



Squaxin Youth Age 15-21 Summer Employment Program

If you are a Squaxin Island tribal member between the ages of 15 and 21 and would like an opportunity to work this summer, please visit squaxinland.org and apply directly in Paylocity.

The Summer Youth Employment Program will begin on Monday, June 29th, 2026, and will run through Friday, August 7, 2026.

If you need assistance completing an application packet, please contact Shae Clark to schedule an appointment. She may be reached at shclark@squaxin.us or (360) 432-3865.

Your application must be submitted by Friday, June 5th, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.

Application workshops will be offered Thursday, May 14th, and Thursday, May 21st from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the MLRC classroom.

Preference will apply to all employment positions based on the hiring ordinance.



Call For Artwork


This is a call out for artwork submissions for the 34th year of the Salmon Homecoming Alliance event happening on Pier 58 (formerly known as Waterfront Park) and 62 on the Seattle waterfront in September 2026.

Our focus is the Northwest Coastal Tribes and their relationship to the indigenous salmon and the salmon's relation, as a keystone species, to Orcas, seals, otters, eagles, wolves and much more. This year the artist is also being asked to submit a theme to accompany the artwork. Your artwork, if selected, will be featured on all our t-shirts, on our website and other selected printed materials. All artwork submitted must be a minimum of 20 x 15 to be considered. Deadline is June 30th or sooner.

Please submit a clear picture of your piece to shcacoordinator@gmail.com.

***NOTE: All rights to the artwork become the property of the Salmon Homecoming Alliance and cannot be duplicated or sold

If you are an artist and have further questions please contact the Event Coordinator, Linda James-Laville, at shcacoordinator@gmail.com.



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

Another Successful Year of Taxes at the Squaxin Tax Site!

The Squaxin Island Tax Site wrapped up another highly successful tax season, preparing 155 tax returns for tribal and community members and helping families navigate the filing process with confidence and support.

Cathy Magby and Greg Barckley serve as Squaxin's dedicated volunteer tax preparers, and the Tax Site would not be possible without their generosity and commitment. They devote countless hours each year to meet one-on-one with clients, answering questions, and ensuring each person receives every benefit and credit they are eligible for. To provide the highest level of service, all Tax Site volunteers complete advanced annual certification through the IRS.

By offering free tax preparation services to low- and moderate-income households, the Squaxin Island Tax Site helps community members avoid expensive preparation fees while making sure working families receive the refunds and credits they have earned.

This effort not only supports individual households but also strengthens the entire community by keeping more money in the hands of the people who live here—keeping money in our community.



Squaxin Island TRIBAL NEWS

10 S.E. Squaxin Lane
Shelton, WA 98584

PHONE: (360) 426-9781
TOLL FREE: (877) 386.3649
FAX: (360) 426-6577
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 Jacqueline Fletcher Crenshaw



Jacqueline Lee Fletcher was born on April 3, 1943, the only daughter to parents Curtis and Alice Fletcher and little sister to brother Ronald Fletcher, all who have preceded her in death.

On August 5, 1962, Jackie married the love of her life, Harold Crenshaw, and together they raised four children, Jeff

(Kim), Irene (Ross), Lynnette and Lorena (Shawn) and were blessed with eleven grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Jackie was preceded in death by her grandson, Tyler James Reynolds, one of the greatest heartbreaks of her life.

Jackie was extremely proud to be a registered member of the Squaxin Indian Tribe where she served many years as a Tribe Elder with a lineage beginning with the Whitener family (great grandparents), Myrtle Fletcher Robinson (grandmother), and Curtis Fletcher (father).

Jackie enjoyed Elder cruises, salmon bake ceremonies, attending other tribe lunches and Squaxin tribal meetings and events.

Jackie was extremely talented at everything she tried. She was a dedicated seamstress, making her daughters clothes, prom dresses, and Irene's wedding dress. Jackie went to college to learn cake decorating and bless-

ed each of her daughters with wedding cakes made by mom. Jackie loved painting ceramics and was extremely talented at crocheting. She made and donated blankets to the local veterans at the VA. Every year she created themed Christmas tree decorations, letting all who came by for the holiday take a decoration from her tree to add to theirs.

Jackie loved bowling, hummingbirds, squirrels, babies, dogs, mushroom hunting, was a sharpshooter with a rifle, but enjoyed most the time she spent with her family.

Jackie leaves us as the matriarch of five-generation family and a loving wife to Harold for sixty-four years. Our mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother is missed beyond words and will forever be in our hearts.



SPIPA Resiliency Food Grant

MAY 2026
May 8 is the final resiliency food box distribution date, made possible through SPIPA's partnership with the Washington State Department of Agriculture and regional farmers and vendors.

Availability
Boxes will be available during commodities and diaper distribution on a first-come, first-served basis, limited to one box per household.

Eligibility
Please present your Squaxin Island Tribal ID at pickup. There are no income requirements, but priority will be given to elders and low-income households. You must be present to receive a box.

SQUAXIN ISLAND

May 8th

SPIPA IPC

10:00am-1:30pm
or while supplies last

For more information, please call SPIPA at 360.426.3990





Feedback Form

Tribal Council feedback form:

https://squaxin.formstack.com/forms/feedback_form_tribal_council



Feedback forms are available for tribal members to provide feedback at the top of each department's main page, as well as the Tribal Council page. Your valuable feedback will go directly to the director of the department and Executive Director, Erika Thale. Please take time to let us know what great ideas and concerns you have.

New Salmon Enhancement Manager

Meet David Dorland, the new Salmon Enhancement Manager for Natural Resources!

Will Henderson, who held this position for several decades, has stepped aside.

As he began planning for his eventual retirement, the department developed a three-year succession plan for David to learn the role and transition into the manager position.

David has been with Natural Resource for many years and has gained the experience needed to successfully complete this training plan. Over the next couple of years, Will plans to continue working alongside David to support him through the transition.

As managers, it is important that we invest in training and promoting our emerging staff.

Congratulations to David-we're excited for him in his new role and confident he will do well.



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.

Squaxin Island Tribal Council Meetings
SECOND & FOURTH THURSDAYS Each month
Watch the meetings here: [QR code]
Public Comment Period
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.
REGISTER FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT BY TUESDAY BEFORE THE MEETING:
Email Melissa Puhn to get on the Public Comment Period: mpuhn@squaxin.us



Running for Re-election as Tribal Council Chairman *Kris Peters*



Klabsch 2026!
haʔ sləx̌il 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
 awsig@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 Emmajean 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.

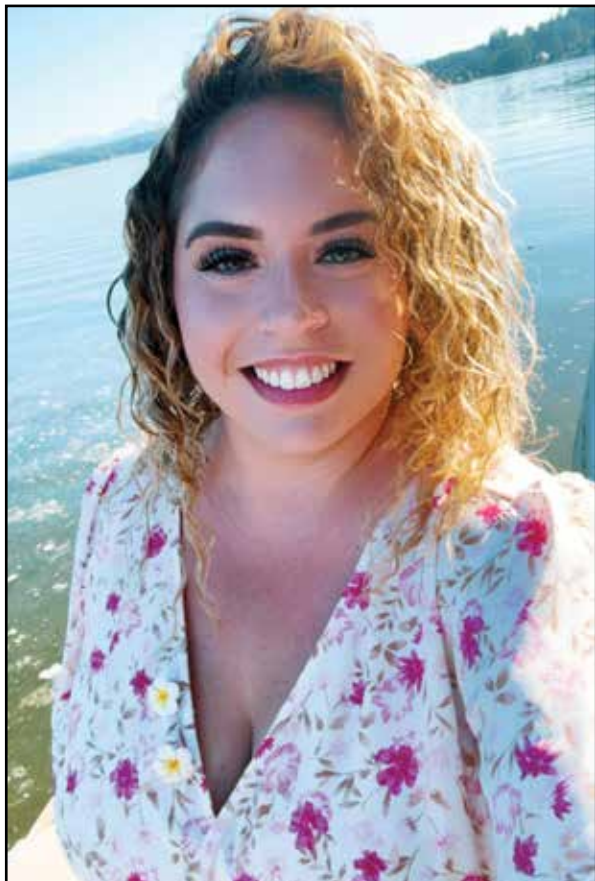
With your support, we, as Squaxin people, can continue moving forward in the right direction. Culture is strengthened by working together, and we can build a stronger future for the generations that follow us.

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-

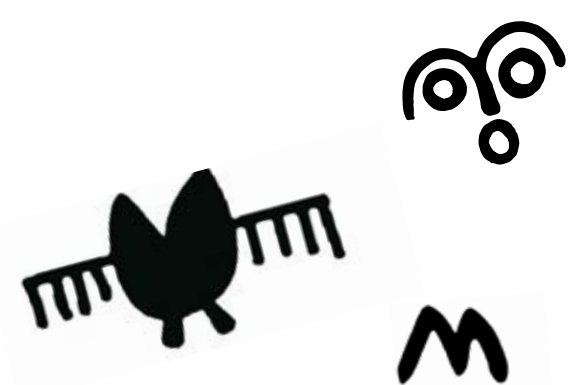
tive that would be beneficial as a council member. I will always carry with me the teachings instilled since childhood. I have worked closely with our Elders for almost ten years and have grown very important relationships during that time. I will always consider how decisions will impact our Elders.

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.





VOTE FOR US

BEST
of SOUTH SOUND
The Olympian

TRADING POST

VOTE DAILY
Voting ends May 8th

BEST PLACE TO WORK • BEST CONVENIENCE STORE • BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

VOTE FOR US

BEST
of SOUTH SOUND
The Olympian

ELEVATION

VOTE DAILY
Voting ends May 8th

BEST DISPENSARY & BEST CBD STORE

New Employee

Hiran Eskeets *IEI Facilities Manager*

"Yá'át'ééh, (Hello) I'm honored to join the IEI team as Facilities Manager and serve the Squaxin Island Tribal community. I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, originally from New Mexico, and have lived in Washington for the past 25 years. I bring over 13 years of experience in facilities management, supporting operations and capital projects that ensure safe, reliable, and well-maintained spaces. Much of my work has been alongside Northwest Salish tribal governments & Tribal Enterprises. I love to build programs and guide projects from planning through completion. My goal is to provide exceptional service, identify cost-saving opportunities, and create spaces that support and uplift OUR community. Outside of work, I spend most of my time with my three children—two daughters and a son—and value: family, Tribal communities, research, libraries, and am a lifelong learner. Ahéhee'. Thank you ALL."



CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION EVENT

EVENT INFORMATION

- HOSTED BY SQUAXIN ISLAND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- SQUAXIN ISLAND COMMUNITY KITCHEN
- MAY 15, 2026 4:30 PM - 6:30PM
- SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

PARENTS! NEED CHILDCARE? GET INFORMATION AT THE EVENT!

WE HAVE GIFTS AVAILABLE FOR OUR PROVIDERS
Thank you for the love and care you show our Tribal children—SIT Family Services.

PLEASE RSVP WITH SANTANA KRISE 360-432-3821 SKRISE@SQUAXIN.US



New Employees



Leonard Ludi
Assistant Director
Construction Manager

Hi! I will be working in Public Works, Housing, Facilities, and Construction.

I am a lifetime public services professional.



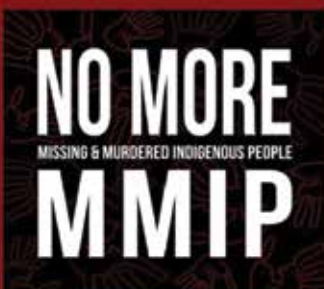
William Waldon
Regulatory Agent

Hi!
I have been hired as a Regulatory Agent for Tribal Gaming. I spent most of the last three years in the gaming industry, mostly as a Security Supervisor

I am the youngest of four siblings. This will allow me to jump into the next step in the industry and broaden my skill set. I can't wait to meet my team and see what experiences this new opportunity brings.

I'm excited for this opportunity and I'm glad I was given the chance to show my experience and general experience in a new way. I can't wait to meet you all.

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.

Annual MMIP Walk
Tuesday, May 5

Sign-in Starts at 4PM
Walk will begin at 4:30 PM
At Community Kitchen

Must be present and sign in to receive a shirt.

Meal will be provided after the walk

Squaxin Family Services: 360-432-3906



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & RESUME WORKSHOP
PLEASE JOIN US

READY TO LEVEL UP THIS SUMMER? Join our Summer Youth Program and gain valuable work experience, build your resume, and have fun while doing it!

- **WHY JOIN?**
- **🎯 Gain real-world job experience**
- **💰 Earn money over the summer**
- **📚 Build skills for your future**
- **👥 Connect with your community**

- **WORKSHOP DATES: MAY 7TH, 2026 & MAY 14TH, 2026 @ MLRC FROM 1:00 PM -3:00 PM**
- **🔥 POSITIONS OPEN: MAY 1, 2026**
- **📅 APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 5, 2026**
- **📅 PROGRAM DATES: JUNE 29, 2026 – AUGUST 7, 2026**

Youth ages 15-21 are welcomed!

More information

shclark@squaxin.us bcruz@squaxin.us esigo@squaxin.us
360.432.3865 360.432.3845 360.432.3824



A Guide to Springtime Pet Safety: 10 Must-Know Tips

Wendi Piscia - Spring has finally sprung, and we're all basking in the warm sunshine and vibrant flowers that are bursting with color all around the valley! Most of us know the basics on how to keep our furry friends calm, cool, and collected during the hotter months, but we've compiled a list of 10 tips to make sure you can soak up all the joys of spring without any worries. So let's get ready to enjoy this wonderful time of year to the fullest!

1. **Check the screens....** There's nothing like opening the windows and letting that fresh spring air in! But before you do, make sure all window screens are properly fitted. Both cats and dogs have been known to fall out through unsecured screens.
2. **Think twice before planning your spring garden.** Make sure you've looked into which plants can be toxic to pets before planting. If your pets have access to your garden, you may want to stay away from common varieties such as birds-of-paradise, irises, or buttercups.
3. **Hot cars = Hurt pets.** Don't leave your pets in the car during warm weather. Even with the windows down, temperatures inside your car can shoot up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit within just a few minutes! If you're going to be out and about, just leave your buddies at home where it's cool.
4. **Water duty.** This goes without saying, but we're saying it anyway: Don't let that water bowl dry up! Make sure your pet has access to fresh water 24/7.
5. **Lock up the gardening supplies.** Many fertilizers and pesticides that are helpful to your garden are harmful to your pet...so if you use them, be sure to stow them away out of pets' reach.
6. **Watch out for bees and wasps.** If your pet gets stung by a bee, carefully remove the stinger and apply an ice pack. If the sting is around the head, mouth, or nose keep a close look to make sure there aren't issues with breathing or swallowing. As always, contact your veterinarian with any concerns.
7. **Protect the paws!** On hotter days, take the temperature by putting your palm on the ground before you head out for a walk with your pet. If it burns your hand, it will likely burn a paw!
8. **Get serious with fleas.** Flea and tick populations are at their peak during warmer seasons, so make sure your pet is protected! We recommend flea and tick control year-round, but spring and summer coverage should be the absolute minimum.
9. **Brush off the winter coat.** Warmer temperatures typically translate to shedding, and sometimes our pets need a little help ditching that winter coat. Groom your pets at home, or use a professional groomer to lighten the load!
10. **Check the chip.** Great spring weather means many pets are spending more time outdoors – which means a higher risk of them getting loose or running away. Make sure your pets are microchipped and that the microchip information is up to date. A microchip and collar identification are your pet's best chance at being returned to you.



Squaxin Island Tribe

Office of Housing

Housing staff is available. Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns.

The Office of Housing contact information:

- ⇒ Liz Kuntz – Housing Manager
⇒ Email: lkuntz@squaxin.us PH: 360-432-3937
- ⇒ Lisa Peters – Housing Counselor
⇒ EMAIL: lpeters@squaxin.us PH: 360-432-3871
- ⇒ Kristin Penn – Housing Occupancy Specialist
⇒ EMAIL: kpenn@squaxin.us PH: 360-432-3863
- ⇒ Ashly Sigo – Housing T-HOPE Specialist
⇒ EMAIL: asigo@squaxin.us PH: 360-432-3888
- ⇒ Guy Cain – Housing Maintenance Technician
⇒ EMAIL: gcain@squaxin.us PH: 360-432-3957
- ⇒ John Ackerman – Housing Maintenance Technician
⇒ EMAIL: jackerman@squaxin.us PH: 360-432-3953
- ⇒ For Housing related emergencies call Maintenance
⇒ PH: 360-545-2768

Squaxin Island Tribe
Office of Housing
10 SE Squaxin Lane
Shelton, WA 98584





Shellfish Licenses

Shellfish licenses will expire May 31st, and the new shellfish cycle starts June 1st.

Payments for shellfish licenses can be made with the cashier at the tribal center in person or over the phone with a debit or credit card.

Our normal operating hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and closed from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

Please call Austin or Annie-Beth at the Natural Resources office if you have any questions regarding your shellfish license at (360) 432-3802/3805 or contact us via Facebook Messenger.

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.

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

EMERGENCY

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

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

Non-Life Threatening Emergencies

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

Jaimie Cruz - Happy April!

Regular school attendance can make a strong difference for Squaxin youth because it connects education with identity, opportunity, and community well-being.

Consistent attendance helps students build foundational skills in reading, math, and critical thinking.

Over time, that opens doors to higher education, vocational training, and careers; this includes roles that support tribal governance, healthcare, education, and economic development. Youth who stay engaged in school are more likely to become future leaders who can carry forward traditions while navigating modern systems.

School often serves as a hub for social support, mentorship, and community programs. Regular attendance builds relationships with peers, elders, and educators, reinforcing a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. Structure and routine can provide stability, especially for youth facing challenges.

Positive school environments offer counseling, extracurricular activities, and safe spaces that support emotional health. Being in school creates accountability and access to supportive adults.

Higher graduation rates contribute to stronger tribal economies. Educated youth can return to their communities with skills in areas like business, environmental stewardship, law, and healthcare helping tribes become more self-sustaining.

Attendance is especially important for Squaxin youth and works best when it's not just about rules, but about relevance, relationships, and removing barriers. When our students show up our future grows stronger!

In the Month of March, we were able to attend all the schools in the Shelton School District. I, alongside the advocates for each school, were able to encourage Squaxin youth to attend school regularly.

Squaxin Truancy Committee members are working on policies and procedures to follow when they are presented truancy cases. This committee consists of four community members, staff from TYC, Public Safety and Justice, and Behavioral Health. We work together to help develop a successful plan for the youth. We are working towards a more fluid response and are eager to hear what our community would like to see as we develop over the coming months.

Jaimie Cruz
Jcruz@squaxin.us
9360) 490-5379

Bordeaux

Tamika Krise - Time for the Bordeaux Elementary update! April was such a good and busy month! We got through parent/teacher conferences and spring break. We finished the month out strong, working on test preparation and fun projects.

I want to highlight some of the awesome improvements that have been made, then finish off with some important dates to look forward to this month.

We have been trying new ideas to improve together. A group of second graders have been working hard on their attendance and have been conquering their goals. We came together and decided on some fun incentives to encourage these students to make it to school every day. They have really stepped up and even begun to encourage each other and their peers. We also have been tackling our reading logs. Some students are utilizing Homework Help at the education center after school, and it has really shown.

We know the school year is almost over, the days are warmer, and the classrooms sound less exciting. However, we are so close! Let's end the year with great attendance and getting our work done!

Here are some important dates for May:

May 13	1.5 Hour Early Release (PLC)
May 22	No School (Snow Make Up Day)
May 25	No School (Memorial Day)
May 27	1.5 Hour Early Release (PLC)



Dorlands lockin' in and reading for their logs!



Native Ed Group



Native Ed Group - Girl Crew!





LEARNING CENTER



Olympic Middle School

Kiana Garberich-Wily -
haʔl sləx̌il everyone,

I can't believe we are nearly at an end of the 2025-2026 school year! It has been a busy year at OMS and will be up until the last days.

Throughout the month of May, testing will be going on, so being here and getting those done will be of utmost importance! Now is the time to show our progress in our knowledge and lock in for those final grades. We will be having a Frybread Luncheon on May 29th so come celebrate the end of the year and new changes to come.

In the last months at OMS, we have enjoyed multiple visitors. We had a super special visitor from Yakama come. Jennifer Scott, a Yakima Nation author and elder, came to share her published book called 'The Trees Talk' with Native Ed. It is a beautiful story of the way our ancestors' stories are passed through the tree nations and includes beautiful illustrations. Thank you to Kylee's Grandma, Michelle Mlunoir, for coming to help chaperon and enjoy reading time with the kiddos.

Keesha, the Teen Coordinator, and Jaimie, our truancy Support Specialist, stopped by with tacos and a message of how important attendance is. They got the last semester started with a bang. They also got to sit in for a Lushootseed lesson that was led by Holly Whitener.

Holly Whitener has collaborated with OMS Native Ed to hold small groups of Lushootseed lessons as well as multiple Salish history lessons that included both tribal and non-tribal students. We appreciate all the time Ms. Holly has volunteered to our kiddos at school as well as the time she is willing to give after school for language learning opportunities.



Satayla warming up to hoop



Photo bomb surprise from Breezy and Holden



Milah Hawks and Olivia Henry posing at the OMS social



Twinning at school in our hoodies from Squaxin clinic



Louna Sigo painting a awesome poster for Ms Clarkes Science class explaining the interactions of the spheres of the plant



Zayne Barney and their buddies group picture from the social



Eden Sigo enjoying her root beer float she earned for showing exemplary tustworthiness



Keesha and Jamie brought in tacos for all the Native Ed kiddos to start the final semester off in a good way



Satayla beating Mr Cahoon at the game of Pencils; she then proceeded to beat me



Keesha and Jamie sitting in the Lushootseed lesson with the 6th graders



Jennifer Scott reading her story The Trees Talk and sharing the vibrant illustrations



Higher Education

Higher Education students,
 Just a reminder that summer quarter is by special request only! You must write a special request letter to the Education Commission along with a Memorandum of Commitment, summer class schedule, and official grades from spring 2025. The deadline for summer 2026 is June 5th. Also, August 7th is the deadline to turn in all completed paperwork for the 2026/2027 school year. New and returning students will need to complete the packet for the 2025 fall quarter/semester. Paperwork can be emailed or picked up at the Education Department from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please feel free to give me a call or email.

Don't forget to turn your final grades and any receipts from spring quarter/semester in by July 1st.

Thank you,

Mandy Valley, Higher Education Coordinator
 mvalley@squaxin.us



Teen Program

Teen Council Updates

PSA: BUTTON ROBE CEREMONY

Keesha Vigil-Snook - The Button Robe Ceremony will take place on May 15th at 6:00 p.m. Join us at SHS in the SUB to celebrate.

Spring Break Recap

Our teens had an amazing and busy spring break full of fun, connection, and big accomplishments. We kicked things off with the Youth Council's very first event, a community car wash, and it was a huge success. We are so proud of our teens for stepping up, working together, and showing leadership. This was a big milestone for them, and they did an incredible job from start to finish.

We also want to give a big thank you to our community for showing up and supporting our youth. Whether you stopped by for a wash, donated, or helped spread the word, your support truly means so much and helps build confidence in our young leaders.

On Wednesday, they went to see the new Mario movie, which was a highlight for many. Thursday was all about bowling, lots of laughs, friendly competition, and good energy all around. To wrap up the week, the group explored Kneeland Park on Friday and enjoyed some Taco Bell together, a perfect way to wind down after a long week.

Overall, it was a great spring break filled with positive experiences, teamwork, and memories. We are so proud of our Youth Council and excited to see all the great things they continue to do.



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 -





Shelton High School

Isabelle LeClair - Hello from Shelton High School!

Don't forget to come to our annual TV Button Robe ceremony that will be held on Friday the 15th of May from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the SHS SUB.

That's it for our announcements at this time.

I would love to do a student spotlight for one of our amazing seniors... Keona Rocerco! I have had the privilege of working with Keona all four years of high school. Keona has been such an amazing human being to work with. I am beyond proud of all the hard work he has put into getting that diploma in June! I have seen Keona overcome adversity and challenges that have come his way, and it is amazing watching and supporting this young man's growth. School has not always been easy, but Keona has put in work these past few years and all the hard work is paying off. He has two more months of school, then we celebrate him and all the rest of the class of 2026 in June! Keona, I'm so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. We cannot wait to see what you do next!



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





LEARNING CENTER



Pool Easter Egg Hunt



May 2026 Pool Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	2 CLOSED
3 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	4 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	5 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	6 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 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 - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	9 LS/OS: 8:30 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 - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	13 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 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 - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	16 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
17 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	18 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	19 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	20 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 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 - 1:30 PM CLOSED: 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM	23 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
24 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	25 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM	26 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM EA: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM LS/OS: 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM	27 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 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 - 1:30 PM ASP: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	30 LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM CLOSED for PPP: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM LS/OS: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
						31

Key:
 LS: Lap Swim
 OS: Open Swim
 EA: Elders Aerobics
 ASP: After School Program
 PPP: Private pool party

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



LEARNING CENTER



After School Program

Kasia Seymour - April was a fun month! We had conference week March 30th - April 2nd. We were open 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

We had some awesome activities for the youth. The kids were swimming Monday and Wednesday from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., playing outside in the sunny weather on the playground, playing basketball in the gym, and taking a trip over to T' Peeksin Park. Youth also got to make their own creations using ironing beads, and tiny animal creations with pipe cleaners.

The following week was spring break for Griffin and Shelton schools; we were open April 6-10th from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Youth had a fun week planned out with Navajo Calisthenics Abram Benally here to host the Ninja Warrior Camp. The course was here on April 6 - 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The obstacle course that was set up for the youth included ropes, monkey bars, a hanging bar, cones to run around, a large tire to lift and push, and tubes to go through, then a climbing wall that the youth had to run up to finish! They started with introductions, games and then moved into the challenges. It was cool to watch. It was a great experience for the youth to learn about calisthenics, stretching, and just hav-

ing plain fun. We also had other things happening during spring break. Youth got to swim with their friends on Monday, April 6th - Wednesday, April 8th from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., play outside at the playground and play games in the rec room. It got competitive during the fun table games Tapple and Hook and Ring! The youth challenged staff and each other, and it was exciting to see them having fun.

We made Jello rainbow cookies on Friday with six different Jello flavors! The cookies were super sweet, but all of the youth had a blast participating in the cooking project together! Also, on Friday, Sara and Tanalee took the youth over to get their wiggles out and play at the T' Peeksin Park.

On Tuesday, April 7th, we took the bus on a field trip to Shelton Cinemas to watch the new release Super Mario Galaxy movie. This was fun for the youth to experience. They got to get some snacks, drinks, and popcorn. The youth had a great time sitting with their friends and watching the movie!

Stay tuned for the upcoming May after school 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. The rec room number is (360) 432-3986.



Spring Break playing games in Rec room



May 2026

Rec Room: 360-432-3986

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 1 Sunday Friday: Swimming 4:30-5:30pm
After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 4 Cultural Activity: Beading	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 5 Cooking Activity: Fruity Pebble Pretzels	After school Program: 2:30-6:00pm 6 Traditional Medicine: Wild Rose Swimming 4:30-5:30pm GSD early release @ 2:30pm	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 7 DIY Rose Painting plastic bag+Fork	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 8 Sunday Friday: Mother's Day Activity Swimming 4:30-5:30pm
After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 11 Cultural Activity: Medicine bags	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 12 Cooking Activity: Flower Cookies	13 Tribe Closed American Indian Holiday	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 14 DIY Pennant name Flags	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 15 Sunday Friday: Play dough Swimming 4:30-5:30pm
After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 18 Cultural Activity: Beading	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 19 Cooking Activity: Eggless Cinnamon Rolls	After school Program: 2:30-6:00pm 20 Traditional Medicine: Wild Rose Swimming 4:30-5:30pm GSD early release @ 2:30pm	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 21 DIY Q-Tip Blossom Paint	After school Program: 8:30-3:00pm 22 Sunday Friday: Nature Walk GSD & SSD Non School Day
25 Tribe Closed Memorial Day	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 26 Cooking Activity: Rice Crispies	After school Program: 1:30-6:00pm 27 Traditional Medicine: Wild Rose Swimming 4:30-5:30pm SSD 1.5-hour Early Release GSD early release @ 2:30pm	After school Program: 3:00-6:00pm 28 DIY Pastel Art	After school Program: 12:30-6:00pm 29 Movie Night 4:30-6:00pm Swimming 4:30-5:30pm GSD early release 12:30
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.



After School Program

Conference week and spring break activities - Ninja warrior camp and field trip to Shelton cinemas - Super Mario Galaxy movie



Maddy, Satayla, Milah, Coach Keona, Elaine and Abram playing Capture the Flag



Maddy, Louis, Coach Keona, Elaine, Satayla, Abram, Finn and Milah playing Capture the Flag



Our Top 3 winners from the showcase! (Left to right) Roklyn Peterson won 3rd place, Maddie Raham won 1st place and Andre Roberts won 2nd place



Mario Galaxy



Toby, Totten and Andre enjoying the new Super Mario Galaxy



Toby Lewis practicing the monkey bars!



Casabi, Maddy, Jose, Kacen and Fox waiting patiently for their turn



Alberto and Madiosn



Coach Syncere and Toby during Ninja Warrior



Lillie during Ninja Warrior



Louis Algea and Abram demonstrating push-ups!



Fox Sam taking on the challenge of the see-saw!



Barney Cooper flipping the tire, way to go Barney!



LEARNING CENTER



Sports Ninja Warrior

Coach Tae'Lor Glass - Spring Break, our youth got the opportunity to get some mentorship from Abram Benally, a Navajo Native who participated in the TV show, "American Ninja Warrior"! Our youth had the opportunity to work on teamwork, team building, and learn new skills they had never tried before. We cant wait to have Abram back, and the kids are already talking about practicing their skills to show Abram how they have improved, for next time!" -



Nation during Ninja Warrior



Jose on the obstacle course



Capture the Flag during Ninja Warrior



Ninja Warrior Camps - Abram Benally gathering the youth for the start of the course



Ninja Warrior Camps- Abram Benally gathering the Youth for the start of the course



Madison, Jose, Kacen, Fox and Nanalaeya waiting to do the push up challenge during Ninja Warrior Camp



Toby and Casahi



The youth working on team building with Abram in the ball field



Milab participating in Ninja Warrior Camp 2026



Taylor Krise sharing his Rez Ball knowledge with our young 10u boys at practice! Thank you, Taylor!



Our 10u team warming up for their game against Puyallup. They won and are undefeated!



Time to dance! Our girls are getting their routine ready for their performance at Splash City!



Wednesday Scrimmage! All teams practice together to work on their skills and teamwork



Healing Together: Strength, Connection, and Hope in Our Community

May is Mental Health Awareness Month - a time to pause, reflect, and uplift one another. In Native communities across the Pacific Northwest, we carry deep traditions of resilience, connection, and care. Our history holds both strength and pain, and within that truth lies the opportunity for healing-together.

Mental health is not something we face alone. It lives within our families, our stories, our ceremonies, and our shared experiences. Many in our community carry the weight of grief, depression, anxiety, and generational trauma. These struggles are real, and they deserve acknowledgment - not silence. For too long, pain has been carried quietly. But healing begins when we speak, when we listen, and when we stand beside each other without judgment.

Our ancestors understood the importance of community. They knew that wellness comes from balance - mind, body, spirit, and connection to the land and each other. Today, we can return to those teachings by supporting one another with love, patience, and forgiveness. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting the past; it means freeing ourselves from the burden of carrying pain alone. It allows space for growth, understanding, and peace.

Coming together as a community can take many forms. It may be checking in on a relative, sitting with a friend who is struggling, or simply offering a kind word. It may be gathering in circles to share stories, participating in cultural practices, or seeking support from counselors and Elders. Every act of care-no matter how small-helps strengthen the web that holds us together.

Facing mental health challenges can feel overwhelming, but there is courage in acknowledging them. There is strength in saying, "I need help," and even more strength in offering that help to others. When we normalize these conversations, we create a safer space for our youth, our Elders, and everyone in between to feel seen and supported. Healing does not happen overnight. It is a journey - one that may include moments of struggle alongside moments of hope. But when we walk that path together, healing becomes possible. Our shared love, our cultural roots, and our willingness to support one another are powerful tools for change. This Mental Health Awareness Month, let us commit to showing up for each other. Let us lead with compassion, speak with honesty, and listen with open hearts. Together, we can build a community where no one feels alone in their struggles-where healing is not only possible, but shared.

We are stronger together.



New Child and Family Therapist at Behavioral Health Outpatient

My name is Arielle Wortman and I will be serving as the new Child and Family therapist at Squaxin Island Behavioral Health Outpatient.

I have worked with children and families for ten years as a Mental Health Counselor on the peninsula, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to come serve this community.

Working with young children looks different from the typical therapy setting for adults. Children exercise powerful healing capacities when they are given the safety and freedom to communicate using imagination and play; so, at BHOP we have set up a playroom with children's experiences in mind.

Children's voices can be the hardest to hear when families are dealing with life changes, loss, trauma, or social injustice. My work focuses on listening to children. Whether dealing with challenging behaviors, abuse, attachment issues, or just adjusting to life circumstances, all healing begins with deep listening and creating a foundation of trust.

I work with family members throughout therapy to support healthy, strong connections. And I also work with teachers, school administrators, CPS, courts, and doctors to advocate for children's needs within complex systems.

Play therapy can be suitable for children as young as two years old, and up through adolescence. If you are curious about these services for you or a family member, please call or stop by BHOP (360) 426-1582.

MAMMOGRAM SCHEDULE 2026

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

February THURSDAY 02/26/2026	June THURSDAY 06/25/2026
May THURSDAY 05/07/2026	July THURSDAY 07/09/2026
	September THURSDAY 9/10/2026

NAVIGATOR: Clara Hernandez
(360) 427-9006

To Schedule your appointment please contact your patient navigator.





COMMUNITY



5/1
 Ali Lewis Seymour
 Jeremiah Tosh Lewis
 Leo Eugene Henry
 Sacred Korndorfer-Seymour

5/2
 Brendan Louis Kirk
 Julio Manuel Valencia
 Robert James Jones
 Shaelynn Flora Clark
 Veronica May James

5/3
 Kim Renee Cooper
 Krystal Ivy Murray
 Xavien Malosi Manu-Saenz

5/4
 Kenai Anthony James
 Lillie Shirley Ann Dorland

5/5
 Ahree Kyla Allen
 Daniel Blaze Snyder
 Lauren Mackenzie Costello
 Payton John Lewis

5/6
 Jacqueline Clare Smith
 5/6 Justin Cruz Saenz-Garcia
 5/6 Raven Rose Thomas

5/7
 Eric Bryant Castro
 Jaidon Israel Henderson
 osiah Legend Perez

5/8
 Ashley Mariah Renee Smith

5/9
 Colleen Kaye Merriman
 Jacob Donald Spezza
 Justin David Johns
 Morningstar Theresa Green
 Takoda Noelani Tahkeal

5/10
 Breanna Madelaine Woslager
 Kassidy Rose Whitener

5/11
 Jeromy Scott Meyer

5/12
 Janelle Malynn Krise

5/13
 Dawn Marie Green
 Julie Merrae Owens
 Syrus Paul Barry Perez

5/14
 Kaeo Sakari Stratton
 Marlene Kaye Anderson
 Treyson Francis Spezza

5/16
 Lauren Rosander

5/17
 Bryan Alan Johnson
 Christi Jean Sharp
 Donna Mary Wood
 Jaclyn Evasue Meyer
 Kasper Mae Allen
 Niko Daniel Lee Howland

5/18
 Barrett Warren Coble
 Marlene Kaye Hobucket
 Mason Jay Lehman
 Shawnee Renee Kruger
 Wolf Deschain Slagle James

5/19
 Bristol Alexis Sigo
 Emma Jo Velador

5/20
 Tenisha Lorena McNish

5/21
 Jamey Lewis Tom
 Jennie Sasalle Martin
 Kyllanai Elizabeth Hodgson
 Richard Collen Harper

5/22
 Carly Rose-Yeschid Peters
 Melissa Rae Grant
 Richard Lee Monger Jr.
 Tamatha Dionne Ford

5/23
 Levi Lee Sanchez
 Michael Stewart Ogden
 Theresa Lee Sanchez
 Tiffany Ann York

5/24
 Alexandra Isabelle Mirka
 Donald Franklin Hartwell Jr.
 Nicholas Scott Meyer

5/25
 Raymond Anthony Peters
 Spirit Rose Jones

5/26
 Craig Woodburn Parker
 Tyler Douglas Johns

5/27
 Elsie Ada Quinn Thale
 Jeremyha Steven James

5/28
 Cahsai Blueback-Robinson
 Kurt Ellsworth Poste

5/29
 Nanalaeya Marie Untalan
 Terry Tyam Johns

5/30
 Iladee King
 Matayla Margie Krise
 Nicholas Francis Cooper Jr.

5/31
 Candace Lee Ehrhard
 Daniel Sigo
 Melissa Ann Day
 Milah May Hawks



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



General Body Meeting

May 2

MMIP Walk

May 5

**Summer Youth Employment Resume Workshops
Summer Youth Employment Application Workshops**

May 7 & 14
May 14 & 21

Childcare Provider Appreciation Event

May 15

**WIC
Diaper Distribution
USDA**

May 4
May 8
May 8

COURT

Family	May 7	Beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Criminal	May 26	Beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Civil Court	May 26	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 4:
Chicken Fried Rice W/veggies

TUESDAY 5:
Tacos

WEDNESDAY 6:
Hot dogs and Chips

THURSDAY 7:
Chiviche

MONDAY 11:
Chicken Pot Pie

TUESDAY 12:
Hamburger Soup, Biscuits

WEDNESDAY 13:
CLOSED American Indian Day

THURSDAY 14:
Sandwich Bar, Chips

MONDAY 18:
Spaghetti, Garlic Toast, Corn

TUESDAY 19:
Seafood Soup, Buckskin Bread

WEDNESDAY 20:
Ham, Scalloped Potatoes,
Green Beans

THURSDAY 21:
Salmon, Roasted Red Potatoes,
Brussel Sprouts

MONDAY 25:
CLOSED Memorial Day

TUESDAY 26:
Italian Sausage, Potato Soup,
Breadsticks

WEDNESDAY 27:
Steak, Baked Potato, Broccoli

THURSDAY 28:
Indian Tacos



In Washington State, Help is 3 Numbers Away



South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

USDA Foods Program Delivery Date

Squaxin Island

5/8/26

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.



South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

Diaper Distribution

Squaxin Island Tribe

5/8/26

SPIPA IPC
10:00am-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.



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.

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, May 4th
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.