

# Cowlitz Indian Tribe

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Fall Newsletter 2011

*Yooyoola!*



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

*Bill Iyall*



I am proud to serve as Chairman of the Cowlitz Tribe and to celebrate all of the accomplishments we have made together as a people. We have come a long way during the past few years through the process of self-governance and self-determination. We stand strong as co-managers of both natural and cultural resources in our homeland. We have confidence in our future with great promise of successful economic development and social services, providing employment opportunities and much needed resources for our Tribal members and the local communities.

We celebrate the culmination of years of effort seeking a Cowlitz reservation. I would like to acknowledge the efforts made by our tribe throughout history to regain a place of our own in our homeland. Many have worked hard on our behalf and they rejoice with us today. Congratulations to all of the Cowlitz

Indian Tribe. Your determination and dedication have all played an important role in this historic achievement.

As we move into the fall of 2011, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe has held many important events already this year, including the Canoe Journey from Fort Vancouver to Swinomish, the Canoe Races and Canoe family honoring dinner at Mayfield Lake, the First Salmon Ceremony at Olequa, Kids Camp, Huckleberry Camp, the Twelfth Annual Cowlitz Pow Wow at Saint Mary's, the Health Walk. Thank you to all of our Cowlitz members, Culture Committee, and our staff for their effort, time and dedication in making the preceding events possible. All of these achievements come as we realize the opening the new health clinic in Longview. Please congratulate our Health Board and our Health employees for completing this important project.

**The Cowlitz Casino Resort Project** continues to move forward. At the August Tribal Council meeting, Tribal Council approved the creation of the Cowlitz Tribal Gaming Authority as an independent arm of the tribal government to develop and manage the casino/resort project.



**Tribal Gaming Authority:** The Cowlitz Tribal Gaming Authority was approved by Tribal Council as an agency of the tribal government to develop and manage the casino/resort project, previously known as the Gaming Board, as established under the Gaming Ordinance.

The new CTGA Management Board will meet monthly.

Sonny Bridges continues to lead the efforts to interview tribal member regarding creation of Core Values and a Customer Service Culture, under the name of “SPIRIT OF TALÍCN”, Pronounced “Taleechn”—Cowlitz for “Helping”. The Gaming Authority continues to meet monthly with our Salishan/Mohegan partners to conduct the business as the Development Board. We are reviewing the market study and evaluating revised development plans.

**Fee-to-Trust Update-Litigation:** The BIA and the Cowlitz Tribe are in litigation in federal court due to complaints filed by Clark County and the Grand Ronde Tribe, after the BIA’s December 23rd decision to place our land in trust for our Initial Reservation. The federal government stands firmly beside us in facing these challenges. Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk has made that commitment to the Cowlitz people. Judge Roberts will set the briefing schedule soon to allow the court to move forward to a decision.

**La Center - Sewer:** We have held further discussions with the city of La Center regarding a potential sewer agreement. The discussions are going well and we can reach agreement soon. We are just completing a new St Mary’s Sewer Plant using a \$2.6 million EPA ARRA Grant, with the new plant in the construction phase.

**Compact Negotiations:** We have met with the Governor’s Chief of Staff Jay Manning and the Governor’s legal counsel to explain why it is so urgent for the tribe to move forward with a compact now. We are still waiting for a response from the Governor.

**The Carcieri Congressional Fix:** There was congressional committee action on the Carcieri fix. The National Congress of American Indians is pursuing a Carcieri fix summit in Washington DC in October. Cowlitz leadership is engaged in this effort that seeks to bring tribes like the Cowlitz to equal footing with other tribes, rather than leaving us in a second-class status of tribes as the Carcieri ruling currently allows.

**DOI Actions on Trust Lands:** Assistant Secretary Larry Echo continues to issue decisions on fee to trust applications for gaming purposes, including more decisions by the department since the Carcieri decision. Secretary Echohawk approved our application due to the strong history of the Cowlitz Tribe.

Finally, I cannot express enough how much we appreciate all who have worked for the betterment of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. We have challenges ahead in court and I am determined that we will prevail.

The tribe has achieved some significant gains recently in many other areas.

- We have completed several fish enhancement projects.
- A new website has been designed by Graylan King, a tribal member with extensive experience in that field.
- We have one more year of the \$2.1 Million for Internet Connectivity, free Laptops, and Training for those who do not have high speed internet.
- At our November General Council Meeting, we will consider a constitutional amendment (describe what the amendment is) and I hope that many can attend.

Thanks once again to all of our Cowlitz Tribal members, volunteers, employees and elected leaders for your service and dedication. I look forward to seeing you at General Council in addition to reporting back to you in our next newsletter.

*Sincerely yours,*  
**Bill Iyall, Chairman**

## VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2011 has been another important and exciting year for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. A new website has been started and the Canoe Journey, Canoe Races and Pow Wow have been completed for another year. Also, the long awaited new health clinic has now opened in Longview. Again, I want to congratulate our Health Board and our Health employees for completing this important project.

We have a new employment code for the Cowlitz Tribe, and are working at updating our employee policies and handbooks. Unfortunately, the Justice Department did not approve our 2012 Tribal Court grant request. They said that they will not fund a Tribal Court until we have a land base. Hopefully, our reservation will have final approval soon from the Federal Government. That appeal is still pending in Washington, D.C.

I am looking forward to our November General Council Meeting, and hope that as many Cowlitz as possible can attend. The June General Council Meeting, the encampment, and the First Salmon Ceremony made for another great weekend this June.

I want to repeat what I said in the last newsletter, that while we continue to face challenges, the Cowlitz Tribe is moving forward in so many areas. I am always impressed with the knowledge and hard work of our Cowlitz members, Cowlitz family, Cowlitz employees, and Cowlitz friends. Best wishes to all of our Cowlitz family in the future. As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Philip Harju

## NOW IS THE TIME TO COME TO THE AID OF YOUR TRIBE----

*Submitted by Lennie Bridges, Tribal Council Chair*

Besides serving the tribe as Tribal Council Chair, I am an active member of the following committees: PowWow, Economic Development, Education, Budget Review, and the Youth Board. There are also boards and committees dealing with Tribal health, housing, culture, and the canoe journey. In order for our tribe to remain strong and be able to serve our members well, we need to ask for help in getting more people to volunteer their time to serve on these committees



One example of need is the PowWow committee. Under the leadership of Suzanne Donaldson-Stephens this committee spends hundreds of hours in preparation for our annual event. Besides finding participants such as head dancers and drummers, sponsors have to be rounded up for financing, vendors have to be accommodated, hundreds of pounds of salmon have to be prepared for the salmon dinner that has become so popular. This committee has been able to present a wonderful event each year that is well received in the community and looked forward to by tribe's through-out the Northwest. Now, because of a serious illness, Suzanne and her husband Curt have to step down from their duties on the committee. They will be missed greatly! This leaves us with just a handful of committee members to keep this strong and traditional program alive and well. We need help. We need more volunteers to step up and join our committee. Matters of fact, all of the committees are in need of help and new blood with new ideas. This is a chance for you to serve your tribe. If you are interested, call me anytime at (360) 520-5712 and I will put you in touch with the right person.

## THE CANOE FAMILY

By Stephen Kutz



The Cowlitz Canoe Family participation in the Tribal Canoe Journey began this year as usual with preparation/planning meetings and canoe practices starting in the fall of last year and continued up to leaving on the Canoe Journey paddling to Swinomish.

The Journey this year started with us meeting the Warm Springs Tribe in Oregon on July 14<sup>th</sup> and pulling with them down the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver where we camped overnight and hosted them with a canoe journey protocol event. The Fort Vancouver National Park cooperated with the Cowlitz Tribe and made their Park available to us. The event went well into the evening and was enjoyed by all who attended.

The next leg of the journey started at the Squaxin Island Tribe and took us the Nisqually, Puyallup, Muckleshoot (Seattle), Suquamish, and Tulalip Tribes and ended at Suquamish in La Conner on July 25<sup>th</sup>. We camped and attended the day long protocols that started at 10 AM and went well into the evening and sometimes the next morning each day. The Cowlitz Tribe Canoe Family took the floor and shared songs and dances with the host tribe and stayed until the Swinomish Tribe ended the journey with their protocol celebration on Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>. Learning the songs and dances that we performed is one of the highlights of the journey along with those days on the water seeing the land like our ancestors used to see it. We all made new friends with members of the other canoe families and participants in the event and renewed old friendships. Once you start attending these canoe journeys it is hard to go to one of the participating northwest tribe's reservations without running into some of those friends.

The Cowlitz Tribal Youth program took along a number of youth to participate with the Cowlitz Canoe Family in the journey. We had a number of new participants this year along with returning veterans and if you talk to those who participated, you will find out what a life changing event this can be. The days are long and there is plenty of hard work to go around making the journey a success. Everyone who came along helped in substantial ways to enable us to complete the journey and are too numerous to name, however, I want to especially thank the Canoe Officers who helped me in more ways than I can name. These are my vice chair Devin Reck, Treasurer Cassandra Sellards-Reck, Secretary Rhonda Grantham, ground crew leaders Patty Kinswa Gaiser and Devin Reck, Cowlitz Youth Cassandra Sellards-Reck, support boat crews John and Linda O'Brian, and Skeet Jensen and Karen Cota, and finally our canoe skipper Tom Ficca. The journey could not have happened without all their dedicated work all year long.

We are looking forward to next year where the Tribal Canoe Journey will end at the Squaxin Island Tribe in Shelton. We are in the early stages of planning this next year's journey where we plan on beginning on the Columbia River and traveling on it for a number of days as part of the journey. The Canoe Family is always on the lookout for new people to join with us. We are hoping that the Fort Vancouver part of the journey will be much larger than last year since we have started inviting other canoe families to join us on the Columbia River to start the journey next year. We will most likely need numerous volunteers to help us if the event is as large as I hope it will be.



If you are interested you can e-mail me at [skutz.health@cowlitz.org](mailto:skutz.health@cowlitz.org) or call me at (360) 731-2885. If your e-mail gets buried, give me a call. We try to have our practices and events posted on the Tribal Web page; however we do have last minute changes that do happen. Stephen Kutz, Canoe Family Chair and member of Tribal Council.

## GAMING BOARD REPORT

*Submitted by Caroline Medeiros, Secretary and Sonny Bridges, Board Chairman*

For the last 5 years the gaming board has been working diligently on getting our casino project underway. The board comprised of four members has been attending meetings in Clark County and La Center as well as state and nationally.

On September 10, 2011 Tribal Council passed a resolution adopting a Tribal Gaming Authority. The TGA is made up of the four members. The purpose of the TGA is to oversee development and management of the casino.

One task of the TGA is to participate in the planning process for the casino. In this process we have identified the Spirit of Talicn (helping in Cowlitz language). We as a TGA strive to have educated and knowledgeable employees who are helpful and proud of the Cowlitz History. The Spirit of Talicn gives us a common thread that we can use in the design and planning for the casino. To achieve this task the Gaming Authority has been conducting interviews with Tribal Elders in order to capture their memories and stories about their traditions and way of life when they were children. Some of the stories have been handed down from generation to generation through these Cowlitz families. We have learned a lot about the persistence of our Elders to always remember where their roots have taken them and to honor the past. The interviews with the Elders teach us about Cowlitz history and tradition and recognize the struggles and successes of our ancestors. In these interviews we all learn and are given the chance to capture the words of our Elders for many generations to come.

If you are an Elder and would like to participate please contact Carolyn Medeiros at 253-255-6012 or [cmedeiros@cowlitz.org](mailto:cmedeiros@cowlitz.org) your participation in this process is greatly appreciated and we would be honored to hear your stories. These interviews will serve as an educational tool for employees as well as patrons to our establishment. We will be able to tell the story of our Tribe.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

*By Mike Iyall*



We have awarded 34 scholarships totaling \$45,000 to Tribal members for the 2011-12 school year. All of our funds are now distributed.

The website will have the scholarship applications posted in January 2012 for the 2012-13 school year. The applications will be due by April 15, 2012. Please mark your calendars now so you don't miss this opportunity.

Thanks to the members of the Education Committee for their help in this service to the Tribe: Becky Lowe, Celine Vogler, Charlie Bridges, David Iyall, Jane Meyer, Karissa Lowe, Lenny Bridges, and Suzanne Donaldson-Stephens. Thanks also to the staff at the Tribal Office in Longview and the Accounting Department at St. Mary's. We could not have done this without them.

Thanks, Mike Iyall,  
Education Committee Chair

## FEATURED YOUNG ADULT MEMBER

*Submitted By Patty Kinswa-Gaiser*



Lindsey Foley, one of our young adult tribal members, has just earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Lakeview College of Nursing in Danville, IL. She graduated from Nathan Hale High School in Seattle in 2003 and attended Western Washington University in Bellingham the next four years. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from WWU in the field of Biochemistry.

In between the two college educations, Lindsey worked in a neurology research lab associated with the University of Washington and then in an obstetrics and gynecology private practice in Seattle. At this second job she started as a receptionist and then learned the position of medical assistant, working with a nurse practitioner to provide direct patient care. Soon after receiving her first degree, she realized it was her desire to pursue a career in the field of nursing and she soon began the preparatory classes through North Seattle Community College to become eligible to enter nursing school. In 2009, Lindsey temporarily moved to Illinois to complete coursework for her nursing degree.

Lindsey is now employed by Swedish Medical Center in Seattle at the First Hill location, currently orienting to work in the intermediate intensive care unit. She is excited to have started her new career as a medical caregiver, and is especially grateful for the financial assistance she received from the Cowlitz Tribe during her schooling. In her six years as a full-time college student, she was awarded three scholarships from tribal funds and received five years of rental assistance, which were invaluable in helping her focus more on her studies.

Outside Lindsey's college education and work history, she is actively involved with the Tribe, having served on the Pow Wow Committee since 2008, and attending General Council and Tribal Council meetings whenever she has not been away at college. She's made many friends in the Tribe over the years and cherishes her tribal and non-tribal family ties. She loves the Pacific Northwest and is more than happy to call Seattle her home once again. We congratulate Lindsey on a job well done, a career that will take her far, and for her devotion to the Tribe and to her family. She is a success story that is our pleasure to share, and a role model for others who may learn from her example that hard work and perseverance can pay off and lead to a bright and promising future.



## COWLITZ YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

*Submitted by Patty Kinswa-Gaiser*



This year was another very successful year with our Cowlitz Youth. A large group of our Youth met at St. Mary's in Toledo, Washington for a weeklong camp. Through a grant with First Nations and the generosity of the Cowlitz Health Board, Cowlitz Cultural Resources, Cowlitz Pathways to Healing, Cowlitz Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Dept. Cowlitz Transportation, Cowlitz Health Education and Cowlitz Vocational Rehabilitation departments we were able to provide many programs, classes and trips for the youth.

A group of older youth was able to gather cedar with Nisqually Tribal youth for the first time. They learned the traditional ceremony of gathering. Many pulled all day. The older Cowlitz youth were able to come back and share what they pulled with the younger youth. They were taught the sacredness and how to prepare the cedar. Others were able to take classes provided to make cedar jewelry and regalia making. Several were able to complete head bands and hats.

Our Cowlitz Health Department sponsored the purchasing of CPR and First Aid books and DVDs. All the Youth participated in learning Friends and Family CPR and First Aid. They demonstrated with equipment the skills needed to pass the class. Even the smallest learned how to save a life.

Every evening we had drumming and dancing with our youth. For some it was the first time they were hearing our Cowlitz songs and dancing our dances. It was inspiring and amazing.

Stella Strode and Patty Kinswa-Gaiser lead a group of volunteers who were able to gather school supplies as a giveaway for all our youth returning back to school. We know all the help that can be offered is welcome. It takes a village to raise our most precious resources.

This year we had another wonderful gathering. We were able to take our Youth with volunteers back up into our traditional gathering area Indian Heaven daily to pick. The youth enjoyed camping at Swift School house with nightly camp fires, drumming and the delicious Huckleberry pancakes with Huckleberry syrup. The youth picked Huckleberries to donate to the Cowlitz Elders program as well.

We want to thank Cowlitz Transportation for the generous use of the bus to all our events. They are always understanding and extremely flexible. Thank you.

Please join us next year at the Swift School house August 30-September 3, 2012 for our yearly gathering to harvest our traditional foods.

We also want to extend a BIG Thank you to all the volunteers and Cowlitz Youth Board members who dedicated their time and energy to the success of this gathering. Together we can change the lives and create a community for our youth. Members of the Youth Board are: Debbie Medeiros, Claudia Tenney, Devin Reck, Katherine Iyall-Vasquez, Rhonda Grantham, Steve Kutz.



If you would like to participate or donate to the Cowlitz Youth Department we would greatly appreciate it. You can contact: Patty Kinswa-Gaiser , Chair 1-360-520-2578 or Cassy Sellards Reck , Vice Chair 1-360-513-1243.

## COWLITZ TRIBAL DRUM GROUP

*Submitted by Cassy Sellards-Reck*



Everyone's Invited to Cowlitz Tribal Drum Group. Come and join us!

Families and Children Welcome

We meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at the Longview Tribal office.

The following Thursdays we meet at St. Mary's in Toledo.

Please call Cassy at: 1-360-513-1243 or Steve at: 1-360-731-2885. Visit the Tribal website and check the calendar as drumming dates are subject to change.

## POW WOW COMMITTEE REPORT

### *Honoring the Spirit of All Cowlitz People 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cowlitz Pow Wow*

*Written by Suzanne Donaldson Stephens and Linda Foley*

Once again the Cowlitz Pow Wow, held on Saturday, September 24th at St. Mary's Center with grand entries at 1 pm and 7pm, was an event to remember and attended by many. Head Dancers this year were Jerry and Leslie Chapman, familiar faces from our past pow wows when Jerry was our Master of Ceremonies. The last few years he requested tribal members to train, and because of it Cowlitz Tribal member Don Ryan put his apprenticeship lessons to work as this year's Master of Ceremonies. Michael Brock was Arena Director again this year.

We were very honored to have Freedom, the eagle from Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, at the pow wow again this year, along with her handler Jeff Guidry. Their participation is voluntary. However, books about their history together were for sale, and a blanket dance was held during the pow wow to cover their travel expenses and to provide assistance to the non-profit Center.

One of the highlights each year of the Cowlitz Pow Wow is the recognition and honoring of veterans of any of the military branches, whether Native American or not. This year a record number of service men and women stepped forward during the grand entries for the audience to show appreciation for their service to this country, and each received a handmade gift made by Pow Wow Committee members and volunteers.

We were also fortunate to have Aztec dancers performing this year, and members of the audience were invited to participate after the group had performed several beautiful dances. It was an honor to share our Native event with this dance group and to enjoy their dances and the honoring of their own culture.

The 2011-2012 Pow Wow Princess is Cowlitz tribal member Shana Lombard, crowned at a ceremony presided over by Cowlitz Elder Tanna Chattin at the Tribal Administrative Offices in Longview on Saturday, September 17th. She is the 14-year-old daughter of Cathleen Lombard and David Lombard, and she attends Glacier Bay Middle School in Puyallup. She has been pow wow dancing all her life, and has held honored positions in previous years as the University of Washington Junior Princess, the Suquamish Junior



**Shana Lombard, 2011-2012 Cowlitz Pow Wow Princess**

Miss Renewal Princess and the Puyallup Wellness Pow Wow Princess. In addition to attendance and dancing at many pow wows, Shana enjoys participating in the annual canoe journey and plans to travel and meet new people as she represents the Cowlitz Tribe in the coming year.

The Cowlitz Pow Wow is the single largest ongoing annual Cowlitz event that has been self sustaining for the past six years despite the declining economy. The committee raises funds and solicits donations along with vendor fees and concessions sales to help pay for pow wow expenses. Monetary donations made by those who are able for the smoked fish and for the salmon dinner provided at the pow wow are very much appreciated.

A recent addition to pow wow fundraisers is serving breakfast on the mornings of the Cowlitz General Council meetings in June and November. Please come early and enjoy a delicious meal served by pow wow committee members and volunteers. We also have merchandise that changes from year to year available for sale both at the meetings and at the pow wow.

The Committee thanks the volunteers who step in and help with a smile on their faces! Among other activities, they help with parking, setting up before and cleaning up after, and serving the 5 pm salmon dinner. Without volunteers the pow wow would not be the success that it is each year.

Many thanks also go to the committee members for their years of commitment! It can be hard work at times but very rewarding when the event has succeeded at sharing our celebration and culture with others. This year's committee has included the following individuals:

Suzanne Donaldson-Stephens – Chair, drum coordinator/craft person/princess subcommittee  
Larry Knutson - Vice Chair, parking coordinator  
Jess Groll - CFO and Treasurer, fish coordinator/smoker and cook  
Linda Foley – Secretary, 50/50 raffle coordinator  
Patty Kinswa-Gaiser- Food/kitchen coordinator/seamstress/craft person/princess sub-committee  
Curt Stephens - Vendor coordinator  
Jennifer Johnson- Food assistant/kids program/princess subcommittee  
Lindsey Foley - Merchandise/sales coordinator/raffle organizer  
Lenny Bridges - Vendor assistant/fish coordinator  
Jane Meyer- Financial assistance/janitorial coordinator  
Kim Bublitz- Marketing/press releases/mailings  
Clint Bublitz- Professional graphic artist for brochures and flyers

We are always looking for ways to improve and we are continuously learning both from our successes and from our mistakes. Devoting countless hours to working together as a committee provides us with opportunities to grow as individuals and as a group, with a common focus and goal.

This year there are a few new people interested in volunteering for the pow wow and committee. We encourage new volunteers and capable responsible committee members, as some of our committee members have decided to step down. It is an extremely rewarding activity that will provide an opportunity for more individuals to be involved in the tribe and provide another chance to make new friends!

Suzanne thanks all tribal members, volunteers and Tribal Council for allowing her to serve as Chair of the Pow Wow Committee for the past several years. “It has been a great experience for me and I hope that I have made a positive impact on the pow wow and the Tribe. This is my last year chairing the committee; however, I will be available to mentor if needed. And a special thank you to my husband Curt Stephens for his support, not just for the pow wow but for any tribal activity that I am involved in. I could not have done it without him!”

Please watch the Cowlitz tribal website ([cowlitz.org/events](http://cowlitz.org/events)) for updates related to the annual pow wow. There you can find information about the princess competition and vendor details and registration forms as well as contact information for committee members. We welcome your interest, your help, and your support throughout the year, including the day of the pow wow, to continue to help it to be the success it has been in the past and for many years to come.

All My Relations,  
*Suzanne Donaldson Stephens (Kinswa Family) and the Cowlitz Pow Wow Committee*

## **LIHEAP (LOW INCOME HEATING ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

All tribal members that reside in the State of Washington that need assistance with their public utilities and other heating sources, please contact me at 360-575-3300 and I will be happy to assist you. This program is also for emergency assistance and is to help low-income families.



There has been a federal budget cut (funding has been cut in half) in this program, and we are limited to helping only the most emergent families, (at this time only 40 eligible applicants) those being families with children, the elderly and also the disabled. If we are not able to help you at this time, please contact your local public utility districts and ask to be accepted into this federal program with them. Contact person: Carolee Morris; Tribal Administrator, (360) 575-3300

## **FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAM**

All tribal members that reside in the State of Washington, and need assistance with food, the food voucher program new year began 7/1/11 and runs thru 5/31/12. Note, you may also receive food stamps while on this program, and if you live in a rural area, you may also qualify for the food commodities program. This is an emergency food program for low-income families. Contact person: Carolee Morris; Tribal Administrator, (360) 575-3300

## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Cowlitz tribal members and spouses are eligible for emergency assistance for funeral benefits.

Eligibility: Recipient must be in extreme financial need  
Recipient must be an enrolled member of the Cowlitz Tribe or spouse  
Allowable costs up to \$3,000

Contact person: Carolee Morris; Tribal Administrator, (360) 575-3300

## **HELP A TRIBAL MEMBER!**

I have talked to Rochelle, and asked her permission to put this in this newsletter. This disaster happened during the hurricane Irene. She has exhausted all her resources, including her parents. Housing has helped also, but there is a lot more we can do to help her and her son.

“My full name is Sharon Rochelle Cottonware and my sons name is James Mario DelRio. My enrollment number is 1426 and my James’ is N-2527. Our new address is

Sharon Rochelle Cottonware  
336 7thst., 1st floor,  
Carlstadt NJ 07072.

We were evacuated on August 27th and lost everything, including my car. We are asking our fellow tribal members for assistance to get our lives back on track. This loss is so devastating a person just cannot believe it!

Rochelle & James Mario. Thank you in advance” To provide assistance, you may contact Sharon directly or contact Patty Kinswa-Gaiser.

## **The Morris Family Thank you!**

On behalf of Skye Morris and her family we would like to thank everyone for all of their prayers, thoughts, cares and concerns for Skye during this most difficult time. Skye is now out of her coma, (which lasted 24 weeks. Skye was in a high school Equestrian horse riding accident, on February 19, 2011) and will go into intensive inpatient rehabilitation soon at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, OR. Skye loves all of the visits from family, friends and the co-workers from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Skye has the most beautiful smile and contagious laugh; it’s truly a blessing to see how happy Skye is now, after so many long months. Skye is now at her home and loves to go out to the barn to see her horses and loves all of the attention from their 4 miniature dachshunds, they all love to pile up on top of her and give her lots of doggie kisses.



You may send cards/notes to Skye in care of the Tribal address here in Longview, and we will make sure to get them to Skye. Carolee Morris, Tribal Administrator

## **Native American Youth Veteran**



We are very proud that a son of one of our tribal member is in the Army National Guard. Michael Morris, son of Cowlitz tribal member, Patrick Morris, signed up last year for the National Guard while he was at his Dad & Mom’s body building competition event in Vancouver, WA. Michael was just 17 yrs. old at the time, and spent that summer at boot camp in Kentucky. Michael graduated from Woodland, WA high school this June, and left for more Army boot camp in Georgia this summer. Michael is an Alaskan Native, from the Haida and Tlingit Tribes of Alaska, from his Mom’s family and his grandparents and other family members are living in Alaska. Michael is presently working for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe as a WWIETP employee in our Natural Resources Dept., (as well as his monthly Army/National Guard weekend trainings once a month at Fort Lewis/Camp Murray in Tacoma, WA.) and really enjoys working for the Tribe. Carolee Morris, Tribal Administrator

## **FISH PROGRAM**

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s fish program has had another prosperous year distributing fish to our tribal members and tribal events. David & Kirk Russell work very hard to make this such a successful program, and it is very much appreciated by all of those who receive the fish. If you would like to be included in this great program, please contact either David or Kirk and they will be happy to assist you. Please remember this is strictly a volunteer program and we do gladly accept donations (suggested, \$1.00 per fish, or whatever you are able to give) to help with the costs, such as all of the mileage and supplies. Send requests to [fishdistribution@cowlitz.org](mailto:fishdistribution@cowlitz.org) or David Russell can be reached at: 360-508-6493 or [darsfish@toledo-wb.com](mailto:darsfish@toledo-wb.com) and Kirk Russell at: 360-772-9935 or [aruba@toledotel.com](mailto:aruba@toledotel.com)

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*By Todd Bratton*

### **New Facility**

After a decade of fund-raising, planning and construction activities, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe opened its new clinic facility in early September, 2011. All Longview-based medical, mental health and alcohol/chemical dependency services have moved to the new building at 1044 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, adjacent from the pre-existing Tribal offices at 1055 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Longview. Vocational Rehabilitation, Pathways to Healing, and Indian Child Welfare services will still be housed in the 1055 building, and other Tribal departments are also spreading out in that building.



Patients and staff are very pleased with the new facility, with its larger, new exam rooms, reception areas, group rooms, and meeting spaces. The wellness area is sporting a new exercise bicycle and elliptical, along with male/female locker rooms and Wii games on the big screen. The wellness area is planning and hosting various health education classes, which included a drum making class the last week of September. Elders have also been enjoying the new space for their lunches on Wednesday afternoons.

## **Private Insurance Opportunity for Young Adults**

Effective Sept 23, 2010, the Parent and Affordable Care Act extended health care coverage for young adult children under their parent's health plan up to the age of 26. The regulation states that young adults are eligible for this coverage regardless of any, or a combination of any of the following factors: financial dependency, residency with parent, student status, employment or marital status.

Please contact your employer to get more information regarding enrollment of your children. Most policies have an open enrollment period, please take advantage of this opportunity while it is available to you. Contract Health Services will be unable to assist young adults who would be eligible for benefits if they are offered at no cost to the employee. Many plans allow you to add your children at very little cost.

## **Flu Shots**

Flu shots are now available at the Tribe's Longview Medical Clinic. The Health and Human Services Department advises all Tribal Members to get their flu shots as soon as they can. To make an appointment at the Tribal Medical Clinic, call (360) 575-8275.

## **Electronic Health Records**

During the past two years clinic staff have been preparing for full implementation of Electronic Health Records (HER). With the move to the new facility, the clinic is now implementing full use of HER. Initially, what this means for patients is that some appointments will take longer than usual, and there will be less ability to call in for same day appointments. As of now, the clinic's full time medical provider is completing all patient visits with HER, and the two part time providers are next in line. The mental health and alcohol/chemical dependency providers have also been trained in some aspects of HER and are now, or will be, using the system as applicable. Please have patience with staff in the Health and Human Services Department as this change occurs.

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe can be proud of all that has been gained in the past decade towards providing quality health services for Tribal Members and other American Indians/Alaska Natives from the region. Please remember that there are also Tribal programs providing services in Vancouver, WA, the Elders Program providing services from Toledo, and the mental health services for youth and families provided out of Seattle.

## **Health and Human Services Seattle Program**

*Submitted by Elizabeth Tail*

In June, 2010 the Tribe launched the Cowlitz Tribal Health Seattle Program by way of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the United Indians of all Tribes Foundation. In the midst of the current economic success of so many Northwest Indian tribes is a disquieting contradiction: one in four Indian youth attempt suicide. With a mission to provide the highest quality, culturally relevant mental health services to eligible Native families in King County this program provided 2,014 client encounters in its first year. We want who our members need this care in the King County area to reap the benefits of this program.



The investment Cowlitz has made in the HHS Seattle program is essential to providing excellent care in the physical, mental, spiritual, and social components of life.

## GRANTS UPDATE

By Jan Healy, Grant Writer

The last six months were an active time for writing grant applications and waiting for the award announcements. This process is always such a stimulating mix of good teamwork to shape our proposals, high hopes, and suspense until we hear the results. Last spring, just after the newsletter went to press, the Tribe received federal funding for the Elders program to continue providing lunches at St. Mary's and Longview and to deliver in-home meals. We also got funding for the Elders caregivers' support services.



One notable and very competitive grant the Tribe received early in the summer was from the First Nations Development Institute's Native Youth and Culture Fund. The grant, for just under \$20,000, was for a project to build youth leadership skills and bring together youth and Elders. Key activities were the Intertribal Canoe Journey, Cowlitz Kids Camp, and Huckleberry Camp, wrapping up with a trip to the Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association conference this fall. The project also has youth involved in developing policies and procedures for the Youth Department.

The Tribe's *Pathways to Healing* program received two grants from the Washington State Office on Crime Victims Assistance. One grant continues funding for the *Pathways to Healing* program for sexual assault advocacy, crime victims support services, and community outreach. The second grant allows the program to serve American Indian and Alaska Native people victimized by crimes other than domestic violence and sexual assault. A grant from the Potlatch Fund in Seattle bought the Cultural Resources Department a scanner and software to convert thousands of important paper documents into digital form. These items include files from the Tribe's Docket 218 case before the Indian Claims Commission and a collection of papers donated to the Tribe by the late Judith Irwin. (Honorary member of the Cowlitz Tribe)

Federal grants came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Indian Health Service, for the Tribe's diabetes program and for the third year of a major project to convert the Clinic and related programs from paper to electronic health records.

Now for the disappointments. The Tribe did not win a second federal grant for establishing a tribal justice system. We did not get a federal grant to hire a consulting firm to conduct comprehensive planning. The U.S. Energy Department did not fund our proposal to improve energy efficiency at the Fir complex in Longview by insulating and replacing the roof. Finally, we were not successful in asking a private foundation for funding for Chinook Jargon language classes taught by Roy Wilson.

However, we have several grant applications pending for other projects. At press time, we were still waiting to hear from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund about our grant proposal to develop and write a salmon and steelhead habitat restoration plan, and to complete and monitor specific restoration projects. Another proposal is to the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for a grant to buy a walk-in freezer for traditional foods, such as salmon, elk, deer, and berries.

We also have two grant applications pending with the Federal Transit Administration. One grant would fund a bus barn and offices for the Transportation Department and the other would cover ongoing operating costs for Tribal Transit and replace one of the Sprinter vans with a minivan.

While state and federal budgets for fiscal year 2012 will probably have less grant money to award, the Tribe's planning for what is most important and meaningful can help me write strong proposals for the available funding.

## COWLITZ HOUSING

Submitted by Sheryl Bertucci

### Highlights

Greetings from Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing. Let us start with an update on the MBR (Membrane Bio-Reactor) system. Cherokee Construction Services has finished with all of the heavy lifting and dirty work for the MBR system. The MBR plant serves St. Mary's and is located at the Lewis Co Airport. The cabinets and equipment for the testing lab have been purchased and installed. We will have a test run of the system in October, and are anticipating being fully operational and with the new system by the end of 2011 or very early in 2012. The MBR plant serves St. Mary's and is located at the Lewis Co Airport.



### Foreclosure Help From CITH:

Foreclosure proceedings are an issue in many tribal households. Just like the rest of the nation, our Cowlitz Nation has members suffering from layoffs, job losses, and BAD Loans. One option being used more and more is: throw in the towel on your huge mortgage and start over at today's home prices. We can help you clean up your credit and purchase a home at TODAY'S prices. CITH was able to buy a few homes in various counties for our Home Ownership Program with an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant. Our carpenters have done some remodeling and minor fixing up of the homes to make them ready for qualified tribal members that wish to become homeowners. Available homes are listed below. Please call **Sheryl Bertucci at 360-864-7019** for more information.

Our Elder's Apartments have welcomed 4 new tenants since the June 2011 General Council meeting. We still have plenty of vacant apartments available, but don't wait too long. The feedback so far has been very positive and our tenants are enjoying the quiet country setting while still being close enough to Chehalis and Longview to stay connected to shopping and their Doctor's office. They also enjoy having the Elder's program provide meals in the dining room three days a week (and more during Kids' Camp).

Housing Continues to offer many services to *qualified* tribal members. Services provided are:

Elder's Apartments – here at St. Mary's, both modest and larger units available.

Down Payment Assistance - qualified members can receive up to \$20,000 for down payment

Home Repair and Rehabilitation

Weatherization - includes indoor air quality measures and energy efficiency

Mortgage Assistance – up to \$500 per mo for 6 mo to help with mortgage payments

Rental Assistance – up to \$500 per mo for 6 mo to help with rent

Home Owner and Homebuyer help & counseling - call Sheryl 360-864-7019

Homes for sale

## Well and Septic Repair or Replacement

Contact housing services manager **Gary Lowe at 360-864-7010** for help.

CITH would like to offer a Big “THANK YOU” to Renee King for her volunteer service on the Housing Board. Her valuable banking knowledge and mortgage experience will be greatly missed at the Housing Board meetings and Policy Making Retreats. CITH wishes you and your family all of the best.

## INTRODUCING THE COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBAL HOUSING (CITH) HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

**HOMES FOR SALE** - To take advantage of the low home prices currently available, CITH purchased homes with a grant from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Using the construction team from CITH, these homes were made ready for low income tribal members that have a desire to buy a home.



**Families who have lost their homes due to foreclosure** are encouraged to apply, we can help to repair credit so the family is again able to get a mortgage and purchase one of these fine homes at a below-market cost. Call Sheryl Bertucci at (360) 864-7019 for details.

**159 Shiloh Rd, Winlock.** Lovely 3 bed. 2 bath home on 1.25 acres, 1618 sq.ft. W/detached 2 car garage. Private septic, shared well, beautiful country setting in nice area. Price approx \$120,000.00 (assessed value for 2011 is \$ 141,400.00)

**600 E Summa St, Centralia** 3 bed 1 ba home 1439 sq.ft, 1 car garage, deck, covered porch, nice landscaping, great detached shop in back yard. Heat pump, fenced, city sewer & water. Price approx \$89,000.00 (assessed value 2011 - \$136,100.00)

**369 Baltimore St. Longview,** 3 car garage/shop 2 bed 1 bath, 1,349 square foot home. Big family room, modern kitchen has a large skylight, covered deck in back, covered parking in front, fenced & gated yard. Price approximately \$116,000.00.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

*Submitted by Taylor Aalvik*

### White-tailed Deer

We continue to actively seek additional funds and writing proposals to carry forward important work in managing a new population of Columbian White-tailed Deer just upriver from Longview, WA. Since our successful deer translocation effort last year, we have been monitoring their movements. We are anticipating a successful reproduction effort this fall of the deer we trans-located last year. It is hoped that we will do a follow up deer translocation effort to bolster the population's numbers. Our wildlife biologist, Erik White has been doing a wonderful job in addressing the recovery of this species to State and Federal managers in the region. We have two follow up grants to continue this program in review with Federal Agencies and await word of its success. We have received considerable support from the non-profit organization, Safari Club International. With their support and volunteer efforts, it bolsters our position as taking the lead in efforts toward the deer's delisting from the Endangered Species Act.



### Salmon Habitat Restoration

Rudy Salakory, our biologist working on restoration, has finished a large salmon restoration project in the Lower Lewis River. This project is part of a series of projects in the area which we were able to secure funding for next year and likely will have great funding opportunity for the next few years to come. The scope of the projects we do for salmon restoration involves improving side channel habitat from main river systems in attempt to increase valuable available habitat for salmon. We also improve habitat by installing log jams in the river channel which act to provide areas for salmon to seek refuge. We also secured a coordination contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. We are gearing up to receive additional funds for significant restoration projects on the main-stem Columbia River. This is part of assisting BPA meet its mitigation obligations for their operations of hydro-power.

### Cowlitz River

Shannon Wills, our assistant director has been working on securing a conservation easement with Tacoma Power on riparian lands we received a few months ago from a very supportive family to the Tribe on the Cowlitz River (Wallace family). The conservation easement will secure or preserve critical salmon habitat in the Lower Cowlitz River. We continue to negotiate provisions of the easement to protect valuable salmon habitat along the Lower Cowlitz River. She also has been working on Columbia River Treaty concerns with me and continues to push for a better hydro-management regime for the Columbia River system. Shannon has also been dealing with an issue where the Army Corps of Engineers are proposing to raise the Sediment retention structure on the Toutle River. We are working hard to secure a long-term solution towards salmon passage in the upper basin of the North Fork Toutle River (fish ladder).

### Habitat Surveys

Craig Olds, our smelt biologist has been working with a science-tech crew to do habitat and fish surveys above the sediment retention structure on the Toutle River. There is a considerable amount of habitat which we are documenting in hopes of using this information to restore salmon to these important upper reaches. Craig is also gearing up for another season of studying smelt which will begin in November. We have discovered considerable new knowledge on the habitat range of smelt in the region. Craig and his crew continue to do valuable work for the Tribe in this regard.

## Capacity Building

We continue to seek out new funding sources and build capacity as an integral natural resources management team in the region. Nathan Reynolds, has written numerous grants for us and continues to look for opportunities for the future. He also is doing a lot of work in coordination with the Cultural Resources Department on recording important first foods our ancestors and even many today use as a critical food source. Nathan has also been working on Huckleberry restoration efforts in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

## Columbia River Treaty

We continue to work with many other Columbia River Basin tribes to push for a new international agreement between Canada and the US on how the Big River's water is managed. Currently, hydro-management between the US and Canada is focused on power production and flood control. The tribes are taking the lead on pushing for better operations of hydro-electric systems to promote a healthy ecosystem for culturally important natural resources. Natural Resources has also been working on a huckleberry restoration project in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF). We are conducting an effort for restoring Huckleberry fields in the Burley Mountain, Pole Patch area, and the Mosquito meadows area of the GPNF. We are learning and following along with the Yakama Nation's work towards restoring Huckleberries in the Sawtooth berry fields. Taylor Aalvik; Director; 360-575-3306 or [taalvik@cowlitz.org](mailto:taalvik@cowlitz.org)

## CULTURAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

*Submitted by Dave Burlingame*



**Fish Distribution Program:** Thanks to Dave and Kirk Russell for all their efforts in getting fish to our members! They distributed 5466 fish in 2009, and more than 6000 last year. We are looking into acquiring a freezer or two so we can become more efficient. Dave and Kirk do all this work on their own time, as volunteers. The only income the Program receives is through donations, and anything you can give when you receive fish helps ensure the Program can continue. Thanks.

**Day-to-Day Work:** One thing that comprises our daily workload is research and commenting on project proposals, including Forest Practice Applications, Department of Transportation undertakings (both Washington and Oregon), and various local, county, state, and federal actions. Since March of this year, we have commented and reviewed more than 350 such applications and proposals.

**Army Corps of Engineers ACOE:** Ed and I traveled to the Chehalis Reservation to meet with their General Manager Richard Bellon as well as members of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to discuss the draft ethnographic study for ACE's flood control project. (As I mentioned previously, Jay Miller came by St. Mary's a few times during Elders' lunches to speak with Tribal members; Jay had brought the carved portrait to the Tribe several months ago, and also gifted the Elders program with several lazy susans.) We also discussed a couple options available to the Tribe as we eventually move forward in defining our Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) for mitigation purposes. An esteemed Chehalis Elder stopped by to share some information from an article he was writing for their Tribal newspaper.

**Storage Unit:** Later that afternoon I was contacted by the owner of California Way Mini-Storage in Longview. A renter had defaulted on payment, and the contents of the unit were going up for auction in a couple days. After checking inside the unit, he gave us a call, as there were several items he was sure he could not legally sell.

Several Eagle feathers were in the unit, as well a beaded stick with an attached Eagle talon, all of which were given to the Tribe. Later, the original owner heard of the sale and was distressed his belongings were sold, but was relieved when I told him what the Tribe was able to retain. I returned everything to him after he let me make a copy of his enrollment card (he is a member of the Lumbee Nation), and he came back the next day with some gifts to show his gratitude for our keeping at least some of his things safe.

**Forest Practices Application (FPA) :** Met with Matt Rourke of International Forestry Consultants on a property near Tenino. A proposed Forest Practices Application (FPA) was near an archaeological site where culturally modified trees (CMTs) had been recently identified. We walked a good portion of the land in question and found no other resources. In fact, the CMTs are located on another parcel of land that will not see any harvesting activity. Upon hearing this it was obvious the original owner was distressed his belongings were sold, but was relieved when I told him what the Tribe was able to retain. I returned everything to him after he let me make a copy of his enrollment card (he is a member of the Lumbee Nation), and he came back the next day with some gifts to show his gratitude for our keeping at least some of his things safe.

**Oregon DOT:** We hosted Oregon DOT for our regular meeting. Nathan and I attended, and we discussed upcoming projects.

20-23 April—Ed and I attended the annual Northwest Anthropological Conference (NWAC) which was held this year in Moscow, Idaho. In addition to sitting in on presentations of interest, ranging from farming at Fort Vancouver to copper analysis at Cathlapotle, we were able to connect with people we seem to see only once a year. A couple things we learned outside the presentations:

Cranberry bogs may have been as high as 2500-3500 feet, along with wapato and other plant resources. There is even some speculation these bogs were the source of the cranberries presented to Lewis and Clark. Canada's Cowlitz Bay most likely got its name when some former HBC workers moved north with their Cowlitz wives. (Others may have already known this, but it was new to me.) Next year's conference will be held at Umatilla, the first time a Tribe has hosted the event.

**Columbia River Crossing project:** Ed and I went to WSDOT's Vancouver offices to discuss the transfer of Fort Vancouver land from the Army to the Park service and the current state of the archaeological work for the Columbia River Crossing project: Transfer—It is well known several buildings sit atop graves at Fort Vancouver. There was much discussion about how to approach the signage and delineation for the cemetery. There was also concern surrounding current and future ground disturbing activity associated with the Fort, and how to properly respect the resting while still being able to complete the work. The Army will be performing underwater work to look for UXO (unexploded ordinance) near an old train depot, but not before Park Service personnel look for archaeological features. I'm not sure how this works, sending in people to look for artifacts before sending in people to look for explosives; I guess if the Park Service people get blown up, the Army will have its answer.

We discussed the comments submitted for the draft MOA; a new draft should be making the rounds shortly. There was also talk of making small revisions to the Inadvertent Discovery Plan to reflect recent changes in the law. We also talked of the budget for archaeological work and stressed this is one area that cannot be compromised; failure to perform adequate archaeology could result in Tribes delaying the project until sufficient work is completed.

On 8 August I was instructed by the Chairman to contact CRC regarding the draft MOA and our request to have additional language added regarding agencies' requirements to adhere to federal and state archaeology laws. This was done to try to ensure Vancouver would utilize the land under I-5 if it is transferred to them by WSDOT as part of this project, land the City plans to turn into a park. While we aren't currently aware of specific artifacts and remains on this plot, we needed to state we expect Vancouver will not abandon the tenets of applicable law and their obligation to consult with the Tribe as the land is developed. While not all our suggestions were added to the MOA, avenues were opened up that will allow us to sit down and meet with CRC, WSDOT, DAHP, and others.

We continue to work with the project to incorporate the concerns of the tribe in the project development. Tribal Council received the drafts and comments for review and discussion. The final MOA has been circulated and the Chairman signed it in early September.

**Mount Rainier:** Mount Rainier hosted a Tribal meeting addressing the Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) for the Park, which spells out the limits for commercial aircraft in the Park. The Cowlitz had the strongest showing, with the Bill Iyall, Chairman and Mike Iyall, Council member, were also present. Four plans were presented, with one being a total ban, and the others showing different flight plans and allowances. Mike presented the possibility of planting transponders throughout the Park, which would make tracking aircraft a much more reliable affair than relying on public sightings, and the Chairman spoke to issues surrounding hunting. We also expanded the scope of spiritual uses of the Mountain to include not just Visionquests/Spiritquests but also gathering and just plain solitude. The second half of the meeting dealt with archaeological work around the Park, which eventually turned to the erosion just outside our meeting place. We told them of the success we've had with erosion control, and they showed great interest when we offered to have Rudy show them a couple projects in our area.

**Docket 218 Maps:** Jay Miller, working for the ACE on the Chehalis basin flood control project, came across the set of 10 maps used in the Docket 218 decision. These maps are in D.C. and I have been in contact with a company with access to the Archives and can therefore get us copies. I am awaiting a quote.

**Vader Property (Cowlitz Landing):** Bob Bouchard first alerted us to a potential situation across the road from the Vader Property. The owner or Washington Truck Rebuilders, Terry Hanson, is removing vegetation and replacing culverts, which has alarmed some of his neighbors, prompting one of them to call Bob. Ed and I each visited with Terry on separate occasions, and we both came away with the same conclusion: Terry's work will not impact the Tribal property. We were each shown permits and told of the history of water on the WTR property and the legal tangles he's already been part of, and we are confident Terry is following the law as it pertains to how he can best move water off his property. Some trees have been removed, and Terry has donated them to the Tribe. Several Cottonwoods lie near the property's entrance, and should be ripe for burning in several months' time.

**Newaukum Bridge:** The bridge, replaced over the Newaukum River where it is crossed by Jackson Highway, ran into a couple snags when the project damaged known archaeological resources. Since then we have been in communication with WSDOT regarding an MOA for the project as well as a damage assessment for the loss of context and integrity of the resources. After a couple rounds of drafts, the MOA appears ready to sign; as far as I know, no one has contacted the Chair as to his availability for signing the document.

**Ed's Weekend with Rick:** On June 25 and 26 Ed participated in a hike/class hybrid led by the Forest Service's Rick McClure. Ed was on hand to impart Tribal history as well as how we interacted with the landscape. Forest Service personnel and people from the Mount St. Helens Institute were the pupils. Hiking went from Chelatchie Prairie to the Lewis River Falls and up to McClellan Meadow. Ed brought two salmon and cooked them over a fire, which everyone enjoyed. This was a great opportunity for the Tribe and I'm glad Ed was able to take part.

**NAGPRA Cathlapotle:** We have been aware for some time of the remains unearthed during the construction of the Cathlapotle Plankhouse, and our suspicions were realized when the Department of Fish and Wildlife sent us a letter stating the wish to repatriate those remains via the NAGPRA repatriation process. While a meeting has yet to take place, I have made several requests regarding how these meetings should be conducted, modeling the process on our successful Fort Vancouver repatriation just a couple years ago. Under consideration is the possibility of repatriating not only the Cathlapotle remains, but also the People exhumed because of the Trojan project, and from the Herzog site, as well as others.

The plan is to have part of the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge set aside for NAGPRA-related interments, which should be a neutral enough space that will satisfy other Tribes' concerns and also be a protected spot of land that

will not see any development. By "other Tribes' concerns", I hope to address the involvement of other Tribes without giving up what I see as our inherent right to lead Tribe status, just as it existed with our previous NAGPRA endeavor.

**National Forest Service:** On 12 August we hosted personnel from the NFS, with the Chairman and NRD also attending. The main topic was the Forest Service's document detailing consultation initiation and protocols, which arose as a result of Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites," which directs federal agencies to detail Tribal consultation efforts and practices. We also addressed emergency consultations and notices, in case a situation arises where there is no time to sit and have a consultation meeting (such as a fire in a sensitive area).

**Mossyrock:** On 30 August Ed and I, with Richard Bellon (Chehalis Tribe), met with Rebecca Sutherland of the Mossyrock Police Department to discuss the City's expansion of its community center onto adjacent land. The City is seeking a Stimulus grant, and they cannot apply for funds without archaeology being performed on the land, for which they don't have the money. Richard contacted Rob Whitlam, Washington State Archaeologist, who agreed to stand by the work the Tribes would perform at this site so the grant application could be completed. The four of us (Richard, Rebecca, Ed, and myself) walked the area, consisting of approximately 200 acres, almost exclusively prairie. The land is intact, having not been tilled or previously farmed. Most of the archaeology had already been performed for us, judging from the myriad molehills on the landscape. Crude hand sifting of the 'hills resulted in the presence of fire-cracked rock (FCR), indicating the likelihood the prairie was burned and maintained pre-contact. The Mossyrock cemetery was also located on this site, notable because it contained many Cowlitz graves (including Kinswa and other Taitnapam), which were removed to the Dunn cemetery because of frequent inundation by the nearby creek. Mossyrock will place a sizable buffer around the cemetery, which will not be seeing development in any case.

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

*Prepared by Nancy Osborne, THRP*



First I would like to remind everyone new positions and vacant positions are posted on the Cowlitz web site for seven (7) days prior to being posted with other recruiting sources. The Employment Code has recently been revised and approved. We will be drafting a new Employee Handbook that will be consistent with the Employment Code. Currently the "old" Personnel Code is being used as the employee policies and procedures until the new handbook is drafted and approved. In the meantime we have been adopting interim policies where necessary. We are also re-evaluating the wage structure. Periodically the Tribe participates in the Western Washington Indian Employment Training Program (WWIETP). This program is designed to train financially disadvantage youth and adults who meet the eligibility criteria. In order to be eligible to participate in the program an individual must be a documented Native American/Alaska or Hawaiian Native and must meet the federal poverty guidelines. The participant is trained by Tribal staff on Tribal projects but is paid through WWIETP for a period of up to six (6) months. There is generally no guarantee the participant will transition into employment with the Tribe.

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS – PLEASE REMEMBER TO ENSURE THE TRIBE HAS YOUR CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS.**

# **NOTICE**

## **YOUTH PROGRAM CHRISTMAS PARTY December 17, 10am to 3pm**

**ST MARYS CENTER AT TOLEDO  
MAKING GIFTS, DRUMMING  
LUNCH PROVIDED  
PLEASE RSVP 360-520-2578 OR  
E-MAIL: PATTYKINSWA@HOTMAIL.COM**



## COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE ELECTED OFFICIALS – JUNE 2011

### General Council Officers

Chair:	William Iyall	Term Expires	2012
Vice-Chair:	Philip Harju	Term Expires	2014
Secretary:	Nancy Osborne	Term Expires	2012
Treasurer:	Jess Groll	Term Expires	2014

### Tribal Council Members

#### Terms Expire 2012

Katherine Iyall-Vasquez  
Larry Coyle  
Steve Kutz  
Randy Russell  
Rod Van Mechelen  
Patty Kinswa-Gaiser

#### Terms Expire 2013

Carolee Morris  
Taylor Aalvik  
Mike Caso  
Celine Cloquet  
Cathy Raphael  
Karrie Monohon

#### Terms Expire 2014

Linda Foley  
Dan Meyer  
Karissa Lowe  
Mike Iyall  
Lenny Bridges  
Debbie Medeiros

Tribal Council Officers – 7/9/2011 Chair: Lenny Bridges, Vice-Chair: Patty Kinswa Gaiser, Secretary: Randy Russell.

Executive Council Members - Bill Iyall, Phil Harju, Lenny Bridges, Patty Kinswa Gaiser, Randy Russell, Nancy Osborne, Jess Groll. Elected At Large Positions: Steve Kutz 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](mailto:cowlitztribe@cowlitz.org)

# GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

**November 5, 2011**

**At St. Mary's in Toledo**

**Begins at 10:00 A.M.**

**Giant cinnamon rolls for sale prior to the meeting  
proceeds go to Pow Wow committee.**

**Cinnamon roll and coffee or juice or milk \$4**

***Lunch will include chili & corn bread***

***provided by Sonny Bridges & family***



**See you there!**

**Cowlitz Indian Tribe**  
P.O. Box 2547  
1055 9<sup>th</sup>  
Longview, WA. 98632

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