



č?é?ƚx^wa? syəcəm

January 2026

Lower Elwha Dental Clinic Updates

The dental clinic has a new dental director! On November 17th, Dr. Schick joined the dental team as our new dental director. Dr. Churchill is still here and will stay on as a staff dentist.

Dr. Schick was born and raised in Kodiak, Alaska, a rural island community in the Gulf of Alaska. He attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota, earning a biology degree with concentrations in biomedical science and Nordic heritage studies. Dr. Schick attended the University of Washington School of Dentistry as a member of the RIDE (Rural Initiatives in Dental Education) program, which focused on preparing students to provide dental care in rural communities similar to the one where he grew up. After graduating in 2020, Dr. Schick was excited to return to Alaska and accepted a position as a dental officer for the U.S. Coast Guard in Ketchikan. For the past four and a half years, Dr. Schick has provided full-scope dental care as Base Ketchikan's clinical dental director and led efforts to improve access to dental care for service members across southeast Alaska. His work included providing fillings, crowns, bridges, surgical and endodontic care, as well as deploying on various missions across Alaska and the U.S to provide clinical care and meet with community partners—including tribal clinics that cared for Coast Guard patients in the more remote areas of rural southeast Alaska.



While Dr. Schick worked with the Coast Guard, his wife Mariah—whom he had met during a rural rotation during dental school—worked with local tribes as an occupational therapist for young children. Through her experiences and stories, Dr. Schick developed a great respect for tribal communities and their commitment to caring for their people. He knew then that he wanted to be part of that mission and dedicate his career to serving a tribal community. After completing his military service commitment, Dr. Schick and his wife chose to move to the Port Angeles area to be closer to their family. They are excited to put down roots here and experience everything the Olympic Peninsula has to offer. Dr. Schick looks forward to serving the community and continuing his passion for providing personalized, compassionate care and top quality dentistry for the people of the Lower Elwha tribe. When he's not working, Dr. Schick enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing, playing board games, and working on new projects around his house.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Front Row:
Melissa Gilman, Secretary / Treasurer
Frances Charles, Chairwoman
Russell Hepfer, Vice-Chairman

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363
Phone: (360) 452-8471
Fax: (360) 452-8479



This means enhancing the lives of our people both physically and spiritually through social well being and economic independence while preserving and enhancing our natural resources and cultural heritage.

A black and white photograph of a fluffy, light-colored dog, possibly a Samoyed, standing outdoors. The dog is facing slightly to the left, looking towards the camera. It has thick, wavy fur and a dark nose. The background consists of dark, leafy bushes and a wooden fence or wall.

For more information or to visit the museum, please contact us at klallam.museum@elwha.org or call 360-452-8471 ext. 2904.



**VA RESOURCES, INFO,
AND SNACKS**

TRIBAL CENTER ROOM 13

1:00-3:00PM

Letter From the Vice-Chair Russ Hepfer

January 2025

Dear Lower Elwha Tribal Community,

Happy New Year! I hope we all made it through. I say that because I am composing this letter on December 12. That is early in the month, and it makes it hard to keep you posted on the monthly activities for December. Anyway...

I attended the second of two in-person meetings with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and EPA's Regional Tribal Operations Committee for Region 10 (RTOC). RTPC members are comprised of elected individuals from different tribes in different areas of these states. Due to travel restrictions EPA has to follow, the meetings were held in Seattle. EPA Region 10 geographically covers the states of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. There are 271 tribes that we represent. I represent Western Washington Tribes. We spent the week together discussing various environmental concerns and issues.

We listened to an elder from the Alaskan Village that recently had a typhoon wipe out their village. She was very brave and compassionate

about what she and her village went through.

They are still in shelters, and some have moved with relatives to Anchorage. It will take decades to make that village whole again. This is going to lose some culture and traditions because they aren't in their homelands. They can't fish and hunt when they have to move. I feel so bad for them.

At the time of this letter, we have one more round of atmospheric river rain coming. So far, our dike has held up. Thank the Lord and the Army Corps of Engineers. We fared really well as compared to across the pond. Towns had to be evacuated. I've been told we had six more feet before the river would spill over the dike. That sounds pretty good to me.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and the state are preparing for this year's round of North of Falcon (NoF) process. This process typically goes until March. I think the biggest issue is the chum fishery being proposed in Area 9. This fishery area is north of the ferry landing at Kingston. It's a mixed stock area for chum. Meaning that fish from all over the Salish Sea or Puget Sound get mixed up here before they head to their respective

streams to spawn. A lot of streams have Chum listed as Endangered Species. Some tribes don't want to fish there. Elwha stayed out as we fished in the Hood Canal. It has been a big issue around the sound. I will have more on the fishery issues later as we are just kicking off meetings.

Sincerely,

Russell N. (RAZZ) Hepfer



STRONG PROGRAM

TYP

CULTURE

CRAFT SCHEDULE

January 2026

sčičəkʷtínát
MONDAYS

Medicine Making

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM @ Culture Club

*exclude Holidays

cəŋənát
TUESDAYS

Beading

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM @ Culture Club

4:00 PM- 7:00 PM @ Social Services

txwínát
WEDNESDAY

Pop-up Craft Class

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM @ Gathering Place

**Mondays-
Fridays**

Canoe Shed

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Open shop for public use

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Open shop for public use

For more information, call or text 564.215.1202

Or email:

Darrell.Charles@elwha.org

Brad.Holloway@elwha.org

Harmony.Arakawa@elwha.org



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



WE OPENED UP THE HEAD SART SIDE OF THE PLAYGROUND. A HUGE THANK YOU TO TRIBAL COUNCIL, POLICY COUNCIL, ARCHITECT, OUR MAINTENANCE FOR ALL THE SUPPORT TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT.





ATTENDANCE

**CELEBRATING THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS
WITH
3 MONTHS
PERFECT ATTENDANCE**



**MARCELINE
REICK**



**ELILYAH
JACKSON**



**Happy Sweet 16
to my daughter
Elvira Rose!
Love Mom &
Bubba!**



**Happy Birthday to our family:
Omari, Nana, Diana, Makai "Booty Butt", Nando, Ziggy, Russell
Love you guys! Melaine & Kids**

**Happy Birthday Demeree
Antioquia (Jan 31) and Randall
Scott (Jan 29)!
I love you Big Sky love G**

**Happy Birthday
Lovey Bright (Jan 19th)
Love Auntie G**

Recovery Jam

**Lower Elwha Tribal Center
January 31, 2026
Dinner at 4:00 PM**

Jam and recovery time honoring to follow dinner.

**Brought to you by:
The STRONG Program & Klallam Counseling Services
Thank you, Elwha River Casino, for the support for this event.**

**For Questions contact
Brad Holloway (360) 461-6381; brad.holloway@elwha.org**

From the Museum – January Newsletter

As we wrap up Native American Heritage Month, I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who shared photos and memories. It has been a joy to see the moments, stories, and family pride you entrusted to us.

A quick note for anyone continuing to send photos: some images arrive a bit grainy or low-resolution, so here are a few easy tips to help keep your pictures clear and high-quality:

Tips for Saving and Sharing Clear Photos

Send photos in their original resolution whenever possible.

Avoid screenshots—they significantly reduce image quality.

Use AirDrop, email attachments, or cloud links rather than messaging apps, which often compress photos.

Share the original file instead of re-saving or re-uploading it multiple times.

Give your camera lens a quick clean before taking pictures—it really helps!

If you have hard-copy photos, feel free to bring them by the Museum. I'm happy to scan them and help preserve them in the best quality possible.

Museum Book Clubs – Open to All:

The Museum hosts two active book clubs:

Indigenous Book Club

General Book Club

Everyone is welcome to join either or both, depending on your interests.

We're currently reading *The Berry Pickers*, and our next meeting will be on January 8 at 5:00 PM at the Museum.

To be added to either book club list, please email Klallam.museum@elwha.org.

We're also open to community suggestions for future books, films, and cultural programs—your ideas help guide what we offer next.

Film Screenings & Community Input:

Our film screenings over the past few months have been wonderful opportunities to learn, reflect, and gather as a community. We plan to continue hosting them in the new year. If you have recommendations for films or events you'd like us to consider, please email Klallam.museum@elwha.org.

Stay Connected & Visit Us

You can stay up to date on all Museum events through our email announcements and our Facebook page.

And as always, if you haven't visited in a while—or want to bring family or friends—just call or email. I'd be happy to set aside time for your visit.

Newsletter Update

We are now a **digital only publication!** Please view our newsletter on the Tribal Website or complete the survey to have the PDF newsletter emailed to you directly.

Limited print issues may be available at the Heritage Center, please call to reserve yours:
(360) 417-8545.

Past issues can also be found online at
<https://www.elwha.org/newsletters/>

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Take our survey here!



Dental Clinic Updates

We're excited to share some good news for our Elders! Thanks to our newly expanded dental team, we can now offer dedicated appointment slots reserved for Elwha Elders every day from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. These reserved slots are an extra option for elders and mean you won't have to wait as long or worry about availability. We hope this makes it easier to get the dental care you need. If you are an Elwha elder please give us a call at 360-452-6252, option #2 to schedule your appointment during these special hours.

Looking ahead to February, we're gearing up for Children's Dental Health Month! This is always a great time to remind everyone about the importance of starting dental care early. Dentists recommend that kids have their first visit by

their first birthday, or within six months of getting that first tooth. We know it might seem early, but these first appointments help children get used to the dental office and let us make sure everything is developing the way it should.

We really want to see all our community's children at the clinic. Whether your child is coming in for their first visit or it's been a while since their last checkup, our team is ready to help. We work with kids every day and do our best to make visits comfortable and even fun. Don't wait—give us a call and let's get those appointments on the calendar!!

Thank you!

Dr. Karl Schick, Dental Director
And the Lower Elwha Dental Team

Food as Medicine Series: Prediabetes

By Dawn Travelstead, MS, RD, CDCES

What is prediabetes? A condition that your body isn't using the insulin properly. Insulin is made by cells on your pancreas, but overtime poor eating habits, lack of exercise and weight gain, coupled with genetics the pancreas struggles to keep up with the demand. It is a warning sign that in 10-15 years if you don't change lifestyle habits, you're on the path to type 2 diabetes.

Why does prediabetes happen? The major risk factors include weight gain, being overweight, age > 45, family history, PCOS or if you had gestational diabetes.

Impact on the pancreas. When the blood sugars start to rise, the cells on your pancreas secrete insulin to keep the glucose levels good. Your pancreas is having to make more insulin to

keep up and if you have gained weight, (especially in abdomen), now you can have a condition called insulin resistance. Additionally, you start to store excess insulin in your blood, called 'hyperinsulinemia'. (This can be tested with a blood test).

Diagnosis: When your A1C is between 5.7 and 6.4, this is prediabetes.

Can this be reversed? Yes, absolutely!!!

Prevention & Treatment:

- Lose 5-7 % of body weight

- Get 150 minutes of brisk activity weekly

- Manage Stress

- Avoid processed foods and high carbohydrate foods

For more information, email me or phone 360-912-1500

Klallam Strong: Nutrition & Diabetes Newsletter

Dawn Travelstead, RD, MS,CDE, Lower Elwha Health Clinic

In this issue:

- * Blood sugar goals
- * Olive Oil
- * Did you know?



Blood Sugar Goals

- A1c <7
- 80-130 before a meal
- <180 for 1-2 hours after the beginning of the meal

Important Fact:

Time within range: if you are using a sensor, this refers to keeping the blood sugar between 70-180 70% of the time.

Did you Know?

About 70% of the US food supply qualifies as ultra-processed, and these items make up 55% of the foods Americans eat.

If you would like a nutrition session, please call me @ 360-912-1500.

Benefits of Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO)

It is the polyphenol content that makes EVOO so powerful.

Brain Protection: Studies have shown that EVOO can help reduce the buildup of harmful plaque, reduce inflammation and help protect the brain's protective barrier.

Heart Health: promotes healthy arteries and blood pressure, improves blood vessel function that could help reduce your risk of heart attack and strokes.

Fatty liver disease: helps reduce inflammation and improves how the body uses fat and insulin.

How to choose the right EVOO

Look for a dark glass bottle or metal container, should say "extra virgin" and look for the harvest date and quality seals.

Try to get 1 TBL of EVOO a day, best way...use on salad.



Yoga at the Heritage Center

Everyone is welcome! Bring a mat if you have one, limited mats are available to borrow. There will be special accommodations for elders and others experiencing bone density and pain issues.

Featuring instructor Melanie McHugh Barclay of Life Force Ayurveda.

This class occurs every Thursday morning from 9am - 10am in the Heritage Center's Raven's Edge room.

Begins Thursday, January 8th | 9am
Drop In or Scan the QR Code above to sign up!



AG's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Cold Case Unit Secures First Conviction

Dec. 17, 2025

A judge in Clallam County Superior Court sentenced Tina Marie Alcorn to more than 13 years in prison this week after she pleaded guilty to the murder of George David in 2016. The Attorney General's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Cold Case Investigations Unit helped to secure the conviction, its first since the unit was established in 2023.

"We were able to bring justice in this case because of the hard work of our cold case team in collaboration with local law enforcement," said AG Nick Brown. "I commend the hard work of the Port Angeles Police Department, who never gave up on this case, and thank the Clallam County Prosecutor for the support and collaboration from his office. It's impossible to describe the pain of losing a loved one. We hope that bringing accountability and closure in this case can provide some measure of comfort to George's family and friends."

George David was a renowned woodcarver, a resident of Neah Bay, and a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation of Vancouver Island, B.C. His masterworks are featured around the world, from the royal collections of Norway to the city hall of Kobe, Japan. He also carved two 36-foot canoes for Chief Sealth's gravesite in Suquamish. David, 65, was found deceased on March 28, 2016, in a friend's Port Angeles apartment. He had traveled from Neah Bay just days earlier, intending to visit family in British Columbia and attend a funeral.

"My dad was a master carver," said Maria David, George's daughter. "There are two half-finished puppets my dad was carving, that were to be used as a means of Indian Storytelling. But that never got to happen. I just have half-finished carvings, that never got to become puppets and tell their stories. Indian artwork is a

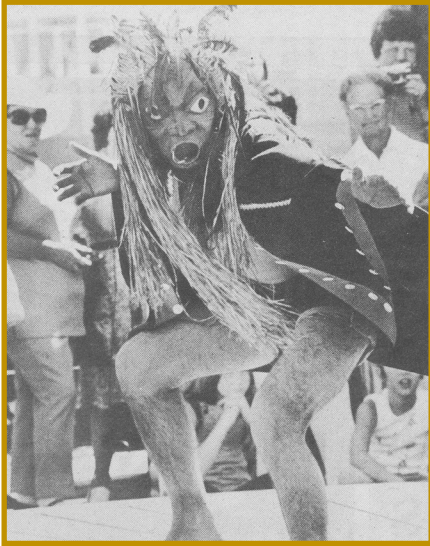
way for us to tell our stories. And his stories can no longer be told, and we will never be able to see any of my dad's artwork again. Silver engraving, masks, totem poles, rattles, prints. It's all silent now. I am thankful to the Attorney General's Office and the Cold Case Unit for their work."

David's murder was initially investigated by the Port Angeles Police Department in 2016, and Alcorn was the primary suspect. However, there wasn't enough evidence to charge her. In 2023, the Washington State Legislature funded the [MMIWP Cold Case Team](#), the first of its kind in the United States. In 2024, Port Angeles police requested the assistance of the new cold case team to solve this case. The cold case team supported the department in conducting additional investigation into evidence collected in 2016, including additional DNA analysis performed by the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab.

This investigation provided the evidence needed to arrest Alcorn in [June 2025](#). The Attorney General's Office charged Alcorn with murder and ultimately secured her conviction. Alcorn pleaded guilty to second-degree murder along with a special sentencing enhancement for being armed with a deadly weapon during the crime.

The MMIWP Task Force has released a [toolkit](#) for families and friends of missing loved ones.

Washington's Attorney General serves the people and the state of Washington. As the state's largest law firm, the Attorney General's Office provides legal representation to every state agency, board, and commission in Washington. Additionally, the Office serves the people directly by enforcing consumer protection, civil rights, and environmental protection laws. The Office also prosecutes elder abuse, Medicaid fraud, and handles sexually violent predator cases in 38 of Washington's 39 counties. Visit www.atg.wa.gov to learn more.



George David: ka-nowish



George's daughter Maria David and Katherine Thompson at the Sentencing of Tina Alcorn



*Lead Investigator Jim Lawrence
Investigator Steve Brenneman*

A Very Special Thank You

To the Lower Elwha Heritage Center

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As a part of this court process, the family experienced a lot of emotions, and the Clallam County Courthouse provided limited private space. For this reason we reached out to the Heritage Center for a space we could use for longer periods of time away from the spotlights. They were more than gracious in opening their doors to our Cold Case Unit and the family countless times for the duration of the case against Tina Alcorn, usually without notice.

On December 15, 2025 the Heritage Center opened the doors again, as well as their kitchen so that we could provide a luncheon for the family and the Attorney General's Office Team that worked the case. This helped the family close a circle on nearly ten years of grief they were carrying. Words cannot adequately express the safe space they provided for the family since June of 2025. Not only offering the space, but doing so with such love and compassion.

A very big thank you also goes to Beatriz Arakawa from the Family Advocacy Program. Beatriz came to court, and she showed up, not just for the family, but for our unit. She showed up with heart and she made sure we were all cared for.

Thank you to Darrell Charles, Jr., our honorary member, who continually supports the unit's work and provided the artwork for our unit's logo. and to Chief Sam White for all his work on our MMIWP Task Force.

Lower Elwha Klallam People stand up for all, and the time we spent working this case has proven that beyond measure.



*ʔušu•yakšʔalc (Thank you),
Tor Parker*

**Criminal Justice Division | MMIWP Cold Case Unit |
Office of the Attorney General Nick Brown**

LOWER ELWHA FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Mission: Survivor's Safety and Autonomy through Advocacy and Awareness

- Advocacy - Domestic, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Sex Trafficking.
- Protection Orders
- Resources & Referrals
- Case Management Assistance
- Support for court related appointments.
- Prevention & Awareness
- Crisis Intervention Support
- Address Confidentiality Program

Contact Information

Beatriz Arakawa, Program Manager, Office: 360-565-7257, Ext. 7453



Lower Elwha Social Services

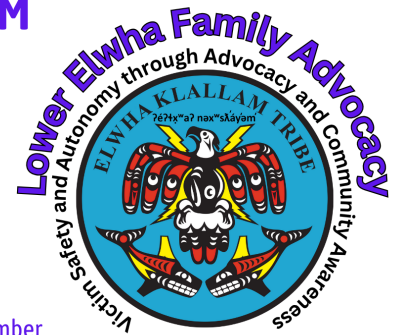


Cell: 360-460-1745



360-775-9346 - Emergency Phone Number

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



Dear Tribal Members and Readers,

Prosperous New Year to all!

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe – Lower Elwha Family Advocacy Program staff will start a new year with several prevention/outreach, meetings, and trainings, as we continue providing direct services and advocacies, 7á yes, 24/7 days a week.

LEFA New events:

1. January 18th Stalking Awareness Day of Action – LEFA staff will distribute safety kits with resources at Homeless Shelters.
2. January 28th LEFA staff will deliver safety kits at LEKT facilities.

These activities are in commemoration of January as National Stalking Awareness Month.

“January 2026 marks the twenty-second annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) and the third annual Stalking Awareness Day of Action (January 18th)! Both are calls to action to recognize and respond to the serious crime of stalking.” SPARC - Stalking **Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center. Stalking is a crime. If you are a victim or know someone, contact us or 911!**

Ongoing:

1. Please join us for a **Self-discovery Wellness Walk** January 9, 16, 23, and 30 at noon from the LEKT– Social Services parking lot to the Elwha River Casino parking lot and back to Social Services or Tribal Center. Rain or shine! LEFA will provide umbrellas, raincoats and snacks.

What is the purpose of this walk? Walking can benefit many things. It can prevent diseases and enrich healthy self-empowerment/self-relationship or self-discovery, according to source.

2. **Ongoing Women Support Group – “Soup for the Soul”** is scheduled every Tuesday from Noon to 2:00pm at Heritage Center and in Zoom. For January, participants will sew regalia or scarf. *pa?akwisc* cn. I'm teaching you. In honor of Treaty Day (LEKT observe Jan 26).

Started Oct 21, 2025, 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada). Every week on Tue, until Mar 31, 2026, 24 occurrence(s). **Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 844 7620 7239; Passcode: 130812**

Upcoming events and projects for February and March: Please contact us if you are interested in joining.

- LGBTQ+ -Two-Spirit gathering
- Parents in the know class
- In her shoes/in their shoes prevention
- Teen Dance (February)

Justice as the Foundation: "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice" **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Best Regards, Beatriz Arakawa

“This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW22GG3388TRIB awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.” OVW

EDGE PROGRAM

**Classes begin January 9th
5pm – 6:30pm**

**THIS CLASS IS DESIGNED FOR YOUTH, BUT
FAMILIES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.
DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.**

EDGE is designed to help students learn foundational skills for healthy life choices. Our curriculum is geared to assist youth aged 10–19 in understanding that they are valuable – deserving of healthy relationships with boundaries that allow them to become their own best advocate for choices that benefit them now and in their future.

Having healthy relationships involves an understanding of self so that you can communicate effectively to navigate differences with those around you. Being able to proactively understand our unique cultural influences and personality differences helps us be successful in all our relationships as we plan for our future – from job and leadership skills, to dreaming and planning for families built on commitment, love, mutual respect and honor. Healthy relationships provide strength and boundaries that build a solid foundation and make it possible to share hope & care with others around us.



RSVP

Contact:
Nicole Volkmann
(360) 417-8545 x2912
Elwha Klallam
Heritage Center
401 E First St
Port Angeles WA 98362

Heritage Center Workshops—New and Upcoming!

COUPONING 101

Simple Strategies for
Everyday Savings



January 7th | 5pm - 7pm

January 21st | 5pm - 7pm



Elwha Klallam Heritage Center
401 E First St
Port Angeles, WA 98362
(360) 417-8545

FIREARM SAFETY CLASS

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH
6pm - 8pm

Learn firearm handling and safety techniques from certified instructor and LEPD Lieutenant Jimmy Thompson. 18+ only please.

This hands-on course introduces you to safe and responsible handgun ownership fundamentals. Learn how firearms work, essential safety rules, and the basics of shooting confidently. Whether you're new to firearms or looking to refresh your knowledge, this class focuses on empowerment through education.

Brought to you by LEPD in partnership
with the Elwha Klallam Heritage Center

Elwha Klallam Heritage Center
401 E First St, Port Angeles WA
(360) 417-8545

Job Readiness Workshops

January 8th: Career Exploration
 January 15th: Resume Writing
 January 22nd: Interview Skills
 1pm—2:30pm

Join our talking circle to discuss best practices and learn tips and tricks for the job search process. From where to look to how to dress—we'll discuss it all!

This is a three day training occurring on Thursdays in the Heritage Center's Raven's Edge conference room. If you can't make all classes this will be held again in January!

**EDGE Program**

Every Friday in January
 5pm—6:30pm

Youth ages 10—19 and their families are encouraged to attend this 8-week workshop strengthening healthy decision making. We will focus on self-advocacy and healthy relationships, establishing boundaries that build a solid foundation for a bright future.

**Couponing 101**

January 7th & 21st
 5pm—7pm

Trim your grocery bill by learning techniques for smart shopping!

**Firearm Safety with LEPD**

January 12th
 6pm—8pm

Learn firearm handling and safety techniques from certified instructor and LEKT Lieutenant Jimmy Thompson. 18+ only please. Brought to you by LEPD and held in the Great Hall.

Yoga with Life Force Ayurveda

Every Thursday (except holidays)
 9am—10am

Start your day with gentle stretching and balance exercises. Great for elders and those experiencing chronic pain. This class is held in the Heritage Center's Raven's Edge conference room.

**Intro to nəxʷsłayəməcən**

Every Monday (except holidays)
 5pm—6pm

Flex your Klallam vocabulary with language practice every Monday online and in the Social Services conference room. Hosted by Keeoma Messenger and TVR.

**Department of Corrections: Clallam Bay Hiring Event**

January 7th
 9am—3:30pm

Same day applications and interviews!

Heritage Center Class Survey

What classes and workshops would you like to see offered at the Heritage Center?

Let us know by filling out this quick 2026 survey!



Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Tribal Youth Program

nəxʷsł'áyəm'



The Tribal Youth Program (TYP) presents "Relationship to Creation as Told Through nəxʷsł'áyəm' Language" by Loni Grninger (Grinnell) of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

Did you know that the Klallam word for scallop is the same word for someone who swears? Come learn more about what our Klallam Language, nəxʷsł'áyəm', teaches us about the environment around us: land, seas, animals, plants, and humans and give your ideas on how to interpret our language!

Who:

Tribal youth, 12 to 21 years of age. Families are welcome to join. We ask that children 12 and under be accompanied by their parents/adult.

Transportation home available. Please make arrangements with Melaine Wheeler at 564-215-1724



When:

Date: Tuesday, January 13th, 2026

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Lower Elwha Dining Hall

TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Empowering Youth through the Ways of our Ancestors

REGISTRATION

Please scan the QR Code to Register



Contact:

Melaine Wheeler, Program Manager

Call/Text: (564) 215-1724 | Email: melaine.wheeler@elwha.org

RIBBON CLASSES

HOODIES & SKIRTS

JANUARY 2026

The tribal youth program (TYP) presents ribbon classes. Come learn how to make a ribbon hoodie and/or ribbon skirt.

[Sign-up for class here](#)

Who: Youth (12 to 21 years of age)

When: Every Wednesday in January
(January 7th | 14th | 21st | 28th)

Where: Lower Elwha Dining Hall

Time: 3:30pm - 6:00pm

SCAN HERE



Snacks & beverages provided
Transportation home available.



Inspiration
videos



More information contact Melaine Wheeler
Tribal Youth Program Manager
melaine.wheeler@elwha.org or 360-452-8471 ext. 7417



Intro to nəx^wsʔayəmícən

Who's invited: All welcome

What we are doing: Intro to Klallam Language-
Workbooks Provided-also accessible at
<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/klallam-grammar/index/>

When: Mondays @ 5 pm- 6 pm

Starting January 5th-March 23rd, 2026

Where:

Social Services Building (3080 Lower Elwha Rd.)

Why: To keep our language alive & garner interest in
possible higher learning through Peninsula College.

**Brought & Taught to you by the TVR & Strong
Programs**



For more information contact:

Keeoma Messenger at 360-461-4916

or 360-452-8471 ext. 7701

**Send me your email address if you would
like to join online though Microsoft Teams.**



Join the.. **LEKT Climate Change Steering Committee**

Are you interested in resiliency amidst future Climate Change projections? Would you like to contribute your ideas for the development of a LEKT Climate Adaptation Plan? We'd love you to join the discussion! We'll have meetings every two months in 2026 beginning on:

When: Wednesday, January 14th 2026, 10:00-11:00 am

Where: Lower Elwha Natural Resources Building, Conference Room

To register email or call: allyce.miller@elwha.org or (360)457-4012 x7489

(stay tuned for an evening session in the future)

TRIBAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (TVR)

TVR specializes in helping Native Americans with disabilities overcome barriers to work. Our mission is to provide a compassionate, holistic approach in serving Native Americans and Alaska Natives experiencing disabilities. We support individuals in achieving meaningful and stable employment through training and supportive services, fostering self-sufficiency, reducing reliance on public assistance, and strengthening the Tribal community as a whole.

TVR is currently accepting new clients!

Applications and Contact information available at the QR Code, on the Tribal website at www.elwha.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LEKTVR

Eligibility for Services:

- Enrolled with a State or Federally recognized tribe.
- Reside within the service area.
- Have a physical or mental disability, documented with a provider.
- Employment barriers.
- The applicant requires TVR services to obtain or maintain employment.

What may be considered a disability?

- Mental Health Diagnosis
- Substance use disorder diagnosis
- Blind/Low Vision
- Back/Brain/Limb injury or limitations
- Intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Hearing impairment
- Other physical or mental disabilities that prevent the person from finding and/or keeping employment.





ERC News Letter

January 2026

Promotions:

Monday & Tuesday- WOK ESSENTIAL SET

Elwha Reward Members Invite only
12pm-8pm While Supplies Last!

Wednesday- SENIOR DAY

Elwha Reward Members 55+ ONLY
\$100 Hot Seats 11am-5pm
2x Points All Day
20% OFF Salish Winds when you visit the Player's Club

Thursday- EARN & GET-ERC FLANNEL

All Elwha Reward Members
10am-10pm earn 550pts for a
ERC Logo Flannel While Supplies Last!

Friday- Path to Pay Day Drawing

All Elwha Reward Members
Earn (1) ticket for every 100pts starting
12/28/25 for a drawing every Friday 7pm-10pm

1/13/26- Ring in the New Year Tourney

All Elwha Reward Members
Sign-ups @5:30pm
6pm-8pm

1st: \$300 | 2nd: \$200 | 3rd: \$100

1/27/26- Terrific Tuesday Hot Seats

All Elwha Reward Members
\$100 Hot Seats 6pm-10pm every 30min

Events:

21+

Saturday January 24th-

Salish Winds
RESTAURANT
Come visit the Salish Winds
Restaurant for live music played

by Queens & Aces

8pm-11pm

Salish Winds Specials

Tuesdays- While Supplies Last
Prime Rib Special \$27.99

Please Welcome our new
Night Shift Manager: Tyffani



LEKT Natural Resources Department News

Update on Indian Creek

Chinook, Pink and Coho salmon returned and have spawned throughout Indian Creek, including in the vicinity of the spill site (see photo right). The NR Department continues to monitor fish use of the creek and is working with state, federal and Tribal trustees on assessment of the injuries to fish and other organisms and on a restoration project to offset the negative impacts from the spill.



For more information, use the QR code to visit Department of Ecology's website.

New sign!



Here at the Aldwell lakebed overlook

With the support of WCC, NPS and NOAA we installed an interpretive sign below the new Hwy 101 bridge to educate about the research and restoration led by LEKT since dam removal.

There's also a photo station so visitors can participate in monitoring!

Dry Creek 4th graders visit House of Salmon

On Dec. 2nd, students observed Coho egg harvest and learned about salmon anatomy. They will receive eggs in January to raise in their classrooms all year.

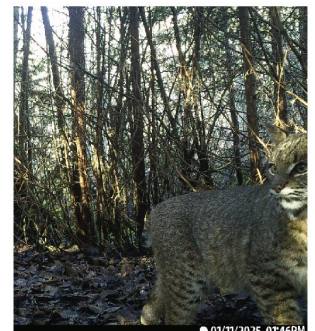


Thank you to hatchery staff Larry, Keith & Robert for sharing the important work you do!

Wildlife Cam Captures: Can you spot the Bobcats?




Bobcats live throughout the Elwha Valley, but are elusive and rarely seen. However, they can be easier to spot during these Winter months, when they are more active during the day, searching for a mate, and the forests are bare or bright with snow.



LOWER ELWHA TRIBAL COURT

Services/Cases Heard

Civil (Protection Orders, Exclusion)	Criminal
MINOC/Dependency	Healing to Wellness Court
Juvenile Offender (Delinquency)	Traffic
LEHA Housing	

- Packets for Protection Orders are available in hardcopy and digital.

Payment of Court Fines, Traffic Tickets and Restitution can be made.

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm (Closed: Lunch 12:00pm-12:30pm)

**Tribal Public Defense Attorney -Criminal Cases & Healing Court**

Mondays: 12:00pm-4:00pm

Thursdays: 9:00am -1:00pm

Appointment # to call/text 360-460-4256 law@nateliecolumbus.com

Court Security

We are happy to announce that we have hired Mr. Ted Bowen as the Court Security/Bailiff. Ted will be responsible for checking in all people that enter the Justice Center. The process is easy with only a few questions and a quick scan to make sure there isn't anything coming in the building that is not allowed.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ted at ted.bowen@elwha.org or 360-452-6759 ex. 2936

Any questions, please contact Rachel Johnson
Office #: 360.452.6759 ex.2921
Cell # 360.912.1401
Rachel.johnson@elwha.org

**We now have a
designated email for the
Court**

Tribal.clerk@elwha.org



THE COMMUNITY SHINES AT ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND "ELFTOPIA" CELEBRATION

Our Tribal Center was transformed into a hub of holiday spirit the second weekend of December, hosting a highly successful two-day Holiday Bazaar followed by a magical "Elftopia" celebration on Sunday, Dec. 14. The festivities kicked off Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13, with a bustling bazaar that drew crowds eager to support local artisans and small businesses. The hall was filled with a diverse array of goods, including tribal blankets and apparel, shimmering crystals, and unique handmade crafts, as well as wrapping service by donation just outside the gymnasium doors. Attendees also enjoyed a variety of baked goods and what many described as "the best lemonade around" during the bazaar as well as complimentary hot apple cider and cocoa.

A cornerstone of the bazaar were the lunch fundraisers, which operated both days to fuel shoppers and raise support for a community memorial and the Shaker Church. The energy remained high with ongoing raffles sponsored by the Tribal Council, Tribal Administration and generous local vendors. A highlight of the weekend was the announcement of the grand prize: a special gift provided by Joe at The Warehouse, won by our very own Genie Black.

Organizers offered high praise to the Recreation Department staff.

The holiday cheer reached a peak on Sunday with "Elftopia." The atmosphere was described as warm with creative decorations designed by Harmony Arakawa and the Culture Department. The event offered toys and gifts for all community children, community bingo, and a festive feast.



Massive gratitude was extended to the "kitchen elves", Warren, Brandy, Gina, Bucky, Pebs, Wendy, Malena, Becca, Tammie, and Bridget. Thank you to Mel Gildow and along with our youth who served the community our beautiful brunch. Special recognition to the coordination team, including Samantha Acosta, Little G, Melaine Wheeler, Ryan and Jessica Charles-Elofson, Evelyn and Ralph Ellsworth, Deshus Barkley, Elaina Begay, Tonya Clark, and Keri and Leif Ellis, Delsen Lauderback, and Jon Hamilton.

The highlight of the morning occurred when "Christmas Angels" provided guests with silver bells and elf attire. Amidst the aroma of good food and cocoa, the "Elf on the Shelf" appeared for photos with our kids, followed by a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself. In a heartwarming moment, the two holiday icons shared a laugh and a hug, much to the delight of all the children.

Photographer Kristi Robison and a dedicated photo booth were on hand to capture these memories. As the weekend concluded, organizers expressed their gratitude to the community for a successful season of togetherness. To all who made the magic possible, thank you ever so much. Happy Holidays to all!



Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Tribal Holiday Closure

Jan 1st - New Year's Day
Jan 2nd - New Year's Day Admin
Jan 9th - MLK Jr. Day
Jan 26th - Treaty Day