



APRIL 2026

dibəl ti ʔacaciłtalbix^w gʷəl ti ʃ^wələč yəx^w ti stultulək^w yəx^w ti calcaləl.

COMPLIMENTARY

Enrollment Adoption Applicants

A special edition of the Klah-Che-Min was recently created and distributed listing all applicants for adoption at the General Body meeting on May 2. If you did not receive a one in the mail, there are copies at the Tribal Center and they will be available at the General Body meeting. You can also access the information anytime through the Tribal Member Portal on squaxinland.org.

SPIPA Entrepreneurial Program Hosts 2nd Annual Tax Event

On February 28, SPIPA'S Entrepreneurial Professional Center proudly hosted its 2nd Annual Tax Event, a free community service provided by SPIPA'S Entrepreneurial Program in partnership with United Way of King County.

The event provided tax assistance to 23 Tribal Members, helping connect community members with an important resource while helping to make the tax season a little less stressful for Tribal Members in need of assistance with tax preparation.

This event reflected the Entrepreneurial Program's ongoing commitment to supporting Tribal entrepreneurs and Community members through accessible, impactful services that promote financial well-being. Its success was made possible through the collaboration, dedication, and generosity of all who contributed their time, energy, and support.

The Entrepreneurial Program extends sincere appreciation to United Way of King County, as well as to everyone who assisted with and attended the event. Special gratitude is also extended to the Tribal members who participated. Their presence, engagement, and support were an important part of the event's success. Without the support of the communities they serve, this event would not have been possible.

Together, these collective efforts created a meaningful opportunity to serve the community and strengthen access to essential resources.



Squaxin Island Tribal Council Meetings
SECOND & FOURTH THURSDAYS
 Each month

Watch the meetings here:

Tribal Council hosts a Public Comment Period at every Council Meeting. This period is from 9:15 - 9:30am. Attendees are encouraged to bring their comments in written form, and each individual's time will be limited.

Public Comment Period

REGISTER FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT BY TUESDAY BEFORE THE MEETING:

Email Melissa Puhn to get on the Public Comment Period: mpuhn@squaxin.us

2026 GENERAL BODY MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
 9:00 AM - LITTLE CREEK EVENT CENTER

Sign in starts at 8:30 a.m.

EARLY BIRD RAFFLE AT 9:00AM

- Annual Reports
- Q&A with the General Council
- 2026 General Elections for:
 - Tribal Council Chair
 - Tribal Council Member #3

Information booths & DOOR PRIZES!

QUESTIONS? CALL 360-426-9781

VOTE FOR US

BEST
 of SOUTH SOUND
 The Olympian

VOTE DAILY
 Voting starts April 20th

BEST DISPENSARY & BEST CBD STORE

10 SE Squaxin Lane, Shelton, WA 98584
 Change Service Requested



Squaxin Island TRIBAL NEWS

K L A H - C H E - M I N

10 S.E. Squaxin Lane
Shelton, WA 98584

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TOLL FREE: (877) 386.3649
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www.squaxinland.org

Articles and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of this publication or the Tribal Council.

The Klah-Che-Min encourages Tribal Members to submit letters, articles, photographs and drawings to be considered for publication, but are subject to editing.

Contributing writers and artists include Squaxin Island community members and staff.

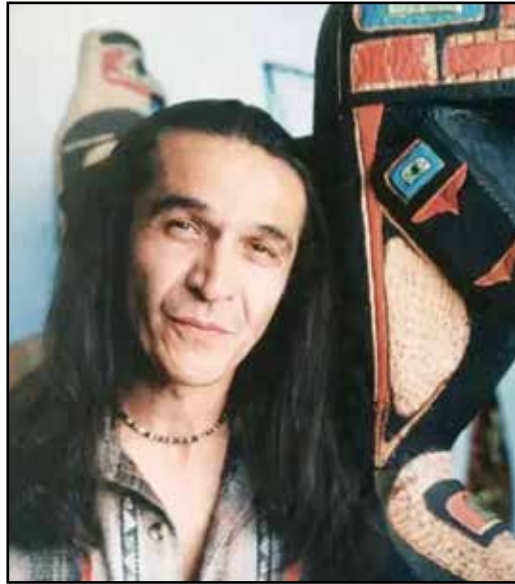
Submissions Deadline:
15th of each month

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL:

- KRIS PETERS: Chairman
- TAYLOR KRISE: Vice Chairman
- JIM PETERS: Secretary
- JOSHUA WHITENER: Treasurer
- JEREMIE WALLS: 1st Council Member
- VICKI KRUGER: 2nd Council Member
- CAMERON HENRY: 3rd Council Member

Klah-Che-Min Staff:
THERESA M. HENDERSON:
thenderson@squaxin.us

Walking On



Michael David Krise 10/07/1950 to 2/18/2026

Mike Krise, a Squaxin Island Tribe Medicine Creek nation Elder, passed away in Olympia, WA on the evening of Feb 18, 2026.

He was a Native master carver and artist, diver, fisherman, and mentor, always helping people whenever he could.

He is survived by his children, Molly, Redwolf, Two Hawks, Brandy, Marcus, Tia, adopted daughter Daniella, and seven grandchildren.

His siblings are Dan David, David and June Krise, and Charlene Krise and Dale Clark. His blended family siblings are John Krise, Sr, Janice Lopeman, and Bev Hawks.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy Nanpuya of Colville/Nez Perce and Harvey Krise of Squaxin Island Tribe; his sister, Linda Treddievick of Colville; Lea Krise of Squaxin Island; his sister-in-law, Sherry David; his younger brother, Harvey Krise Jr.; his brother, Steven; and his beloved nieces



Mike Krise, his children, and two of his grandchildren.

*A life well lived doesn't end
Any more than music ends . . .
It echoes through time
With whispers of beauty and grace . . .
If we listen,
We can hear the encore with our hearts.
For the song plays on,
Just as love lives on.*

Lena Krise, Angel Hall, and Angie and Christina Lopeman. His home base was Kamilche. He served as a Tribal Council Member when he was younger, and studied treaty and tribal Law as a legal advocate. He was a keeper of cultural oral traditions, and always had a story to tell.

His life and generosity touched and influenced many. As a young Indian warrior, before Judge Boldt confirmed treaty fishing rights, he studied the Treaty of Medicine Creek, and exercised those treaty salmon fishing rights so that his children, nieces, and nephews would not have to fight so hard.

His Tribe owes him gratitude. Mike, along with Yum Krise, BJ Whitener, and Mike Brownfield, fought for clam digging rights that weren't yet confirmed in the Boldt Decision. His many nieces and nephews give thanks to these men and women who helped secure their treaty rights.

He was 75.

May he swim with the orcas and fly with the eagles.

We will miss seeing him on his walk-about in downtown Kamilche.

A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 9:00 a.m. at the Squaxin Island Gym with Procession will following to the Shelton Memorial Park. A luncheon was held afterwards at the Squaxin Island community kitchen.

Friends are invited to view photos and share memories in the family's online guest book at flintofts.com.

*You can see what a man is
by looking at his
reflection in the water.*



Walking On



Rene and his mom



Rene and his pop



Rene and Lea

leste Vigil (Pete Peteson, Jr.), and Alexsii Vigil; son, Dakodah Vigil (Misti); nephews, Tom Peterson, Anthony Toby, Keenon Snook-Vigil, and Berry Peterson; nieces, Stephanie Toby (Nick Bob, Jr.), Keesha Snook-Vigil, and Tayla Logan-Vigil; great nieces and nephews, Louella, Natalia, Hunter and Andrew.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Gordon Romero, and daughter, Kay Kay Wesley.



Rene Vigil

1/04/1962 to 2/17/2026

Rene was born to Jose' and Lila (Gouley) Vigil in Tacoma, WA on April 1, 1962.

He grew up on the east side of Tacoma and ran with the Castillos, Coopers, La-Pointes, Iyalls, Meechams, Bennetts, Duaneses, Carl Malone and many others. At one time Rene believed he would be a professional golfer. He and his father introduced the game of golf to more than one of his friends.

He spent his school years in Tacoma and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1980. After high school, he attended Tacoma Community College. School wasn't his thing and he moved on to Skokomish, WA.

He spent a few seasons working for the National Park Service at Potlatch State Park and then spent a few summers firefighting for the Bureau of Indian Affairs which took him all over the Pacific Northwest, eastern Washington, and northern California.

He was a lifelong treaty fisherman and gatherer as well as a certified commercial diver in the ancestral waters of the Skokomish and Squaxin people. He was even known to deck hand at Lummi.

He later moved from Skokomish to Squaxin. Rene's love for golf came full circle as he made a career at the Salish Cliffs Golf Course. He was proud to be involved in the beginning stages, where he developed many blisters and left blood, sweat, and tears on the course. He was an excellent landscaper and took great pride in his work and the grounds of the golf course reflected this. He later moved to the casino and did their grounds where, again, his attention to detail was also reflected.

Rene believed in much more than this world; he believed that there was more out there and he explored this topic voraciously. If you were lucky, he shared his ideas and conspiracy theories with you, from UFOs to the government controlling the weather to injured fish in Hood Canal.

Rene leaves this world as a beloved Son, Brother, Father, Uncle, Cousin, and Friend. He is survived by his loving parents, Jose and Lila Vigil; sisters, Raquel Vigil, Ce-

ATTENTION TRIBAL ARTISTS

The Squaxin Island Potlatch Committee is looking for Cultural Artists that would be willing to teach cultural art projects and earn **\$200.00 per Culture Night!**

Crafts such as:
 Beading
 Drum making
 Basketry
 Weaving
 Canning
 Ect.

To learn more please contact
Austin Penn **Florance Sigo**
apenn@squaxin.us flosigo3@gmail.com
Andrea Wilbur-Sigo
awsigo@msn.com

Please note, the Squaxin Island Tribe and Squaxin Island Potlatch Committee and those of, are not guaranteeing or granting stipends to participants. Teachers who contract to aid are subject to change.



You may begin noticing updated logos across our businesses starting in April. These updates were made with respect for the history behind the original marks and with care for the future of our tribally owned businesses. We'll be sharing more in the coming weeks about the meaning behind this next chapter.



Running for Re-election as Tribal Council Chairman

Kris Peters



Klabsch 2026!
haʔ sləx̣il siʔb syayayəʔ
(Good day honorable relations)

My name is Kristopher (Kris) Klabsch Peters. I happy to announce I am running to retain the position of Chairman in the upcoming General Body election. I stand with humility and gratitude for the trust you all have placed in me to serve our people as your Council Chair over the last six years. It has been the greatest honor of my life, and I would be honored to continue to serve you all in this capacity. I am running for re-election because I believe in our people and in what we have yet to achieve. We have more to do to build economic opportunity, improve health and education, and ensure our children inherit a strong, self-determined nation.

If you return me to this position, I will continue to listen first, lead with integrity, and make decisions that reflect our values. I will stand up for our sovereignty, work transparently on your behalf, and always remember who I serve — the people.

When you first elected me, I promised to lead with respect, honesty, and a deep commitment to our traditions and our future. These are values I hold with me every single day.

I hope I have demonstrated that I am a leader who puts others first.

Over the last few years, we, as a Council, have set critical foundations for the future of our community. We are on the cusp of expanding our housing, creating first-class health and human services, building cultural and community spaces, and growing our economy - an economy that will provide for generations to come.

This work occurred during some difficult times for our people, but I am a leader who does not turn away from difficulties. I face them head on and I am willing to make difficult decisions instead of doing what might be easy or simply ignoring problems. I work through difficulties so that our next generation will be better off after I leave. I promise to continue to do the hard work.

I will continue working on important issues facing our community; protecting our sovereignty within a tumultuous federal government; continuing to improve services to our elders; creating opportunities for our youth; and protecting our land, water, culture and language.

This work cannot be done by one person though. It requires working together through listening, collaboration, and unity. To accomplish this work, we need an effective Council with an effective Chair. An effective Chair displays strong leadership, a trait I have developed during my long career working in public service. I facilitate honest, respectful discussion and debate by looking at all sides of an issue. I am a Chair who allows for, and invites, differing opinions with the ability to create a safe space for everyone. Listening and communicating effectively within Council and listening and communicating effectively to our community is not just a goal, but an expectation.

I also take great pride in representing the Squaxin people well to the “outside world,” furthering our footprint, educating the public, and breaking down barriers for our people. I want to make you all proud every time I meet and speak with community and leaders from off the reservation.

We all know that the work of caring for our nation is never finished. Our ancestors endured so much so that we could stand here today. It is our responsibility to honor them by working for a better tomorrow.

With your support and your vote, we can continue moving forward — together, as one nation.

Vote for integrity and honesty, consistent/equal services for all, and tribal sovereignty and advocacy.

I would be honored to continue this important work with your vote to re-elect me as your Chairman on May 2, 2026, at the Spring General Body Meeting.

ʔuʔuʂəbɪcɪd ʔəd
(Love you all)

huy'
(Till I see you again)

Kris

(360) 490-1441
klabsch77@hotmail.com



*Please do not hesitate to email, call or text me directly with any questions, to share your thoughts, or if you want to know my stance on any issues, i.e. housing, mental health, addiction, homelessness, youth, elders, enrollment, enterprises, LCCR, Boards/Commissions/Committees, education (early learning, k-12, higher ed), natural resources, treaty rights, sovereignty, the role of Council, transparency, communication, community events, talking circles, potlatches, ... the list goes on and on.





Running for Tribal Council Chairman *Two Hawks Krise Young*



I am running for Tribal Council because I believe we can do better for our people. Too many of our members feel unheard or left out of important decisions. We need stronger transparency, accountability, and a renewed focus on unity.

Our Elders deserve stability and respect. Our youth deserve real investment and opportunity. And every tribal member deserves to feel secure in their rights and their place in this community.

I'm running to help bring that focus back, putting our people first, strengthening our community, and making sure our future is guided by the values that have always carried us forward.

-Two Hawks
twohawksyoung@gmail.com

I am Two Hawks Krise Young, son of Mike Krise and Laura Young. I was born in Olympia, Washington, and grew up on Steamboat Island Road.

As a teenager, I pursued skateboarding, which taught me the importance of community and creativity. It also showed me that leadership doesn't require a lot of resources, just initiative, ingenuity, and the willingness to create space for others, especially our youth.

After saving a few hundred dollars, I moved to New York, living on a sofa and working whatever jobs I could to get by while building my way into the commercial fashion industry.

Today, I'm based in Olympia, working as a set designer and photographer. My work takes me on the road, but I stay connected to home by continuing to harvest geoduck and completing my bachelor's degree through The Evergreen State College's Native Pathways Program.

My path has been nonlinear and nontraditional, but it has given me creative problem-solving skills, resilience, and hardearned perspective. Most importantly, it has strengthened my belief that our traditional values should guide how we move forward.

**DRAWING
COMPETITION**

For all creative artists! Let's participate in our Drawing Competition and let your creativity run wild!

The Squaxin Island Potlatch Committee is looking for your help! We have a conundrum and need a Logo for our Sa-Heh-Wamish Days Potlatch for 2027! If you have a design or would like to create one please make your submission(s) by MAY 1st, 2026.

From there we will leave it up to the Community to vote during General Body! The 1st and 2nd place winners' awards are still TBD

Please make submissions to
Austin Penn
Apenn@squaxin.us

If applicable, make Vector File



Running for Re-election as Tribal Council Member #1 Jeremie Walls



Good day,
For those who may not know me, my name is Jeremie Walls. I am the great- grandson of Jameson and Josephene Peters. My grandfather is William Peters, and my mother is BJ Peters. I have had the honor of serving you as Council #1 for the past three years. Today, I am once again asking for your support to continue in this role.

When I last stood before you, we talked about who might return home to the village if housing was available. From that conversation, we moved into an extensive master planning process to identify the needs of our community and the people we must serve.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together. In just three short years, we've moved from conversation, to concept, to construction.

We are building a new clinic to improve healthcare services for our people.

We are in the design phase for our new gymnasium and community center, where our youth will once again suit up for tournaments.

And we are developing 70 new homes — single family, multi family, and Elderly housing —

bringing families home and out of the cold.

But our work is not done. We must keep this momentum going, continue seeking grants, and keep these priorities in front of our Council's work.

I have also had the privilege of serving on the IEI Board as your Council representative. Through that work, we are developing a new hotel property along Highway 101 and moving forward with a 250-room hotel and convention center on the Plum Street property in Olympia. These economic projects will bring meaningful revenue and create jobs and career pathways for our people.

I also serve on the Tobacco Board, the Museum Board, and I represent our Tribe at the Olympia Tumwater Foundation at Brewery Park. Reestablishing our presence along the Deschutes — the Tum Wa Ta River — has been an exciting and meaningful journey. We are helping redesign the park to reflect a Squaxin presence, and our contributions have been well received.

If selected, I plan to refocus on housing, making sure we complete the priorities we set. I also hope to restore traditional village and waterway names throughout our region — strengthening our identity and connection to the land.

For example, Hope Island, once vital for fresh water and medicines, carries a traditional name meaning "Little One."

We are actively working with State Parks on a co- management partnership that will allow us to install new signage, restore the spring, and expand cultural tourism in a way that respects and honors our story.

I also want to strengthen our outpatient treatment programs by building transitional housing for those coming out of treatment. Stable housing is a critical part of the healing journey, and I've seen firsthand how it greatly improves long-term success.

We will continue to move forward in a good way, focused on prosperity, opportunity, and strengthening our tribal community. Always with the mindset of the 5 Priorities set forth by council.

1. Health & Wellness
2. Youth & Elders
3. Culture
4. Housing
5. Communication



Thank you for your support. It would be an honor to continue serving you.

hawadubš



Got mad cooking skills?!

The Squaxin Island Potlatch Committee is looking for an individual(s) who would like to show off their cooking skills and be willing to cook for large gatherings. Every other week potlatch is providing dinner for Culture Night. Your start date TBD. You, or you and your team will earn \$300.00 (collectively) per contract with cooking supplies readily available. If this is something you might be interested in contracting for, please reach out

to:

Austin Penn Florance Sigo
 apenn@squaxin.us flosigo3@gmail.com
 Andrea Wilbur-Sigo
 awsgo@msn.com



Running for Tribal Council Member #2 Greg Lehman



Good day, my fellow Squaxin people,

My name is Gregory Lehman, and I am here to formally announce that I will be running for Tribal Council Member #2.

A brief background about myself: I come from the Skalapine/Bagley family. My mother is Margaret Pickernell-Johns, and my father is the late Steve Lehman Sr. I am Squaxin through my mother's side of the family. My late grandmother was Emmajeane Valle-Pickernell, whose mother was Hazel Bagley, daughter of Lottie Skalapine-Bagley, who was the daughter of Mary George, also known as Quatisalt, and John Skalapine.

It is important in our culture to share who our families are and where we come from, and I am proud of my lineage and heritage.

For the past 18 years, I have participated in and been actively involved in our culture and Tribal Journeys. During that time, I have learned many teachings and traditions from our Elders and cultural leaders. I am an active member of our Canoe Family, representing our Squaxin people at many events, including land acknowledgements and welcoming ceremonies for visiting tribes and government officials.

I have also worked closely with many of our youth, helping share our tribal teachings, songs, and oral traditions, as well as spending time on our sacred waters here in the Puget Sound. I take great pride in these responsibilities, because if we do not have our culture and traditions, then truly what do we have?

If you choose to elect me to our Tribal Council, I promise to always serve with honesty, integrity, and an open mind. I will be willing to go the extra mile not just for some, but for each and every tribal member, both today and for our future generations.

As an elected official, it is our duty to listen to the voices of our people. I promise to be an ear for every tribal member's questions, concerns, and ideas. I will bring those concerns to the council table and work to provide answers as soon as I get them. I will never forget how I got there and will always remember that I am there to serve our people.

I also recognize that council work is not done alone. Our Tribal Council must function as a team, working together to develop ideas and solutions that strengthen our community and ensure a better future for generations to come.

One Issue I believe needs attention is the gap between our cultural leaders and our tribal leader-

ship, particularly when it comes to communication and planning. I believe that by working closely with our community, staff, and leadership to better understand their needs, we can remove barriers and strengthen collaboration. Doing so will help ensure that our cultural priorities remain a central part of our Tribe's future and decision-making.

Many of you already know that I strongly advocate for our culture and traditions. One important goal I will continue pushing for is the creation of a Cultural Department within our tribe. I will work to explore funding opportunities and take steps toward establishing this department so we can better preserve and strengthen our cultural teachings. There was a time when our tribe thrived in these areas, and I believe we can return to that strength.

Housing is another important issue for our community. I will work alongside our current council to continue efforts toward creating more housing opportunities on the reservation. I recognize and appreciate the hard work that both current and past councils have already done to secure a better future for our people and help more tribal members return home to Kamilche.

It is important that we continue expanding housing options, including both low-income and middle-income housing, so more of our people can qualify for homes here in our community.

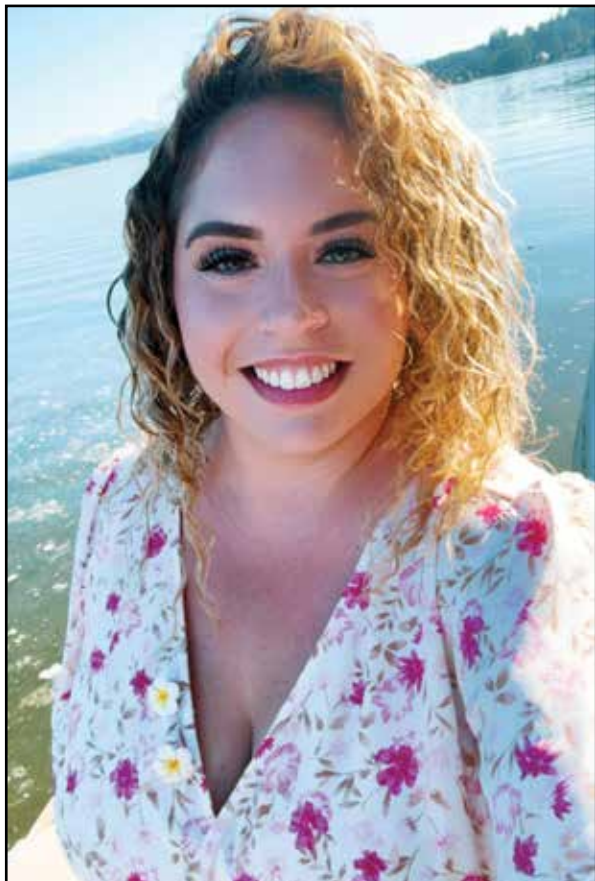
With your support, we, as Squaxin people, can continue moving forward in the right direction. Culture is strengthened by working together, and we can build a stronger future for the generations that follow us.

Thank you.





Running for Tribal Council Annie-Beth Henry



For anyone that I haven't gotten to know, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Annie-Beth Henry. I'm married to Cameron Henry, and we have three children (Bailie, Brooke and Bennett). My parents are Barbara Whitener and David Whitener Sr. My dad was gifted the name Akwahteed (Bald Eagle) by Howaltid (Hamilton Greene). Howaltid and John Hottowe gifted my dad a song and dance as a part of his naming. Howaltid gifted me a baby name when I was about six weeks old, Klesayup (Bird Red Top). When I was about 15, my dad gave my brother, Davey, and me permission to dance and sing his song and dance after he passed away. My dad had Parkinson's disease that grew progressively worse and he wanted to make sure his song and dance wouldn't be lost. I am very proud and grateful to have grown up in our culture and to have been able to see our involvement grow and evolve over the years.

I grew up in Kamilche, down the hill from the reservation with my grandma Ethel just a short walk across little creek away. I consider myself very lucky to have grown up with so much family in my life. I've had influences from many strong men and women. I am grateful for all of them and will always remember

spending time with Uncle Wes, Uncle Pete, Uncle Bob, Uncle Johnny, Aunt Mary, and Aunt Ruby.

From a young age, I remember both of my parents understanding the importance of learning our language and being involved in cultural activities. With the help of Zalmi Zahir we held "blanket ceremonies" at our house which were the beginnings of language classes. We held these at our house for many years and my mom started volunteering to teach language and then became a contract employee for the Tribe teaching language for many years.

While learning language, I got to know Auntie Vi Hilbert as a kid. She was an amazing woman with a wealth of knowledge to learn from.

Learning our language has always been an important part of maintaining my identity as a Squaxin Island tribal member. As a kid, we participated in drum group and canoe journey for as long as I can remember. As an adult, I haven't been as active as I would have liked. Seeing my kids enjoy themselves when my family and I have the opportunity to take part in canoe journey and drum group brings back some of my best memories. I will always remember Lester Greene coming down and asking "Where's the party?" He meant where's the drumming and singing going on. His passion and love for our culture was infectious. I have always looked up to people like Auntie Vi and Lester. I try to think what their reactions and opinions would be before I make important decisions.

When I was about ten years old, we moved a short way away, off of Lynch Road. I worked in our Tribe's summer youth program while in high school and graduated in 2007.

In 2015 I began working in our Elders program. I worked closely with Elders Inc. and learned a lot about being on committees from Elders like Carolyn Hoosier and Glen Parker. Influences like theirs inspired me to become Treasurer on the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee for Shelton School District. I was an integral part of creating the non-profit for this committee, allowing us to fundraise on a larger scale and help fund our Indian Education programs in Shelton schools. While in this position, I get to be involved in how these programs encourage our kids academically and maintain their cultural identity. Being Treasurer for the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee for Shelton School District shows my commitment to education for our youth and making sure cultural identity is woven in.

I feel my experiences give me a unique perspec-

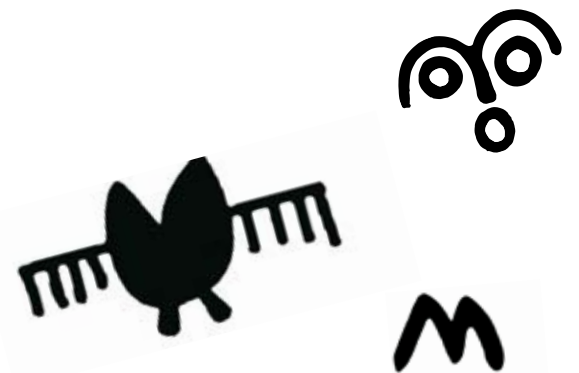
tive that would be beneficial as a council member. I will always carry with me the teachings instilled since childhood. I have worked closely with our Elders for almost ten years and have grown very important relationships during that time. I will always consider how decisions will impact our Elders.

I work hard to see situations from multiple points of view and to not take offense when someone disagrees with my perspective. I strive to see it from their side and learn how they came to that conclusion. Once we can understand another person's motivations and feelings, we can stop arguing and communicate in a way that leads to understanding.

I believe strength is found in identifying and communicating failures, tragedies, and betrayals, but not having anger and resentment be the result; rather, compassion and growth. True weakness is hiding from these events in our lives and, in turn, hurting those who matter the most. I am grateful for the mistakes I've made because of the strength, resilience, and compassion I've gained.

I'm not blind to the division that happens amongst people, but I've grown up with being a part of the same Tribe, meaning we're a part of a large family. Whether we're blood or not, we're family because we're all Squaxin. For me being family means protecting one another, providing for one another, noticing when another is struggling and, overall, never picking sides, but doing what benefits the majority of people. Also being a good family member can often mean setting aside your own wants and needs for what is best. It's not an easy thing to do, but I believe it's best to sometimes take yourself out of the equation in order to better understand how others will be affected. I do my best to live up to the standards I've set for myself.

Thank you to everyone who took time to read over this and hear my thoughts and opinions. I would be so thankful to have the support in becoming a representative for our Tribe.





Are Dogs Color Blind?

QUESTION:

Are dogs colorblind?

ANSWER:

No, dogs are not colorblind in the sense that they see more than just black, white, and grey. However, the color range they perceive is limited compared to the spectrum we see.

To put it in very basic terms, the canine color field consists mostly of yellows, blues, and violets. “Human” reds, greens, and oranges are not distinguishable to dogs and instead appear somewhere on their yellow to blue spectrum.

The reason? The retina of both species contains two types of photoreceptors, rods and cones. The human eye, however, contains more types of cones while the canine eye has more rods and no fovea, which is responsible for sharp visual detail in humans. The result is that dogs have superior night vision and are better at tracking movement than we are, but see fewer colors and shapes and objects appear in much less detail.

The bottom line is that tossing an orange ball onto green grass may look like yellow against yellow to your dog but his acute motion-detection ability will help him fetch it anyway.

- Gus the doggie guy



DO YOU NEED HELP?




The Tribal Council SPIPA Representative would like to encourage any tribal member who needs help paying for things such as car repairs, insurance, work clothes, special tools or anything related to employment to apply at Family Services for the Work Force Development or Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Call 360-426-9781.

Squaxin Island Tax Site

BASIC RETURNS


February 9, 2026 -
April 7, 2026




By appointment only
Contact Lisa Peters to schedule
an appointment 360-432-3871

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Proof of identification (photo ID)
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of your refund
- A copy of last year's federal return, if available
- Identity Protection Pin (IP Pin) if you have one
- Wage and earning statements (W-2, 1099's)
- Other income documents
- Documentation for any credits or deductible expenses you may claim
- Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement
- Anything that says **IMPORTANT TAX DOCUMENT**





IRS Certified Volunteers Providing
FREE TAX PREPARATION

Sponsored by Squaxin Island Tribe—Office of Housing



Squaxin Transit Services

Squaxin Transit provides **FREE** public transit service within 100 miles of the Squaxin Island Reservation.

Operating Hours:
Monday through Friday
6:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Dial-a-Ride:
Please request your ride at least 24 hours in advance.
Call dispatcher, Windy, at
360-490-0567

We offer transportation for:

- Medical appointments
- SeaTac airport runs
- Grocery routes
- Farmers Market in Olympia (Fridays – pending interest)

We welcome all riders and are committed to serving our community with care and respect.



New Employees



Mandy Paradise
Director
Tu Ha' Buts Youth Center

I have recently been hired as the Education Director for Tu Ha' Buts Youth Center.

TYC exists to support the community's children and adolescents with academic success, attendance, preparing for career or college, and engaging in community-offered recreation and enrichment opportunities.

I grew up with my family in Shelton and am very family oriented. My career has primarily been in youth development and education, though I also bring behavioral health experience. I've worked in many of the Shelton schools and even for Tu Ha' Buts in the past, and it is very nice to be back.

Before accepting this role, I worked at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for the last ten years, managing mental health grants in schools, prevention and intervention services for students, and the statewide youth re-engagement program.

I'm a big believer that everyone brings unique talents and that it's our responsibility to foster the next generation into all they hope to become.

The Tu Ha' Buts Youth Center has a phenomenal team of dedicated staff. They make so much possible! The team provides education supports,

after school enrichment, athletics, fitness, and events - and they bring culture and care to everything they do.

We hope to see you at one of our special community events or at our regular after-school programming.

We look forward to supporting you and your family.



Arielle Wortman
Licensed Mental Health Associate
Behavioral Health

I'll be working in the Behavioral Health Department, specializing in clinical therapeutic work with children and families.

My partner and I have recently moved to Oakville, though we are long time residents of Washington. The transition to homeownership has been wild, and I have learned both too much and not enough about plumbing in the last few weeks. Please wish us luck.

I have worked therapeutically with children and families in a variety of settings since 2015, from the storage closets of elementary schools to the expanse of the Enchanted Valley in the Hoh Rainforest. I am continually awed and renewed by the ways that children find to communicate their experiences to a willing witness.

I think of my job as first supporting children to build connections to their inner resources, and then to help the child to bridge their experiences and awareness back to their supportive environments.

This type of supportive and interconnected department is rare and I feel extremely privileged to join. I'm excited to be able to pull in support and communicate with community stakeholders on behalf of my clients. I'm excited to offer mental health treatment within a department that seems to understand what that requires for the client and of the community.

I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you all soon!

Thank You!
To All
of Our Valued
Employees!



Paige Grace
Lead Teacher
Child Development Center

My name is Paige Grace, and I am honored to serve as a Lead Teacher within the Squaxin Island Tribe community. I previously worked as a Registered Behavior Technician, supporting children's social, emotional, and behavioral development.

As a mom and a proud member of this community through my family, I value creating a safe, nurturing classroom where every child feels supported and confident to grow.

I am most excited about building strong relationships with the children and families in our community and creating a classroom environment where every child feels safe, supported, and valued.

I also look forward to collaborating with such a dedicated team and learning from one another as we work together to provide meaningful, culturally respectful care and education.

I look forward to working alongside the children, families, and staff, and to building meaningful connections within our classroom and community.





New Employees



Paul Schopfer
Senior Systems Administrator
Information Services

Hello. I have a strong background in IT systems administration, technical support, and infrastructure management, with experience supporting servers, networks, cloud services, and end users in both hands-on and leadership roles.

I enjoy solving problems, improving systems, and helping people work more effectively through dependable technology.

Outside of work, family is very important to me. My wife and I have two of our eight children still living with us, getting ready for their move to college and independent life, and two grandchildren.

We enjoy spending as much time outdoors as we can, especially camping, road trips, kayaking, and hiking.

I also enjoy music and technical projects that keep me learning and growing.

What excites me most about this position is the chance to step into a role where I can make a real, practical impact. I enjoy the balance of systems administration, problem-solving, planning, and user support, and I'm looking forward to helping maintain and improve the technology environment in a way that truly supports the organization.

I'm also excited about joining a new team and learning how I can best contribute. I appreciate environments where people work together, support one another, and take pride in serving the broader organization well. Being able to bring my experience into that kind of setting is something I'm genuinely looking forward to.

I'm looking forward to bringing my experience, reliability, and service mindset to the Squaxin Island Tribe!



Logan Seslar
On Call Elders Cook

Hi! I am excited about meeting new people and learning to be a better cook!



RaeAnnah Tauscher
Assistant Teacher
Child Development Center



John Ackerman (R)
Housing Maintenance Technician
Planning and Community Development

Hi! I'm a proud husband to Morningstar Ackerman (L) and father to Taeahni, Tseeka, and Paxton. I am son to John and Katherine Ackerman. I am from Squaxin's Henry/Cooper family.

I have spent 15+ yrs in the construction industry.

I am looking forward to joining the Housing team. Gaining employment from our tribe has been one of my goals for the last few years.

I am hoping to become a part in all the growth our community has coming in the near future with new homes, community center, and wellness clinic. Thank you!

Hi!

I have worked with the Squaxin Island Tribe off and on for four years, and I am excited to be back with the children down at SICDC.



If you would like assistance updating a resume or have questions about any of our open positions, please reach out to Emily in Human Resources.



LEARNING CENTER



Bordeaux

Tamika Krise - Hello my Squaxin people!

Time for our Bordeaux Elementary update. It is April now, although I really want to share how awesome our month of March was! Billy Frank Jr. Day might only be one day, however we celebrated all month!

On March 6th, we had Indian tacos for all the Native Ed students. We all gathered in the library during lunch, watched a video about Billy Frank Jr., and talked about all of his wonderful work amongst each other. It was heartwarming to hear the kiddos talk about him and how they were going to be like him.

Throughout the rest of the month we kept the conversation going.

Aurora Gouley, our Native Ed Para Pro, had the kiddos working on a keychain activity during her Native Ed group times. Each bead on the key chain represents each stage of life of our salmon and ways humans can help protect them. I was also able to go into classrooms and share a story and game with the students at Bordeaux. The story was a Native American authored childrens' story about environmental activism through the eyes of a young native girl. We enjoyed a game afterwards called *Swim the River*.

Lastly, we kept up our Billy Frank Jr. bulletin board covered in pictures and quotes by him and surrounded by colored fish from each student in the school. On the fish, the students wrote how they can be like Billy Frank Jr. It was truly a blessing to witness all of the excitement in the students' faces and eagerness to be great stewards of the land. You can tell our youth take a lot of pride in Billy Frank Jr.'s teachings and take them very seriously.

On to April! First thing first, we can check conference week off our list and dive into spring break! However, once we return, let's lock in family! Get your students to school and give them those extra positive words in the morning. We only have a little more time in our school year, let's finish strong!

Thank you all!

Check my student advocate Facebook page for more photos and updates!



All smiles for Billy Frank Jr!



Mr. O'Neil came to visit our celebration!



Walter and Finn playing our swim the river game



Nicholas and Isabel their salmon keychain



Our annual Billy bulletin board!



Celebrate Achievement Through Tradition

This spring and summer, join two community opportunities that honor both education and culture.

Button Robe Workshops invite Squaxin families to learn, create, and pass on tradition, working with fabric, buttons, sewing machines, and shared knowledge to support educational regalia. All skill levels are welcome.

Then come together for the 29th Annual sg^{wi}ig^{wi}, a cherished celebration recognizing the Class of 2026 and community members who reached major education milestones.

Let's lift up graduates, cheer their success, and stand proudly beside them.

These events are about growth, culture, and community strength.

Sign up, spread the word, and be part of this year's events.

Please see the flyers below for contact information and registration.

Higher Education

Higher Education students,

I hope everyone's spring quarter is starting off great! If you haven't turned in your final grades from winter quarter please turn them in ASAP! Also, if you are graduating this spring please let me know so I can get you added to the 2026 Sgwi Gwi program. The deadline to turn in paperwork for Sgwi Gwi is June 5th.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or stop by the Education Department between the hours of 7:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Thank you,

Mandy Valley

(360) 432-3882

mvalley@squaxin.us



Graduating in 2026?

Do you know someone who is graduating high school, has received their GED, completed their AA, BA, MA Degree, or has received a certificate for a vocational/technical program?

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council, Education Commission and the Tu Ha' Buts Youth Center would like to recognize and celebrate these individuals at the . . .

29th Annual Sg^{wi}ig^{wi}
 Wednesday, June 17th, 2026
 5:00 p.m. at the Squaxin Ball Field

To be recognized, please fill out the graduate recognition form by:
 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5th, 2026

Go to the following link or scan the QR code:
https://squaxin.formstack.com/forms/2026_graduates

Questions?
 Mandy Valley
 (360) 432-3882
 mvalley@squaxin.us
 Fax: (360) 426-7897



- 70 SE Squaxin Lane, Shelton, WA 98584 -

Button Robe Workshops

The Squaxin Community Culture Program is here to help Squaxin families with educational achievement regalia

The Museum & Culture Center is offering Squaxin families workshop time, fabric, buttons, use of sewing machines, irons, large project space, and knowledge

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

Weekly workshops will begin on March 17th from 3pm-6pm

Questions? Please contact Ruth Whitener 360-432-3841 rwhitener@squaxin.us



Shelton High School

Isabelle LeClair - Hello everybody! We started our final trimester here at SHS!

Last month we had a lovely spring equinox concert put on by the Shelton High School Band and we had our very own Native Ed students: Zach Johns, Api Moliga, and Randy Foster!

The evening was separated by percussion and wind. There were students who got up and introduced each new piece of music we got to listen to.

The evening was very relaxing and was an overall beautiful experience. All these teenagers were amazing and it was a wonderful evening.

I'm so glad I got to attend. I'm very proud of our Native Ed boys. They did so well!

We also had a special treat from our amazing Truancy Prevention Specialist, Jaimie Cruz who made abundant and delicious pozole for both of our lunches! It was a reward for finishing out the 2nd trimester strong and hopefully giving their bodies and spirits the energy they need to finish out the school year strong!

I believe that's all for updates and announcements. We have Homework Help Monday - Thursday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., so if you need any support or help after school, please feel free to come up!



API Moliga @ the spring concert!



The spring concert



Api sipping on his posole



Josiah dishing up!



Skylebr and Wyatt @ our luncheon with Jaimie!



Teen Program

Teen Council Updates/Griffin BFJ Assembly

Keesha Vigil-Snook - The Squaxin Teen Council is getting busy and gearing up for their first fundraiser of the season!

Join them for a community car wash on April 6th and 7th from 12:00–4:00 p.m. The teens are excited to see the community come out, show their support, and help kick off spring with a freshly washed car. Keep an eye out for their upcoming flyers and announcements as they spread the word.

Teen Council meetings are now happening every Wednesday from 4:00–5:00 p.m. at the Education Center. Our teens have been having a blast coming together, sharing ideas, and starting to build the vision for what Teen Council can become. If you have a teen who wants to get involved, we would love to see them join us.

Make sure to also follow along on social media and stay tuned for more teen-led events and activities happening throughout the month.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to share gratitude for the incredible support from our community during the Billy Frank Jr. assembly at Griffin School. The event turned out wonderful, and it was powerful to see our history and leaders honored in that space. I am truly grateful for everyone who contributed their time, knowledge, and support to help make it possible.



Teens planning a care wash



Griffin school participating in a dance!



Squaxin at Billy Frank Jr Griffin assemsbly

GET CHARGED UP!

Community Kitchen Parking Lot

EV CHARGING STATIONS

Free EV Charging for the Squaxin Community!

Thinking about switching to electric but have nowhere to charge? Charge for free in the Community Kitchen parking lot!

GET READY FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Questions? Contact Leila Whitener
lwhitener@squaxin.us 360-432-3822



After School Program

Kasia Seymour - February was full of fun and creativity in the afterschool program! We kicked off the month with our mini Valentine's party on February 13th, and the youth had a blast. The room was filled with excitement as they decorated mini heart shaped cakes, got their faces painted, crafted their own Valentine's friendship bracelets, and each got a refreshing orange or strawberry Italian sodas. Thank you, Tanalee. Each youth also received a Valentines card, candy bag, and stickers from the staff!

A huge thank you to Sara, Tayla, Elsie, and Jacqi for bringing the face painting magic, the youth loved it.

Every Monday in February, we focused on spreading kindness and friendship throughout the afterschool program. The youth created their own friendship bracelets; each one was cool. As the sun finally began peeking through this month, the kids soaked up every moment of it playing outside! They played at playground, the T'Peeksin Park and played football in the field. They made the most of the beautiful weather.

Swimming days continued to be a big hit. Every Wednesday and Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. the pool was full of youth enjoying their time swimming and hanging with their friends.

On Wednesday, February 25th, we had another round of face painting in the rec room. The designs turned out super cute - we had a few adorable deers, basketballs, and cute flower tattoos.

March was filled with fun and learning at the Tu' Ha Buts Youth Center! We kicked off spring with our annual Easter egg hunt on March 28th, hosting the different egg hunts at the gym playground and T'Peeksin Park. Families enjoyed face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny, and snacks while the youth were filled with excitement searching for the special golden eggs.

Throughout the month, youth participated in a variety of activities, including beaded friendship bracelets, homemade playdough, and a nature exploration day where they discovered salamanders and learned about caring for the environment. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with Lucky Charms Rice Krispy treats, a fizzy shamrock STEM experiment, and a tasty shamrock pie in a cup cooking activity.

During conference week (March 30-April 2), our program opened early for both Griffin and Shelton School Districts. Youth enjoyed a busy week of fun activities we planned, including Jello rainbow cookies, DIY crafts, basketball in the gym, outdoor play at T'Peeksin Park, ironing beads, and a fish buddy project. We wrapped up the week with a cozy movie night complete with popcorn and treats.

Afterschool programming will be open during spring break from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Stay tuned for the upcoming afterschool calendar and weekly schedule on our Facebook page Tu' Ha Buts Youth Center or join our Remind app! Text SquaxinTYC to 81010 - The Remind app will text our weekly hours and any urgent updates directly to your phone.





LEARNING CENTER



April 2026

Rec Room: 360-432-3986 | Kasia: 360-432-3801 | Kenna: 360-432-3895 | Sara: 360-432-3992 | Tanalee: 360-432-3819

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		After school Program: 12:30-6:00pm 1 Big Leaf Maple Swimming 4:30-5:30 GSD & SSD Early Release Conference Week	After school Program: 12:30-6:00pm 2 Dyed Eggs GSD & SSD Early Release Conference Week	3 Tribe Closed Spring Holiday
Spring Break Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm 6 Beaded Bracelets, Gym and Tpeeksin Park	Spring Break Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm 7 Field Trip: Shelton Cinemas, Smoothie Popsicles, Playground & Giant 4 In a row	Spring Break Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm 8 Licorice Fern Swimming TBD GSD early release @ 2:30pm	Spring Break Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm 10 Sensory Boards, Tpeeksin Park, Iron Beads	Spring Break Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm 11 Musical Chairs, Painting & Playground Swimming TBD
After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 13 Beaded Necklaces	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 14 Muddy Buddies	After school Program: 1:30-6:00pm 15 Big Leaf Maple Swimming 4:30-5:30 SSD 1.5-hour Early Release GSD early release @ 2:30pm	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 16 Rock Painting	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 17 Bingo Swimming 4:30-5:30
After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 20 Ironing Beads	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 21 Rice Krispy Treats	After school Program: 2:30-6:00pm 22 Licorice Fern Swimming 4:30-5:30 GSD early release @ 2:30pm	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 23 Slime	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 24 Giant 4 In a row Swimming 4:30-5:30
After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 27 Friendship Bracelets	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 28 Pizza Pockets	After school Program: 12:30-6:00pm 29 Big Leaf Maple Swimming 4:30-5:30 SSD 1.5-hour Early Release GSD early release @ 2:30pm	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 30 Flowerpot Painting	
Key: SSD – Shelton school District GSD – Griffin School District	After-School Mealtimes: Early Snack: 3:00pm-3:45pm Late Snack: 4:00pm-4:45pm	Activity Time: 5:00-5:45pm	Swimming Wednesday & Fridays 4:30-5:30pm	

After-School & Recreation programs are Tobacco, Vape, Alcohol & Drug Free.

This calendar and its activities are subject to change at any time



SPORTS



APRIL 2026 POOL CALENDAR						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	2 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	3 CLOSED	4 Easter Egg Hunt In The Pool 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
5 CLOSED <i>Happy Easter</i>	6 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM ASP: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM LS/OS: 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM	7 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	8 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM ASP: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM LS/OS: 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM	9 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	10 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	11 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
12 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	13 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	14 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	15 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ASP: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	16 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	17 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ASP: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	18 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
19 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	20 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	21 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	22 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ASP: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	23 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	24 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ASP: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	25 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
26 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	27 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	28 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	29 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ASP: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	30 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM		

Key:
 LS: Lap Swim
 OS: Open Swim
 EA: Elders Aerobics
 ASP: After School Program

Front Desk:
 360-432-3852
 (Call for recording of daily schedule)

Pool Office:
 360-432-3873

Non-tribal swim fees:
 \$5/visit
 or
 \$30/month for single pass
 \$45/month for family pass

Tribal members swim for free!



Schedule is subject to change at any time due to community/staff/youth events

Sports / Basketball

April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 All Team Practice 3:45pm - 5:00pm Skills Training GSD: 1pm - 3pm	2 All Team Practice 3:45pm - 5:00pm Skills Training GSD: 1pm - 3pm	3 CLOSED: Spring Holiday	4	5
6 American Ninja Warrior Camp	7 American Ninja Warrior Camp	8 American Ninja Warrior Camp	9 American Ninja Warrior Camp: Community Showcase	10 Spring Break: Gym Games & Skills training	11	12
13 12-18u 3:45-5pm 10u 5 - 5:50pm	14 Tumbling 3:30 - 5:30pm	15 All Team Practice 3:45pm - 5:30pm	16 12-18u 3:45-5:30pm 10u 5 - 5:50pm	17 12-18u 3:45-5pm 10u 5 - 5:50pm	18	19
20 12-18u 3:45-5pm 10u 5 - 5:50pm	21 Tumbling 3:30 - 5:30pm	22 All Team Practice 3:45pm - 5:30pm	23 No Practice: Tournament Prep	24 3rd Annual Splash City BB Tournament	25	26
27 12-18u 3:45-5pm 10u 5 - 5:50pm	28 12-18u 3:45-5pm	29 All Team Practice 3:45pm - 5:30pm	30 12-18u 3:45-5:30pm 10u 5 - 5:50pm			



Welcome Alexis Balsler Pediatric Provider

Hi there, my name is Alexis Balsler, but you can call me Lexi.

I'm the new pediatric provider for the Squaxin clinic. I'm so excited to meet you and your family. I come with 16 years of pediatric experience.

My style is open door. I want my patients and families to feel safe, understood and welcome. I see birth to 21 years of age. I manage primary care needs like wellness exams, sports physical, neurodevelopmental concerns like ADD, mental health, same day sick visits, removal of foreign bodies or suturing as well as common chronic conditions.

I also partner with specialists, as needed, for your child's specific care needs.

I was trained in the style of medicine to know my patients first and care for their medical needs second. It means that I want to know about the basketball game your child plays in. What's their favorite bedtime story? I want to get to know you and your family. I find that this allows better care and builds trust with you and your children.

I'm passionate about pediatrics. What can I say? Kids are cool little humans. The different phases of development and growth are truly amazing. How a cuddly infant turns into a tumbling toddler, into

an inquisitive preteen, to a creative authentic young adult is fascinating. The human body is amazing and kids are resilient.


I value preventive care, keeping kids out of the hospital, partnering with families in keeping kids healthy.

A little bit about me. . . I am Greek and love cooking Greek food for family and friends. My specialty dishes are Greek desserts like baklava or galaktoboureko.

When I'm not at work, I love spending time on my farm and caring for my animals. I have worms, dogs, cats, goats, chickens and ducks. Im learning to be an amateur farmer with both vegetables and flowers.

I look forward to meeting you!

- Lexi



EMERGENCY

CALL 9-1-1

FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL
RESCUE

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

Non-Life Threatening Emergencies

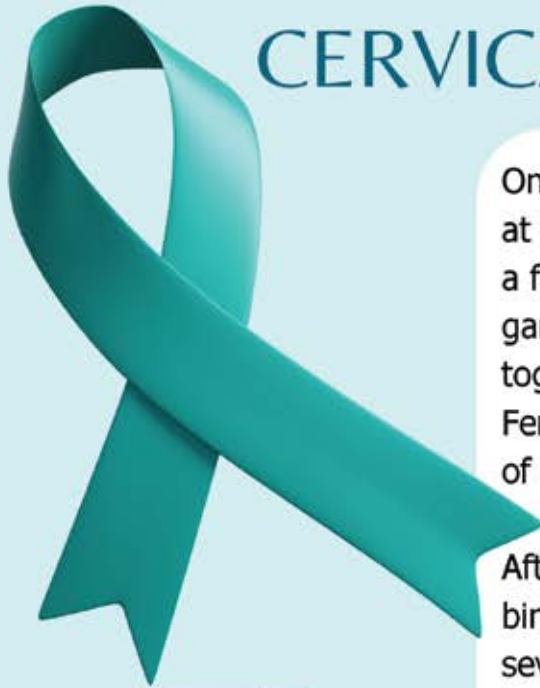
<p style="margin: 0;">Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Hotline <i>(Information only - no voicemail)</i> (360) 432-3947</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Community EOC Hotline <i>(Questions and voice mail message)</i> (360) 443-8411</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Emergency Management Coordinator (360) 443-8410</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) (360) 426-5308</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Squaxin Police Department Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:00-4:00 (360) 432-3831</p> <p style="margin: 0;">PUD No. 3 Outage Hotline (360) 426-8255</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mason County Police Dispatch Non-Emergency (360) 426-4441</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mason County Fire Non-Emergency (360) 426-3348</p>
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SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE HOSTS



CERVICAL CANCER BINGO



On January 22, 2026, families gathered at the Squaxin Community Kitchen for a fun evening of food, learning, and games. While everyone enjoyed dinner together, Registered Nurse Alyssa Ferguson gave a brief presentation about the importance of HPV vaccines and routine screening for cervical cancer.



After dinner, the group transitioned into a lively game of bingo. Patient Navigator Clara Hernandez organized several raffle prizes, including movie baskets, male and female hygiene baskets, and household baskets. Multiple rounds of bingo were played throughout the evening, bringing lots of laughter and excitement.

Participants also had the opportunity to learn while they played. Each bingo card included words related to cervical cancer and HPV, creating a unique and engaging way to educate the community about cancer prevention and the importance of regular screenings.

Overall, Cervical Cancer Bingo continues to be a favorite event within the Squaxin Island community. Each year, Clara hosts both breast cancer and cervical cancer bingo events, and they are always well attended and enjoyed.

If you missed this event, don't worry. Clara will be hosting her Breast Cancer Awareness Bingo in October 2026. Keep an eye out for the flyer as the date gets closer!

Questions? Call [Clara Hernandez](tel:360-427-9006) at 360-427-9006





April is Foot Health Month

That Pain in Your Back Could be Linked to Your Feet

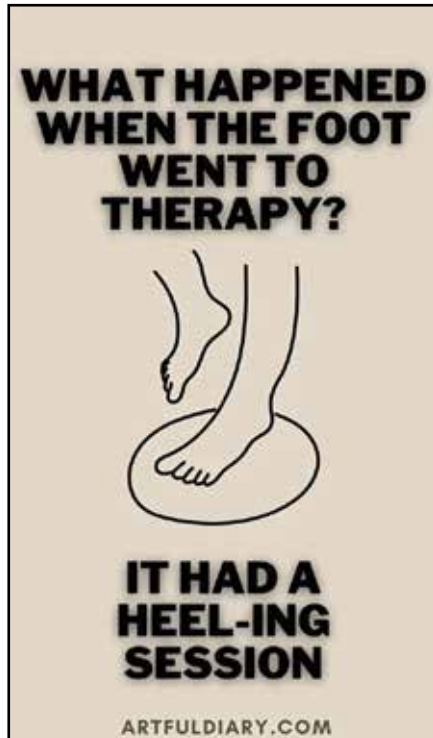
If your lower back has been hurting, and you do not remember doing anything to injure it, the source of your pain could be your feet. Foot pain is something that many people try to ignore. After all, doesn't everyone's feet hurt now and then? But if foot pain is something that has been with you for quite a while, it could be causing problems in your ankles, knees, hips and even your back.

That old song, "The leg bone's connected to the thigh bone. The thigh bone's connected to the hip bone..." tells the whole story. Our bodies are like a chain, with one link—or bone—connecting at the joint to another link. Think about what would happen if the first link in the chain was out of position. The point at which it meets the next link would eventually overstress that link and adversely affect the entire chain.

That is what happens when we have foot pain. If the normal way of walking is painful, we instinctively change our walking pattern. Say you have arthritis and your big toe joint hurts, so you change your gait to avoid bending the joint when you walk. Changing your gait changes the mechanics of your ankle joint, eventually causing ankle pain. This change in your walking pattern can also affect the whole chain of your lower body from the ankle to the knee, to the hip and then to the lower back.

When foot pain or foot deformity causes you to change the way you walk, it changes the way the bones of all those other joints move with each other. Cartilage in the joints can be worn down; ligaments and tendons can be stressed beyond their normal range and arthritis can set in.

If your feet or ankles are not working right, do not ignore them. Contact your doctor, who will evaluate your musculoskeletal system and if needed, will refer you to a Podiatrist. Your back (and knees and hips) will thank you!



Gum Disease

Do your gums look swollen and red? Perhaps they bleed and are sore when you brush your teeth? You may have a form of gum disease, such as gingivitis or periodontal disease. Both are infective inflammatory conditions that are preventable and treatable. However, there are distinct differences between the two.

Gingivitis involves inflammation of the gums that can be reversed with good oral hygiene at home and regular cleanings at the dental office.

Periodontitis affects both the gums and surrounding bone structure. It is an irreversible condition that needs consistent professional dental hygiene treatments, diligent home care and sometimes intervention through a periodontal specialist.

The cause of gum disease is bacteria in the mouth. Plaque and tartar build-up are hotbeds of bacteria that attack teeth, gums and surrounding tissues.

Some risk factors include inadequate oral hygiene, smoking, diabetes, stress, and certain medications. Signs and symptoms of gum disease include redness and swelling along the gums which may or may not be tender and/or bleed easily; sensitive and/or loose teeth; changes in the way one's bite feels or dentures fit.

To treat and prevent gum disease:

- Brush teeth twice a day for 2 minutes each time. Make sure to brush all surfaces of the teeth and down to the gumline.
- Daily flossing and water flosser use. The water flosser does not replace the need to use string floss as it cannot reach the tight spaces where the teeth come together.
- Regularly scheduled dental checkups and cleanings. The hygienist will recommend how often and what type of cleaning is best. Gingivitis treatment or scaling and root planing (deep cleaning) may be necessary.
- The dentist may refer to a periodontist for more advanced treatments, which may include surgical procedures.

Prevention is extremely important with gum disease. See your dentist and hygienist to help get on the right track for a healthy mouth. Call the Squaxin Island Dental Clinic at (360) 432-3881 to schedule an appointment.

In Washington State, Help is 3 Numbers Away

211 maintains a comprehensive database of community resources and provides information and referrals for essential needs like:

- Food
- Housing and Shelter
- Utility Assistance
- Healthcare Services
- Government Services

211 also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Counseling
- Disaster Aftercare
- Everything Else

988 provides crisis support for:

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis
- Substance Use Crisis
- Emotional Distress

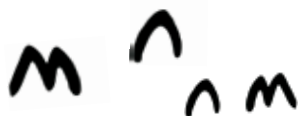
911 provides first responder dispatch for:

- Medical Emergency
- Fire
- Reporting a Crime
- Disaster Response
- Life-Threatening Situation

2-1-1 Washington

Learn more at [Traumatic Brain Injury](#)

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
Support. Recovery. Prevention. Research.





COMMUNITY



4/1
Colby Robert Smith
Duane Arthur Cooper
Famie Marie Mason
Seattle Dee Morris
Tokalah Bryson Blueback

4/2
David Wayne Peters Sr.

4/3
Jacqueline Lee Crenshaw
Keenan Chvsna Lorentz
Tamika May Krise

4/4
Elizabeth Cooper-Campbell
Joseph Nolan Harrell
Kathy Ann Brandt
Traci Jo Coffey
Tyler Dullenty Hartwell

4/5
Anthony Dale Lehman
Matthew Volker Peters Block

4/6
Chauncey Eagle Blueback

4/7
Carolyn Elaine Hoosier
Keesha Rose Vigil-Snook
Marie Elaine Snyder
Michael William Kruger
Rolando Lewis Rocero

4/8
Marcella Rease Cooper
Mi'chelle Emyle Mach
Nolah Jean Cousins
Rodney James Krise Jr.

4/9
Alexander Henry Blueback
Andie May Cousins
Cheryl Lynn Hantel
Juan Miguel Araiza
Kiana Jean Henry
Maurisio Salas Jr.
William Howard Henderson

4/10
Joanna Lynn Cowling
Lily Ana Naranjo-Johns

4/11
Anisaia Manu-Saenz
Tseka Myrtle Lee Ackerman

4/12
Dorinda Evon Thein
Elaine LeeAnn Roberts

4/13
Allen Jovian Mosier

4/14
Debra Jean Peters
Haelee Ana Hernandez-Smith
James Leroy Peters
Mary Josephine Mae Lewis

4/15
Grace Elizabeth Pugel
Lorena Lynn Porter

4/16
Maria Francisco-Coley

4/17
April Ann Leonard
Dena Mae Cools
Skylehr Monroe Henry

4/18
Brooke Belle Henry
Daniel Edward Kuntz
Douglas Wayne Johns
Josiah Cruz Saenz-Garcia

4/19
Dustin Paige Greenwood
Elisha Peters Guizzetti
Sande Lee Smith III
Walter Ray Hall

4/20
Jolene Renee Grover
Pamela Ann Peters
Vicky Lee Turner

4/21
Emily Denise Sigo
Jon Kenneth Vanderwal
Joshua Henry Brady Whitener
Tracy Roy West
Tyrone Joseph Stuart Seymour

4/22
Joanne Alice Harrison
Randy William Koshiway
Sarah Gloria Koshiway

4/23
Rebecca Ray Keith
Ronald Francis Bell
Tristian Villanueva

4/24
Cameron Kyle Goodwin
Syncere Van Ho

4/25
Casey Adrian Krise
Cynthia Parrott
Dawn Marie Caasi
Larain Rose Algea

4/26
Bear Jon Lewis
Chauncy Roger Blueback
London Rain King
Richard Montano III
Russel Ramon Algea

4/27
Becky Lynn Barker
Brent Corpuz Snipper
Standing Raven

4/28
Anthony Del Johns
Laurene Marguerite Burgain
Wesley Kyle Whitener

4/29
Claudia Jeanette Guijosa-Meas
Redwolf Schalaq Krise



Culture Night
5pm
Wednesdays
Squaxin Community Kitchen
Bring your dancing feet,
drums, rattles & crafty hands



Contact Deanna for more info
360-463-0991



What's Happening

**WIC
DIAPER DISTRIBUTION
USDA**



April 6
April 3
April 3

COURT

Family
Criminal
Civil Court



April 13 Beginning at 9:30 a.m.
April 28 Beginning at 9:30 a.m.
April 28 Beginning at 11:00 a.m.



**AA Meeting
Wednesdays
7:30-9:00 p.m.
Elders Building**

You Are Invited To The

Foster Care And Kinship Appreciation Dinner

Our Foster Care Appreciation Dinner in honor of the families and youth who have been part of ICW placements. Dinner will be provided, and there will be raffle items available during the evening.

This event is open to both previous and current ICW placements. We hope you will join us for a time of appreciation, connection, and community.

For questions, please contact
Melanie Dorland 360-490-7229 or mdorland@squaxin.us

Thursday
May **14** At 5:00 PM

Squaxin Island Community Kitchen

Elders Menu

Fruit and salad at every meal



MONDAY 6:
Spaghetti, Corn, Garlic Toast

TUESDAY 7:
Navy Bean Soup, Biscuits

MONDAY 13:
Chicken Fried Rice w/Veggies

TUESDAY 14:
Baked Potato Soup,
Egg Salad Sandwich

MONDAY 20:
Biscuits and Gravy, Boiled Eggs,
Bacon

TUESDAY 21:
Chili, Cornbread

MONDAY 27:
Teriyaki Chicken, Rice, Veggies

TUESDAY 28:
Beef Stew, Rolls

WEDNESDAY 1:
Turkey, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy,
Mixed Veggies

WEDNESDAY 8:
Baked Potato Bar, Broccoli

WEDNESDAY 15:
Ceviche, Tortilla Chips

WEDNESDAY 22:
Sandwich Bar

WEDNESDAY 29:
Pork Chops, Stuffing, Carrots

THURSDAY 2:
Hot Dogs and Chips To Go

THURSDAY 9:
Sausage Pasta Bake, Green Beans

THURSDAY 169:
Hamburgers, Mac Salad, Chips

THURSDAY 23:
BBQ Ribs, Mac-N-Cheese, Asparagus

THURSDAY 30:
Creamed Hamburger w/Noodles and Peas




Squaxin Island WIC
Women, Infants, and Children
 WIC provides healthy foods & nutrition information for you and your child up to age 5.

For appointments and questions, contact:
Debbie Gardipee
360.463.4439
dgardipee@spipa.org

SPIPA main number: **360.426.3990**

Next WIC date:
Monday, April 6th
 SPIPA IPC, phone appts.

Phone and in person appointments. Date subject to change.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
 Washington WIC doesn't discriminate.



South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
USDA Foods Program Delivery Date
Squaxin Island
04/03/26
 SPIPA IPC Parking Lot
10:00am-1:30pm

NOTE: Please stick to the monthly schedule for the USDA Commodity Food Program. Food distribution staff have other duties that they are responsible for on the days they are not issuing commodities. If you're unable to make the date, please call and schedule an appointment with appropriate staff. For USDA Food, call SPIPA at 360.426.3990. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.




FREE Wills for Squaxin Tribal Members and Their Spouses

The Tribe is offering the services of Mark Allen, an attorney who has worked for the Squaxin Community for 10-plus years. Mark Allen is ready to assist Squaxin Tribal members and their spouses plan for themselves and their loved ones by drafting wills and other end-of-life documents. Please be advised that this program provides estate planning services in accordance with **WASHINGTON STATE** laws.

- Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Advance Directives
- Health Care Directives
- Estate Planning

If you are interested in these services, please contact **Lindsey Harrell**, Legal Coordinator for the Squaxin Island Legal Department, at (360) 432-1771 ext. 2, (360) 472-6802 or Lharrell@squaxin.us

Squaxin Island Tribe employees who are not tribal members – check out your employee benefits packet to see what estate planning services are available for FREE through the Hartford Basic Group Term Life Insurance and AD&D.

Spring Series Yoga

FEBRUARY 5 - MAY 28
 Taught by Michelle Pugh, Joonbug Yoga

Would you like

- Increased flexibility?
- Increased muscle strength and tone?
- Improved respiration, energy and vitality?
- To maintain a balanced metabolism?
- Weight reduction?
- Cardio and circulatory health?
- Improved athletic performance?
- Protection from injury?

Try yoga!

THURSDAYS FROM 12:05 - 12:50 PM

Class will be located in the Squaxin Island Fitness Center Classroom. Please bring your own mat. These classes are at no cost and are open to Squaxin tribal members, community members & employees!

Suitable for everyone. All levels welcome!
 Questions? Email Melissa at mpuhn@squaxin.us or Michelle at joonbugyoga@gmail.com

