Annual Tribal Council Elections
June 27, 2020
Little Creek Events Center
Sign in starts at 8:30 a.m.

Elections will be held for:
Tribal Council Chairman
Tribal Council Member 1
Tribal Council Member 2

Social Distancing Measures will be in place for a safe meeting of our tribal community. Measures include but are not limited to:

- Eligible Squaxin Voters Only. No Spouses and No Children.
- Social Distance measures will be taken for seating and lines
- Face coverings (masks) will be required.
- Temperature checks at the door.
- Separate seating in the casino ballrooms for at risk members.

Meeting may be cancelled between now and the event date if it is deemed unsafe due to pandemic.

Please let Elections Committee know your thoughts at elections@squaxin.us.
Visit www.squaxinisland.org/elections/ for more information.
Face Masks

Pam Hillstrom - Recently, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended wearing cloth face masks while out in public where social distancing may be difficult to achieve. Whether we like it or not, this is one of the “new norms” that we have been told would be coming.

Retail stores are beginning to require you have one on before being admitted into their store, so I thought face masks would be a good topic to cover this month.

The general population is asked to use cloth face masks. Surgical N95 masks, also known as PPE (personal protective equipment), are typically used by, and should be reserved for, medical workers or first line responders during this short supply.

It is the Tribe’s first priority to keep our people safe and there are a few masks that can be handed out. If they’re available, you can get one at the pharmacy while picking up your prescriptions.

Remember wearing the face masks is about slowing the potential spread of the Coronavirus. It is important to recognize that it doesn’t prevent your risk of contracting the virus, nor should it give you false sense of security that you are immune by wearing a mask. First, and foremost, it is still recommended to do all of the following:

• Social distancing—stay home! If you must go out, avoid gatherings or crowded places and stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
• Wash your hands often with either soap and water for 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitizer that has at least 60% alcohol,
• Cover your cough with a single use tissue, or cough into your elbow; then wash your hands,
• Avoid touching your face—your eyes, nose, or mouth. If you must, then wash your hands afterwards,
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects daily, such as, door knobs.

An effective cloth face mask should be stored in a clean bag or container until ready to use. It should cover and fit snug around the nose, chin, and the sides of the face and be secured with ties, loops, or elastic around your ears. The mask should also have multiple layers of tightly woven fabric, be washable, and allow for breathing without restriction. Children under two should not wear one nor should anyone who has difficulty breathing or is unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Go to our CERT website at: https://squaxinisland.org/community/community-emergency-response-team-cert/ for links on the following:

• Patterns for how to make face masks, including a no sew version,
• How to safely wear and take off your face mask, and
• What is the best material to use to make a face mask.

Whether you purchase or make your own face mask, you should wash your hands first before putting on your face mask. Once your mask is on, you should keep it on your face the entire time you’re out in public. CDC recommends not to remove, drop/raise the mask around your neck or forehead, and don’t touch the face covering. Remove once you return home, by the strings or ties, and drop into the washing machine. If you must remove the mask when you are away from home, drop into a bag by the ties and secure. Finish by washing your hands for at least 20 seconds. Cloth face masks should only be worn once between washings. Ideally you should have several cloth face masks on hand and stored in a clean bag or container so you are not tempted to use more than once.

We hope you found this article helpful and that you are practicing all of CDC’s recommendation to keep yourself, your family, and your neighbors safe.

For more information on COVID-19 or face masks, go to: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.
Mason Fire 4 Mascot Siren brings Operation Smiles to Squaxin

Mason Fire 4 crew set out to bring smiles to the neighborhoods they serve with a staged escape of their furry fire mascot, Siren. Fire Chief Bob Burbridge wanted to find a way to socialize while practicing social distancing, and Siren met the call! “Operation Smiles” was underway.

“We were so excited to see the many smiling faces, posters that the kids created, and the energy on social media as Siren brought smiles to kids of all ages,” said Chief Burbridge who went on to add, “Fire departments encompass the spirit of serving, and we also miss our interactions with our communities.”

During COVID-19, Mason Fire 4 has partnered even more closely with Squaxin Island Tribe and its Emergency Operations Center. “It’s an honor to work in the capacity of Assistant Area Commander and to be an asset to the Squaxin Island Tribe,” said Chief Burbridge.

The partnership between the Tribe and the Fire District has allowed for the creation of a position for a COVID-19 Safety Officer who has primary responsibility for ensuring all first-responders remain as safe and protected as possible. This further enhances the safety of communities served as Mason Fire 4 crew are interacting with community members on calls. The safety officer is available during every shift, and as part of their responsibilities, they ensure vehicle decontamination, PPE (personal protective equipment) inspection, and PPE training as a response to incidents where COVID-19 is suspected.

Mason Fire 4 continues outreach to their communities while placing safety and education as top priorities as we all navigate new guidelines, requirements, and risks posed by COVID-19. “We have something special planned for June… but we are still working out the details as we ensure that we meet state reopening guidelines, but also continue to bring education, information, and a little inspiration to all the communities served by Mason Fire 4,” said Chief Bob Burbridge.

For the Fire District online newsletter, or to sign up for the email newsletter, visit your fire partners at www.masonfire4.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/MCFD4.

The Tribe and the fire district are working closely with Mason County and State DNR personnel.

Thank you all very much!
Your health is the best defense for COVID-19!

Now, more than ever, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is paramount. Coronavirus is proving to be detrimental for those with weakened immune systems. The best way to fight off something like the coronavirus is living a healthy lifestyle where a strong body and immune system can create a barrier to many different infections.

Multiple studies have linked moderate exercise with decreased rates of influenza, pneumonia, and other infections, as well as chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. Although being physically fit is not a fail-safe protection against the virus, it can support our immune system in a variety of ways including; reducing inflammation, increasing the presence of innate immune cells, all of which support our body’s defense mechanisms.

This pandemic has caused stress, uncertainty and fear. Often, those feelings can lead to emotional eating/drinking, a lack of focus and a sedentary lifestyle. It is critical to focus on what is important: You and your loved ones.

What better time to change, than now? Pair up with a friend or family member to help hold each other accountable. Even if that includes a quick text to check in with each other. A little bit of accountability goes a long way!

Already leading a healthy lifestyle? Now is a great time to help others who might not know where to start. Helping others not only improves own situation, but also helps hold ourselves accountable. Reach out to someone for even a short walk around the neighborhood. Being outside does wonders to clear the mind. Now is the time to work together as a community, to keep each other healthy! It’s easier to do things for others, than it is for ourselves. Even when it comes to health. Now might be a good time to teach your children about healthy options and cooking at home. There is Math and Home Economics to be learned in the kitchen, and once the meal is done, PE to be done outside!

More than ever, our wellbeing is imperative. The only thing we have the ability to control is our own actions, and the best defense against this virus is within our control - our own health. Healthy mind, healthy body and healthy spirit.

In every challenge lies the seed of opportunity. What is the seed that you will nurture and grow?
Here is the amount of confirmed cases of COVID-19 on a weekly basis in Washington State. The first case was recorded on February 24, 2020. The first day of the stay-at-home order was March 24, 2020. Two weeks later, April 6, 2020, note the large decline in new cases. Let’s continue to do our part to keep that graph going and staying down.

**What is a CERT?**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

An emergency event can be anything from a car accident to a winter storm or maybe the Big One – a major earthquake. A group of dedicated Squaxin Island employees began working to help the community be better prepared. Members of the Community Emergency Preparedness Workgroup include Mitzi Whitener, John Taylor, Pam Hillstrom, Diane Deyette, and Sadie Whitener. The first action item on our list was to establish a CERT.

**Staying Home Works!**

To enroll, your child must be 5 on or before August 31st.

Enrollment packets will be available to pick up at Bordeaux Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, and Mt. View Elementary every Monday through June 15th from 9:00 AM-Noon & 5:00 – 7:00 PM (Except for Memorial Day, May 25th – Packets will be available on Tuesday, May 26th instead.)

Enrollment forms can also be found on the school district website: https://www.sheltonschools.org/families/enrollment/elementary_school_forms

The following documents must be included with your completed enrollment packet:
- Birth certificate
- Medically verified immunization record
- Proof of address

Please contact your neighborhood school secretaries to set up an appointment to drop off your completed packet. When calling please leave a message and know that you will hear back from someone within 48 hours.

Use the following link to find your neighborhood school: https://www.sheltonschools.org/families/what_school_to_attend

Mt. View Elementary Secretaries: (360) 426-8564
Julie Politz- jpolitz@sheltonschools.org
Gwen Hansen- gmhansen@sheltonschools.org

Evergreen Elementary Secretaries: (360) 545-7338
Iremly Ibarra- iibarra@sheltonschools.org
Veronica Lawrence- vlawrence@sheltonschools.org

Bordeaux Elementary Secretaries: (360) 426-3253
Renee Millar- rmillar@sheltonschools.org
Travis Osier- tosier@sheltonschools.org

**Welcome Kindergarten class of 2033!**
**Spring Means Smolt Trapping**

Reprint - the wrong photos (theresa’s fault) were printed last month - Sorry Daniel Kuntz, Danny Snyder, and Keenan Vigil!

Daniel Kuntz - Every fall some natural origin Coho adults return to area streams to spawn. While keeping a tab on these adult fish is rather difficult, an efficient method to monitoring their population is to trap out-migrating juveniles. Every spring for the past 21 years, the Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department has installed fish traps in local streams. The goal of the project is to monitor timing and enumerate out-migrating juvenile Coho. We accomplish this by installing weir and rotary screw traps along with marking fish for release and recapture. Traps are installed below observed Coho spawning locations on Skookum, Goldsborough, Gosnell, and Mill Creeks.

Weir traps are constructed with a series of panels made from wood frames and coated wire mesh. They divert 100% of the fish traveling downstream into a live box where they are held. Each day Natural Resources staff clean the panels and release the fish from the live box after recording length and total number observed. The other trap style we use is a rotary screw. Pontoons support a 5’ diameter aluminum drum that is rotated by the flow of the creek. Fish are funneled into a live box where they are counted and released daily. These traps have less impact to the creek and can handle more water flow. The downside is they do not catch 100% of the fish passing downstream.

In order to determine the total number of fish, we use a mark/recapture methodology, meaning we mark fish captured in the trap and release them back up above the trap and capture them again. When we know the percentage of fish we recaptured out of the upstream release, we can apply it to the known total number of fish captured in a season to determine the total number of fish passing downstream. This test is conducted multiple times throughout the season.

Although fisheries in the terminal areas of southern Puget Sound are not managed for natural origin fish, these populations are important to the Squaxin Island Tribe. Additionally, our Coho data is used by regional fishery managers to estimate the smolt production of southern Puget Sound streams, evaluate problematic changes in habitat or environmental conditions, and begin to form spawning escapement goals.
Community

Census
The National rate is 59.6%, the state is at 64.9%.

The top ten reservation response rates:
Port Gamble S’Klallam 75.2%
Puyallup 66.9%
Port Madison 60.6%
Swinomish 58.6%
Tulalip 56.7%
Muckleshoot 54.0%
Nisqually 52.7%
Shoalwater Bay 51.2%
Lummi 50.2%
Lower Elwha 48.2%

Apply for a Census Job:

Respond When You Receive Your 2020 Census Invitation
If your tribal area hasn’t received census materials yet, we will deliver them soon. Please respond when you receive yours.

Why haven’t I received a census invitation yet?
We determined in collaboration with your tribal leaders that having census workers drop off census materials in some areas is the best way to count people living on your tribal lands. COVID-19 delayed delivery to your area.

Can I respond now?
Please wait to respond until you receive your census materials.
In your tribal area, the best way to respond is with the unique Census ID we provide. When you receive your materials, you can choose to:

- Complete and mail back the enclosed paper questionnaire.
- Call to respond using your Census ID.
- Respond online using your Census ID.

What if I’ve already responded?
We’re working to match the address you provided to our address list, but we may need to visit you later.

If we can’t match your address, census takers may visit to verify the address you provided and may visit to collect your responses in person. We want to ensure we count everyone in the right place.

Connect with us
@uscensusbureau
For more information:
2020CENSUS.GOV
D-13-09-EN-021

Shape our future
START HERE >

Squaxin Island Tribe - Klah-Che-Min Newsletter - June 2020 - Page 7
**Sgwi’ Gwi Update**

The calendar rolls on and schools at all levels are still just as challenged by the coronavirus as they were last month. Huge concerns for the health and safety of the Squaxin community also extend to the annual Sgwi’ Gwi Celebration. Originally planned for Friday, June 19th, Sgwi’ Gwi is our annual raising of our hands to honor the academic achievements of graduates of the Squaxin community, and encouraging younger students to continue to do their best.

Unfortunately, the 2020 Sgwi’ Gwi event is not going to happen. There are still far too many concerns with bringing hundreds of community members together for this celebration. We are reviewing plans to honor the achievements of students, and graduates will receive gifts - as is our way, but it will not be the large social gathering and community event we have grown accustomed to. We will keep everyone posted as we confirm the details.

**Tutoring is Still Available for Distance Learning**

Please check out the flyers about Tutoring in this month’s Klah-Che-Min. The Squaxin Tutors continue to be available to support students in lots of ways as distance learning continues for the schools. They have been reaching out to students and families, but please feel free to contact them as well.

- For Shelton High School, contact Julie Youngs at 360-470-1493, or at jyoung@squaxin.us. She can also be found on Facebook as Julie The Tutor.
- For OMS and OBJH, contact Lynn White at 360-701-7407 or at lwhite@squaxin.us. She can also be found on Facebook as Lynn The Tutor.
- For Bordeaux, contact Lynice May at lmay@squaxin.us.

**Attention Higher Education Students!**

Mandy Valley - Please remember to turn in your final grades and any receipts from spring quarter/semester by June 26th. If you are planning to apply to the Squaxin Island Education Commission for Higher Education Financial Aid, completed packets are due August 7th. New and returning students will need to complete the packet for the 2020 fall quarter/semester. Packets are available now and can be picked up at the Education Department between 7:30-4:00 or they can be emailed by request. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at 360-432-3883, or at mvalley@squaxin.us.

**Squaxin Teen Program News**

Jaimie Cruz - Over the course of the stay-at-home order and the Tribe’s State of Emergency, the teens have been meeting over Zoom. We recently just started a book club for two groups of youth, and we meet on Thursday’s with Youth Council. Most of the activities we are planning are virtual and, until we get the okay to do group activities, we will continue to meet virtually. With teens being at home, I will provide some resources for the youth to use if they wish. I am available to assist youth with downloading Zoom or helping them use the resources available to them.

On Tuesdays, we are meeting on Zoom with Laurel Wolff and we call these sessions Taco ‘Bout It. We do different art activities for youth, and it is a space for them to talk about anything. Laurel facilitates this group. If you would like to join, please contact myself or Laurel.

I did a porch drop-off of activity supplies to the youth who participated in the first round of the PSA and to some of the youth who participated in the Teen Program before the shutdown. If you are a youth, 12-18, who would like to be included in the activity supplies drop - please contact me, Jaimie Cruz, Squaxin Island Teen Advocate, at 360-742-6527 or jcruz@squaxin.us.

**Some online resources for teens to check out what is going on around us:**

- Native Wellness Institute is doing Facebook Live daily and if youth want they can tune in or go back to watch recordings of previous sessions at: https://www.nativewellness.com
- Check out the Center for Native American Youth at: https://www.cnay.org
- Take a look at WeRNative’s site at: https://www.wernative.org/.
- And, don’t forget: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1437056869847814 for the Squaxin Teens Facebook page
  or
  Squaxin.Teens on Instagram
Graduating this year? We want to honor you!
Please fill out this online form:
https://squaxin.formstack.com/forms/2020_graduates

Squaxin Teen Book Club
"There There" by Tommy Orange
Mondays 3 pm
Meeting ID: 892 3574 4544
Please contact Julie Youngs (jyoungs@squaxin.us) or Jaimie Cruz (jcruz@squaxin.us) for the password

Shelton high students
Mondays
11:00 Civics
1:00 Science Fiction
3:00 Book Club
Tuesdays
11:00 English 9
1:00 Sophomore English
Wednesdays
11:00 Algebra 1
1:00 Geometry
Thursdays
12:00 Algebra 2

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT
JULIE the TUTOR:
JYOUNGS@SQUAXIN.US
360-470-1493

ZOOM sessions with
JULIE the TUTOR

Tu Ha' Buts Learning Center
The Squaxin Tutors are here to help with distance learning

Shelton High School
Julie Youngs
Phone/Text: 360-470-1493
Facebook: Julie TheTutor
E-Mail: jyoungs@squaxin.us

Olympic Middle School/Oakland Bay Jr. High
Lynn White
Phone/Text: 360-701-7407
Facebook: Lynn Thetutor
E-mail: lwhite@squaxin.us

Bordeaux Elementary:
Lynice May
E-mail: lmay@squaxin.us
SQUAXIN TEENS PRESENTS COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE

Grab 'N' Go Meals
Squaxin Community has two locations for meals!

Squaxin Island Child Development Center will be offering meals 9am -12pm Monday through Friday. Pick Up at Daycare Squaxin Parks & Rec will be offering meals 12pm-2pm Mondays. Pick up at Squaxin Community Kitchen Person receiving the meal must be present.

Squaxin Behavior Health
Video chat session through the JCK Web Meeting app available to both Apple and Android users. If this is a route you are wanting to explore, please contact Kaitlyn at the front desk (360) 426-1582 to schedule or if you have access to your counselor through their work cell you can schedule a session with them.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MAIN LINE: (360) 4261582
Email: Kaitlyn – KNiel@Squaxin.us
Jessica – JDolge@Squaxin.us
MASON/THURSTON CRISIS CLINIC: (360) 586-2800

Teen Resources
Below are links for youth to access resources

Heads up guys- https://headsupguys.org/
Love is respect- https://www.lovesisrespect.org/
Teen Link- https://www.teenlink.org/

Lushootseed language
Below are links for youth to access language resources...

http://www.puyalluptriballanguage.org/about/
http://www.nisqually-tnn.gov/index.php/heritage/language
http://www.puyalluptriballanguage.org
https://tulaliplushootseed.com
https://www.youtube.com/results...

Physical Activity
Make sure you are getting up and moving for at least 20 minutes a day!

Walk, run, dance, play basketball, squats, jumping jacks, or any other form of physical activity will be great for your body and your mind.

The Squaxin Teen Program would like to encourage youth to check out these resources as often as needed. There are plenty more and we will make sure to make them available to the youth. Please remember to wash your hands and be kind, caring, and helpful during these difficult times.

Jamie Cruz
Teen Advocate
360-742-6527
jcruz@squaxin.us

SQUAXIN TEEN PROGRAM PRESENTS

TACO 'BOUT IT WITH LAUREL

Every Tuesday at 4 PM.
You can call in or video chat!
For meeting ID and code contact Jaimie Cruz
360-742-6527 or jcruz@squaxin.us

SQUAXIN TEEN PROGRAM PRESENTS

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday’s 4pm
Please contact Jaimie Cruz for meeting ID and code 360-742-6527
jcruz@squaxin.us
Child Development Center

During COVID-19 we are learning to adapt and overcome in many ways. On May 11th we were supposed to have our first kindergarten readiness night in hopes to support our families and their transitions to kindergarten. As restrictions to group limitations continue, we will modify the way we deliver our kindergarten readiness information this year. If you have any questions, or need resources please reach out to your child's teacher or Sabrina at the center sgreen@squaxincdc.org

Calling All SICDC Parents

As it get to the end of the “school” year we are getting ready to start our recruitment and eligibility for ECEAP and EHS for the 2020–2021 school year. We are also getting together information for kindergarten readiness. Watch our Facebook page for updates, and reach out to your child’s teacher if needed.

If you are interested in EHS or BCEAP contact Vicki (vharding@squaxincdc.org), Sabrina (sgreen@squaxincdc.org), or Savannah (sfenton@squaxincdc.org)

Early Head Start

Now Recruiting Pregnant Women and Children Birth to Three

Early Head Start Provides:
- Parent Training
- Health Screenings
- Family Support

Early Head Start programs provide family centered services for low income families with very young children.

Squaxin Island Child Development Center
Sabrina Green or Savannah Fenton
(360)426-1390

Free Quality Preschool for Your Child

ECEAP helps all children enter kindergarten ready to succeed

Who is eligible?
Children 3 years old or 4 years old by August 31st who are:
- From a family with a low annual income; or
- Qualify for school district special education services; or
- Have developmental or environmental risk factors that could affect school success.

Questions?
Squaxin Island Child Development Center
Sabrina Green or Savannah Fenton
(360)426-1390

ECEAP Provides:
- Preschool
- Nutritious meals & snacks
- Health screenings
- Family support

We are committed to high-quality preschool. Ask us about:
Salish Sea love letter (and a call to action)

A new book, “We Are Puget Sound | Discovering & Recovering the Salish Sea,” provides a roadmap to recovering the health of these waters off the coast of inland Washington state and British Columbia, with inspirational stories of what individuals are doing – and essays and photographs that remind the reader of what’s at stake. “Through exploitation and innocent neglect, we have made a mess, and together we have to clean it up,” Suquamish Tribe Chairman Leonard Forsman and People for Puget Sound director Mindy Roberts wrote in a chapter of the book.

“We Are Puget Sound | Discovering & Recovering the Salish Sea,” was published on Oct. 1, 2019 by Braided River, an imprint of Mountaineers Books, in partnership with the Washington Environmental Council. (The companion website is located at www.wearepugetsound.org.)
**Health Clinic**

**KEEP MOVING!**

**Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Stay Vaccinated!**

Keep your child safe by staying up to date on vaccinations during COVID-19. Clinics have changed to make it safe for your child to get needed vaccines.

While there isn’t a vaccine against COVID-19 yet, the good news is that vaccines can protect children from 14 other serious diseases. Delaying or missing vaccines could put your child, your family and your community at risk for these diseases. Vaccinating children on time is the best way to protect them.

Talk with your child’s doctor, nurse or clinic about the immunizations your child needs to stay healthy, and ask about the clinic’s safety measures to protect your family when you visit.

Do your part: Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Stay Vaccinated!

**Resources**

- Need help finding a doctor or clinic, or other health resources? Call the Help Me Grow Washington Hotline at 1-800-322-2588.
- Not sure if your child is up to date on their vaccines? Access their immunization record for free at wa.myir.net/register
- For additional information and resources about immunizations during COVID-19, visit immunity.wa.gov.

“We checked in by phone from outside the clinic and then were taken directly to a room, which was sanitized after we left. It was reassuring to see all the steps the office took to keep us safe.”

– Mother of a 14-month-old

**Resources for Families at Squaxin Island**

Here are just a few resources available at Squaxin Island:

- **Family Planning/Birth Control Resources:**
  - Call Squaxin Island Health Clinic at 360.427.9090 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Tobias. You can also schedule a “Birth Control Consultation” with Dr. Tobias to discuss options, pros, and cons.
  - **Squaxin Island Health Clinic offers:**
    - Prescriptions for birth control pills, patches and rings
    - Depo-Provera shots in the arm—given every 3 months
    - Nexplanon insert in the arm—lasts up to 3 years
    - Various IUDs with hormones and without
    - Condoms, and IO for plan B
    - Referrals for tubal ligation or vasectomies
  - In case you like to research options before your appointment, check out this website for reliable advice: www.bedsider.org.

- **Healthy Families Program**:
  - Call Patty at 360.462.3224, wicnutrition@sipia.org or Debbie at 360.462.3227, gardipee@sipia.org

- **Contact at SPIPA WIC for an appointment:**
  - Phone: 360.349.9027

**USDA FOODS**

- LIHEAP (formerly Commodity) applications online
- LIHEAP (Energy Assistance) - applications online
- or call SPIPA at 360.426.3990

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Washington State WIC Nutrition Program doesn’t discriminate.
Supporting Our Elders During the Pandemic

Submitted by Kyle Ferguson, PhD (Clinical Psychologist) at the Clinic - Over 1 million Americans have tested positive for COVID-19 – the nasty disease caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). If you think about it, it is incredible that something so small can bring the world to heel; the likes of which we have not seen in over a century.

The coronavirus is tiny RNA (genetic information) wrapped inside waxy layers of protein. It can only be seen by the most powerful microscopes. For perspective, if you were to blow the coronavirus up to the size of a tennis ball, a human would stand 500 miles tall! Given that outer space begins at about 62 miles, you would have to hold your breath and be sure to watch for orbiting satellites!

Though not all experts agree, some scientists maintain that the virus can survive in aerosols (fine particles) and remain airborne for 3 hours or more in confined spaces. Of course, that is not the case outdoors where coronavirus particles quickly disperse and are readily blown away by gusts of wind.

The U.S. makes up about a third of all confirmed COVID-19 cases in the world; which dwarfs all other countries. So it should come as no surprise that the U.S. also has the most COVID-19 related deaths. We lost over 71,000 souls to the novel coronavirus thus far. Unfortunately, there is no indication that the number will flatten anytime soon. In fact, experts predict a second “spike” in June, after stay-at-home restrictions are lifted.

Why Are Some People Affected Differently By The Virus?
The virus does not “discriminate” who it infects based on country of origin, age, gender, ethnicity, whether you think Nicolas Cage can act, or how many Picasso paintings you have hanging in your living room. Though once infected, the physical effects of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) are, however, much worse for some individuals than others. Why is that?

First, having serious preexisting health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and/or lung disease put individuals at much higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease. Once these vulnerable individuals are infected, they are more likely to be hospitalized and more likely to require ventilators for breathing. Once their immune systems become overwhelmed by the virus, these vulnerable individuals are also more likely to die from COVID-19-related complications.

Elders Are Hit Hardest by the Coronavirus
The second trait that puts an individual at increased risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease is age; in part, because the immune system weakens over time. Cheese and wine are the only things that get better with age – sadly not immune function.

Persons fifty-five and older are especially prone to having bad outcomes when infected with coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Incidentally, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about half of Americans ages 55 and older have at least one preexisting condition. Figure 1 below says it all. As of April 30, 2020, elders accounted for about 92% of COVID-19-related deaths.

“Opening up the Economy” Means More Elder Deaths
You probably have heard the term “flatten the curve,” which simply means slowing down the rate of coronavirus (SAR-CoV-2) infection. Slowing the infection rate ultimately means fewer people will die from COVID-19. Given that about 9 out of 10 COVID-19-related deaths are elders, flattening the curve will result in far fewer elder deaths.

We also cannot lose sight of the fact that actions like shelter-in-place – though effective at quelling the spread of coronavirus – have been brutal for the economy — so much so that over 30 million Americans have filed for initial unemployment claims, and countless others are working reduced hours or have otherwise been furloughed. And the country is rapidly approaching unemployment rates it has not seen since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Accordingly, there are two diametrically opposed forces at work. On the one hand, we have the highly infectious novel coronavirus, which continues to infect people at breakneck speed. As noted above, relaxing shelter-in-place orders will virtually take the foot off the brake and we will see the number of newly infected cases go up (the so-called “second spike” expected in June). On the other hand, opening up the U.S. for “business” might be good for the economy. Of course, this will all happen in stages – not all at once.

The Country Will “Open” for Some...Not All
As they are at greater risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease, it is reasonable to assume that elders have been stricter with practicing social or physical distancing because — to put it frankly — they have more to lose (potentially their lives). Social distancing can morph into social isolation for those elders cut off from family and friends. Some senior apartments, assisted living facilities, and skilled nursing facilities have been in “lockdown” during the pandemic, sealing residents off from visitors.

To add insult to injury, many elders are less tech-savvy than younger persons and therefore less comfortable with virtual solutions like FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom; further adding to their sense of isolation. It is therefore not hyperbole — many elders have been suffering the most during the pandemic.

Social isolation in elders has been linked to increased depression and suicidal thoughts. Prolonged social isolation, moreover, triggers a rush of stress hormones causing more inflammation in the body. Incidentally, inflammation is how the body heals itself (by releasing chemicals that provoke an immune response) whenever you roll an ankle off the curb, slice your finger while cutting vegetables, or are exposed to environmental toxins (“toxins” might include cable news networks!).

Prolonged or chronic inflammation, however, decreases anti-viral immune responding in elders, which further increases their vulnerability to infection. Recall that the immune system weakens as we age. Prolonged stress thus breaks down an already compromised immune system even further.

The U.S. does not have adequate testing to date to identify those individuals infected with the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2); despite all the victory laps you might have seen politicians making on television. Only a week or two ago the U.S. – the wealthiest nation in the world – ranked 44th, as far as testing is concerned (accounting for just over 1% of the population).

There is mounting evidence that over half of younger individuals infected with the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) do not show symptoms. We, therefore, have no way of knowing who is infected barring universal testing. Younger persons often do not show signs of fever, so taking temperature is almost pointless. It is something that is more effective at calming nerves because it gives people a false sense of hope that we are actually doing something about the COVID-19 threat.

Figure 1. COVID-19 deaths: 55 and older (Elders) versus persons younger than 55
Accordingly, we are “opening the country’s doors for business” blindly (which is why experts anticipate a second spike in the coming weeks).

In the absence of universal testing and effective contact tracing (i.e., tracking down individuals who have come into contact with infected individuals), it is anyone’s guess who has COVID-19. Elders risk their lives every time they step outside or otherwise interact with the “outside” world. Elders with chronic illness are especially vulnerable.

We are a long way off from inventing a vaccine; which means elders will be sheltering-in-place for more weeks, perhaps, months to come. As a society, we need to step up our game to support them who, after all, built the society on which we stand.

**How to Support Elders**

The threat of infection is not over. As indicated, elders are especially vulnerable to the coronavirus. Don’t let your guard down. Practice social or physical distancing. Keep a distance of over 6 ft. between you and elders. Keep yourself safe too. Avoid crowds. Wash your hands for the time it takes you to sing your ABCs. Keep yourself safe too. Avoid crowds. Wash your hands for the time it takes you to sing your ABCs. Don’t touch your face (pretend you just touched gum under a bench).

Act as if you are already infected with the virus because, who knows, you might very well be and not even know it. It is important to state this again: Many young people spread the virus and don’t have symptoms. Wear a mask when around other people, especially elders. Masking works best when infected individuals are the ones wearing them – to stop the spread of the virus. Virus particles are even found in the breath we exhale.

Sweat the small stuff. Drop off fresh fruit and vegetables, and ask elders whether they need anything on your next trip to the grocery store or drug store. Deliver masks, soap, hand gel, and disinfecting wipes. You don’t have to overdo it, but a spare mask or two often comes in handy when elders have to make an unexpected trip away from home. Don’t forget: Toilet paper is always welcome! It won’t go to waste (pun intended!).

Emergency contacts. Help elders create a contact list for emergencies that includes family, friends, trusted neighbors, healthcare providers, among other community resources.

Stay in touch. When out and about don’t let out-of-sight become out-of-mind. Regular phone contacts can help homebound elders.

Elders are veritable treasure troves of information. Routinely ask for elders’ advice. Studies show that elders find their lives more meaningful when given the opportunity to give advice and share information. Have them teach you basket weaving, drum making, beading, Lushootseed…The sky is the limit (even if you are 500 miles tall!).

Have elders read to your children over the phone or via video chat. Perhaps, ask an elder to sing your child or children to sleep. Heck, ask him or her to sing you to sleep for old times’ sake!

Invite them to dinner with you virtually… every night (if they can stomach your family!). You might have to provide technical assistance.

Ask them how they are doing (and mean it). Think of how stir crazy you might be feeling during shelter-in-place. Then think about how elders might be feeling being cooped up alone in a tiny apartment or home – especially those elders who are housebound. Let them vent, if need be. You would be frustrated too in their situation.

As cheesy as it might sound, a little kindness goes a long way. No small gesture goes unnoticed. Now, stop what you are doing and make someone’s day special…
Tribal Families:

Complete Health Screening at
Squaxin Island Tribal
General Body

Health Screening postponed—
New Date and New Event to Be Determined

When: 8:30 am —10:30 am
Saturday June 27, 2020
Where: Event Center
Lobby

Double Your Fun!

It’s time to enjoy the outdoors!
Take your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew with you.
The result? Two big smiles!

If you have any of these symptoms, call the clinic at (360) 427-9006 for an appointment with your provider.

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

USDA Foods Program
June Dates

PT. GAMBLE S’KLALLAM 6/3/20
SQUAXIN ISLAND 6/9/20
CHEHALIS 6/15/20
SKOKOMISH 6/18/20
NISQUALLY 6/22/20

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.
Elders Menu . . . Fruit and salad at every meal

**MONDAY 1:**
Biscuits w/ Gravy, Hash Browns, Boiled Egg

**MONDAY 8:**
Chicken Pot Pie w/ Veggies

**MONDAY 15:**
Twice Baked Potato Casserole, Carrots

**MONDAY 22:**
Hamburgers, Potato Salad

**MONDAY 29:**
Tuna Sandwiches, Chips

**TUESDAY 2:**
Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Ham & Cheese Palmiers

**TUESDAY 9:**
Italian Sausage Potato Soup, Breadsticks

**TUESDAY 16:**
Tomato Basil Ravioli Soup, Grilled Cheese

**TUESDAY 23:**
Navy Bean Soup, Turkey Sandwiches

**TUESDAY 30:**
Chili, Corn Bread

**WEDNESDAY 3:**
Orange Chicken, Rice, Oriental Veggies

**WEDNESDAY 10:**
Tator Tot Casserole, Green Beans

**WEDNESDAY 17:**
Chicken Strips, Steak Fries

**WEDNESDAY 24:**
Sausage Pasta Bake, Broccoli

**THURSDAY 4:**
Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Mixed Veggies

**THURSDAY 11:**
Pizza w/ Meat and Veggies

**THURSDAY 18:**
Pork Lo Mein w/ Veggies

**THURSDAY 25:**
Ground Turkey w/ Gravy over Rice

In an effort to provide additional safety precautions, the Elders staff will only be delivering meals to "Homebound" Elders at this current time. Elders who have met the requirements of "Homebound" will still call in to the Elders staff to request meals. Thank you for understanding.

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June is National Fruits and Vegetables Month

Submitted by Patty Suskin, Diabetes Coordinator

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**WHY LOVE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES?**

They’re super healthy

Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables helps reduce the risk of many diseases, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and some cancers. In addition, fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins and minerals that help you feel healthy and energized.

You can mix them with all sorts of dishes

While they’re delicious on their own, fruits and vegetables mix extremely well with countless dishes. From toppings to pizza, to supplementing a sandwich, to spicing up soups or salads, they provide something extra to your meal.

You can feel good helping them grow at the Squaxin Island Tribal Garden

We need your support!

There are many ways for you to get involved in your community garden.

We have tasks great and small: weeding, transplanting, packaging seeds, and light duty processing.

We are open for volunteers Monday through Thursday 8:00-4:30pm. Give us a call Aleta (360) 791-1797 or Elizabeth (360) 432-3978 or at Tribalgarden@Squaxin.us.

We are taking safety precautions by sanitizing all tools and common use areas, and following all social distancing guidelines.
June Happy Birthdays

1. Alexandrea Cooper-Lewis
   Alonzo Johnny Grant
   Jenene Joy Miller
   Kenai Alexander Blueback

2. Zachary Stuhqayo Johns

3. Francis Peterson
   Jayde Christina Jewell Smith
   Rocky Lane Bloomfield
   Tyrone Jade Krise

4. James Patrick Sen
   Malachi Richard Jean Johns
   Victoria Skye Rodriguez
   Wendy Michelle Schlottmann

5. Debra Kay Tennis
   Emily L. D. Whitener
   Julie Goodwin

6. Alyana Rose Van Horn
   Dominique McFarlane

7. David Brian Elam
   David Merle Krise
   Kim Lindy Olson
   Randall Gavin Aldrich
   Trisha Rae Blueback

8. Elizabeth Marie Seymour
   John Daniel Snyder
   Lori M. Hoskins

9. George William Sumner
   Julie Rose Van Horn
   Kimberly R Peterson
   Laken Nicole Gray
   Pamela Sue Hillstrom

10. Brandy Nicollete D’Angelo
    Tamie Jo Rioux

11. Alex C. Ehler

12. Brandon Michael Greenwood

13. Danielle Madison Hall
    Teresa Lynn Pfiff

14. Ana Marie Pinon
    Janette Melody Sigo
    Stephanie Lynne Tompkins

15. Casey E. Brown
    Kyndl M. Powell

16. Andre Maxwell Roberts
    Andrew Ernest Sigo
    Dorothy May Huff
    Kristin Robin Penn
    Trent Anthony Brown
    Yvonne Joy Bell

17. Heather Marie Perez
    Jackson Louis Cruz
    Kevin M. Bloomfield
    Ronald John Whitener

18. Armonie Rose McFarlane
    Daniel F. Napoleon
    Kamala Lee Smith
    Tasha Racquelle Rodriguez

19. Andrea Marie Sigo
    Jacob D. Johns
    Nicholas S. Armas
    Thomas L Farron
    Vicki Lee Kruger

20. Donald Edwin Whitener
    Eugene Edward Galos
    Jason Two Feather Longshore
    Shelby N. Todd
    Verna Beverly Henry II

21. Ann Marie Anderson
    Beau Michael Henry
    Jaime Charles McFarlane
    Kylieigh May Peterson
    Laurinda P. Thomas
    Rodney Louis Schuffenhauer
    Wynn Dale Clementson

22. Alexander James Smith
    Monica Eileen Nerney
    Rose Marie Henry

23. Desiree Jo Combes
    Tamika Sharon Green

24. Abigail Harleem Brandt
    Christopher David Cain

    Joanne Faye Decicio
    Katherine Elizabeth Smith

26. Andrew St. John Barker
    Arthur Richard Pleines
    Candace Anne Sumner Dani

27. Geraldine Elizabeth Bell
    Robert Lee Cooper

28. Hurricane Lucinda James
    Jeremiah Jack George

29. Fleet Thunder Sky Johns
    Jessica Leona Cruz
    Judah Krise Thal
    Kaitlyn Makenzie Burrow
    Zachary Hetzler II

30. Dakota Riley Lorentz
    Joshua Dylan Mason
    Nicole Marie Ducolon

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS in the matter of the
Estate of: Leanora Christine Krise Deceased.
Case No. CV-2020-03-11

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of the estate of Leanora Christine Krise. Mrs. Krise’s address at the time of her death was 10 SE Qua-Ta-Sat Circle, Squaxin Island Tribe Reservation, Shelton, Washington, 98584.

Any person having Claim against the decedent, or claiming to be an heir under the decedent’s will, must, within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of the first publication of this notice, present the claim in the manner as provided in Squaxin Island Tribal Code, §8.07.010, by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative’s attorney at the address stated below copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent’s probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: 5/15/2020
Personal Representative declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the forgoing is true and correct.

Jaimie Cruz
271 SE Whitener rd
Shelton WA 98584
3607426527

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Squaxin Island T.A.N.F. SPONSORED
LUSHOOTSEED CLASSES

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS @ FAMILY SERVICES CLASSROOM
5PM-6:30PM
DINNER IS PROVIDED

QUESTIONS? Contact Rose Henry 360-432-3950
We will notify you of any changes in schedule due to holiday or Tribal closures.
What’s Happening

Family Court
Criminal/Civil Court
Thursday, June 4th (virtually)
Tuesday, June 9 (Pending)
June 23 (Pending)

General Council
Saturday, June 27th (Tentative)

COMMITEES COMMISSIONS & BOARDS

Committee
Aquatics Committee
Elders Committee/Inc.
Elections Committee
Enrollment Committee
Fireworks Committee (TC 6.04.040)
Fish Committee
Gathering Committee
Golf Advisory Committee
Hunting Committee
Shellfish Committee
Veterans’ Committee

Arnold Cooper
Charlene Krise
None per code
Charlene Krise
None per code
Vicki Kruger
Charlene Krise
Arnold Cooper
Arnold Cooper
Vince Henry
None

Staff Rep.
Jeff Dickison
Traci Coffey
Tammy Ford
TBD
Joseph Peters
Rhonda Foster
Marvin Campbell
Joseph Peters
Eric Sparkman
Kim Kenyon

Meetings
2nd Wednesday in Feb., May, Aug., Nov.
1st Wednesday or Thursday
March, April, May
2nd Tuesday
May and June
2nd Wednesday in March, June
TBD
2nd Wednesday or Thursday
2nd Tuesday of July, Oct., Jan., April
1st Wednesday of March, June, Sept., Dec.
TBD

Commission
1% Committee (Bylaws & Appendix X2)
Budget Commission
Education Commission
Gaming Commission (TC 6.08.090)
Housing Commission
Utilities Commission

C.Krise, V. Henry, V. Kruger
Vicki Kruger
Vacant
None per code
Charlene Krise
Vacant

Staff Rep.
Marvin Campbell
Marvin Campbell
Gordan James
Dallas Burnett
Liz Kuntz
Vacant

Meetings
Feb., May, Aug., Nov.
June and August
2nd Friday
1st Thursday
1st Friday
1st Thursday

Board
Business Administration Board
Child Care Board of Directors
Island Enterprises Board
Museum Library and Research Center Board
Skookum Creek Tobacco Board
SPIPA Board of Directors
Tourism Board (TC 2.34.010)

None per code
Vicki Kruger & Charlene Krise
Arnold Cooper
Bev Hawks
Vicci Henry
Vicki Kruger
Vacant

Staff Rep.
Nathan Schreiner
Bert Miller
Dave Johns
Charlene Krise
Mike Araiza
Marvin Campbell
Leslie Johnson

Meetings
As needed
2nd Monday
Sept., Dec., March, June
4th Tuesday
2nd Friday
TBD
Have you been laid off or have your hours been reduced due to COVID-19?

You may be eligible for expanded unemployment benefits through the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD).

This includes people who work for tribes, tribally owned businesses, small businesses, independent contractors, artisans and musicians.

Apply online at https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/Ui-one-stop or call 1-800-318-6022.

If you are denied unemployment benefits, the Unemployment Law Project (ULP) may be able to help you. Call ULP today:

- (509) 624-9178 or toll-free at (800) 940-9178 (Spokane)
- (206) 441-9178 or toll free at 1-888-441-9178 (Seattle)

Or, if you think you’re low-income, you can call the Northwest Justice Project’s CLEAR Hotline at 1-888-201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 am - 12:15 pm.

Tips:

- Use the Ui Checklist to help you apply for unemployment.
- When applying, start with the website first before you call.
- Due to an unprecedented increase in unemployment, the Employment Security Department (ESD) is very busy. Keep calling. Don’t give up.
- Because the laws have changed and the systems to handle all the changes are still being implemented, you may be initially denied. You can appeal and a legal advocate from ULP or NJP may be able to help you.
- Stay up-to-date by signing up for ESD’s COVID-19 action alerts.

Recent changes to Unemployment Insurance:

- Job search requirements are optional.
- There is no waiting week before you get benefits.
- Although the Federal Stimulus package has passed, ESD estimates that it will take them until April 18, 2020 to get the Unemployment Assistance portion of the legislation up and running. ESD will then be able to make retroactive payments for both the weekly benefit amount owed as well as the additional $600 per week.