

# KLAM-CHE-MIN

MARCH 2026

dibəl ti ʔacaciłtalbixʷ gʷəl ti ʃʷələč yəxʷ ti stultuləkʷ yəxʷ ti calcaləl.

COMPLIMENTARY

## Squaxin Island Tribe Receives Thurston County Distinguished Leader Award

Wednesday, February 11

*The Washington Center for the Performing Arts*

Squaxin Island Tribe, along with TVW and Katie McMurray, Sensory Tool House, was the recipient of Thurston County Distinguished Leader Award.

<https://leadthurstoncounty.com/dla>:

"Celebrating community leadership for over 20 years, the Distinguished Leader Awards recognize leaders who demonstrate outstanding initiative, inspire others, and make a significant impact in our community that goes beyond their organizations and shines through their community support and involvement."



**Watch the video created for the event:**

<https://vimeo.com/1164505894>



*Chairman Kris Peters discussing the economic benefits of working together with local governments*

## 2026 Netpen Coho Have Arrived!

David Dorland - In mid-December before break, staff started preparing the netpen facility to receive fish. On January 5th we started transporting coho smolts to the net pens for annual production/rearing. Each day of hauling, four trips were made using our fish transfer barge. We continued to haul fish through the end of January. All 32 pens have been filled with just over 2.9 million coho received. The overall health of the fish is great, and they are acclimating to the saltwater environment well. One of the three groups of coho came out smaller than normal but reacted better than expected to the transfer and have been eating well. This year, a little over half of the population of coho were given a vaccination bath during the truck transport. This will help ward off Vibrio

*Continued on Page 3*

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



*Feeding Coho at sunrise*





## 2026 Netpen Coho Have Arrived! Continued from Page 1

infections that can occur with the warming water temperatures in late spring. Staff have started feeding and continue to maintain the new coho daily. Throughout the rearing season, we will sample six to eight random pens each month to monitor health and growth progress. Samples are sent to the Northwest Indian Fish Commission Pathology for health inspections and pathogen testing. Coho will be reared until the end of May, then released.

A big thank you to our NR staff for the everyday work they do, and the long days put in during fish hauls! David Dorland, Jackson Cruz, Terence Henry, Cris Hall, Donald Terry, Danny Snyder, Keenon Vigil, Jaidon Henderson and Aidon Sizemore. We thank the WDFW folks that are involved and help as well. Thank you all and know that your hard work is appreciated!




## 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](mailto:rwhitener@squaxin.us)

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners' awards are still TBD

Please make submissions to  
Austin Penn  
[Apenn@squaxin.us](mailto:Apenn@squaxin.us)

If applicable, make Vector File



# 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 ʕəd  
(Love you all)

huyʔ  
(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 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-

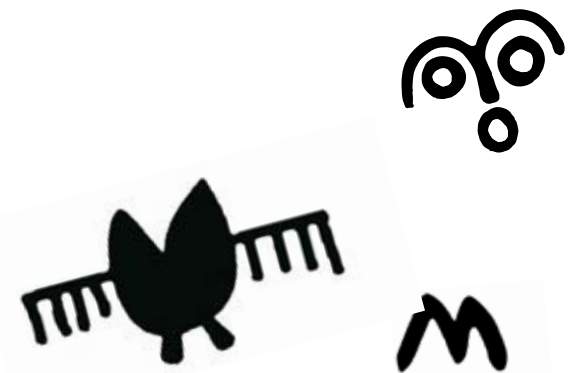
tive that would be beneficial as a council member. I will always carry with me the teachings instilled since childhood. I have worked closely with our Elders for almost ten years and have grown very important relationships during that time. I will always consider how decisions will impact our Elders.

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.





# Congratulations on Your Retirement Vince Henry and Margaret Seymour-Henry! Thank You for Many Years of Service!

A retirement party was held on January 30th for Vince Henry, who served as a Tribal Council Member and as the Tribe's Maintenance Manager for decades and his wife, Margaret Seymour-Henry, who also served the Tribe for many, many years as a Cultural Resources Specialist, starting out in Natural Resources.

Chairman Kris Peters was the first to honor the two saying, "I've looked up to you, both as professionals and leaders, and just as people. I'm honored to know you. You are so humble and kind, caring . . . all the things everyone here just knows about you. If anyone deserves to retire and enjoy your time, it's you two, so thank you for everything."

Tribal Council Member Jeremie Walls, said, "I probably would't be standing here today without the influence you both have had on me. I don't have to say what you mean to the Tribe and what you have done in servitude, so I say thank you. My hands are up to you both."

Tribal Council Member Jim Peters said, "Vinny, you had a soft spoken point of view, speaking up when you needed to. You put your passion behind the issues (natural resources and cultural resources, etc.), and you supported other people and their opinions. Margaret, and I got to work together in Natural Resources and got to do some travelling. My hands go up to you and I wish you good luck and enjoy your retirement."



## Thank You!

We would like to send out a huge thank you to everyone who put together the awesome retirement party you threw for us. We can't thank you all enough. We had no idea it was going to be so great. We thank our kids, Jolene Grover and Kiana and Malia Henry, family, friends, Tribal Council, Admin, and all PCD staff, as well as all who attended, everyone. We would especially like to thank our daughter, Malia, for all the work she did to help organize the event. We will never forget it.

Our hands are held high for all of the Squaxin Island Tribe. We will still be around, not very far away, LOL. We will be attending functions and events.

With much love,  
Vinny and Margaret







# 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



**ATTENTION:**

**HOUSING WAITING LIST APPLICANTS**

This is a reminder that it is time to update your Housing application. If you are on the Squaxin Island Tribal Housing waiting list, the application update will be mailed to the last known address that the OOH has on file for you. If you have recently moved or have a change of mailing address, please call:


*Kristin Penn, Housing Occupancy Specialist*  
(360) 432-3863

If you do not update your application by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, your name will be removed from the Housing waiting list.

## 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

## 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**  
apenn@squaxin.us

**Florance Sigo**  
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.



## **Larain Algea** **Employment Liaison**

Hi! My name is Larain Algea, and I have been hired as the Employment Liaison within the Executive Services Department. My role supports employees across Squaxin Island Tribal government, Little Creek Casino Resort, and Island Enterprises. I work alongside leadership and employees to provide neutral, confidential support, guidance, and coordination while helping promote consistency, transparency, and employee success across all three entities.

I am a mother of two silly, but well-respected boys, ages 9 and 8, and I am currently expecting my third child in August 2026.

Professionally, my background spans all three tribal entities. I have worked at Little Creek Casino Resort in multiple departments, with Island Enterprises at the Kamilche Trading Post, and within Tribal government in roles that included Human Resources. Most recently, I served as a Clinical Manager at our Health Clinic and for a period of time as the Behavioral Health Outpatient Manager. I am also a Certified Peer Support Counselor.

My passion for advocacy and community support grew through my work in the clinic and behavioral health settings. While I deeply valued that work and the teams I served alongside, I felt called to a role that was more community-centered while still allowing me to support, guide, and advocate for others in meaningful ways.

Throughout my life, I have naturally been a support person for others, whether that is family,

## **New Employees**

friends, coworkers, or community members. People have often felt comfortable coming to me for conversation, guidance, or help navigating difficult situations. I approach these interactions with care, objectivity, and an openness to multiple perspectives, recognizing that experiences and circumstances can look very different from one person to another.

I value people deeply, take my work seriously, and approach this role with integrity, respect, and intentionality

I am excited to work collaboratively with leadership, HR, and employees across all entities to support employee success, retention, and growth.

In this role, my goal is to be someone employees can trust offering guidance during challenging situations, helping individuals understand policies and procedures, supporting self-advocacy, and connecting employees and Tribal Members to the appropriate resources.



## **Kimberly Huston** **Director, NWITC**

Hi! I have been blessed with the opportunity to work as the Director at Northwest Indian Treatment Center.

I have worked in healthcare for nearly 20 years, with experience ranging from private practice and surgical services, to tribal healthcare systems.

Over the years, I have learned that healthcare in Tribal communities is more than clinical care; it is about relationships, trust, and honoring the sovereignty, traditions, and lived experiences of the people we serve.

My leadership approach has always centered on listening first, building strong teams, and ensuring that operations support culturally relevant, com-

munity driven care.

Family is at the heart of who I am. I am a proud wife and mother of two children. Much of my time outside of work is spent supporting their sports activities, hiking, gardening, painting, camping, and spending time near the water. These experiences ground me and continually remind me of the importance of connection to family, to land, and to community. Those same values guide how I lead and how I show up in service.

What excites me most about this role is the chance to be part of healing work that is grounded in culture and community. NWITC has a strong foundation, and I'm grateful to join a team that truly cares about the people we serve.

I'm looking forward to building relationships, supporting the staff, and continuing to strengthen services in a way that honors Tribal values and traditions.

I am sincerely grateful for the trust placed in me to serve in this role. I'm excited for the work ahead and for the opportunity to be part of the continued growth, strength, and healing of this community.



## **Cora Krise** **Health Services** **Support Technician**

Hello! I am a Squaxin Island tribal member. I proudly come from the Krise and Cooper families. My parents are Ginny Mae and Rodney Krise Sr. I was raised by both my beloved grandmother, Virginia Berumen, and my grandpa, Cowboy.

I am excited to work in this position because it gives me an opportunity to serve and support my own community. Being able to contribute to health and wellbeing of our people means a lot to me.

I look forward to working with you!



## Bordeaux

Tamika Krise - Hello Squaxin fam! We have made our way to March! I hope everyone had a wonderful February. I know our Bordeaux students did. They got to have their Valentine's day parties and mid-winter break. We have students who really locked in and achieved some goals made at the beginning of January by tackling attendance goals, being better at turning in assignments, and all around participating in school.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped spread the word and/or donated to our snack drive. Our students are so grateful and appreciative of all the yummy snacks. Something as little as a handful of goldfish can really make a difference in their day. So, for that THANK YOU!

March 9th is Billy Frank Jr. Day! We are prepared to celebrate here at school all month. Showcasing the work and legacy of Billy Frank Jr in the classrooms and all throughout the school. I will share more about what we are doing on my student advocate Facebook page.

Lastly, I will share some important dates to be prepared for and some pictures of our kiddos. Have a great March!

### Important Dates:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 3/30           | 1.5 Hour Early Release                 |
| Friday 3/13              | 3 Hour Early Release                   |
| Monday 3/30 - Friday 4/3 | 3 Hour Early Release (Conference Week) |



*Blaze and James always make everyone laugh!*



*Walter locking in on his work*



*Catori working hard on her project*



*Nation ready for Valentine's Day!*



*Finn helping the snack drive*



*Joseph working on a mini button blanket*

**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



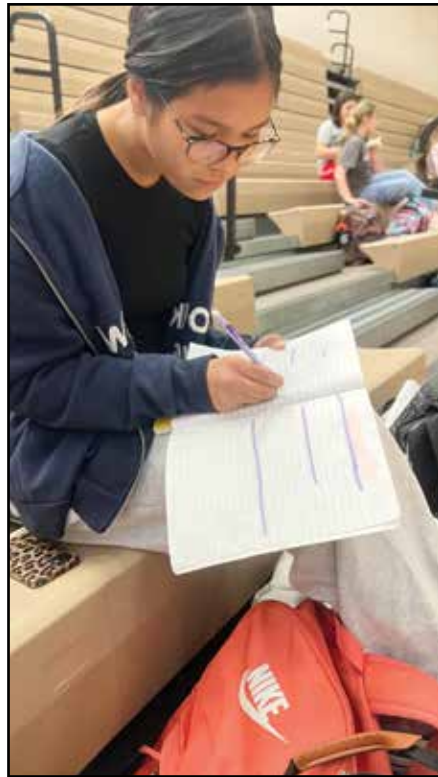
## Olympic Middle School

Kiana Wily - Why did the sun go to school? To get a little brighter for the spring days! I hope all our little rays of Squaxin sunshine continue showing up to school and doing the same.

We have Billy Frank Jr to celebrate this month on Monday the 9th. Springtime teacher conferences and spring break aren't far behind. Conference week will begin on Monday, March 30th, and spring break is the week following.

Basketball season began last month for the girls here at OMS, and they have been doing a great job getting to know the game and each other as a team. We've got Olivia Henry, Satayla Thomas, Aurelia Thomas, Lexi Wentworth, and Sha'Nyssa Tate out there representing on the court. The vibes are always so much fun at the girls' games, with all the families and fans cheering as the teams hustle up and down the court. When you're a student-athlete, being a student comes first. The team is held to expectations of good behavior and work completion in class by Coach Vernon and Coach Nate.

Unfinished work is homework, and we are available for homework help after school Monday-Thursday upstairs at the Learning Center.



*Satayla being a good student-athlete and getting her essay worked on before warm ups*



*Jamie and Angeline came to do some class escorts*



*The kiddos been getting us grown ups on the court more often*



*Cheering at the girls basketball game with Natalia*



*Most our 2025-2026 OMS Native Ed group*



*Sydney Tuso showing up for her besties basketball game*



## Oakland Bay Junior High

Caleb Kinzner - Hi all, we are on the final stretch of the second trimester. The continued effort that these students have put forth continues to reflect the hard work that they have put in throughout the entire school year. This continues to be the strongest group of students that I have had academically, and I am extremely proud of their efforts.

As always, we are available upstairs at the education center for after-school homework help from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday, and I highly encourage students to come get some assistance. With the end of the year coming fast, I strongly advocate for students to come up and get as much help as possible. Big projects, finals, and a plethora of assignments get assigned at the end of the year.

Student of the month! The student of the month this month is L.J. Cooper. He has continued his excellent year and takes a lot of pride in his outstanding grades, and he is often a model for other students. He had a great basketball season and was a strong leader for his team. He has been a true leader on and off the court, and I am extremely proud of his growth throughout the year.



Emilio Hernandez with car



Owen Dorland, LJ Cooper, Wyatt Wentworth, Emilio Hernandez, and Jay Willis



Emilio Hernandez, Olivia Grover, Macklin Childs

## Shelton High School

Isabelle LeClair - Hello from SHS! As we cruise through March, we are at the finish line for the 2nd trimester of the school year!

Finals are approaching quickly, so make sure to check in with advisors, teachers, counselors, or us, in Native Ed, if you might be missing assignments or labs. We can check in with teachers!

We also have after school help up at the education center from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. Mondays - Thursdays!

After we finish up finals the 2nd week of March, we will be having a special luncheon during both lunches to celebrate all that hard work everybody put in all trimesters long!

Once we know dates of finals, I'll post them in Native Ed along with our luncheon date as well!

We look forward to sharing a meal and laughing after a long trimester!



OBJH students



Just for fun ...  
Summer is on its way back

KIDS ON THE BEACH: Alberto, Louis, Isabel, Marty, James, Satayla, and Olivia Cooper Henry Clan | Photo by Lydia Algea



# LEARNING CENTER



## After School Program

This month the youth had a blast during our Youth mini-Valentines party on February 13th. We had some fun activities for the youth to participate in, mini heart cake frosting, face painting, your own valentines friendship bracelet, and strawberry floats. They had fun and we gave each youth a Valentine.

On Monday, February 2nd, the youth got to make their own bead friendship bracelets, and they made some for their own friends.

Stay tuned for the upcoming after school calendar in March 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 phones!**

## Higher Education

Higher Education students,

If you are planning to attend spring quarter 2026, all paperwork is due no later than Friday, March 13th. Remember to send in your final grades for winter quarter, new class schedule for spring quarter, and your completed Memorandum of Commitment for the new quarter.

I need all of this information for your Higher Education file by March 13th. I cannot process your paperwork for the college until your file has been updated.

I hope everyone had a very successful quarter. If you are planning on attending summer session, you will need to request funding no later than May 29th.

If you have any questions I can be reached at my direct line or email.

Thank you,

Mandy

(360) 432-3882

mvalley@squaxin.us



## March 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  | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Bead weaving 2  | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Lucky Charms<br>Rice Krispies 3   | After School Program: 1:30-6:00pm<br>Rainbow Bubbles<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm<br>4<br><small>GSD Early Release @ 2:30<br/>SSD 1.5 Hr. Early Release</small> | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Homemade<br>Playdough 5 | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Baking soda Trees<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm 6  | 7   |
| Tribe Closed<br>Billy Frank Jr Day 9   | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Cookie Fries 10   | After School Program: 2:30-6:00pm<br>Bird Feeders<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm<br>11<br><small>GSD Early Release @ 2:30</small>                                 | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Rose Bath salts 12      | After School Program: 12:30-6:00pm<br>Leprechaun Traps<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm 13<br><small>SSD 3 Hr. Early Release</small> | 14  |
| After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Bead weaving 16   | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Leprechaun<br>munch mix 17  | After School Program: 2:30-6:00pm<br>Rainbow Paper Socks<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm<br>18<br><small>GSD Early Release @ 2:30</small>                          | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Bath bombs 19           | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Fizzy Shamrock Science<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm 20                                      | 21  |
| After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Bead weaving 23   | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Shamrock Pie<br>in a Cup 24   | After School Program: 2:30-6:00pm<br>Sounds you can<br>see activity<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm<br>25<br><small>GSD Early Release @ 2:30</small>               | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Homemade gummies 26     | After School Program: 3:00-6:00pm<br>Catapult Cannon<br>Swimming 4:30-5:30pm 27   | 28<br><b>Youth Easter<br/>Egg Hunt<br/>10:00-11:00am<br/>at the gym</b> |
| After School Program: 12:00-6pm<br>Jello Cookies, DIY windchimes,<br>Playground, friendship keychains,<br>gym and Tpeeksin park 30<br><small>GSD Early Release @ 12:30 conference week<br/>SSD 3 Hr. Early Release conference week</small> | After School Program: 12:00-6:00pm<br>Suncatchers, rainbow cloud<br>donuts, DIY Pet fish buddy, ironing<br>beads and playground 31<br><small>GSD Early Release @ 12:30 conference week<br/>SSD 3 Hr. Early Release conference week</small> |  |  |   |   |
| <b>Key:</b><br>SSD – Shelton school District<br>GSD – Griffin School District  | <b>After-School Mealtimes:</b><br>Early Snack: 3:00pm-3:45pm<br>Late Snack: 4:00pm-4:45pm  | <b>Activity Time:</b><br>5:00-5:45pm   | <b>Swimming Wednesday &amp; Fridays</b><br>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.

**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<sup>w</sup>ig<sup>w</sup>i**  
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](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 -



## Teen Program

### *The Teen Council is Back in Action!*

Keesha Vigil-Snook - We are excited to share that our Youth Council is officially getting started again! Our teens are slowly stepping into their roles and beginning to build that strong Teen Council mentality. They have been sharing ideas, having meaningful discussions, and thinking about how they want to represent our youth in a positive way within the community.

One of the first goals they've chosen as a team is to host a fundraiser together. Keep an eye out this spring for a Teen Council Car Wash! We are proud of their leadership and can't wait to see them continue to grow into this new chapter.

Also, I want to shout out our teens who came to the jam session with our program at the end of January. The teens said they would love to see more of our Squaxin fam attend jams! They love seeing our family out and about.

*Teen Council Meeting*



*Squaxin girls dancing*



*Jam Session in Suquamish 26'*



*Eliana dancing*



*Squaxin girls dancing*



# SPORTS



*Soccer station!*



*Our girls learning some new volleyball skills*



*Our girls in the group picture, they had a blast!*



*Madison Raham working on her volleyball Spike!*



*LJ & Iziah putting up some shots on the college court*



*Working on their basketball skills*



*Natalia Krise & Lexi Wentworth having fun!*



*Madison Raham smiling for the camera!*



# LEARNING CENTER



## Open Gym Sundays



Keona going up for the shot, Jeremiah playing defense!



Boo Roberts going in for the layup!



Everyone is welcome! Come end your weekend with some friendly games of ball



Lj defending Garcia as he goes up for the shot!

## March 2026 Pool calendar

| Sunday                            | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday                          |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM  | 2<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM                      | 3<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM  | 4<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  | 5<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM  | 6<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  | 7<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM  |
| 8<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM  | 9<br><b>CLOSED</b><br>In honor of Billy Frank Jr. Day | 10<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 11<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | 12<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 13<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | 14<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM |
| 15<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 16<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM                     | 17<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 18<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | 19<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 20<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | 21<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM |
| 22<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 23<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM                     | 24<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 25<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | 26<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>11:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 27<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 4:00 PM<br>ASP:<br>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | 28<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM |
| 29<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM | 30<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 5:30 PM                     | 31<br>LS/OS:<br>8:30 AM - 10:30 AM<br>EA:<br>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM<br>LS/OS:<br>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

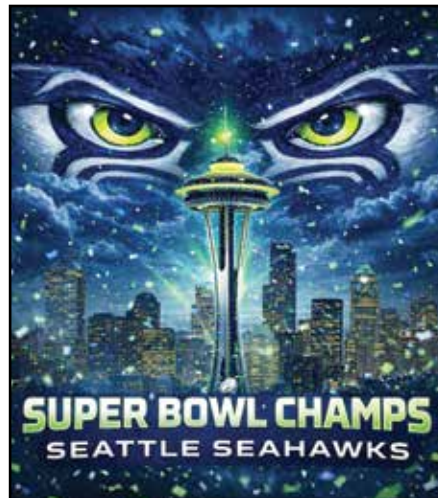
Non-tribal swim fees:  
 \$5/visit  
 or  
 \$30/month for single pass  
 \$45/month for family pass

Tribal members swim for free!

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



### Seahawks Tailgate Parties



Thank you to everyone who came out to our Big Gamel tailgate parties. It was great to see so many familiar faces and to spend lunchtime together as a community. The food was on point, the music kept things lively, and the raffle added some extra fun to the afternoon — congrats again to those who took home prizes. Most of all, we appreciate you taking the time to show up and be part of it.

We also want to recognize LCCR, IEI, and SCTC for their steady commitment to our community. Events like this don't just happen — they take planning, teamwork, and a real investment in bringing people together. We're thankful to be part of a Tribe that continues to create spaces for connection and celebration.

Go Hawks!





## Public Health and Whole-Community Wellbeing at Squaxin

Public health is about supporting the health and well-being of the entire community. Rather than focusing only on treating illness after it occurs, public health emphasizes prevention, protection, and promotion of health so that individuals, families, and communities can thrive.

Public health looks beyond medical care to understand the many factors that influence health over a lifetime. This includes physical, mental, emotional, social, cultural, and environmental well-being. When these areas are supported together, communities are stronger, healthier, and more resilient.

### What Does Public Health Do?

Public health supports community wellbeing in many ways, including:

- Preventing the spread of infectious diseases
- Supporting mental and emotional wellness
- Reducing chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease
- Supporting healthy pregnancies, children, and families
- Preventing injuries and promoting safety
- Supporting substance use prevention, harm reduction, and recovery
- Providing health education and connecting people to resources

Public health efforts focus on keeping people healthy, supporting informed choices, and reducing preventable illness and hardship.

In Washington, public health operates as a statewide system of collaboration, bringing together state agencies, local health jurisdictions, Tribal governments, healthcare systems, and community partners. This system is designed to respond to both immediate health needs, such as disease outbreaks or environmental risks, and long-term challenges like chronic disease, behavioral health, and health inequities.

The Washington State Department of Health plays a central role in this system by providing leadership, guidance, data, and technical support. Its responsibilities include disease surveillance, immunization programs, emergency preparedness, health education, and coordination with local and Tribal partners. The state also supports efforts to address emerging public health challenges, including substance use trends, behavioral health needs, and environmental health concerns.

Across the state, local health jurisdictions, including county health departments, carry out public health services at the community level. These local agencies tailor programs and outreach to reflect the unique needs of their populations, while working in coordination with state and Tribal partners. Tribal public health systems are recognized as sovereign entities, with distinct governance, priorities, and culturally grounded approaches to health and wellness.

In Mason County, public health services are provided through Mason County Public Health and Human Services, which works to protect and promote health for residents across the county. Their work spans a wide range of services, addressing both immediate public health protections and longer-term wellbeing.

Mason County public health efforts include community and family health programs, behavioral health response, environmental health protections, and vital records services. These programs support maternal and child health, infectious disease prevention, behavioral health coordination, harm reduction efforts, and the safety of food, water, and living environments. Public health staff also work closely with healthcare providers, schools, social service agencies, and community organizations.

Importantly, Mason County public health collaborates with Tribal partners to ensure coordination, information-sharing, and mutual support while respecting Tribal sovereignty and distinct systems of care. These partnerships strengthen the overall health infrastructure of the region and help ensure that services are responsive to diverse community needs.



*The picture shows that community wellbeing is strengthened through a cycle of supportive conditions, meaningful action, and long-term positive outcomes.*

### What Public Health Supports in Everyday Life

Public health influences many aspects of daily life, often in ways that go unnoticed until something goes wrong. Its work includes preventing the spread of infectious diseases, supporting mental and emotional well-being, reducing chronic disease, and preventing injury and substance-related harm.

Public health also plays a key role in education and empowerment, providing people with information and tools to make informed decisions about their health. This may include health education, screening and prevention efforts, community outreach, and connection to supportive resources. Over time, these efforts help reduce preventable illness, improve quality of life, and strengthen community resilience.

By focusing on prevention and early action, public health helps reduce the need for more intensive medical interventions later, benefiting individuals, families, and the healthcare system as a whole.





## Understanding the Social Determinants of Health

Health is shaped by more than genetics or medical care. Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, and they have a powerful impact on overall well-being.



Picture 2: Social determinants of health

These include:

- Housing and living conditions
- Access to food, transportation, and healthcare
- Education and employment opportunities
- Social connection and community support
- Cultural identity, safety, and sense of belonging



Public health recognizes that addressing these factors is essential to improving health outcomes. When communities have access to stable resources and supportive environments, individuals and families are better able to stay healthy.

## Public Health at the Squaxin Island Tribe

At the Squaxin Island Tribe, public health is grounded in a holistic understanding of health, one that honors culture, community, and connection as central to wellbeing.

The Public Health team works alongside Tribal departments, the Squaxin Island Health Clinic, and community partners to support prevention, education, and wellness across the lifespan. This work is guided by respect for Tribal sovereignty and a commitment to strengthening community health.

The Public Health Department is now located in the Health Promotions Building, directly across from the Squaxin Island Health Clinic, allowing for close collaboration and integrated support for community wellbeing.



Picture 3: The image above illustrates the Foundational Public Health Services framework, which shows how public health supports our community's well-being through interconnected focus areas and services.

## Community Health Survey: Your Voice Matters

To better understand community strengths, needs, and priorities, the Public Health team has worked on a Community Health Survey. This survey is an important tool that helps guide decisions about programs, services, and resources.

Your participation is essential. When community members complete the survey:

- It helps identify health priorities
- It strengthens applications for funding and resources
- It ensures programs reflect real community needs
- It supports planning for future services and support

The more people who participate, the better we can advocate for resources that support the health and well-being of the Squaxin community.

## Working Together for a Healthier Future

Public health is a shared effort. By focusing on prevention, connection, and community strengths and by hearing directly from community members, we can continue building a healthier future for all generations.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about public health and for supporting community wellbeing.

TO LEARN MORE: · Washington State Department of Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/> · Mason County Public Health & Human Services: <https://www.healthymasoncounty.com/> · CDC — Social Determinants of Health: <https://www.cdc.gov/public-health-gateway/php/about/social-determinants-of-health.html> · WHO — Social Determinants of Health: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health> · Washington DOH — Tribal Public Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/about-us/washingtons-public-health-system/tribal-public-health-and-relations> · CDC — Public Health Basics: <https://doh.wa.gov/taxonomy/term/3230>



## Oranges

Oranges are one of the most popular types of citruses. With a bright orange color, juicy flesh and sweet-yet-tart flavor, oranges are a tasty, nutritious, powerhouse.

Oranges are usually at their peak during the winter months, making them a good source of Vitamin C, which boosts the immune response. They are also a good source of calcium, potassium and folate, a Vitamin essential for healthy cell growth and function. Oranges are also rich in fiber, which feeds your gut biome, while helping you feel fuller.

Oranges are best when eaten fresh. Many varieties, including navel, Cara Cara and mandarin, make a great on-the-go snack. They are also amazing in baked goods, salads, dressings, sauces, marmalades, marinades and beverages. Using oranges can brighten up a dish or drink and bring a touch of sunshine to your diet.

Each variety is unique in its juiciness, sweetness and tartness. Knowing which variety to use in your food preparation brings out the best in the dish you are creating. Clementines are ideal for compotes; Cara Cara and blood orange varieties are best in salads; kumquats for candying and Seville for jams.

Oranges are an ideal food to pair with others. They taste great with dark chocolate, almonds, cranberries, fennel, spinach, mint and avocado. They also go well with shrimp, scallops, crab, chicken, veal, and pork roast.

The rinds are also edible. You can wash and zest the top layer of an orange skin and add it in baked goods or use a vegetable peel for swirls of orange peels for garnishes.

When choosing an orange, make sure it has shiny skin with a vibrant color; a tangy smell and are heavy for its size. Store oranges at room temperature or in the refrigerator unwashed to prolong freshness. Clean under running water before eating. Store any peeled or cut oranges in clean airtight rappers in the refrigerator.



## Orange and Onion Salad

### INGREDIENTS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1 tablespoon  | Butter                                      |
| 1 cup         | Sliced almonds, optional                    |
| 2 tablespoons | Lemon juice                                 |
| 1 teaspoon    | Dijon mustard                               |
| 1/2 teaspoon  | Sugar                                       |
| 1/2 teaspoon  | Salt  |
| 1/4 teaspoon  | White pepper                                |
| 1/2 cup       | Vegetable oil                               |
| 1 bunch       | Romaine lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces |
| 2             | Medium oranges, peeled and sectioned        |
| 1             | Small red onion, thinly sliced              |



### DIRECTIONS

In a skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Saute the almonds until golden brown. Remove almonds to paper towels to drain. Combine next five ingredients. Beat in oil. Combine lettuce, orange sections, onion slices and almonds. Toss with dressing. Serve immediately.

### NUTRITION FACTS

1 cup: 193 calories, 18g fat (0 saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 207mg sodium, 8g carbohydrate (0 sugars, 0 fiber), 1g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 3-1/2 fat, 1 vegetable.

## Citrus Scallops

### INGREDIENTS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1             | Medium green or sweet red pepper, julienned |
| 4             | Green onions, chopped                       |
| 1             | Garlic clove, minced                        |
| 2 tablespoons | Olive oil                                   |
| 1 pound       | Sea scallops                                |
| 1/2 teaspoon  | Salt  |
| 1/4 teaspoon  | Crushed red pepper flakes                   |
| 2 tablespoons | Lime juice                                  |
| 1/2 teaspoon  | Grated lime zest                            |
| 4 medium      | Navel oranges, peeled and sectioned         |
| 2 teaspoons   | Minced fresh cilantro                       |
|               | Hot cooked rice or pasta                    |



### DIRECTIONS

In a large skillet, saute the pepper, onions and garlic in oil for 1 minute. Add scallops, salt and pepper flakes; cook for 4 minutes. Add lime juice and zest; cook for 1 minute. Reduce heat. Add orange sections and cilantro; cook 2 minutes longer or until scallops are opaque. Serve with rice or pasta.

### NUTRITION FACTS

1 serving (calculated without rice or pasta): 240 calories, 8g fat (1g saturated fat), 37mg cholesterol, 482mg sodium, 23g carbohydrate (14g sugars, 4g fiber), 21g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 3 lean meat, 1-1/2 fat, 1 fruit.



## Rose Blueback New Behavioral Health Office Manager

Dear Squaxin Community,  
My name is Rose BlueBack, and I am honored to introduce myself as the new Office Manager for Squaxin Island Behavioral Health.

As both a tribal and community member, I am deeply committed to the health, healing, and wellness of our people. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to serve in this role, supporting our families and community members in finding balance, peace, and strength through behavioral health services.

Our program provides substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health support, and our services are available to all Tribal members.

As Office Manager, I am also the first person you will speak with if you ever feel unsatisfied with the services you receive. My role is to help you feel heard and supported at every step. If you come to me with a concern and later feel that I have not fully addressed your issue, I will personally walk you through the grievance procedure to ensure your voice is respected and your needs are met.

My vision is to continue building a safe and welcoming space where our people feel supported in seeking help. Together, we can work to reduce the stigma around mental and emotional health, reinforcing that healing is an act of strength, not weakness.

In the months ahead, I plan to collaborate closely with other tribal departments to strengthen communication, expand access to care, and ensure our services reflect the true needs and voices of the Squaxin community. Your feedback and ideas will guide this process and help us grow in the right direction. My door is always open if you wish to share concerns, suggestions, or simply talk. Your input and participation are both valued and appreciated.

I will also be offering a community survey at the May General Body Meeting to gather meaningful input we can use to enhance our department's services.



With gratitude,  
Rose BlueBack, MSW,CPC  
Office Manager - Behavioral Health  
100 SE Whitener Rd.  
Shelton, Washington 98584  
Direct Line: (360) 432-3856  
BHOP: (360) 426-1582



## New: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinic



The Clinic is pleased to announce the launch of our new Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinic to support community members on their path to recovery.

Appointments are available two days each month with Dr. Ott or Nissan Armas, PA-C. As part of the MAT visit, patients will meet briefly with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselor prior to seeing the medical provider. Patients should expect appointments to be longer than a typical clinic visit to allow adequate time for care and support.

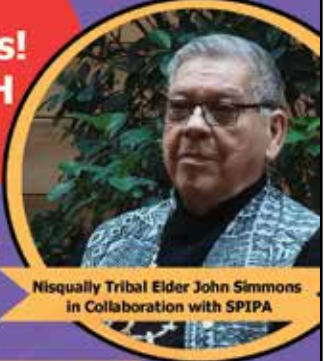
The MAT Clinic offers evidence-based medications, including Buprenorphine/Suboxone, Sublocade, and Vivitrol, as part of a comprehensive treatment approach.

Patients interested in scheduling an appointment can contact the Clinic front desk at (360) 427-9006 for more information or to book a visit.



**Join Us!**  
**MARCH**  
**30TH**



**Rescheduled!**  
**Intertribal Men's Health**  
**Listening & Talking:**  
**Cancer 101 Session**


**Men and Their Caregivers:**  
**A Special Event in Nisqually!**

Join us for an evening of learning, connection, and community!

Discover valuable information about different cancers in an interactive session led by a trusted healthcare professional.



**What's in store?**

- A welcoming space for men to connect, share stories, and support each other
- Breakout sessions for caregivers with Nisqually's Caregiving Specialist, Juanita Banuelos
- Delicious dinner, exciting raffle prizes, and a \$15 gift card for completing a quick Men's Wellness & Health Assessment





**RAFFLE**

**Raffle Items:**

-  Capitol City Golf Package
-  Fishing Basket

**Questions?**  
Contact Cher Castello

 360.550.6224

 ccastello@spipa.org

**WHEN & WHERE:**

- Monday, March 30, 2026
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm
- Nisqually Elder's Building Lunchroom  
4820 Journey St SE, Olympia, WA 98513



# COMMUNITY



3/10  
Adrian Jose Julio Garcia  
Billy Dave Yocash  
Jay Dee Powell Jr.  
Joseph Daniel Rivera  
Terrah Maria Jackson

3/21  
Doyle Raymond Foster  
Susan Marie Penn  
Tayla Rose Logan

3/25  
Johnathan Draven Seymour  
  
3/26  
Christina Lynn Henry  
Jerad Charles Lopeman-Fry

3/31  
Jimmy Arnold Cooper-Furtado  
Kailana Grace Whitener  
Stephen William Henry

3/1  
Alyssa Mary-Ida Henry  
Jennine Marie Jacob  
Sapphire Ward

3/11  
Alexandrea Rodriguez  
Chenoa Reed Peterson

3/22  
Charlene Ann Krise  
Jose Francisco-Coley  
Kanekoa Kamalani Tavares  
Xavier Francisco Lopez

3/27  
James Jeffrey Coxwell  
Lucke Robert Newell

3/2  
Christy Marie Peters Block  
Lolita Sue Black  
Raven Haaq Roush-Lizotte

3/12  
Abigail Mae Bell  
Cindy Lee Ehler  
Gene Xavier James Benson  
Steven Duane Lehman Jr.

3/23  
Gracelynn Ward-McGuire  
Kameron Marshall Weythman  
Nora Jean Coxwell  
Troy Gelacio Orozco

3/28  
Brittany Faye McFarlane  
Jasmine Riley-Lynn Lorentz  
Kierah Lee Cooper

3/3  
Arnold Eugene Cooper  
Chazmin Kendall Peters  
Clayton John Briggs  
Daniel Rodney Snyder  
Serena Rae Phillips  
Vincent Gene Henry Jr.

3/13  
Sara Marie Naranjo-Johns  
  
3/14  
Andrew Dean Whitener  
Lois Colleen Woodard

3/24  
Jaelynn Elise Moliga  
Raenen Elijah-Joseph Black  
Taylor Randolph Krise  
Tucker Blaine Hindley

3/30  
Benjamin Naranjo-Johns  
Eric Lee Ellerbe  
Felicia Elise Thompson  
Matthew James Pugel  
Ronald Andrew Whitener



**Jackson and son, Kenai  
This baby LOVES his Daddy!**

3/4  
Adolfo Douglas McFarlane  
Mayella Frankie Jean Roberts

3/15  
Brandon Carl Blueback  
Kaleonahe Tadios-Tahkeal  
Tashina Marie Ackerman

3/5  
Faith Elizabeth Pughe  
Jamaal Jason Byrd

3/16  
Adarius Terell Coley  
Rebecca Lezon-Ferreira

3/6  
Evan Taylor Cooper  
Kodiak Draven-Wolf Masoner

3/17  
Anthony Dushuyay Johns  
Jaimie Renee Whipple  
Kenneth Michael Green  
Monte Ray Morris

3/7  
Andrienne Jeanne Baldwin  
Cody Francis Cooper  
David Josiah Seymour  
Felicity Faye Torres  
Massiah Angel Manu-Saenz

3/18  
Jolene Rae Peters  
Thomas Blueback Jr.  
Victoria Louise Dennis-Horn

3/8  
Kyler Bao Glover Araujo  
Millie Faye McFarlane  
Stella Jean Sicade

3/19  
Micheal Alfred Bloomfield  
Raiden James Stratton  
Raymond Michael Castro  
Vicky Belle Engel

3/9  
Finn Michael Dorland  
Kai'in Bluemoon Tucker  
Kastiel Blood-Moon Cooper  
Marjorie Lee Tusso  
Michaela Alina Lynn Riker

3/20  
Joelene Elaine Tamm  
Kalea Ray Krise  
Lachell Marie Johns



*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

**EASTER EGG HUNT**



March 28

**WIC**

March 2

**DIAPER DISTRIBUTION**



March 5

**USDA**

March 5

**COURT**

Family  
Criminal  
Civil Court

March 5 Beginning at 9:30 a.m.  
March 24 Beginning at 9:30 a.m.  
March 24 Beginning at 11:00 a.m.



## AA Meeting

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

## Elders Menu

*Fruit and salad at every meal*



**MONDAY 2:**

Tuna Salad Sandwich, Chips

**TUESDAY 3:**

Navy Bean Soup, Biscuits

**WEDNESDAY 4:**

Sausage Pasta Bake, Green Beans

**THURSDAY 5:**

Orange Chicken, Rice, Veggies

**MONDAY 9:**

Chicken Fried Rice w/Veggies

**TUESDAY 10:**

Corned Beef Cabbage

**WEDNESDAY 11:**

Chalupas

**THURSDAY 12:**

Meatball Subs, Chips

**MONDAY 16:**

Lasagna Bake, Asparagus

**TUESDAY 17:**

Ministrioni Soup, Turkey Sandwich

**WEDNESDAY 18:**

Low Mein, Veggies

**THURSDAY 19:**

Fish Burgers, Coleslaw

**MONDAY 23:**

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts

**TUESDAY 24:**

Tomato Basil Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich

**WEDNESDAY 25:**

Chicken Strips, Steak Fries, Corn

**THURSDAY 26:**


Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Crackers

**MONDAY 30:**

Tater Tot Casserole, Carrots

**TUESDAY 31:**

Clam Chowder, Frybread

**EMERGENCY**  
CALL **9-1-1** FIRE POLICE MEDICAL RESCUE

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE**

**Non-Life Threatening Emergencies**

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



**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  
Email: [dgardipee@spipa.org](mailto:dgardipee@spipa.org)

SPIPA main number: 360.426.3990

Next WIC date:  
**Monday, March 2nd**  
SPIPA IPC, phone appts.

*We will offer both phone and in person appointments. Date subject to change.*

**WIC WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN**

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

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

**211** also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Whole Person Care

**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 [www.wa.gov/211](https://www.wa.gov/211)

Traumatic Brain Injury

**South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency**

**USDA Foods Program Delivery Date**

**Squaxin Island**  
**03/05/26**  
SPIPA IPC Parking Lot  
**11:00am-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.*




**South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency**

**Diaper Distribution**

**Squaxin Island Tribe**  
**03/05/26**  
SPIPA IPC  
**11:00am-1:30pm**  
**Pull-ups | Diapers | Wipes | More**

*Need diapers? You may qualify! Households on or near Tribal lands and enrolled in programs like WIC, SNAP, or TANF may be eligible.  
Call SPIPA at 360.426.3990.*

# 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](mailto:mpuhn@squaxin.us)  
or Michelle at [joonbugyoga@gmail.com](mailto:joonbugyoga@gmail.com)