



# THE S'KLALLAM VIEW

## The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Helping bring you the monthly news from your S'Klallam community.



July 2012

### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S EDITION:

Letters of Intent... Pages 2 — 6

- Chris Tom: page 2
- Dawn Purser pages 2 & 3
- Kyle Carpenter pages 3 & 4
- Ron Charles pages 4, 5 & 6
- Jamie Aikman page 6

News & Updates Page 7

# LETTERS OF INTENT

## S'Klallam Tribal Council Letters Of Intent!

Following the long held tradition of tribal elections past, we have a chance to read first hand the intentions, dreams, aspirations and goals envisioned by your fellow Tribal members who want the honor of being your representatives for the next council term.

**Read the letters starting on page 2!**



Above: Jeremy Sullivan, Jamie Aikman, Eugene Purser and Francine Swift are sworn into office after the Tribal Council elections last year in July.

Below: Gina Stevens, tribal attorney, administers the Council oath to Dawn Mae Purser who replaced Kari DeCoteau on Tribal Council.



# Letters Of Intent

## Vice Chairman — Chris Tom

My name is Chris Tom and I am running for the Vice Chairman position I currently hold.

Being on Council has been a very positive experience. I have learned so much, yet know there is so much more to gain. When issues come up that will have a great impact on our people, my vote is and has been for the benefit of the majority, not just a few. I look at all aspects and try to get as much information as I can to make an informative vote.

*“...my vote is and has been for the benefit of the majority,”*

— Chris Tom

Council addresses many issues on a daily basis and I believe that they are all very important. One is our treaty rights. I am proud that I am a Tribal fisherman and my family, like many other Tribal families, depends on our fishing and hunting rights for our livelihood. My loyalties are with our Tribe and Tribal people and if re-elected, I will continue to fight for our families now and in the future.

There have been a lot of great things happening for our Tribe recently and I look forward to what is to come. I hope I can be a part of the

future growth and you voice, as the Vice-Chairman for another term. I thank you for your consideration and your vote.

— Chris Tom

## Tribal Council Member I — Dawn Mae Purser

Greetings!

My name is Dawn Mae Purser. Please accept this as my Letter of Intent to Run for Tribal Council Member I in the July 2012 elections. I have had the honor of serving the Tribe in this position since late last year.

I would like to thank my fellow Tribal Council Members for helping me get up to speed and learn about all the important issues that the Tribe has been facing during these past months. I would also like to extend my most sincere gratitude to all of our dedicated, hard working staff. We have made a lot of tough decisions and still face many challenges as we work toward securing a healthy, prosperous and self-sustaining future for our tribe, and these folks help keep us up to speed and informed about the issues at hand. And, last but not least, I want to send a special recognition out to my children

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info@pgst.nsn.us

## Tribal Council

Jeremy Sullivan,  
*Chairman*  
Chris Tom,  
*Vice Chairman*  
Dawn Purser  
*Councilman*  
Eugene Purser,  
*Councilman*  
Jamie Aikman,  
*Councilman*

## Entity Directors

Marjorie Zarate  
*CEO*  
Betty Decoteau  
*CFO*  
Dallas DeGuire,  
*Executive Director  
of Administration*  
Laurie Mattson,  
*Executive Director  
of Tribal Services*  
Noel Higa  
*Director  
Port Gamble  
Development Authority*  
Chris Placentia  
*Housing Director*  
Leo Culloo,  
*General Manager,  
The Point Casino*  
Linda Helm,  
*Director,  
Tribal Gaming Agency*  
Denise Comstock,  
*PGS Foundation  
Executive Director*



*Continues on page 3*

# Letters Of Intent

*Dawn Mae Purser continued*

and family. They are the reason I strive to do the very best I can in this position. They listen to me, they offer advice, suggestions and words of encouragement, and sometimes just a thoughtful smile. To all of you, I love you and thank you so much!

*“... it is our responsibility as Tribal Council to represent and serve our membership as thoughtfully and respectfully as we can.” — Dawn Mae Purser*

One of the greatest lessons that I have learned during this short time is that it is our responsibility as Tribal Council to represent and serve our membership as thoughtfully and respectfully as we can. I have learned to ask a lot of questions and make sure that I understand each issue and try to see how it affects our tribe as a whole and the impact that each decision will have on our future and the generations to come.

It would be my great honor and privilege to continue to serve our tribal membership and our community as Tribal Council Member I.

— Dawn Mae Purser

## Tribal Council Member II – Kyle Carpenter

My name is Kyle Carpenter; I am running for the position of Council Person II in July. I believe that I would be a great asset in decision making for the Tribe that would benefit the greater good for the Port Gamble S’Klallam peoples.

*“... I know the importance of our children and how we now make decisions that impact our future generations.” — Kyle Carpenter*

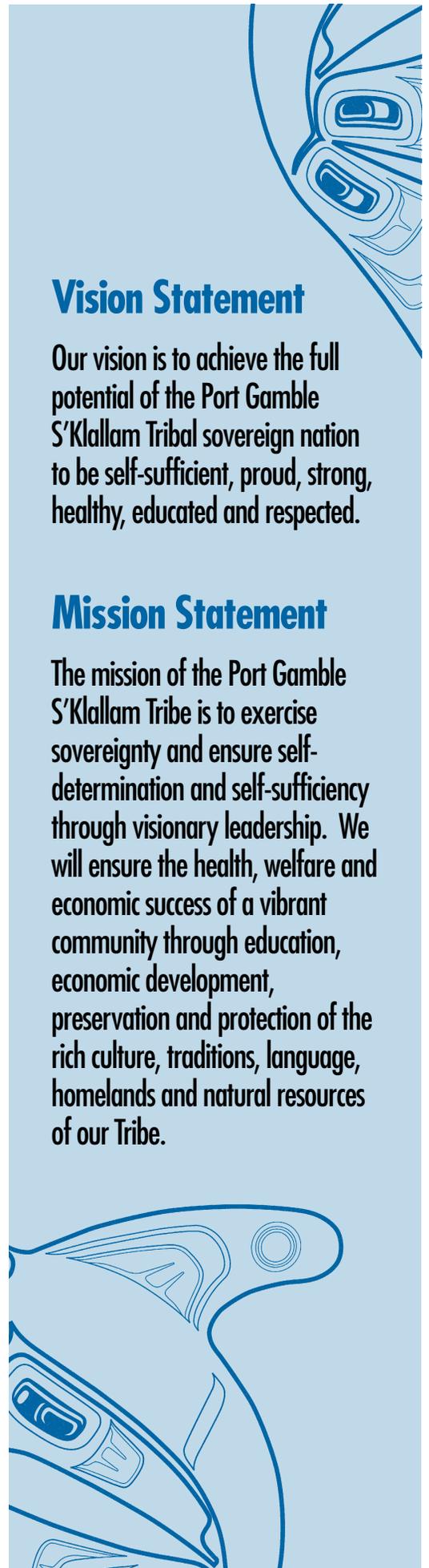
I will advocate strongly for our Treaty Rights and be a voice for the people. I will listen to all concerns that Tribal Members have and be a Council Person who will voice their

## Vision Statement

Our vision is to achieve the full potential of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribal sovereign nation to be self-sufficient, proud, strong, healthy, educated and respected.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe is to exercise sovereignty and ensure self-determination and self-sufficiency through visionary leadership. We will ensure the health, welfare and economic success of a vibrant community through education, economic development, preservation and protection of the rich culture, traditions, language, homelands and natural resources of our Tribe.



# Letters Of Intent

*Kyle Carpenter continued*

concerns. As a Head Start Teacher for more than 9 years to the children of this community, I have the overwhelming task of teaching these children, right from wrong, what is fair, sympathy and empathy by being a role model in the classroom and in the community to the most fragile minds in our Tribe. I know the importance of our children and how we now make decisions that impact our future generations.

I know that I can make the right decisions for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

— *Kyle Carpenter*

## **Tribal Council Member II — Ron Charles**

I want to place my name into consideration for the position opening resulting from Fran Swift's resignation.

There are many important issues facing the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe today, and I believe my experience will be an asset in helping this Council in coming to good, sound decisions for our people. Here are some of what I feel are very important issues, in no particular order of importance, that I would like to see get more attention. I don't believe, in the interest of being brief, I can mention all the issues of importance, but I will detail my thinking on a few.

### **► NATURAL RESOURCES**

During the past three years I have had the opportunity to do some fish and shellfish harvesting, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

A side benefit to being out on the water was the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the problems facing our tribe's valuable natural resources. What I couldn't help but notice was the large number of our folks who now derive all or part of their income from harvesting. Partially due to excellent markets for fish and shellfish, and partially due to many of our folk simply choosing to follow that way of life, there is tremendous pressure being put upon our natural resources, especially shellfish.

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*“... make some intelligent choices with respect to the best ways to provide for all future tribal needs.”*

— *Ron Charles*

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Thus, we now see shorter seasons, and perhaps some beaches may have to be closed for long periods of time in order to recover. There are many opinions concerning what course of action the tribe should take.

At the very least the Tribe needs to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the tribe's current natural resource abundance, assess what our future needs will be, and then make some intelligent choices with respect to the best ways to provide for all future tribal needs. Anything less, and the future for our harvesters looks very depressing.

Particular attention needs to be paid to taking full advantage of harvests on private lands, for which the tribe is legally

# Letters Of Intent

*Ron Charles continued*

entitled to a share. I believe funds could be made available to hire the additional personnel who could perform the work necessary in order for more harvests to take place. In addition, I believe the tribe could provide funds to lease or buy additional beach property where enhancement could be done.

## ► ELDERS PROGRAMS

Our elders are living longer, and many are now facing the time when their working life is behind them, but now they are facing their “Golden Years”, with much less income. Many of them have spent years working at jobs that did not pay into Social Security, so they will receive small monthly benefits when they become eligible.

We have a good and dedicated staff providing very excellent care for our elders, but there are so many more members turning 55 that I fear our resources may soon be inadequate to do the job.

## ► HEALTH PROGRAMS

As I hear the national debate about what has become known as “Obamacare”, I am proud to say that our tribal members already enjoy “Universal Health Care”, as a result of decisions made years ago to subsidize our Indian Health dollars with other funds, so that our members never have to worry about health care.

While we currently do not see any problems in our health care systems, I want to work to ensure that this will always be the case. My feelings about

health care really stem from my time growing up on the reservation, when health care was a luxury many could not afford, and many Klallam people passed away before their time. We must take extraordinary steps to ensure that our health care remains at a high level.

## ► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What fuels many of the tribe’s discretionary programs is economic development, primarily the store and casino. Without the income generated from the Casino and Gliding Eagle, who knows where this tribe would be in being able to afford many of the “extras” in the tribal budget upon which our people have come to rely these days?

While our businesses have done well, there are certainly other economic enterprises the tribe could explore, in order to diversify, so not all our eggs are in one basket, so to speak.

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*“... we need a very strong and diverse economy that is not too dependent upon one of two businesses.” — Ron Charles*

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The fortunes of Indian tribes, unfortunately, many times rise and fall because of decisions made elsewhere, by politicians and judges who do not understand our needs. Thus, we need a very strong and diverse economy that is not too dependent upon one of two businesses.

*Continues on page 6*

# Letters Of Intent

*Ron Charles continued*

## ► FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

I am, by nature, very conservative when it comes to the tribe's money, and I believe our tribal citizens should have more of an understanding, and a voice, in how tribal funds are spent. I would propose a public hearing that would be held each summer, as a kickoff to preparation of the tribal budget, so as to give tribal members a voice in how the Council proposes to spend their money.

In the interest of being brief, I hope I have given somewhat of a cursory look at what my attitude will be toward service on the Council. I know there are many more issues our tribe faces, including intertribal disputes, Port Gamble Bay cleanup, and much more. I offer these as examples of my thinking on some important issues.

Service on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Council is an honor, and one I take very seriously. I will always have the tribe, and the welfare of its citizens in mind whenever I cast my votes in Council chambers.

— *Ron Charles*

## Tribal Council Member IV — Jamie Aikman

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jamie Aikman and I am running for re-election to the position of Tribal Council Member IV in the upcoming Tribal election. It has been a

great honor and a learning experience to serve on Tribal Council this past year. I have witnessed great progress toward a secure future for the Tribe and I would like to continue working in that direction.

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*“ . . . My focus remains on the health and safety of our community ”*

— *Jamie Aikman*

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As a Tribal Council member, I will continue to act fairly, honestly and to stay well informed on all issues. My focus remains on the health and safety of our community and on providing services and programs that enhance the Tribe's ability to address issues that threaten our people, such as substance abuse. I believe it is important that all Tribal programs function for the good of tribal members. Services should be provided with respect, courtesy and equality to all tribal members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Sincerely, Jamie Aikman*

# News & Updates

## SUMMER FOOD>>>

The Children and Family Services Department, Family Assistance Program would like to submit the following information under the "community service" section. We will be offering a summer feeding program to children in the area and need your help in increasing awareness of the program.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360-297-9629.**

Sincerely,

Stacy Mills,  
Family Assistance Program  
Manager

## BACHELOR DEGREES>>>

Earn your Bachelor of Arts Degree with Evergreen State College

The Reservation Based Community Determined Program, invites you to attend:

- **Monday, July 25, 2012**
- **12 PM to 1 PM**
- **Tribal Council Room**
- **Lunch provided**

Attend classes in Port Gamble – after work hours

Recruiting Students Working towards their Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Students with 90 or more college credits who live or work on a reservation or have social or cultural ties to tribal communities are encouraged to apply to TESC's Reservation Based Community Determined Program.

Reservation-based classes are held two nights a week at Port

Gamble. To get the on-campus experience, students attend class four Saturdays per quarter at the Longhouse on the Evergreen campus.

**Please contact:  
Colleen Almojuela  
Adjunct Faculty  
360.649.5372  
colleena@q.com**

## 2012 HIKING SEASON>>>

Youth Services has began planning and taking youth on backpacking trips. Many youth are eager to experience new places and activities. If any community adults are interested in chaperoning on day or over night hikes it is a great opportunity to build relationships and mentor youth. The more volunteers there are the more opportunities and adventures youth can have this year. **Please contact Steph Carpenter at 633-0112**

## LIBRARY NEWS>>>

This summer the Taiko Drummers are coming to Little Boston! If you enjoy drums, you must hear these amazing performers. Summer reading is underway for youth up to grade 12. Read 10 hours and get a free paperback book. Want to download a title onto your eReader? We'll show you how at the library. Here's what's happening in July:

**One World Taiko Drummers:  
Tuesday July 17, 10:30am**

Contemporary style of Japanese drumming that incorporates dynamic movement with pounding percussion.

**Johnny Bregar: Tuesday, July 31, at 10:30am.** Rootsy, jazzy,

funky, bluesy tunes for the whole family.

**Monday Movie Matinee:  
Monday, July 23, at 2pm.** Come for a special Monday Movie Matinee. We will be showing a family-friendly film and providing popcorn. Call for the title.

**Afternoon Storytime and Craft:  
Wednesdays, July 11, 18, & 25  
at 1:30pm.**

Come for a fun afternoon full of stories, songs, and crafts! Pre-readers can count storytimes towards their summer-reading hours!

**Adult Crafternoon: Wednesdays,  
July 11, 18, & 25 at 2:30pm.** Adult Crafternoon welcomes everyone. Bring your handwork projects and see our newest craft books.

**On July 4 All Kitsap Regional Library branches will be closed** in observance of the Independence Day holiday. There will be no book group meeting at Little Boston in July. Please check our website [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org) or call us at 297-2670 for updated program information.

## CELEBRATION>>>

The application to transfer the 391 acres of land purchased in 2004 from fee to trust has been approved and the process has been finalized. The land is now trust land. We will mark this historic event with a celebration to take place in the **House of Knowledge, at 31912 Little Boston Road, Kingston, Washington, on July 13, 2012, beginning at 11:00 am.**

*Please join us for a ceremony and luncheon.*