



Cowlitz Indian Tribe

2013 SPRING NEWSLETTER

YOOYOOLAH!

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



I am honored to serve our members as Chairman of the Cowlitz Tribe. We must work with our future leaders of the tribe, our Cowlitz youth. Tribal leadership is a calling and

an honor. Tribal leaders' responsibilities span from addressing individual member needs to protecting our sovereignty and cultural rights in Washington, DC.

Tribal leaders must understand the difference between developing policies and implementing them. Tribal Council members work to improve the performance of the Tribe's programs or services. Council members recognize there are different views within the Council and learn how to find common ground or, at times, accept the necessity to "agree to disagree." Intertribal relations, and relationships with local, State and Federal governmental officials, both political and administrative are a part of leadership's responsibilities. We must foster positive relationships with regional communities for the Tribe. It is very rewarding to make a difference in our Tribe's affairs. Being patient and be a good listener make a better leader.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe has much happening this year, including the Canoe Journey from Fort Vancouver to Quinalt, the Canoe Races and Canoe family honoring dinner at Mayfield Lake, the First Salmon Ceremony at Olequa, Kids Camp, Huckleberry Camp, the Annual Cowlitz Pow Wow, the Health Walk and more. Thank you to all of the Cowlitz members and staff who are working hard

to hold these events! They provide great benefit to our members and to the region.

Sequestration - We are feeling the effects of sequestration after congress failed to stave off these destructive cuts. There are opportunities in the president's budget request, including public safety monies for tribes, a small increase in the Indian Health Service budget and contract health services, an increase for the Environmental Protection Agency's General Assistance Program, a \$32 million in increases for natural resource programs at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and language that provides "a no-cost economic development and jobs creation solution for restoring land to tribal governments impacted by the Carciere Supreme Court decision." We may have to await a new election for a solution to sequestration. The Native vote project was huge in the 2012 election. But the potential to impact the Congress is even greater in 2014.

Fish Consumption Rates - Water quality and quantity are critical to natural fish runs. All chemicals (fertilizers, petrochemicals, construction preservatives, etc.) introduced into the fish habitat including lands that drain into fish bearing streams should be tested for safe consumptions by humans. EPA has long had knowledge of tribal fish consumption levels and yet fails to enforce existing laws (i.e., the Clean Water Act) to protect fish consuming populations and regulate the industries and corporations that contribute to the poisoning of our rivers, lakes and the Puget Sound. Finally fish consumption relates all shellfish, freshwater and saltwater fishes, not just salmonids in all waters. State and federal agencies must coordinate with

tribe to protect and improve human and environmental health through water quality standards for the benefit of natural resources. We will continue to press agencies to take necessary and appropriate steps to establish a federal default fish consumption rate of no less than 175 grams per day for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, in acknowledgement of tribal peoples' highly fish-dependant diet, to support and guide water quality and sediment management standards.

Coal Trains and Export - We work with other tribes to support smart energy development in the Columbia River Basin to make it a priority to reduce the energy demands on the backs of fish and wildlife. Shipping coal through the Columbia River Gorge will have negative impacts on the air and water quality of the Columbia River. The federal government must examine the true costs to supply coal from federal lands for energy production, domestically or in Asia.

Initial Reservation - On March 7th, federal Judge Barbara Rothstein made an oral ruling denying motions by the card rooms, the Grand Ronde Tribe, Clark County and Vancouver, then on March 14th she reconsidered and reversed the decision she had made in court. The ruling was a strong rebuke of the delaying tactics of the opponents. In her new ruling, Judge Rothstein found that the federal government did not properly follow the federal Administrative Procedures Act in preparation of the supplemental 2012 ROD. She ordered the government to prepare a new Record of Decision (ROD) within 60 days, and dismissed the case challenging the existing 2010 ROD. The court's action was procedural and did not address the fundamental viability of the federal decision to accept our trust application. We are disappointed by the additional delay. Contrary to some news reports our ability to establish a reservation has not been stopped and all our work to date has not been "thrown out." We have waited 150 years for our reservation. We are still pursuing a sovereign homeland where we will help tribal members and the local community by creating jobs and encouraging economic development that benefits all. While the recent court ruling may delay us, it will not prevent us from ultimately reaching that day.

The department of the Interior indicated that they intend to meet the Judge's 60 day time line. In keeping with their pledge, Assistant Secretary Washburn called to say he signed the new Cowlitz ROD on April 22nd. After issuance of a new ROD, they will file a 30 day notice in the federal register, and we expect the opposition will re-file their lawsuits at that time. We will then be again be on a court schedule, with a focus on briefs relative to the arguments on appeal, which will be essentially the same as previously submitted by all parties. We will request an expedient procedure for consideration of the merits of our case and we are confident in an affirmative judgment.

We will continue to monitor the Carcieri fix and keep in touch with NCAI, ATNI and NIGA on the issue. Our Senator Maria Cantwell serving as Senate Indian Affairs Chairwoman, has agreed to push the issue in congress. The Supreme Court's Carcieri decision completely ignored the congressional intent of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA) and reversed 75 years of the Interior secretary's authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes. A clean fix removes the uncertainty that Indian country is facing due to the bad decision. Congress cannot ignore the strain this ruling has placed on tribes and the dangerous precedent this decision set who wish to limit tribal economic development. It's well past time for Congress to act by fixing this judicially-created problem and reinstate the IRA for the benefit of all tribes.

After several meetings with officials at the Department of the Interior in Washington DC in March, we have just received a letter clarifying the department's position on Gaming Compacts for landless tribes such as the Cowlitz Tribe. Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn's response allows us to proceed with compact negotiations with Governor Inslee, the Attorney General and the Director of the Gambling Commission to reach agreement on terms for a compact so we can participate in the gaming revenues that other Washington tribes enjoy. With a compact we will finally be able to receive machine leasing revenue.

We continue to work with the Mayor Irish and the City of La Center to discuss the off-site sewer option. The city is still developing their State

Environmental Policy Act work required for the needed to update their Comprehensive Plan so they can serve the reservation. The “preferred option” for on-site treatment remains under consideration.

The work on the freeway intersection improvement project is moving forward. We are also continuing the work to secure land for the new right of way on the east side of the freeway. This process will advance planning and expedite construction of a new interchange concurrent with the development of our new casino.

Government to Government Relationships - As we continue the fight for our land we need to maintain a focus. The focus is on our sovereignty and the federal sovereign process. We’re moving ahead. We work with other governments to respect each other and work together. Indian tribes have rights, even if some politicians disagree; they need to sit down and talk with tribes, negotiate, get the best of both worlds, a win – win. It is a part of the Constitution – respect tribal sovereignty.

I understand this may be a lot to take in. I will give everyone an update at the June council meeting to help everyone understand our status. The bottom line is that we are making progress and getting ever-closer to establishing the Cowlitz Tribe’s initial reservation.

All My Relations,

Bill Iyall
Chairman

In these times of program and budget cuts, our ability to provide vital services for our people is a constant challenge. Clearly, now more than ever, the Cowlitz Tribe will need to develop revenue and income to provide the important services for our Tribe.

We continue to work with the Mohegan Tribe, to plan and develop our casino project, which will provide steady revenue for our Tribe. There has been a minor delay in Federal Court in regards to our Record of Decision to establish our initial reservation. I trust that a new Record of Decision will have been issued by the Interior Department by the time you read this, and that our appeal will be back on track for a timely final decision. Of course, we continue to work on all the infrastructure projects that will be needed to develop the casino and reservation.

As always, I am looking forward to our June General Council Meeting, the encampment, and the First Salmon Ceremony. The General Council Meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2013. I hope as many of our Cowlitz Family and friends will be able to participate in this great weekend of events.

While we work through the many challenges of governance, sovereignty, culture, and family, we all can be proud of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. I am proud to be a Cowlitz, and it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Cowlitz Tribe, and as the Chairman of the Cowlitz Tribal Council.

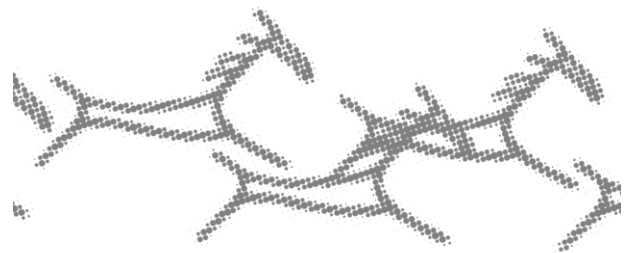
Philip Harju



FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

2013 begins another important year for the Cowlitz Tribe. The continued dedication and hard work of our members,

elected officials, staff, family, friends, and volunteers is truly impressive.



horseys © dAVE

ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT

Our current enrollment criteria remain as it has been since 01/01/2006. The Applicant must be a direct lineal descendant of a Cowlitz Indian and Applicant must have a parent (mother/father) on Cowlitz Tribal Roll and Applicant shall be no older than 12 months of age. 17 infants were enrolled in October 2012 and 22 in February 2013. The enrollment office has been advised of the deaths of 10 tribal members September 01, 2012 – April 15, 2013.

Will you be moving soon or have you recently moved? Please remember to advise the tribal office when you have a change of mailing address. If you have an enrolled friend or family member that is not receiving tribal mailings it is most likely because they have not informed the office of their current mailing address.

Randy Russell
Enrollment Officer

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

EMERGENCY FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Emergency food voucher new program year begins July 1, 2013. Please contact Carolee Morris to see if you are eligible for this program. It is for low income tribal members, and the food vouchers are for emergency use only, starting at \$25.00 up to \$55.00 depending on how many folks are in the household.

LIHEAP PROGRAM

The LIHEAP (low income heating energy assistance program) new program year begins October 1, 2013. As of last January we have expended our funding for this program year, due to our tribal members being out of work, or various other reasons. We did receive another small grant from CITGO, allowing \$240.00 per household, for those eligible. Please contact Carolee Morris to see

if you are eligible, phone 360-575-3300 or email cowlitztribe@cowlitz.org

FOOD COMMODITIES PROGRAM

For our tribal members that live in rural areas of Washington State, (towns of less than 10,000 population) the USDA Food Commodities Program is available for low-income members. Please contact Carolee for application packets.

A reminder that folks should have regular routine eye exams every 2 years. And, if you have twins in your family, they should be seen by an ophthalmologist at 1 yr. old, as twins seem to have trouble with their eyes more than single children.

"If we would have health, we must live for it."

-- Ellen G. White

Carolee Morris
Tribal Administrator

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Cowlitz Tribal Events:

For 2013 the Transportation Department will be able to provide \$1500 for fuel for the Canoe Journey this year, which help out the support boat and vehicles to get to their daily destinations. The Canoe Journey Family will also be using the 02 Ford Bus again this year. We also allocated \$750 for the drum group events and have a small amount in reserve for other committee outings.

Cowlitz Tribal Transport Services:

The Cowlitz Tribal Transport Service was a new program started September 1, 2012. The program had some rocky areas to work out in the beginning, but is has become a successful project. As the word has gotten out to our tribal elders, and disabled tribal members they have started using the service more and more. It covers an area from Vancouver medical facilities to Tacoma medical facilities. This program is not the same as the Cowlitz Tribe Transit Service which has a service area from

Chehalis to Woodland and only up to 20 miles off the I-5 corridor.

For 2013 the Cowlitz Tribe Transit Service took a 45% cut in funding, which forced the program to cut jobs and distribute the job duties between the remaining staff. This cut will remain as the Federal Transit Administration/Tribal Transportation Program went from a competitive process to a formula base. The Cowlitz Tribe has always done well on the competitive side with their grant applications, but using the formula from now on gives the program better stability.

Tribal Transportation Program:

Under the new Federal Highway Bill "MAP 21" the Indian Reservation Roads Program (IRR) is now the "Tribal Transportation Program" (TTP). This is a 2 year bill with a lot of changes in the funding structure and requirements for grants.

As we listen to congress about the impacts of sequester and the effects it has on many programs, we see that it will affect the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). The TTP is funded out of the Federal Highway Trust fund and not the General Fund. This being said, sequester will not affect the TTP funding. The grants we receive for the Transit Program is funded out of the General Fund and will have impacts from 5% to 10% depending if they are federal funds or federal funds the flow through the states as grants.

The Transit Program has a 2 year funding grant application with the State of Washington Department of Transportation that we should be hearing shortly (hoping by May 1st.) whether we are funded and the percentage received due to the sequester budget cuts.

We continue to work hard while dealing with the cuts to programs (not just transit) and the needs to provide the service for the Cowlitz Tribal Community.

Kim Stube
Transportation Director
360-353-9990

COWLITZ TRIBAL HEALTH— SEATTLE

We are enjoying our new building in Tukwila, just north of the Westfield South Center Mall and close to I-5. Our move into the building last fall went well, and we are enjoying creating a welcoming space for clinical services and community educational activities like the Chinook Wa Wa classes held monthly. We are hoping to offer more educational classes as we grow.

We hosted an Open House in January for friends and family with good food and activities for all ages. If you missed it and would like to visit, just contact us. We would love to give you a tour.

Our clinical and addiction services are growing now that we are in our new location. We serve about 250 children, youth and families from North Seattle to Olympia. We anticipate further growth as we continue to build relationships in the Seattle school district and in Pierce County.

Our clinicians provide services in homes, schools and here in our office. We have hired a Transportation Coordinator, Carol Peterson to help with the hefty transportation needs that this level of service requires. Having Carol in charge of transportation enables clinicians to do what they do best—provide quality services to our clients.

We are enjoying having the chemical dependency program on board and running under the able leadership of Tessie Crown, CDP. There is a very useful cross-pollination that occurs when families have multiple needs and can get a variety of services in one place. We can refer people across the hall or down the stairs for necessary help and services. This leads to better continuity of care and improved outcomes.

The clinical staff is gearing up for summer therapy activities. We have found that providing a variety of activity groups improves delivery of services when school is not in session. We are looking forward to Canoe Journey and huckleberry camp as well as participating in sweat lodges and other activities. We have found, consistent with research, that providing clinical services within a culturally appropriate context increases self-esteem, reduces

anxiety, and helps children learn self-regulation skills.

We have been working with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) to develop a measurement instrument that defines health among of Native youth. In the future we hope to use this instrument to measure the appropriateness and effectiveness of our programs. Ultimately we plan to have the clinical methodologies that most benefit our families and our community listed as evidence-based practices by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

Cowlitz Tribal Health--Seattle is engaged in discussions with Antioch University to continue to serve as an internship site for talented Masters-level and Psy.D.-level students with an interest in working within the Indian community. It is our belief that training the next generation of clinicians is a win/win proposition for our community. We look forward to finding opportunities to strengthen our alliance with this and other important regional institutions.

PATHWAYS TO HEALING

National Visionary Voice Award Presented to Debbie Medeiros

April 9, 2013, Andrea Piper-Wentland; Executive Director of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, presented me, Pathways to Healing Program Manager and Tribal Councilwomen with the Visionary Voice Award from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center for the work I have done in the community around sexual violence intervention and prevention.

I have been humbled by the award and recognition and hope that this attention to the PTH program can start the needed conversations within our community around protecting those who are victimized and changing our attitudes around victimizing behaviors. I truly believe the great adage from Gandhi "be the change you wish to see in the

world" and that hope drives me every day. All the PTH staff are dedicated to educating our community and raising awareness around these important issues that for so long have been hidden in our past and buried with our ancestors.

I would like to thank everyone for the support of the PTH program and our efforts within the community. If you would like to participate in upcoming prevention efforts or focus groups please contact me at dmedeiros@cowlitz.org.

In Solidarity,
Debbie



COWLITZ TRIBE HEARING REGARDING THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will be holding a hearing to seek input from Cowlitz Tribal members on the Tribe's application to provide services to Tribal members utilizing funding from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). This would make child care vouchers available for eligible members of the Tribe and of other Tribes if we choose to serve them. **The hearing will be held at the end of the regularly scheduled Cowlitz Tribe General Council** scheduled to begin on 10:00 AM on Saturday June 1, 2013. Immediately following the General Council meeting the Tribe will convene a hearing to solicit input from members regarding

development of the program in the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The CCDF program is a federal program that assists low-income families in obtaining child care so that they can work or attend training/education. The Tribe can administer this program for its members and members of other Indian Tribes. We are proceeding with an accelerated application that (if successful) could allow the Tribe to begin the planning and implementation cycle of the program in the Federal 2014 budget cycle beginning in October 2014. Your input is needed for this important and needed program.

“People take our health care benefits for granted but for those of us who waited most of our lives for our most basic rights, we cannot do so. In the past three years, I have had serious heart problems, requiring four heart procedures, a pacemaker, and prolonged hospitalization in one of the most expensive of units, Cardiac Intensive Care at the University of Washington. If I had not been an enrolled member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, I would be bankrupt simply from having to pay my deductions and copays. Because of the tireless efforts of our past and present leaders, I have contract health care rights and benefits and faced my sixth, and hopefully final, heart procedure ten days ago on February 25, 2013 without the fear of financial ruin.

“There are simply no words to express my gratitude to those who fought long and hard for our federal recognition and the establishment of our Cowlitz Health Services. As someone who has been saved from financial ruin and staggering medical bills because of these rights, I am forever grateful and can focus on my healing and my future rather than on the financial devastation that comes from long-term serious heart problems combined with the inability to work.

“For those who struggled to gain these rights for Cowlitz Tribal members, I say a Thank You that goes beyond these mere words. A very special Thank You also goes to Lori Morris who

has helped me through all of these years. Lori, you have been such a blessing and I want to say that publicly and gratefully.”

Robin Ladue

UPCOMING COWLITZ CULTURAL EVENTS

First Salmon Ceremony- June 2 All are welcome to attend.

Youth Summer Camp- June 21-25 Contact Melody Pfeifer at 360-562-2775 or Cassandra Sellards Reck 360-513-1243

Canoe Journey- July 22- August 6 Paddle to Quinault Contact Steve Kutz for further details 360-731-2885

Spiritual Boat Float- August 30- September 1 Contact Melody Pfeifer for details, 360-562-2775

Cowlitz Health Walk- September 21 in the morning at Lake Sacagawea Longview Wa.

Cowlitz Pow Wow- Spetember 21 Grand Entry starts at 1pm at Toledo HighSchool

Huckleberry Camp at Swift School House- August 28- September 1 Contact Cassandra S. Reck for further details 1-360-513-1243

Youth Christmas party- December 14- All can come see Santa and Enjoy an amazing day together.

Respectfully Submitted- Cassandra Sellards Reck





NATURAL RESOURCES (NRD) REPORT

Smelt We have just had a very significantly high run of smelt that entered the Columbia in mid-March. There was so many smelt coming into the Cowlitz River; smelt were literally pushing themselves up on the river bank due to overcrowding the river. It has been many years since this was last seen. We were becoming worried that we may not see much smelt this year. Before the large run, we were not seeing much evidence of them returning. When they did come, it was considered late for them to come into the river. Our smelt science crew has been working diligently to record this unique event and begin sampling the extent of eggs that has been deposited in several rivers off the Columbia this year. A large smelt run has been recorded in the Sandy River, OR this year. We continue to break ground on new science and knowledge of smelt within the Columbia River. They are an important forage fish for salmon, and their decline has potentially significant impacts toward salmon recovery. We were the petitioners which led to their eventual listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We now work toward their recovery and delisting from ESA.

Columbian White-tailed Deer (CWTD) We have participated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with an emergency move of CWTD from the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge (JBH) to both the Ridgefield refuge and Cottonwood Island. Over 40 deer have been moved over the last few months. This was done because of a potential failure of a levee on the JBH refuge which was protecting the population. As a side, this effort may potentially lead to establishing another sub-population of the deer. This in turn, would set the stage for possibly having them taken off of the endangered species list. We are hoping to receive a grant by USFWS to assist in monitoring the deer and track their progress over time.

Toutle River There continues to be a group that is dealing with the future of sediment control of the N. Fork of the Toutle River. We are part of this group and are working address fish passage past the sediment retention structure as part of any new proposed actions. We have struggled in the past with the Army Corps in regards to them implementing proper environmental mitigation measures associated their flood risk reduction efforts. We are currently trying to work with them to prescribe environmental mitigation measures for this Basin.

Columbia River Treaty We continue to participate with Federal Agencies, NW States, and 14 other Columbia River Basin Tribes in regards to reviewing the Columbia River Treaty between the US and Canada. This has developed into a formation of a review/recommendation group called the Sovereign Review Team (SRT). It is being co-chaired by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bonneville Power Administration who serve as the "US Entity" in regards to the Columbia River Treaty. Tribes are working hard to have a new or amended Treaty with Canada which places the Health of the Columbia River Ecosystem as co-equal to interests of flood risk management and Hydro-Power production. This is lacking in the current Treaty. There are significant concerns or struggles associated with review/recommendation timing. (i.e. concerns of not enough time for a robust or adequate scientific assessment that will be associated with a potential recommendation from the sovereigns of the region). Tribes are determined that this review process adequately addresses ecosystem function of the Columbia River in order for the tribes to support a future management scenario which potentially would be negotiated with Canada. There is potential of a "high" level or a recommendation which sets forth a need for further analyses post-2013; which may likely have the Department of State as the lead agency overseeing activities.

Proposed Coal Terminals The Tribe is very concerned with the proposed coal terminals within the Columbia River system. The concerns from the region are becoming ever increasing and the poten-

tial threats could set us back associated with trying to recover endangered or threatened species. It has the potential to exacerbate already straining conditions within this delicate environment. The federal government has spent and will likely spend millions of dollars to address/restore resources concerns within the Columbia Basin while at the same time, human developments continue to place significant pressure or create for potential additional habitat losses for ESA listed species. It also strains tribes' ability to enjoy traditional properties. We are following this situation closely and will work with leadership in regards to protecting the future of culturally significant species.

Land Acquisition We have been working with landowners, local leaders, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and others on habitat restoration projects, and land acquisition projects serving to secure habitat for ESA listed species within the Columbia River Estuary. This is in connection to Mitigation measures required by BPA and the Corps for their operation on the Columbia River. There is tremendous opportunity for the Tribe to regain much of our historic lands and steward them for species recovery and cultural use. We plan to get many hundreds of acres of land back to the Tribe under this effort.

We have just acquired many acres of property along the Cowlitz River by working with Don and Randy Wallace and Tacoma Power. It has been a long process, but now we have secured many acres for salmon conservation and will serve well for cultural access and future salmon restoration efforts.

NW Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) We have submitted a multi-million dollar salmon restoration project to the NWPCC for potential funding. We have given a presentation of our proposal and may know in a month or two of our success. Early indication is telling us that we have a good chance of being awarded these funds.

We have also spoke with NWPCC in regards to smelt. The NWPCC has opened up their fish and wildlife management plan for poten-

tial changes. We aim to submit recommendations to the Council in regards to increased awareness of smelt and potentially have them mitigate their hydro impacts for smelt. This could mean additional funds to be able to address smelt recovery.

Other There are many challenges we face in the future in regards to moving forward with important programs for restoring culturally important species. Funding is the biggest hurdle currently due to sequestration. While we may excel in some areas as noted, we are always subject to budget cut impacts of the Federal Government. We will continue to scrounge for funds to support the Tribe's mission in this area. Please contact me for additional information on the projects and programs we undertake.

Taylor Aalvik
NRD Director
taalvik@cowlitz.org, 360-575-3306

EDUCATION REPORT

This year the Tribal education committee received scholarship applications from a wide array of talented and ambitious Tribal members. At the time this report was written, the committee had not yet had time to formally review the applications and determine award amounts, so a more complete accounting of this year's applicants will follow in our next newsletter. Initial review of the applications has shown a diversity of fields of study and an inspiring widespread commitment by our applicants to use their education to help the Cowlitz people.

This year the Tribe was able to nominate a student for Washington State University's MOU Tribal Scholarship, a newly created award intended for members of Tribes that are signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with WSU. All eligible applicants receive \$2,000 per year for up to four years, and they are enrolled in a class promoting student success and Tribal leadership

development. Additionally, WSU will select one eligible applicant to receive \$10,000 per year for up to four years. This is an excellent opportunity for Cowlitz students who wish to attend WSU, and though the deadline for this year has past, please go to the Cowlitz website to learn more about this opportunity and see if you could qualify for next year's round. Chairman Iyall attended the Tribal Leadership meeting in April at the University of Washington to urge UW to offer a similar MOU scholarship. The suggestion was well received and UW will be working on that idea. The Cowlitz Tribe has signed a MOU with both universities.

WSU has made a concerted effort to build its relationship with the Cowlitz and other Tribes in Washington State, and this funding opportunity is a direct result of WSU's commitment to work with the Tribes. The education committee is working to nurture similar relationships with other schools in the state and beyond, in the hopes of developing more opportunities like the MOU Tribal Scholarship. Stay tuned, and go to the website or contact the committee for more information.

The 2013 awards will be announced at the June General Council meeting, and then committee chairman Karissa Lowe will contact the 2013 scholarship recipients and work with them to ensure their awards are processed and their funding gets to their schools. Any 2013 scholarship recipients who do not submit their information before April 15th, 2014 will have their awards rescinded so that the funds can be reallocated to the next year's applicants.

Next year's Tribal scholarship application will be available on the Cowlitz website in January 2014. Applicants can submit their applications via mail or hand delivery to the Tribal Administration Office. Completed applications are due April 15th, 2014. Only complete applications are eligible for consideration. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Awards will be announced at the June General Council meeting.

Any Tribal members with questions on the Tribal scholarship or other education issues can contact committee chairman Karissa at 360.261.4683. She'll be happy to help you.



2013 HEALTH BOARD REPORT

As always it's a pleasure to be able to serve the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The Board's focus has remained improving our people's health. The current issue affecting our Tribal health dollars is Sequestration. We are working hard to understand the Federal Government's sequestration cuts to our programs. It has been reported to be about a -5.3% cut. In our last Health Board meeting the Health and Human Services (HHS) Director reported that he has met with accounting to try to estimate the decrease in funding. At 5.3% decrease estimate it was reported we would be less \$192,000 in HHS. The Director doesn't believe there will need to be any decrease in Contract Health Services or HHS programs. We have vowed to stay vigilant in tracking the developments at our State and Federal level.

Review of President Obama 2014 budget for Health for Natives The President's Indian Health Service (IHS) budget request for Fiscal Year 2014 totals \$4.4 billion.

This figure represents a 2.9% increase or \$124 million over 2012 budget levels. There have been an increase in pressure to decrease discretionary spending limits, this increase is significant. Though the President's budget proposed significant cuts to many programs, it continues a commitment to Indian Health.

The budget does not include a detailed plan for how IHS will implement sequestration in 2013. The Cowlitz Health Board is monitoring how the sequestration is affecting the delivery of health care to our Tribal communities. President Obama's budget had many programs that were cut, the budget still includes an increase for Health funding.

Health Education and Prevention There are many positive events and programs happening in HHS. There is great work being done for all

our Tribal members. A highlight that should be shared is the HHS staff that joined in at Cowlitz Spring Break Youth Camp. A Big Thank you to the HHS Director Jim Sherrill who is supporting the Cowlitz Youth and is promoting prevention in our community. HHS Staff and programs came and taught our Cowlitz Youth. Debbie Bennett and the Alcohol Chemical Dependency Program came to teach a drug prevention program which was age sensitive. The drug prevention program was sponsored by the Housing Board which was able to donate space and electricity to the event. Elizabeth Tail and staff were able to come teach positive mental health through art therapy. They were able to provide each youth with a new pair of Converse or Vans that they painted Native designs on. Tonya and Zoe from the clinic came and taught the importance of hand washing and challenged them to draw what health means to them. Shari Hughes and staff were able to donate the snacks and many of the supplies needed for camp. Kaipō Rhodes came and taught a healthy cooking class and taught youth how to traditionally grill Salmon over the fire. Mike Yates from the Indian Child Welfare came and supported the staff with his knowledge and assistance. Thank you all HHS staff who came, stayed and taught our youth!

Cultural Support The Health Board has committed to building a healthy community. The Board supports many of the Cultural programs in the Tribe including Canoe Journey, Ft. Vancouver Protocol, Youth camps, and Canoe Races. We look for opportunity to promote wellness and physical activity. If our mind, body and spirit are fed there is less sickness. Our aboriginal ways made us the strongest Nation in Washington. Please participate in events of our Nation, be a part of your community.

Satisfaction Survey Every year HHS conducts a patient satisfaction survey that gets reported to the Health Board. Please fill them out and provide feedback. The Cowlitz Clinic is for our people. It is a place we want to nurture, respect and promote health and wellness. If you have ideas or concerns please let us know. Our goal is excellence.

Your Health Board The Health Board is made of committed Cowlitz members. We are dedicated to preserving our Tribal members healthcare. We want the next seven generations to Thrive. If you have ideas or questions please feel free to contact any Board member to share them.

All my Relations,
Cassandra Sellards Reck

HEALTH BOARD

Cassandra Sellards Reck- csellardsreck@hotmail.com Cell-360-513-1243
Vice Chair- **John De Nobrega-Pete**
Secretary- **Linda Foley**

Steve Kutz
Carolle Morris
Patty Kinswa-Gaiser
Charity Sabido- Hodges
Ernie Donovan
Cathy Raphael

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sheryl Bertucci
Melody Pfeifer
Debbie Medeiros- debbie.cowlitz@gmail.com



COWLITZ SPRING BREAK YOUTH CAMP 2013



December 14- Please plan on coming to our annual Youth Christmas gathering. Families are welcome.

Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.

Respectfully,
The Youth Board.
Chair- **Melody Pfeifer**- 360-562-2775
Vice Chair- **Cassandra Sellards Reck**
360-513-1243
Secretary- **Debbie Mederios**

We would like to report the Spring Break Camp was the largest ever!!!

There were more youth this year than ever before with a grand total of 67. Many of the meals we had over a 100 people in attendance including: St. Mary's residents, Elders, employees, volunteers, parents and youth.

Thank you so much for all of those who volunteered, taught, supported, gave time or funds, With all of us together we are making the future generations successful, strong, knowledgeable and healthier.

Language Camp will happen May 17-19. Through grants we are able to teach and preserve our Cowlitz language to our youth.

Summer Camp is coming up June 21-25 at St. Mary's. Please see the website for further details or contact a Youth Board member for more information. There are a lot of opportunities and teachings that will happen. To register please notify Cassy at 360-513-1243.

Charity Sabido-Hodges
Steve Kutz- 360-731-2885
Claudia Tenny
Elan Braden
Youth Advocate- **Devin Reck**- 360-513-5886



HONORING THE SPIRIT OF ALL COWLITZ PEOPLE

14TH ANNUAL COWLITZ POW WOW

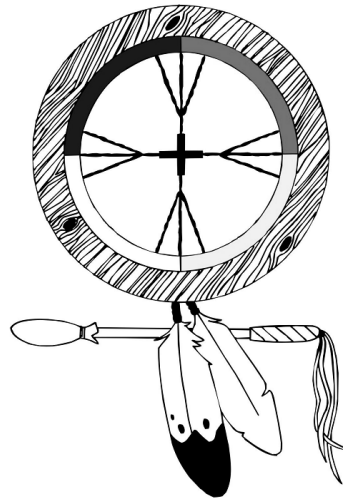
Saturday, September 21, 2013

At Toledo High School, Toledo, WA

1242 State Route 505

Grand Entries at 1pm and 7 pm

Join us in a celebration of the 14th Annual Honoring the Spirit of All Cowlitz People Pow Wow on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at Toledo High School. Headman and Headwoman dancer Kevin and Jeanifer King (Cowlitz) will be your host throughout the day and long into this Saturday evening, along with Ed Wulf, as Arena Director and Don Ryan as Master of Ceremonies. A special appearance from guest Jeff Guidry and the eagle Freedom will be in attendance and participating in grand entries, which begin at 1 PM and 7 PM. More details will follow!



again at the pow wow. Please continue to support this event by purchasing items, as your assistance is important in funding our annual pow wow for a number of years. Another fund-raiser that will also be of help is the homemade cinnamon rolls with juice or coffee just prior to the General Council meeting in June. Monetary donations are also welcomed. We accept cash,

check and debit/credit.

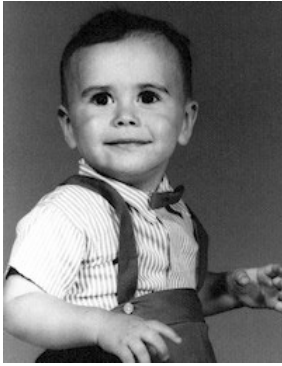
Traditionally, this pow wow will honor the Veterans of all service branches at each of the two grand entries, providing each Veteran with a handmade gift as a show of gratitude for their service to our country. As in the past, other popular aspects of the day include vendors selling their wares, drum groups performing, competition dancing, smoked salmon, a 5 pm salmon dinner , raffles, and the program for kids at approximately 6 pm during the dinner break. Concessions will also be offered throughout the day both by the Committee and by food vendors, with a variety of choices.

Please watch the Cowlitz tribal website (cowlitz.org/events) or “Like” us at Cowlitz Indian Tribe Pow Wow on Facebook for updates related to the pow wow. There you can find information about vendor details and registration forms as well as contact information for some of the Committee members. This is a tremendous cultural event to be a part of and we welcome your interest, your help, and your support throughout the year, including the day of the pow wow, to continue to help offer our community a full flavor of Cowlitz culture.

We would like to congratulate artist Nathan Van Mechelen (Cowlitz), the contest winner for this year’s pow wow design. As the chosen artist, he has been awarded a prize of \$200. A variety of merchandise, including this year’s shirts, and Cowlitz Tribal logo-wear will be available to purchase at the General Council meeting in June and

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 21nd. Please come and join us and perhaps even help out by volunteering. You won’t be disappointed that you did! Specific information on who to contact in order to help your tribe present this annual, successful event is located on our website.

NEW: Get your Cowlitz Indian Tribe Flag at the June General Council Meeting!



CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

FISH DISTRI-

BUTION: First, I'm happy to report David and Kirk distributed 10,805 Fish last year. That is a big increase over 2011, and

hopefully we can beat that record this year.

Many Members have called wondering where the Fish are. Simply put, Dave and Kirk aren't calling anyone because there are no Fish to be had. Fish don't always pay attention to our schedules, so we need to wait until they are good and ready. Also, it seems the fisheries are collecting brood stock right now; once those quotas have been met, it shouldn't be long before we resume receiving Fish.

One final thing: there seems to be a misperception regarding the Fish and donations. While the program does rely on donations to keep the program running, it never means any of our Members or other Natives should go hungry. The entire reason the program exists is to feed our People, especially those in need. ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED. Sometimes the only money we have goes into the gas tank. If you can get to one of the distribution points, you get fish. There are a few Members who can afford to give more than a dollar per fish, and it helps out tremendously, especially when others cannot donate at this time. It all evens out. Need fish? Give us a call. If we're not helping, we're not doing our jobs.

SMELT CEREMONY/

CELEBRATION: Was held 19 March at Gearhart Gardens. As many as two dozen people showed, including Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Departments, Elders, and Drummers. State Fish & Wildlife showed up after we had finished, and they told me they had written approximately 50 citations for people who were illegally dipping for eulachon. I appreciate their vigilance.

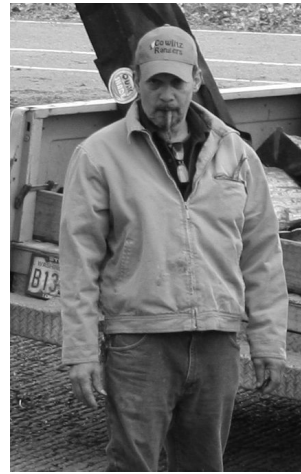
The Celebration was held at the same place on 6 April. More than 50 attended, and we again

gave thanks for the Smelt and to the Smelt. There was much singing and drumming, and all in attendance took part in eating Smelt, collected with the approval of WDFW via the Tribe's ongoing Eulachon studies. Tim Van Mechelen volunteered to smoke the fish, and we are grateful for his tasty result.

FORT VANCOUVER REBURIAL/ OVERLOOK PARK/PEARSON AIR FIELD:

I ran these together as they all took place on the same day, 26 March.

First up was the reburial of remains at Fort



Vancouver. This (these) was found during ground disturbance conducted in late February while the Park Service was attempting to locate a water line leak in an area having a high probability of archaeological discovery. These remains were cared for until such time as they could be reinterred. Representatives

from approximately five Tribes were present, as well as a Native Hawaiian showing.

Next, Ed and I stopped at the Overlook Park remodel in Ridgefield. A couple days earlier a feature was discovered in the project area, along with other material. The plan for the Park has now shifted, with the hearth being left intact (and in place) while construction shifted so as to not interfere with the resource.

Finally, I accompanied the Chairman and Phil to the meeting with Jamie Herrera Beutler to discuss the poorly thought-out language of HB 716, which will, if passed, turn ownership of the Pearson Air Field and Museum from the National Park Service to the City of Vancouver, effectively eliminating federal protection from the archaeology and other cultural material still part of the landscape. The meeting did not go well, and I have followed up on a suggestion I made to the Chairman as to how we might proceed.

CHEHALIS AIRPORT: I met with representatives from the Chehalis Tribe, Lewis

County Planning, and SWCA Environmental Consultants to discuss the Airport Levee Rehabilitation Project, which will proceed in May. The purpose of the meeting was to address any concerns the Tribes may have regarding archaeological material in the project areas. A couple years ago I mentioned the need for strict monitoring of the Airport, as it is almost overflowing with material, some of it having been inadvertently damaged while completing other projects. With the abundance of monitoring the Tribes will be providing, I'm confident this project will be relatively hitch-free.



NORTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (NWAC): This year's conference was held in Portland. While attendance was up from previous conferences, the number and scope of presentations seemed pretty slim. Likewise, the limited space demanded a tight poster schedule; posters were up for a maximum of two hours before they needed to be taken down for the next round. This was disappointing because SWCA was showing a poster regarding the I-5/Mellen Street project in Centralia, and prominent mention was made of Tribal participation.

Thank you for your time.
All My Relations,

dAVe burlingame
Director, Cultural Resources
360.577.6962
360.508.1677 (cell)
culture@cowlitz.org

TRIBAL GAMING AUTHORITY

The CTGA continues to move forward and work with our partner, Salishan/Mohegan, on planning for the casino development as we wait for the federal government's decisions on our trust lands and our reservation, which we expect by the time you receive the newsletter.

While the federal legal process goes on, we are working on two elements of the casino infrastructure that require a lot of pre-planning - the sewer and the freeway interchange. We will evaluate the cost, feasibility and procedural issues with an on-site sewer system. At the same time, we continue to work with the city of La Center on an off-site option. We are working with the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and our consultants on planning for the interchange improvements. The consultants have started their work, and there should be a hearing on it next summer.

Also on a positive note, after several years of trying, we finally got the department of the interior to issue a letter clarifying their position on approving compacts for landless tribes. This had been one of the hang ups in our efforts to negotiate a compact with Governor Gregoire. The department's response was very positive for the Cowlitz, making clear that the Secretary has the full authority to approve a compact for the Cowlitz Tribe before our land is in trust and before the lawsuits are over. Based on this clarification of federal policy, Chairman Iyall sent a letter to Governor Inslee requesting that the state resume compact negotiations with the Tribe.

Sonny Bridges
Chairman





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

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 1, 2013, 10:00 AM, ST. MARY'S, TOLEDO, WA -- 107 SPENCER RD, AT INTERSECTION OF FLASHING LIGHT ON JACKSON HWY.

SPAGHETTI DINNER SUGGESTED \$5.00 DONATION, SPONSORED BY THE CANOE COMMITTEE.

CINNAMON ROLLS \$3.00 BEING SOLD BY THE POW WOW COMMITTEE.

2013 COWLITZ CANOE FAMILY SCHEDULE JOURNEY TO QUINAULT

	ARRIVE	DEPART
Ft. Vancouver	22 July	23 July
Kelly Point	23 July	23 July
St. Helens	23 July	24 July
Rainier	24 July	25 July
Skamokowa	25 July	26 July
Chinook	26 July	27 July
Bear River	27 July	27 July
Bay Center	27 July	28 July
Tokeland	28 July	29-30 July
Ocean Shores	29-30 July	30-31 July
Point Grenville	1 August	Hosting through 6 August

The Cowlitz Canoe Family will begin their 2013 Canoe Journey to Quinault at Fort Vancouver on Monday July 22nd where we will host the Canoe Families that are traveling down the Columbia River. We need volunteer help at our hosting event in Fort Vancouver. We will then travel down the Columbia River, ending at the Quinault Tribe at Taholah, WA. For information on this event you may call me at any time (360-731-2885), but for ongoing and up-to-date information on practices and scheduling and other changes follow us on the **Cowlitz Canoe** Facebook page.