



Snee-Nee-Chum

A monthly newsletter of the Nooksack Indian Tribe

January, 2014
Volume 4, Number 1

Snee-Nee-Chum
P.O. Box 157
Deming, WA 98244

How to Submit News to the Snee-Nee-Chum Newsletter

You may submit
news items or
department updates
for consideration to
Roxanne Murphy at
rmurphy@nooksack-nsn.gov.

Newsletter information and
photos may also appear on
our Nooksack Indian Tribe
Facebook Page. Be sure to
follow us at www.facebook.com/NooksackIndianTribe.

Questions?
Call Roxanne at
(360) 592-5176
extension 3287.

Natural Resources Completes Major Restoration Project



Sindick Bura and Tom Cline tying cable to support log jam.

The Nooksack Natural Resources Department recently finished the last phase of the North Fork Nooksack River, Wildcat Reach Restoration Project. The three phases of this project included 83 individual log jams on over a mile of the North Fork. This project and all of the habitat restoration work on the North Fork is part of the Department's efforts to restore stable side channel spawning habitat to increase natural production of Chinook and other salmonids for sustainable Tribal harvest.

The Wildcat project is described by our engineer as "a really cool project and probably a first at this scale using Engineered Log Jams this broadly." Each phase had its challenges and were equally met by the ambitious, creative and hard working Natural Resource team. Several of the staff members have been involved in all three phases, bringing their skills and experience from prior phases to efficiently complete this project that is vital to the return of salmon on the North Fork Nooksack.

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Natural Resources also welcomed the addition of Arin Smith, the new crew lead, who, under the guidance of Sindick Bura and Darren Malloway, quickly learned the techniques most important in supporting these construction projects, including harvesting and salvaging native plants, cutting and tying cable, and planting each log jam and the disturbed areas with native conifers and shrubs.



The “A Team” Kraig Harvey, Arin Smith, Sindick Bura and Darren Malloway.

Natural Resources is excited to continue our work on both the North and South Forks of the Nooksack by improving salmon habitat and salmon spawning opportunities through log jam construction and restoring natural function along the river corridors.



Jeff Point, Lindsie Fratus and Harlan Harvey enjoying lunch on the straw bales.

Log jam projects have been funded through a variety of grants from State, Federal and even International agencies and provide year-round work for two Tribal members and seasonal work for several more. Thanks to the ongoing support from the Tribal Chairman and Tribal Council, Natural Resources is looking forward to continuing this important work to restore chinook habitat. For more information, contact Natural Resources at (360) 592-5176. ■



Darren Malloway, Sindick Bura, and Jeff Point clearing the way to install cable.

Tribal Departments Trained on Providing Wraparound Services

More than 35 Tribal employees recently came together to learn, discuss, and challenge each other to provide coordinated wraparound services to Nooksack families.

Although there is a commitment throughout the Tribe to provide the most effective holistic services to the Nooksack community possible, this was the first time that so many Nooksack employees could come together to be formally trained in the principles of wraparound. The central idea of wraparound services is that clients have multiple and complex needs. No matter how well any one program or one provider works with them, their needs are too great to be served effectively. The solution then is for multiple providers from different programs to work together using a formal structured process to offer coordinated wraparound services.

Deborah Painte and Sandra Bercier of the Native American Training Institute flew in from North Dakota to offer this training at the Suchanon Community Building. The audience included staff from Family Services, Health Clinic, Tribal Court, Office of the Tribal Attorney, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Indian Child Welfare, Child Support, Elders, Nooksack Tribal Police, Genesis II, Education and Vocational Rehab. The group also included representatives from the Federal Region 10 Administration for Children and Families Office, Northwest Regional Council and the Nooksack Valley School District. One of the trainers said this was the most diverse audience they've ever had for a wraparound training.

The training provided gave the group so much to think about. Coming together also committed the many departments to changing the way we work and bodes well for the future in providing the best wraparound services for our Tribal families and members. For more information about this session, contact Family Services at (360) 306-5090. ■

NOOKSACK AUTOMOTIVE DEPT



Shop Hours:
7:30am - 5:00pm
Monday thru Friday

- ❖ All Technicians A.S.E. Certified
- ❖ Appointment Required
- ❖ H.D. trucks, cycles, boats & equipment

FREE WINTERIZATION INSPECTION WITH OIL & LUBE SPECIAL

Services Include:

- Oil (up to 5 qts)
- Lube
- New Oil Filter
- Refill of Window Washer Refill

Plus:

- ✓ Air Filter ✓ Power Steering Fluid
- ✓ Tire Pressure ✓ Transmission Fluid
- ✓ Visual check of Brake Pads, Lights, Turn Signals, Brake Lights, etc.



Nooksack Automotive
4975 G Deming Road
Deming, WA 98244
(360) 306-5756

NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE ELECTIONS OFFICE INFORMATION

The Nooksack Indian Tribe Elections Office is preparing for the 2014 Primary and General Election. Prospective Candidates have completed Candidate Packets and information about the final candidates for each position is available at www.nooksacktribe.org/tribalelection. An official notice about the candidates will also be mailed to all eligible voters at the address on file with Enrollment.

The 2014 bi-annual elections are for the following positions:

Tribal Chairman Secretary Council Position A Council Position B

Each position is a four (4) year term.

Election Board Office Location:

Community Building,
2515 Sulwhanon Drive
Everson, Washington 98247
(360) 922-7025

Election Board Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday:
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Election Superintendent: Abigail Yates

Please be sure to save these dates. Attend the forums and don't forget to vote!

Primary Candidate Forum
Saturday, February 8, 2014
Forum Begins at 10:00AM

General Candidate Forum
Saturday, March 8, 2014
10:00am – 2:00pm

Primary Election
Saturday, February 15, 2014
Polls open 8:00AM – 8:00PM

General Election
Saturday, March 15, 2014
Polls open 8:00AM – 8:00PM

**For more information, contact the Elections Office at (360) 922-7025
or e-mail ayates@nooksack-nsn.gov.**

Behavioral Health Partners With Head Start To Offer Early Head Smarts



Early Heart Smarts is an exciting, evidence-based curriculum approved for children ages three to six that we offer through a partnership between our Education Department and Behavioral Health. Within these ages, children are naturally heart-centered and eager to learn! Early Heart Smarts uses games, music, teddy bear and storybooks to teach about the physical and emotional heart. Children learn to identify and understand the variety of emotions they experience in themselves and others. They practice expression and experience of positive emotion for family and friends. Children also learn problem-solving and to remain stable to cope with difficult emotions in a healthy way.

Why is this important? When children learn to develop emotional language and able to express emotions appropriately then they can take responsibility for their feelings and behaviors. Developing social and emotional skills allows children to improve focus and concentration

at the school. Increasing focus and concentration give children a chance to learn educational material taught at the school. Graduating from school and having good grades leads to employment and breaking the cycle of poverty and unhealthy life. This curriculum also teaches how to show kindness and concern for others that leads to positive relationships within the family and especially with our Elders. Strengthening these skills open doors to learning traditional and cultural values by family and Tribal Elders. Learning problem-solving skills will help these children not to point fingers at each other and stay positive to solve problems and make smart choices for themselves and Nooksack Tribal Community. Confidence and self-awareness provides the strength to do the right thing instead of giving into negative peer pressure.

On the following page you'll find more information on the Behavioral Health counselors who work with our Head Start kids.



Born and raised in Wisconsin and Minnesota, Joseph Popelka got his start working with young people running a 21-day wilderness therapy intervention program for adolescent young men for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. He spent five years there also completed a master's degree at the University of Minnesota studying risk management in Wilderness Therapy Programs. He moved to the Pacific Northwest almost five years ago to attend Western Washington University's Master's in Mental Health Counseling Program. After graduating from this program, he accepted a job after an internship at Interfaith Community Health Center, where he worked as a Mental Health Counselor in the medical clinic as a crisis responder and in the Behavioral Healthcare division. He became a fully licensed mental health counselor in the State of Washington last year. In his spare time, he enjoys biking, hiking and swimming with his wife and 8-year-old daughter. With his Wisconsin upbringing he also enjoys watching football (Go Packers!) and making cheese.

Sara Andaluz has a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling, and is a licensed Mental Health Specialist.



She has worked with kids for many years and feels honored to be working with Head Start Children and their families. Sara appreciates that kids are playful and inspiring, and she finds it inspiring to work with kids since there's always something new to learn. She thanks our community for the opportunity to support our children's development.



Amanda Shannon is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Child Mental Health Specialist, and Disability Mental Health Specialist. She runs the social and emotional groups for the afterschool/summer program and Head Start. Amanda also does school based counseling at Mt. Baker High School, Mt. Baker Junior High School and Acme

Elementary School. She says that it's a pleasure to work with the Nooksack youth, parents, families, and individuals. She has been trained in various Evidence Based Practices and specializes in working with children, teens, families, and couples. Before becoming a counselor she worked or seven years as a teacher's assistant and long-term teacher substitute.



Hailee Strassner recently moved from Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she received her master's degree in Art Therapy/Counseling from Southwestern College. She has experience working with children and adults in both individual and group settings. As an art therapist, she has also been involved in mural painting, open art studios, horse therapy, and community garden projects.

As many of us know, making art has great healing abilities. Art Therapy is known to increase awareness of the self and others; help cope with symptoms, stress and traumatic experiences; improve brain function; and encourage pleasure of creating with the hands and heart. Since an art therapist is trained in both art and counseling, she is able to assess and treat mental health issue with a variety of tools and techniques.

For more information about Early Head Smarts or our counselors, contact Behavioral Health at (360) 966-2376. ■

Tribe Increases Participation in Jingle Bell Run

Sixty-One Tribal Members and Tribal employees participated in the 2013 Jingle Bell Run this year. Of the 61, there were 27 runners, and 34 walkers that did the 5K event. The Tribe started participating in the Jingle Bell Run three years ago with 10 participants and it was great to see this number expand to 61. One runner even finished the 5K in just over 20 minutes. The participants thank the Diabetes and SAMSHA programs for sponsoring everyone. They also thank team captain Sandra Bura for attending Jingle Bell Run meetings and organizing the event for the Nooksack Team. ■





Strengthening Families Program Comes to Nooksack

Nooksack Way of Life is in the process of bringing the Strengthening Families Program to the Nooksack Tribe from Jan. 22 to March 5.

The sessions will occur on Wednesday nights at the Sulwhanon Community Building. Dinner will start at 5:30 and separate classes for youth and parents will occur from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) consists of special sessions that include information on science-based parenting, children's life, and family life training, specifically designed for families with pre-teen and teenagers. Parents, Elders, family members, and children participate in SFP, both separately and together. Each session is informative and offers several games, hands-on activities, and fun ice breakers for the groups to partake in.

Our Nooksack Way of Life Program is looking for 10 to 12 families who are open to learning positive healthy family interacting practices. Participants will meet for a shared meal; then the adults will break off from the youth for a one hour group session, with the final hour being for the two groups to unite and share fun hands-on activities together. The Nooksack Way of Life Team will have door prizes, giveaways, and the meal for free to all attending. Childcare for younger children will be available. The little ones will be engaged in games, arts and crafts activities and they can join the family for the final graduation ceremony.

Families should call Genesis II at (360) 966-7704 to register or get on the waiting list. The program intends to offer these services at least twice a year to allow families and relatives to experience this positive family building experience. For more information, call Genesis II at (360) 966-7704. ■

Clinical Social Worker Joins the Nooksack Way of Life Program



Pilar Gauthier was recently hired as our new Clinical Social Worker in the Nooksack Way of Life Youth Substance Abuse Prevention/Intervention Program. She is from the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin and has relocated to the Pacific Northwest where she pursued and earned a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling at Western Washington University. She specializes in providing services that are adapted to Native American ways of being and doing. Pilar will assist the program by partnering with providers, leaders, educators and community members to strengthening our youth's support system on a family-by-family basis. She will also help with the Strengthening Families Program, amongst other community-based initiatives, to accomplish the Nooksack Way of Life vision. For more information, e-mail Pjoseph@nooksack-nsn.gov or Pgauthier@nooksack-nsn.gov or call (360) 966-7704. ■

Departments Increase Traffic Safety At Health Clinic, Everson Head Start

The Planning Department has worked with Transportation Planning and Emergency and Risk Management to install temporary barriers at entrances to the Clinic parking lots. These barriers will keep drivers and people safe around the Health Clinic and Everson Head Start. A more permanent solution will be implemented in the future. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (360) 592-0162. ■

Tribal Police Hires Three Officers

The Nooksack Tribal Police Department is happy to announce the recent hire of three new Police Officers.

Please join us in welcoming Officer Adam Nichols, Curt Flatray and Brent Greene. All have previous law enforcement experience and have proven community service backgrounds. We hope you'll join us in welcoming them to the Nooksack community.



Officer Nichols comes to us from the City of Brewster Police Department.



Officer Flatray was previously a deputy at the Douglas County Sheriff's Department.



Officer Greene recently was with the Anacortes Police Department. Brent is an enrolled member of the Makah Tribe.

The Nooksack Tribal Police Department is now staffed by ten employees, half of which are Native American, including Chief of Police Rory Gilliland, Department Secretary Rikkole Edwards, Officer Roman Swanaset, Officer Stephen Valentine, and our newest officer, Brent Greene.

The Nooksack Tribal Police Department will also be on extra traffic patrols in the housing communities for speeding and any other traffic offenses this holiday season. Remember to buckle up for safety.

To provide any anonymous information on criminal activity occurring in your community, feel free to contact the police department by e-mailing police@nooksack-nsn.gov or call (360) 592-9065. ■

Using 911 services to improve public safety

Keeping our Tribal Members safe is one of our primary concerns. There's something very simple that you can do to protect yourself and your family, no matter where you are.

If you see anyone or anything out of the ordinary, call 911.

Examples of strange circumstances that would prompt a 911 call include seeing suspicious looking people who don't belong in your area; seeing someone who is looking in the windows of cars or homes; if something is stolen from our Tribal offices or your residence; if you see or experience a physical dispute; or basically anything else that's out of the ordinary.

Calling 911 for issues related to our Tribal lands ensures that whatever officers are available and closest to the area of concern can respond. The same is true for officers wherever you are.

There might be occasions where officers can't respond because of competing criminal priorities, but it's still just as important to call 911 and file that report.

These calls help our police departments gather information and statistics on where, and possibly how and why, crime is happening. That helps our police departments understand, for example, what areas might need to be patrolled more often, or a safety improvement could be as simple as improving lighting in a dark area.

But, no matter what the improvement is, if you don't call 911, the safety won't be enhanced.

So, we hope you'll please call 911 as much as you need to when it comes to keeping you and your family and friends safe!

If you have any questions about when to call 911, you can contact our Nooksack Police Department at (360) 592-9065. ■

A black and white portrait of actor Chaske Spencer, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark t-shirt. The background is a textured wall with white paint strokes.

CHASKE SPENCER
"SAM ULEY" IN THE TWILIGHT SAGA

**MORE THAN 75% OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE
YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE NOT USED ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IN THE PAST MONTH.
THEY STRENGTHEN THEIR NATION. WILL YOU?**

I STRENGTHEN MY NATION



THRIVE



NEED HELP? VISIT WWW.WERNATIVE.ORG OR CALL 1-800-662-HELP



Snee-Nee-Chum
P.O. Box 157
Deming, WA 98244

2014 Holiday Calendar

The Nooksack Tribal Council has approved the 2014 Holiday Schedule. Tribal Offices will be closed on the following days in 2014.

January 1 – New Year’s Day • January 22 – Treaty Day • February 17 – Presidents’ Day • April 22 – Mother Earth Day

May 26 – Memorial Day • July 4 – Independence Day • August 29 – Tribal Council Elected

September 1 – Labor Day • September 24 – Nooksack Governance Day • November 11 – Veterans Day

November 27 – Thanksgiving Day • November 28 – Day After Thanksgiving • December 25 – Christmas Day

Administrative Contacts

Tribal Council Office (360) 592-5164
 Enrollment Office (360) 592-4158 x1010
 Tribal Council Fax (360) 592-4506

Administration

Administrative Office Main..... (360) 592-5176
 Administrative Fax (360) 592-2125
 Human Resources (Director: Suzanne Brownrigg) ... (360) 592-5176
 Emergency & Risk Management (360) 592-HELP (4357)
 (Program Manager: Glenn Yorks)
 (Program Facilitator: Steven Jimmy) (360) 303-3457

Law Enforcement (Police Chief: Rory Gilliland)

Police Department (360) 592-9065

Health Services (Director: Rebecca Crocker)

Medical Clinic (Manager: Lona Johnson) (360) 966-2106
 Dental Clinic (360) 306-5151
 Medical Business Office (360) 966-7704
 Genesis II Office (Manager: Rick George) (360) 966-7704

Behavioral Health (360) 966-2376

Social Services (Director: Nadeen Jimmy)

Social Services Main (360) 592-5176 x3668
 Elders Office (360) 592-0100
 TANF-Deming (360) 592-3219
 TANF-Skagit (360) 848-1758
 GED Office Nooksack (360) 592-3219 ext 5124
 GED Office Skagit (360) 848-1758
 Domestic Violence Office (360) 592-5176
 DV Emergency Hotline (360) 592-4164

Family Services (Director: Ken Levinson)

Indian Child Welfare (ICW) (360) 306-5090
 Child Support (360) 306-5090

Education (Director: Donia Edwards)

Education Main Office (360) 966-9696
 Headstart-Deming (360) 592-0141
 Headstart-Everson (360) 966-0523
 Youth Program (360) 966-9696

Other Services

Tribal Court..... (360) 306-5125
 Tribal Court Fax (360) 306-5108
 Housing Office (Director: Katrice Romero) (360) 592-5163
 Natural Resources (Director: Gary MacWilliams) (360) 592-5176
 Fishing and Shellfish Fisheries Hotline (360) 592-5140
 Cultural Resources (Director: George Swanaset, Jr.) ... (360) 306-5764
 Tribal Veterans (Program Manager: Jovie Joven) (360) 592-5839
 Tribal Gaming (360) 592-5176 x1456
 Facilities and Maintenance (Director: Roy Nicol)..... (360) 592-0162
 Auto Shop (360) 306-5756
 Tribal Library (360) 592-5291
 Community Building (360) 966-9153
 North Intertribal Vocational
 Rehabilitation Program (360) 592-5176 x5118

Casinos & Market Centre

Nooksack River Casino (360) 592-5472
 Toll free (877) 935-9300
 Nooksack Northwood Casino (360) 734-5101
 Toll free (877) 777-9847
 Nooksack Market Centre..... (360) 592-4214