

Skokomish Indian Nation

# THE SOUNDER

June 2010 Issue  
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"Time of King Salmon"

## REINVENTING THE LUCKY DOG CASINO



The Skokomish Tribal Council has established a new direction to reinvent Lucky Dog Casino this summer. The process began in January when a Las Vegas based business consulting firm, Epic Gaming, was hired through contract to determine the viable options available to the Tribe for the use of the existing Lucky Dog Casino facility. The Tribal Council, Tribal CEO Yvonne Oberly, Epic Gaming and New General Manager David Owens have focused on customer ease of use coupled with a customer-centric approach to formulate a strategic plan that will create a new atmosphere at Lucky Dog Casino. A few of the key improvements include a redesigned interior, all new

gaming machines, a Players Club card loyalty program, a new dining concept and enhanced technology. The freshly painted and redesigned interior will be classy, low key and inviting. An exclusive Players Club card will be introduced to allow our customers to earn exciting cash rewards, receive special event invitations and participate in casino promotions. The new Sports Bar will feature casual quick serve dining, flat screen TVs, and new décor. The environment in the Sports Bar will be something unique for the Hood Canal Region to enjoy. The technology at Lucky Dog Casino will be streamlined to create

a seamless customer experience. The new machines will accept cash and tickets from other machines and when a player is ready to leave, self-redemption units will be available to cash out tickets as well as a cashier. These new systems will provide accurate and detailed information so the player's experience at Lucky Dog Casino will continually improve. An estimated 60 new jobs will be created when the Lucky Dog Casino reopens this summer. The Sounder will provide additional information as it becomes available – stay tuned.

### *Letter of Application Requested To fill One (1) vacant position for the Skokomish Tribal Gaming Commission*

The Skokomish Tribal Council is currently seeking Letters of Application from enrolled Skokomish Tribal Members who are 18 years or older and wish to be considered for appointment to the Skokomish Tribal Gaming Commission. This opening is to fulfill the remaining portion of one (1) vacant position. The term will end in 2013.

Please address letters to the Skokomish Tribal Council at the address listed above. Submit your letter to Jeff Faubion, TGA Director, who has a temporary mail box at the Tribal Center. In your letter, state those qualifications which make you a good candidate for Gaming Commissioner and why you are interested in becoming a member of the Gaming Commission.

If you would like more information regarding the responsibilities of being a Gaming Commissioner please contact Jeff Faubion, Tribal Gaming Agency Director, at 490-6444.

All letters received will be forwarded to the Skokomish Tribal Gaming Commission and reviewed at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Tribal Gaming Commission will interview applicants and make a recommendation to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council will make a final decision regarding appointment.

The deadline to submit letters of interest is Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 5PM

# SKOKOMISH TRIBE/MASON COUNTY/MASON PUD WASTEWATER AND RECLAMATION FACILITIES PROJECT

By Lennea Magnus

In 2006, The Skokomish Tribe entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mason County and Mason PUD #1, forming the Tri-Party Consortium for the purpose of designing, permitting and constructing a series of three wastewater treatment plants consistent with the July 2007 Skokomish Reservation Wastewater Facility Plan.

The three treatment plants, Potlatch Bubble, Core Reservation and Hoodsport Rural Activity Center, will provide ecologically sound treatment of community wastewater and when complete, will lower the quality of human-induced nitrogen into lower Hood Canal.

Potlatch Bubble, the first treatment plant, will be located near the t3ba'das housing development and will serve the t3ba'das housing development, Potlatch State Park facilities, and residential and commercial sites along US 101 including the Minerva Beach and Tillicum Beach developments and the Waterfront at Potlatch Resort. Residences and businesses on both sides

of Hwy 101 will be connected to this system.

Wastewater from these homes and businesses will be collected and pumped through a new buried pipeline up to the new wastewater treatment plant and will produce reclaimed water using state-of-the-art membrane filtration and disinfection technology. Existing septic tanks and drainfields in this sewer service area will be properly abandoned. This action will halt any underground flow of untreated sewage pollutants into Hood Canal.

The Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) process is an emerging advanced wastewater treatment technology, a biological process that uses microfiltration, eliminating pollutants such as biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), nitrogen and phosphorus that can cause fish kills and algae growth, which leads to hypoxic (low dissolved oxygen) conditions. An MBR uses membranes to filter out suspended solids, including harmful microorganisms such as viruses and bacteria. The resulting effluent can be safely returned to groundwater or recycled.

Squaxin Island, Chehalis Tribe, Lum-

mi Nation and Angel of the Wind Casino in Arlington, WA have all installed MBR treatment systems with great success over the last seven years.

Minerva Beach and Tillicum residents will be seeing engineers and other consultants working for the Tri-Party Consortium conducting various field investigations in their neighborhoods beginning in June. The Potlatch Bubble phase of the project will be completed in about 24 months.

The Tri-Party Consortium will be hosting a public meeting this summer to provide the public with information on how the project will affect homeowners and sewer utility service.

If you desire more information about this project, you can call any of the following individuals:

Tom Strong (Skokomish Indian Tribe, Deputy Tribal Manager) (360) 426-4232  
Lennea Magnus (Skokomish Commu-



nity Development Director) (360) 877-2018  
Emmett Dobey (Mason County, Director of Utilities & Waste Management) (360) 427-9670  
Steve Taylor (Mason County Public Utility District No. 1, General Manager) (360) 877-5249  
Dave Bergdolt (Brown & Caldwell, Project Manager) (206) 749-2271

Project consultants include Gray & Osborne, Inc., Consulting Engineers and Brown & Caldwell. Funding for this project is being provided by grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

## SKOKOMISH ESTUARY ISLAND RESTORATION

The restoration of the Skokomish Estuary in moving forward with the island phase of the project planned for this July (Phase II). Remember the 2007 estuary project (Phase I) which included the construction of the 'boardwalk' span and the removal of dikes west of Nalley Slough. In 2007 the Tribe restored tidal and flood plain function to 108 acres located adjacent Nalley Slough. That project was a great success and now its time for the much anticipated Phase II Skokomish Island Restoration.

The Tribe in coordination with Tacoma Power, Mason Conservation District, PUD 1 and Washington State RCO has received approximately \$4.7 million dollars in restoration grants and PUD funding to construct a temporary bridge for access to the island, fill artificially created ditching networks, pos-

sibly move excess fill off the island, replace the PUD power poles, re-connect historic channels, and remove roads and the exterior dikes. The restoration of the estuary will allow proper tidal surge, flood plain connection, recolonization of salt-marsh vegetation communities, create salmon habitat in the form of channel networks, support migratory waterfowl, and improve the surrounding beaches for shellfish.

Construction of this project is expected to begin in early July and an intensive work schedule is expected to last through October. Contractors will access the site through the reservation on Flats Road. Several trucks and heavy machinery will be working around the clock in synchronization with the tides to construct the project as quickly as possible. It is advised that people avoid entering the work zones dur-



ing construction activates and if access is absolutely needed then contact Skokomish Public Safety for the latest information and work schedule and use caution and awareness to protect yourself from injury. Natural Resources and Public Safety will notify and post a notice when the work schedule is finalized or changed.

## ATTENTION HUNTERS



If you would like to be on the designated hunter list for the 2010-2011 you must fill out a request form at the Fisheries office. All requests must be submitted by June 17th, 2010 in order to be placed on the designated hunter list. Designated hunters may hunt only deer for no more than 2 other people each season.