod Van Mechelen

Cowlitz Kids Program

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Darlene Rhodes and I are developing a Cowlitz Kids Program that will meet once every three months. This will include a week-long Kids Camp.

In March we had a 3-day long overnight Kids Camp at St. Mary's. It was a huge success and our kids had a great time. We were able to offer wonderful kid-friendly meals. Activities included archery, beading, language, cedar carving, traditional storytelling, history, regalia-making and the new traditional garbage can races. In the evening the kids danced the night away to modern and traditional music. They learned to paddle and powwow dance. It was wonderful!

**Ancestral Wisdom**

The Medicine Wheel Teachings of Cowlitz Spiritual Leader and Honorary Chief Grandfather Roy Wilson

□ 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the 3rd Saturday at St. Mary's Center, in Toledo, WA
For details, contact Grandfather at itswoot@q.com, or call 360-990-4265.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DUES ARE DUE**

Jess Groll, Tribal Treasurer

Your dues are important!

It's time to send in your Tribal dues! Dues are used to pay for expenses that cannot be covered by grants, contracts, D218 income and indirect reimbursement.

This year will be tighter than ever as our Docket 218 income is being used up at a rate that we have never experienced before and the pressure for Cultural activity exceeds our funding. Dues are \$10 per adult, \$5 for children and seniors.

Send your dues to:

Cowlitz Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 2547
Longview, WA 98632

Newsletter Submissions

The newsletter is prepared by the Cowlitz Communications Committee. Send all comments & submissions to Rod Van Mechelen at newsletter@cowlitz.org

Tribal Veterans Administration

We have 94 veterans who have sent in their names but less than 20 have sent their DD-214s. If you haven't sent in your DD-214, it is important to do so. Your Tribe needs to know who you are. In the not too distant future we will have a list for public viewing of all of our veterans past and present.

Send your DD-214 to:

Mike Caso, Tribal Veterans Administrator
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 2547
Longview, WA 98632

SHANA LOMBARD CROWNED JR MISS FIRST NATIONS

Shana N. Lombard, First Nations Jr. Princess—Photo by Gale Christin

Shana N. Lombard was crowned First Nations Jr. Princess at the 39th annual First Nations Powwow at the University of Washington in Seattle on April 11th, 2010.

Shana wrote an essay and gave a speech. She also answered impromptu questions from the judges.

She danced in a competition in junior girls fancy category. Shana is

the daughter of David Lombard and Cathleen Lombard and is the granddaughter of Diane Cloquet and the late Donald Cloquet.

She is the first Cowlitz to hold a crown for the University of Washington First Nations Powwow, and will represent the First Nations Powwow for one year and will travel extensively in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Huckleberry Camp

Huckleberry Camp will be at the Swift River Schoolhouse August 23-29. There will be a Huckleberry Feast to give thanks on the first night.

There will be many cultural activities and this is open to all. Call to reserve your spot now.

Contact

Cassy S. Reck
360-513-1243

Stay tuned to the website for more information and directions.

Cowlitz Kids Program

Come and have fun Native Style Quarterly Gatherings and Summer Camp

Ages: 5-18
All are welcome

By: Cassy S. Reck, Darlene Rhodes and Patty Kinswa-Gaiser

Contact

Cassy S. Reck
360-513-1243

Stay tuned to the website for more information and directions.

GUEST EDITORIAL



AFTERWORD: TOMORROW WILL BE DIFFERENT

Rod Van Mechelen

Apocalyptic legacy

We live in the greatest nation on Mother Earth. And we few, we lucky few, are members of a tribe that has endured like few others. We are blessed. We are heirs to a legacy of fortitude, intelligence, hard work and survival. We will need to call upon this legacy to endure the decades to come: much will change.

For our ancestors, apocalyptic change came as a pestilence. No marching armies conquered them. They were brought to the brink by epidemics.

The first of these may have arrived as early as the 16th century, carried by birds and animals from east to west. These were followed by smallpox and other diseases brought by our trading partners from east and south. Less than 200 years ago, when the first official census of our Cowlitz ancestors was taken, between 90% and 98% had been wiped out, killed first by disease and then by starvation following the consequent breakdown of the infrastructure.

For those who survived, it was an apocalyptic time filled with terrible sorrow and new beginnings.

New beginnings

This is also a time of new beginnings. In the decades to come, change will transform the world. Indeed, it already has.

Just 40 years ago, storing gigabytes of data on a sliver of plastic was science fiction; today, it is cheap and commonplace. Modern medicine is 5 to 15 years behind the cutting edge of health science, and what seems inconceivable now may soon be commonplace. And a

breakthrough in energy storage is just around the corner.

This is heady stuff, but risks abound. The balance of power in the world is shifting. Behind politically civil facades, good and evil wage an unending war that mobilizes on many fronts beyond bloody battlefields, from law and politics to culture, commerce, entertainment and even food.

Economies shudder from the recent upheaval in

financial markets. And for the first time in more than a century, the youngest American generations have a lower life expectancy than their parents.

Cowlitz Country transformed

Cowlitz Country will be transformed. If population trends continue, within 100 years the stretch of I-5 south from Tacoma to Vancouver, WA, will resemble the stretch of I-5 north from Tacoma to Vancouver, B.C.

Thousands of acres will be buried beneath concrete and steel. We cannot prevent this, but we can mitigate it. Our territory traverses six counties, and next to the federal and state governments, ours is the only other one to have an interest in all six.

Engine of prosperity

We are also an economic entity that, after a casino, can develop many business interests. Through these we must develop the resources to buy land and influence the course of development to preserve and protect what is sacred and important while participating in and encouraging appropriate progress.

To endure will take faith in the future and faith in the Creator. For

most Americans, that will have to suffice. For we lucky few, however, there is also our Tribe. Through the Tribe we can navigate the hazards and participate in the opportunities as few other Americans can.

We are survivors

A few Tribal members devote long hours to secure our future through participation in boards, committees, activities and Tribal jobs. All are overextended, but their efforts are vital, for tomorrow will be different and there is no time to waste.

In this, they emulate the best virtues of our ancestors, who were neither primitive savages nor tree hugging idealists, but intelligent and astute, if sometimes

quarrelsome stewards; and there is tantalizing evidence that they were also savvy traders with an economy that may have included wood and agricultural products.

American pioneers saw wilderness and savages because of the poverty to which our ancestors were reduced by the apocalypse. Those who survived passed on a tattered remnant of our culture and identity to us. What made up the whole cloth we may never know, but we know that they were survivors, and so are we.

We shall prevail

Through intelligence and hard work, we shall prevail, and in the generations to come they will speak with respect for those who made it happen. Will your name be counted among them? To learn how you can participate, contact Tribal Administration, the board and committee chairs, or Chairman Bill Iyall.

Tomorrow will be different. Will you help to make it good?

"Thousands of acres will be buried beneath concrete and steel." — Rod Van Mechelen

TRIBAL COUNCIL & COMMITTEES
General Council Officers

Chair: William Iyall 253-677-4833
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Vice Chair: Phil Harju 360-957-3036
Term Expires 2011
Secretary: Nancy Osborne 360-623-5675
Term Expires 2012
Treasurer: Jess Groll 360-508-1350
Term Expires 2011

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Nancy Osborne Steve Kutz
Mike Caso Katherine Iyall-Vasquez
Cassy Reck Debbie Medeiros

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Karrie Monohon Cassy Reck

Canoe Committee

Willie Koch & Steve Kutz, Co-Chairs
Mark Anderson, Vice Chair Linda O'Brien, Secretary
Teri Graves, Treasurer Ernie Donovan
Gerry Brickey Michael Hubbs
Mike Caso Debbie Russell
Taylor Aalvik Robert Harju
Cassy Reck Sean Britt
Chris Burge Rhonda Lee Grantham

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Cowlitz Country Bulletin

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Gerry Brickey Mike Caso
Phil Harju Ed Arthur
Celine Cloquet-Vogler Robert Harju
Rod Van Mechelen Linda Floey

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David Iyall
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 Larry Coyle Melody Pfeiffer
 Daryl Cota Renee King
 Karen Cota Cathy Lombard

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 Jess Groll, Treasurer Carolee Morris
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 Jennifer Johnson Lindsey Foley

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Michael Caso Ed Arthur

Veterans Administration

Michael Caso, Veterans Administrator

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 newsletter@cowlitz.org

For a complete Tribal Employee Directory, see the Contacts section at www.cowlitz.org

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 Yooyoolah! is the official news publication of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 2547 Longview, WA 98632.
 Submissions from Tribal members of news and views that are relevant to the Tribe are welcome. The necessity to edit for length, good taste and relevance is reserved.

COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

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JUNE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

The June 5, 2010 meeting will be held at the St. Mary's Center, 107 Spencer Road in Toledo. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m.

For those of you who have not been there, from I-5 take Exit 68, and then take Hwy 12 East to Jackson Highway, turn right at the Chevron Service station and go South approximately 6 miles.

The facility is on the left.

Raffle (Please bring raffle donations)

Potluck Lunch

Please bring the following to share according to your last name:

A-G Salad **H-N** Hot Dish **O-U** Dessert **V-Z** Beverage

Please bring enrollment card and photo identification to sign in.

10:00 a.m. June 5, 2010

6TH ANNUAL COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBAL HEALTH WALK

Saturday, September 18th, 2010

Registration starts at 10 a.m.

Walk begins at 11 a.m.

Lake Sacagawea Park, Longview, WA

For details, call the Tribal Clinic

360-575-8277

11TH ANNUAL COWLITZ INDIAN POWWOW: HONORING THE SPIRIT OF ALL COWLITZ PEOPLE

Saturday, September 25th, 2010

See page 9 for details