



# čʔéʔxʷaʔ syáçəm

March 2026

## PA Chamber of Commerce Organization of the Year: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has been awarded the 2025 Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce “Organization of the Year” award.

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has made profound and lasting contributions to the greater Port Angeles community. Through leadership in the Elwha River restoration, the Tribe led the removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams, restoring salmon runs, improving water quality, and reconnecting the river from the Olympic Mountains to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This transformational project has strengthened fishing, wildlife, tourism, recreation, and long-term environmental health across the entire region.

The Tribe’s leadership was also on full display through hosting Paddle to Elwha, welcoming thousands of visitors from across the Pacific Northwest and Canada. This event generated significant economic activity for Port Angeles while offering the broader community a rare opportunity to ex-

perience living Indigenous culture and intertribal traditions.

Beyond these efforts, the Tribe continues to strengthen the community through stable local jobs, essential health and social services, and ongoing leadership in habitat restoration, fisheries management, and conservation. Together, these contributions have made Port Angeles healthier, stronger, and more culturally connected through environmental stewardship, economic impact, and meaningful community partnership.



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# Lower Elwha Business Committee



Back Row:  
Tia Skerbeck, Council Member  
Steve Robideau, Council Member

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



## ᑕᑦᑭᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ — The Strong People

The **Vision** of the Elwha Klallam Tribe is to ensure that the Lower Elwha Klallam people can pass on their way of life to their children.

The **Mission** is to build a strong and healthy sovereign nation where Tribal members live their values and culture.

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.

### Slapu Steals A Boy

Slapu came and took a baby boy, swiqúʔit, away from a tribe. Everywhere she walked the baby cried and the woods disappeared. In their place the prairie appeared. That is how Sequim Prarie came to be.

Slapu brought the boy home and he called her mother, tán, asking for a bow and arrow. She told him not to call her mother, tán, because she secretly wanted him for her husband, but she made him a bow and arrow, reminding him not to go far. She didn't want him finding his way home. Every day when Slapu went out she hung her heart, yénəwəs, on the road that led out. One day the boy saw it. He knew what it was so he shot it. She felt it and came running. The boy ran until he was at Sequim Bay, but his people had moved.

Tslatsqwehe was the only one there and he gave the boy a ride to the spit. The boy told Tslatsqwehe that Slapu would be looking for him.

Soon Slapu came looking for the boy and demanded to be taken across the water. Tslatsqwehe said his boat leaked and when she was busy pulling grass, he pulled a knot out of the bottom of the boat. When they got out in the water, Tslatsqwehe asked a crab, ʔáʔčx, "What shall I do with Slapu?" He told the crab, ʔáʔčx, to bite Slapu and when it crawled towards her she kept moving back until she fell off the boat. She screamed for help, but Tslatsqwehe pushed her down and now there is a whirlpool there.

## Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe State of Affairs Peninsula Daily News Write Up

In the summer of 2025, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe welcomed thousands of visitors to its shores as host of the annual Tribal Canoe Journey Paddle to Elwha, a powerful cultural gathering that brought together Indigenous nations from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

The Tribe remains a national leader in ecological restoration. More than a decade after the historic removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams, salmon runs are steadily rebuilding in one of the largest river restoration projects in U.S. history. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's habitat restoration crews continue work throughout the Elwha watershed and neighboring river systems, constructing engineered log jams, reconnecting floodplains and planting native vegetation to restore salmon habitat.

These efforts reached an important milestone in recent years with the reopening of limited ceremonial and subsistence coho fisheries on the lower Elwha River, a powerful cultural and ecological marker after generations of restricted access to ancestral fishing grounds. For the Tribe, salmon recovery is not only an environmental success story but also a cultural foundation connecting families and community.

The Tribe has finalized engineered plans for the Dry Creek Wastewater Project, a critical utility expansion that is now shovel ready and positioned for funding. The project will extend essential wastewater services to the western boundary of the City of Port Angeles, unlocking significant public health, environmental and economic benefits.

The Dry Creek Wastewater Project is founda-

tional to the next phase of the Tribe's Health and Wellness Campus. With wastewater infrastructure in place, the Tribe will be able to expand its vision for a comprehensive wellness campus serving tribal members and the wider community. The availability of utilities also enables Clallam County Fire District 2 to move forward in conceptualizing and completing a new fire station on the health and wellness property, strengthening emergency response capacity for the growing west side of Port Angeles.

The expanded Elwha River Casino also continues to serve as an economic driver, generating employment and revenue that supports tribal government services, education, elder care and cultural programming.

Protection of cultural resources also remains central to the Tribe's work. At č̣ix̣ẉíc̣ən, the ancestral village site located on Port Angeles Harbor, the Tribe continues its efforts to ensure the site is respected and preserved. Since the discovery of the village during construction activities in 2003, č̣ix̣ẉíc̣ən has stood as one of the most significant archaeological finds in Washington state. Ongoing coordination with the Port of Port Angeles reflects a shared commitment to responsible development, transparency and the protection of irreplaceable cultural heritage. The Tribe and the Port continue to engage in government-to-government consultation to ensure that harbor planning and economic activity proceed with respect for the site's history and significance.

The Tribe is partnering with Field Hall Arts Center and Feiro Marine Center to develop a cultural and educational longhouse on the Port Angeles waterfront.

The Tribe is partnering with the NODC and North Olympic Reconnect Coalition to expand workforce training and resources to ensure our community and the community at large have access and pathways to living wage jobs. Our workforce development initiative is housed in the Lower Elwha Heritage Center, where applicants can access skills training, networking paths, and assistance with job placements.

The Tribe's partnership through the Reconnect plan also assists the Tribe with resources for economic development to expand services for the community and tribal enterprises. Our current focus is on infrastructure projects like wastewater and potable water to ensure the tribe's capacity to expand facilities, housing, and services.

Collaboration more broadly reinforces much of the Tribe's progress. Whether partnering with the City of Port Angeles on infrastructure planning, working with Clallam County Fire District 2 on emergency services coordination or engaging state and federal agencies on habitat restoration and land management, the Tribe's approach emphasizes alignment and shared benefit.

## Gratitude

On behalf of the family of **Maurice Lenore Raub**, we would like to extend our thanks to all that helped in bringing Moe home, as well as putting him to rest. This is not anything that should ever have to be planned. It was an unexpected and devastating loss to the family as well as all the communities that Moe belonged to. Wherever he went, he was home. The loss will be felt for generations, as when he left, all the knowledge he carried left with him. He was a true historian, a cedar bark weaver, wool weaver, knitter, bead maker, fisher, cook, tailor, and friend. So many stepped up immediately offering everything from love and condolences, to their help in preparing for Moe's journey. These people are:

Jim Lawrence	Care Funeral Services of Brit-	Chrissi Ducotey
Randy Eastman	ish Columbia	Gator & Jerry
Timmy Goldsbury	Carmen Watson-Charles	Samantha Acosta
Edwin Poulin	Ashley Pitchford	Theresa Parker
Edward Thomas	Rachel Turner	Melissa Gillman
Maureen Thomas	Harmony Arakawa	Lorna Mike
Ted Bowen	Mygene Jackson	Linty Hopie
William and Flo Johnny	Wendy Sampson	Ann Penn-Charles
Jerry Foster	Becca Sampson-Weed	Jesse Osmer
"PJ" Phillip Charles	Luana Arakawa	Brandy Williams
Jesse Osmer	Christopher Parker	Jamie Valadez
	Rachel Parker	

We know at time of publication that this may not include all our thanks. Know that we appreciated each of you that helped, for your patience as we worked our way through bringing Moe home, and for all of you that gave your heart to Moe's family.

Louise, Lewis, Bob, Lilly, Darrell, Craig and Adam

### Letter From the Vice Chair

March 2026

Dear Lower Elwha Tribal Community,

You have heard about the changes we have made to our Lower Elwha Housing. The Business Council decided it was time to take it over and try to do better for our community. Over the years, council has tried to meet with the staff at housing. Something always got in the way of meetings. I hve never seen our former director at a Business Committee meeting or at the General Community Council meetings. Back in the Williamson days, John never reported out to council either. He would talk to our chair but not the rest of council. She would turn around and tell us what he had to say. I found this very disturbing. That is the least of what we have found since. I can't share but there are a lot of things that should have taken place but didn't. Council and staff are trying to figure out what happened. Of course, after the switch from housing entity to Lower Elwha Tribe Housing Department, there wasn't much of a smooth transition. We are now going to hire a new director and support staff. I can't share too much right now.

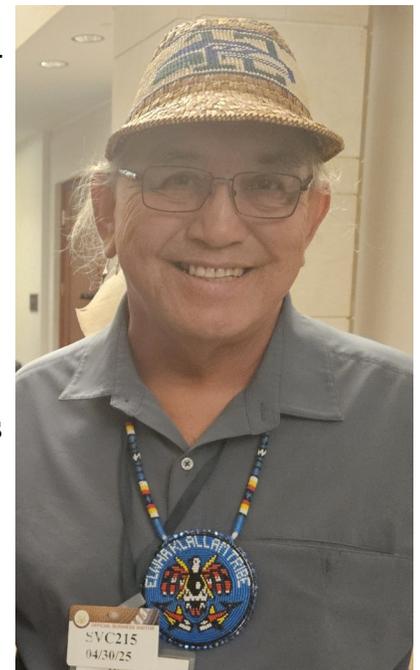
I am proud to say that we have placed tribal members into housing that was very much needed already. We are going to repair the houses that can be repaired that previously were declared condemned or unfixable. We are also looking for grants that can help repair other houses in need. I think that we can turn our housing situation around. It may take a little time, but it can be done.

I take no pride or satisfaction from our employees at housing being dismissed. Our council and I discussed and deliberated this for a long

time before we took action. I felt we took enough time for our housing entity to come to terms with us to meet and share information. As it is now, we have to search boxes and boxes of documents to try and figure it out.

We had a really good turn out for our last General Community Council meeting held in Room 13 on February 2-2026. We talked about the housing issue and then members of the community expressed interest in enrollment and the blood quantum. They were informed the constitution of our tribe would need to be changed. In my opinion, it's a rather lengthy process that needs to be done. The council listened to all the comments and complains about this issue. It was decided we should start another Constitution Committee to get things going again. We tried to amend the constitution years ago and failed. I think if we keep the momentum and interest going, we can succeed this time. We should have sign-up sheets at various locations to volunteer for this effort.

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter.



Russell N. (RAZZ) Hepfer

# Community Health Services

The Lower Elwha Health Department is excited to re-launch Community Health Services!

## Join us for the Community Health Dinner!

### Rescheduled Date Coming Soon!

Dinner at 5:30  
Presentation at 6:00

**Menu:  
Indian Tacos**

Join us to celebrate the relaunch of Community Health! Meet the Community Health Team and join the conversation about the goals of the Community Health program.



Do you have questions or ideas for the program? Do you need a ride to the event?

Reach out to Kat Barrow at [kat.barrow@elwha.org](mailto:kat.barrow@elwha.org) or 564-215-9952

## Protect Your Family From Measles

The state of Washington is experiencing a measles outbreak. Learn about ways to protect your family from this preventable disease.

### What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious disease which spreads through the air when a sick person coughs or breathes. It is commonly known for a rash of red spots that starts at the forehead and progresses down the body. Common symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose, red or watery eyes, and a full body rash. It is possible to have (and spread) measles without showing symptoms.

### Who is at risk?

Almost everyone who has not been vaccinated or had measles will get sick if they are exposed to the virus.

**Measles is most serious for young children.**

### What is the treatment?

There is no treatment for measles, but the best protection is the MMR vaccine. The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. It is 93% effective with one dose and 97% effective with two.

#### Kids should get two doses:

- First dose between 12 and 15 months
- Second dose between 4 and 6 years

Talk to your doctor or visit [doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization](http://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization) to learn more.

### Lower Elwha Health Department MMR Vaccine Clinic

Wednesday, March 4, 8:00am-6:00pm

243511 HWY 101 West

Call 360-452-6252 to schedule your appointment.

Walk-ins also welcome.

#### Sources:

1. Measles Vaccine: Our Best Protection, WA DOH
2. Protect Your Family and Community From Measles, Watch Me Grow Washington

## Your Community Health Team:

Kat Barrow



Community Health Manager

Jada C. Acosta



Community Health Representative

Audrey Gales



Community Health Representative

## **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](http://www.elwha.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LEKTVR](https://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.



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### **Caedence Elofson joins Health Clinic**



My name is Caedence Elofson, and I am a new hire at the Health Clinic, my title is PRC Billing Coordinator and I started on Feb 9th. I grew up here in Port Angeles and have been in the tribal community for pretty much my whole life, I am Quileute, Makah, and Elwha. I am the daughter of Steve Elofson Brenda Kambeitz and granddaughter of Patricia Elofson. This is my first official job here at the tribe as I previously worked for Olympic Medical Center Physical therapy in both the Port Angeles and Sequim Clinics as a per diem PT Aide for about a year and a half. I am excited to be here and to have more tribal involvement here at the health clinic. In my free time I enjoy discovering new music, going outdoors, and spending time with family.





# POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

Youth Activities & Meal Provided

8-WEEK LONG PARENTING CLASS



Starts March 5, 2026 occurs every Thursday until April 23, 2026  
5:30-7:30pm  
Elwha Klallam Heritage Center  
401 E 1st St

The Positive Indian Parenting curriculum goal is to help Indian parents explore the values and attitudes expressed in traditional Indian child rearing practices and then apply those values to modern parenting skills. This includes oral traditions, storytelling, the spiritual nature of child rearing and the role of extended family. Another goal is to help parents develop positive and satisfying attitudes, values and skills that have roots in the cultural heritage. Promoting the growth and wellbeing of the Indian child through Positive Indian Parenting.



SCAN TO REGISTER



# Stevens Middle School

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Update



7<sup>th</sup> Graders are going on their field trips to Hurricane Ridge!

### 7th Grade Honor Roll

- Violet Austin
- Tony Cargo
- Woody Cargo
- Noelani Dailey
- Kaylee Konopaski
- Zyriah Lok

### 8th Grade Honor Roll

- Lela Bankson
- Valerie Charles
- JoNathan Charles-Inman
- Jaidyn Groff-Johnson
- Tristin Konopaski
- Skylar Wheeler

## Students of the Month

And what their teachers had to say!

### November

Tony Cargo: "Tony is responsible, kind, and always gives his best effort."

Valerie Charles : "Valerie has continued to be a hardworking, positive, and kind student. Keep up the good work Valerie!"

### December

Violet Austin: "Violet is a wonderfully kind, determined soul who raises the level of expectation to those around her."



## Heritage Center News & Classes

### Job Readiness Workshops

March 12th: Career Exploration

March 19th: Resume Writing

March 26th: 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 March

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.



### Yoga is on Retreat —Back in May!

Thursdays 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 nəxʷsłáyəmúçən

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

March 25th

9am—3:30pm

Same day applications and interviews!

### Would you like to teach at the Heritage Center?

We are always looking for instructors to teach cultural and special interest classes. If you have a passion you'd like to share—we'd like to help you do that! Please reach out to heritage.center@elwha.org or (360) 417-8545

### Flagging Certification & Traffic Safety

April 11th

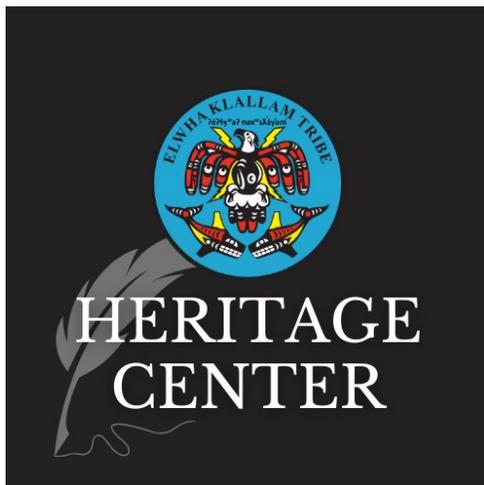
8am—5pm

Become a certified flagger in this comprehensive, one day training. Certifications are good for 3 years in all 50 states. Must be 18+ and bring identification.

### 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!



# Library

## We Just Got a Shipment of New Books!

Come check out some of the amazing new books the Library’s just received, including:

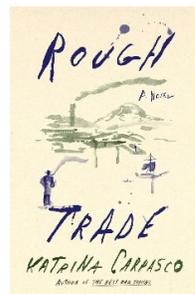
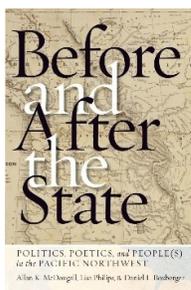
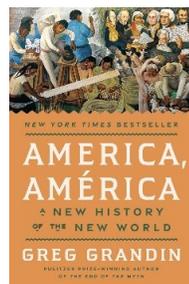
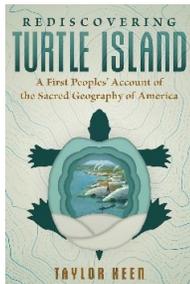
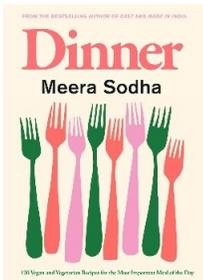
*Dinner: 120 Vegan and Vegetarian Recipes for the Most Important Meal of the Day* by Meera Sodha

*Rediscovering Turtle Island: A First Peoples' Account of the Sacred Geography of America* by Taylor Keen

*America, América: A New History of the New World* by Greg Grandin

*Before and After the State: Politics, Poetics, and People(s) in the Pacific Northwest* by Allan K. McDougall

*Rough Trade: A Novel* by Katrina Carrasco



## Weekly Class Schedule for February

The Library’s weekly class schedule can be found below. Classes labeled with NSDL have optional certification exams which can be used in job hunting. All classes are Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm and are offered through Microsoft Teams at the QR code below and may be attended in-person upon request. One-on-one tutoring is also available on a variety of digital literacy subjects; please email Jason M at [Jason.morris@elwha.org](mailto:Jason.morris@elwha.org) for more information. Additionally, if there are days or times which work better for you to attend classes, please email Jason with your preferences.

Mar. 4: Internet Safety for Parents

Mar. 11: Introduction to Windows 11 (NSDL)

Mar. 18: Information Literacy in the Post-Truth Era: How to Tell Fact from Fake

Mar. 25: Career Search Skills & Resume Workshop (NSDL)

Apr. 1: Introduction to Cybersecurity



**Happy Birthday Luke!**

**Love, Uncle Forrest,  
Papa Dave & Yaya**

**Bently McAllister, Happy  
6<sup>th</sup> Birthday from YaYa,  
Papa Dave and  
Uncle Forrest.**





Back in January, the After School Program kids joined Natural Resources to plant some cedar trees down at the mouth of the Elwha!



LEKT Natural Resources Department News:

Atmospheric rivers challenge Coho survey efforts ...



From the field: W. Twin



This year, we completed 91 spawning surveys across 26 streams between Morse Creek & the Hoko River. Excluding the Elwha & its tributaries, this coordinated effort covers ~60 miles of potential Coho spawning habitat. Multiple heavy rain events in December made surveying difficult and likely scoured many redds, but the overall data is consistent with moderate abundances documented since the early 1990s. 78% of redds observed were West of the Lyre River, with highest counts in Little Hoko, NF Green, Clallam, W. Twin, & Deep Ck.

The 2025 State of Our Watersheds Report is published

The report compiled by NWIFC and treaty tribes' natural resources staff tells stories of habitat conditions watershed by watershed, and documents collaborative efforts to protect salmon and their habitats for present and future generations. The LEKT chapter focuses on Morse Creek to Neah Bay.



Download PDF here:



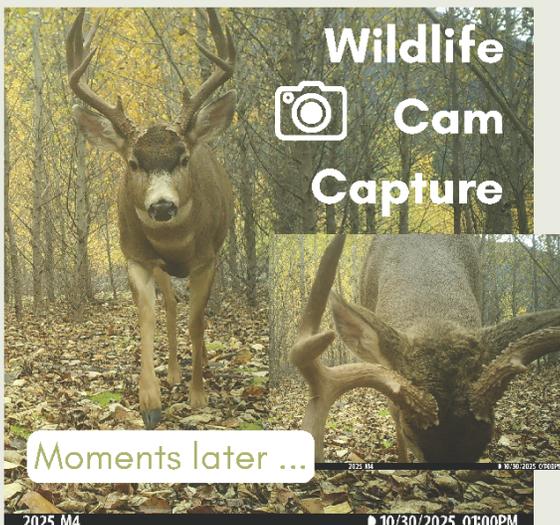
Community input needed for climate resilience planning!

LEKT is in the process of developing a **Climate Change Adaptation Plan** that will be completed at the end of the year. Your climate observations, concerns, or ideas on ways to be resilient amidst future climate change is important in this plan... we want to hear from you!



art by Lora Burke

An April meeting date will be announced in the next newsletter; meanwhile **please let us know your thoughts** (360) 457-4012 ext: 7489



Our Elwha valley cameras monitor wildlife activity in the reviving forests above the former dams. This black-tailed buck pictured in one of the dewatered reservoirs looks ready to defend his territory and seems to be wondering whether this camera is a threat to his dominance. By the end of March, males will have shed the antlers they've grown all year and a new velvet-covered set will begin to emerge .

LEKT Natural Resources Department News

European Green Crab monitoring update ...

European Green Crabs are a threat to our native shellfish. For more info or to report sightings, go to:



In 2024, ten European Green crabs were trapped in Salt Creek by WDFW; this year none were observed. LEKT staff set traps to monitor in Tse-whit-zen lagoon in 2024

and 2025. Both years, only one was observed. Monitoring continues in the Tse-whit-zen lagoon through Summer 2026.



Revegetation program wraps a successful planting season!



7,600 native trees and shrubs sourced from the Elwha watershed were planted!



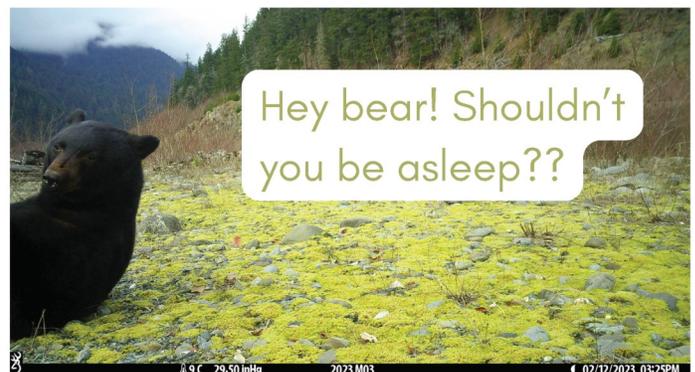
THANK YOU to our volunteers, WCC & PC students!

During Oct-Dec last year, riparian enhancement plantings were carried out (literally!) by many hands throughout the two former reservoirs to support the ongoing recovery of these dewatered riparian areas.

Wildlife Cam Capture:

While it is true that black bears hibernate during Winter, when their metabolism slows down and they rely on fat reserves, they can wake up easily and sometimes leave their den.

This bear seems to have decided that a balmy (almost 50 °F!) February afternoon was a good day to emerge for fresh air and a stretch on some soft moss in the former upper reservoir.



# What's happening at the Museum?

## Elwha Klallam Museum Updates

### Film Screening – In the Circle of Life

Join us March 3 at 6:00 PM at the Museum for a special screening of In the Circle of Life, part of our ongoing documentary series highlighting Indigenous resilience, sacred knowledge, and community healing. We hope you'll come share this meaningful evening with us.

### Museum Book Club

Interested in reading and discussing powerful stories together? We'd love to have you join our book club community. To be added to the email list and receive updates on upcoming reads and meeting dates, please email [Klallam.museum@elwha.org](mailto:Klallam.museum@elwha.org)

### Photo Scanning Available

The Museum now offers photo scanning services. If you have tribal photos you'd like digitized for preservation or sharing with family, we're happy to help. Feel free to stop by or reach out to learn more.

 If you have suggestions for books, films, or other programs you'd like to see, please reach out. We love hearing from our community

# Gig Harbor Boat Shop

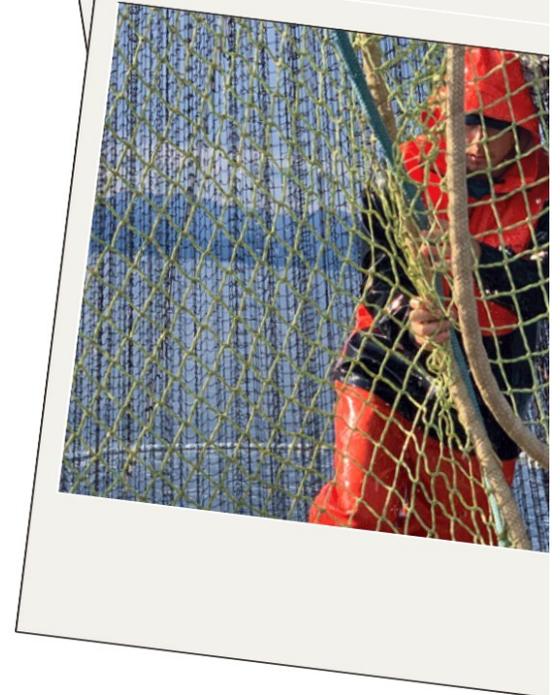
## CREW SCHOOL

### **PURSE SEINE CREW MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAM**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Learn basic crew member skills and gain an authentic glimpse of what crewing aboard an Alaskan purse seine vessel is all about.

- This course will introduce you to commercial fishing, specifically purse seining, as a potential career that is uniquely satisfying.
- Is an introduction to the fundamental skills required aboard a purse seiner and the basic skills necessary for many other commercial fishing jobs including the basics of net mending, navigation, line handling, and on-deck skills as well as USCG approved safety training course Sea Safety and Survival.
- You'll spend time aboard a purse seiner, train with experienced skippers and crew, and get a feel for what a commercial salmon season entails. Will help you decide if commercial fishing is for you prior to leaving for a season.



**MANY CREW SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS GET OFFERED COMMERCIAL FISHING JOBS IN ALASKA!**

Check out program info at [www.gigarborboatshop.org/crewschool-26](http://www.gigarborboatshop.org/crewschool-26)

**10 spots available! Ages 25 - 54: Registration and tuition support available at the Heritage Center.**  
**Contact Nicole Volkmann to sign up: (360) 417-8545 x2912**



## Places of Importance—By Jamie Valadez

In 1993 a basket fragment was found near Obstruction Point. The basket fragment was carbon dated to be 2,900 years old. All along the ridgeline are hearths with evidence of arrow head making. All of these ancient sites are considered places of importance, because they teach us just how long our ancestors have lived at this special place we call our homeland. Also, these places confirm what our ancestors have taught us about how our people traveled from permanent villages located at the mouths of rivers, up into prairies, then as the warmer weather permitted, up into the foothills, and then finally up into the mountains. There were extensive trail systems connecting villages and other river drainages where our ancestors would travel to go visit neighboring tribes. Canoes navigated as far up the rivers as possible and there were runners who carried messages from one village to another to inform about an upcoming event.

The Indian Creek settlement has been described as being in two locations, one on the west bank of the Elwha at Indian Creek and the other on the east bank of the river at Little River. In 1942 Henry Johnson said that the settlement was on both sides of the Elwha River. Johnson's maternal grandmother was from the Upper Elwha settlement. The confluence of Little River with the Elwha is a short distance above the confluence of Indian Creek. People living at this location would have been able to take advantage of fish runs up the Little River.

Annabelle Bennett, granddaughter of Hunter

John, said that she fished for steelhead in Indian Creek and Little River and that the Indians had smokehouses for curing fish at both locations. Sweets Field near Madison Falls was known as a base camp for people who came to fish, hunt and gather. People from the village at the mouth of the Elwha River traveled upriver to these locations and stayed for one or two months in the late summer. Large numbers of fish were caught and dried upriver and then transported to the villages at the river mouth. The cured fish were used for trade and winter stores. These villages upriver were still occupied in 1860.

The villages near the mouth of the Elwha river knew when the hunters were coming down to trade and visit because you could hear the clacking of deer hooves tied to their knees as they ran down the trails.

Robert Charles was born in 1887. He remembers going hunting with Boston Charlie at the headwaters of the Elwha River. The elders who were recorded were born in the mid 1800's. They were raised by their parents and grandparents whose lifetimes spanned in the era before contact (1790's). It is from their memories of these elders that a picture emerges of Klallam life along the Elwha River.

### Traditional Klallam Villages on the Elwha River

Ed Sampson always said, "There were thirteen villages up the Elwha River, ʔéʔt̓x̣ʷa stúʔwiʔ."

1. There was a village on the east side of the mouth of the Elwha River. This village carried the name Elwha.
2. There was a village on the west side of the mouth of the Elwha River. This village was also called Elwha, but was later called The Place. This is where our cemetery is located. Where Charlie Jackson's homestead was.
3. Where Boston Charlie's homestead was, there was a village called, k<sup>w</sup>əčáwtx<sup>w</sup>.
4. A village located one and a half miles up Bosco Creek which drains into the Elwha River called, xpaʔčáwtx<sup>w</sup>.
5. Where Indian Creek flows into the Elwha River was a village called, titiʔəʔ. Sweets Field was a place between Little River and Indian Creek as they both flow into the Elwha River. There is a waterfall located here called Madison Falls. People would camp here as they spent time up in the mountains fishing, hunting or gathering. It was like a base camp.
6. Where Little River flows into the Elwha River, ʔúʔa stúʔwiʔ
7. sčičanəŋáwtx<sup>w</sup> (Place of our Ancestors) Lillian River.
8. sməyəcáwtx<sup>w</sup> (Place of the Elk) Elkhorn.
9. sɣəyk<sup>w</sup>əyéʔč spəʔxən (Place of the mountain meadow) Hayes.
- 10.čəq sqiqəyáyŋəx<sup>w</sup> (Place of the big trees) Chicago Camp.
- 11.ʔəsqapʔáwtx<sup>w</sup> (Gathering Place) Low Divide.
12. Another village was located at Boulder Creek.
13. Another village was located at Idaho Creek.

These may have been seasonal camps, but they were used year after year, for generations. What did it matter if the shelter erected was not permanent? It could and would be rebuilt at the next visit. When Klallam stayed seasonally at fishing sites, they certainly considered these 'places of importance' permanent and crucial to sustaining their way of life.

# Cedar Weaving Open House

Bring Your Projects

**Tuesdays and Thursdays in March**      **10am - 2pm**

Beginning March 3rd, Jamie Valadez will be on-site offering assistance and encouragement to anyone who may need help with their grad caps and other existing projects.

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



# March Birthdays

**March 1st**

Dion Johnson  
Alisa Lawrence  
Forrest Rosaire

**March 2nd**

Mark Elofson  
Melvin Elofson

**March 3rd**

Kevin Albaugh

**March 4th**

Maci Martinez  
Nathaniel Bischof  
Phillip Charles

**March 5th**

Jeffrey Blacksmith

**March 6th**

Aurelia Dailing  
Tianna Finley  
Rio Fernandes  
Christina Blacksmith

**March 7th**

Dejon Watson-Charles  
Rena Barkley

**March 8th**

Kyu- Lee Hurley  
Iris Chester  
Josiah Mjelde  
Brandon Elliott  
Teresa Dailey

**March 9th**

Jeremy Green Jr  
Sherri Azwar

**March 11th**

Angela Dailing  
Lisa Gaul  
Jennifer Williams  
Floyd Cooke

**March 12th**

Renee Poirier

**March 13th**

Asher Youngman  
Fisher Adkins

**March 14th**

Stacey Romero  
Melissa Johnson  
Ralph Needham  
Irvin O'Neel

**March 15th**

Lesa Swanson

**March 17th**

Jason Hunter

**March 18th**

Dana Edgington

**March 19th**

Jericho Stuntz  
James Bolstrom Jr  
Matthew Bennett

**March 20th**

Emma Bankson

**March 21st**

Brody Charles  
Addie Peters-Martinez  
Elisa Arakawa  
Lana Sampson  
Keith Coleman

**March 22nd**

Luke Bolstrom

**March 23rd**

Nizhoni Wheeler  
Bradley Bennett  
Philip Tolliver Jr

**March 24th**

Matthew James

**March 25th**

Jeremyah Baker  
Craig Charles

**March 26th**

Sophia Pritchard  
Malia Correia-Boyd  
Vanessa Castle  
Lena Charles

**March 27th**

Kolby Clark  
Cameron Macias  
Kenneth Elfoson-Gilbertson  
Leo Charles Jr

**March 28th**

Karlie Kahl  
Amy Reed  
Sharmaine Wright  
Raymond Bennett III  
Stephanie Doebbler

**March 29th**

Daniel Vollin  
Luke Johnson  
Carol Huffman

**March 30th**

Kakwishla Boyd  
Vincent Bolstrom  
Kenneth Clark  
Linda Wiechman  
Bernice Grant

**March 31st**

Camilla Charles  
Oshea Charles  
Yvonne Bolstrom  
Jesse Charles  
Todd Romero  
Bruce Johnson Jr  
Minnie Schaeffer  
Oliver Charles Jr



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	3 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	4 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	5 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	6 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm <b>Mario Kart Racing Qualifiers</b> <b>3pm - 5:30pm</b>	7 10am - 6:30pm
8	9 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	10 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	11 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	12 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	13 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	14 10am - 6:30pm <b>Mario Kart Qualifiers Field Trip</b>
15	16 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	17 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	18 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	19 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	20 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	21 10am - 6:30pm
22	23 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	24 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	25 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	26 After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	27 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm After School Program 2:30pm - 4:30pm	28 10am - 6:30pm
29	30 Elder's Fitness Class 11am - 12pm Adult Basketball Open Gym 6:30pm - 8:30pm	31 Gym Hours 8am - 8:30pm	<b>Gym Hours: Monday - Friday</b> <b>8am - 8:30pm</b> <b>Bathrooms/Saunas close at 8:15pm</b> <b>Hours are subject to change.</b>			

# 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!**

## Happy March, Tribal Members and Readers!

A huge thank you to all participants, volunteers, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe staff who attended and helped on February 13<sup>th</sup> Family Dance Night – “Under the Stars -łčałáwəł tə tíyałtáwsəna?”. It was a great success and a fun night as we enjoyed and celebrated Valentine’s and February birthday celebrants.

Special gratitude to planning team/partners: Healthy Families: Leslie, Mariposa House: Micaela, SART, Klallam Counseling: Stormy, Headstarts: Lola, Education: Jessica E and Jason M, Recreation: Jason W, Jard M, McKenzie and her three friends, Social Services: Becca, Keeoma, Denise, Samantha, Janet, Sateva, Julie, Melissa B, Beatriz (myself), Harmony, Culture: Mariah, Karren, and Carmen, Grant Office: Arlene, the Business Committee, and the Chief Executive Office.

We could not have done this awareness and family fun event without your support,

assistance, and/or participation. Thank you very much!

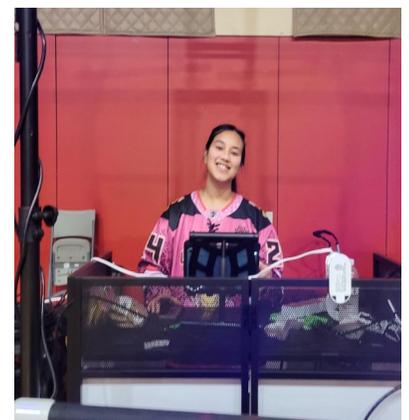
**SAVE DATES: LGBTQ+Two-Spirit Community Support Group**, Tuesdays, March 3 - 31, 2026 from 6pm-7pm at Lower Elwha Social Services Dining Room.

April 22, 2026, from 4pm to 7pm **April National Sexual Assault Awareness Month** commemoration. Need some community services hours? This event will be a great place to get those hours done. Contact us if you are interested!

**Happy Billy Frank Jr. Day as we honor his legacy and leadership!**

*“I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are.”—Billy Frank Jr.*

Respectfully, LEFA

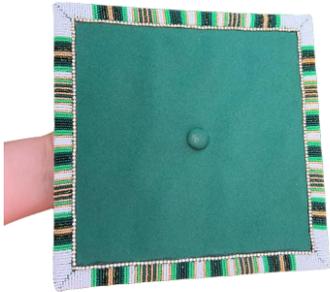


“This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW22GG3388TRIB awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect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



# TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM & TANF PRESENT

# BEADED Graduation CAPS WORKSHOP CLASS OF 2026



**Who:**  
Graduates,  
Parents/Family Members

**Where:**  
Lower Elwha Social Services  
(3080 Lower Elwha Road)

**Time:**  
3:30pm-6:00pm

**When:** Wednesdays in March  
& April **starting March 11**

Snacks & beverages provided  
Transportation home  
available

**Contact for more information**

**Melaine Wheeler, TYP**  
melaine.wheeler@elwha.org  
360-452-8471 ext. 7417

**Kelsie Gish, TANF**  
kelsie.gish@elwha.org  
360-452-8471 ext. 7459

# TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM REGISTRATION

**Empowering Youth through the  
Ways of our Ancestors**

Please scan the QR Code to Register



Contact:

**Melaine Wheeler, Program Manager**

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

## Calling All Storytellers

The Tribal youth program would like to invite community members, culture bearers, and knowledge keepers to share in our upcoming storytelling gathering “Roots & Remembrance”

\*More details to come, tentatively scheduled for Mon. Mar. 30\*

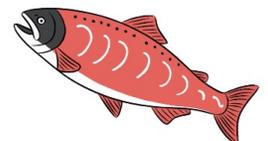
Do you carry a story passed down from an Elder?  
A Teaching from your family?  
A lived experience that shaped who you are?

Oral history is how we remember who we are and where we come from. Your voice matters. Your story matters.

We welcome traditional stories, personal reflections, historical accounts, and teachings that honor our people and our ways.

If you would like to be a storyteller for this event, please contact  
Melaine Wheeler, TYP Manager  
Email: [melaine.wheeler@elwha.org](mailto:melaine.wheeler@elwha.org)  
Phone: 360-452-8471 ext. 7417

Let’s gather, listen and carry the stories forward together!



# TYP SCHEDULE

Empowering Youth through the Ways of our Ancestors

MARCH '26



**09**  
MON

**BILLY FRANK JR. DAY**  
**LEKT GOV'T OFFICES**  
**CLOSED**

**10**  
TUES

**"FISH WAR" DOCUMENTARY**  
**SHOWING | 6PM @ GYM**

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE LEKT COMMUNITY. FISH WAR FOLLOWS THE WA TRIBES FIGHT TO EXERCISE THEIR TREATY-RESERVED FISHING RIGHTS.

**18**  
WED

**"KNOW IT. PROTECT IT.**  
**STAND FOR IT."**

OPEN TO YOUTH 12-21 YEARS OF AGE.  
6:00PM | LOWER ELWHA DINING HALL

TOPICS OF THE NIGHT INCLUDE U&A MAPPING, HARVEST MANAGEMENT, FISHING AND HUNTING AREAS.

**30**  
MON

**ROOTS & REMEMBRANCE**

STORYTELLING | 6PM @LEKT DINING HALL  
OPEN TO THE LEKT COMMUNITY

YOU CAN SIGN-UP WITH MELAINE OR SHOW UP TO THE EVENT. WE ASK THAT YOU SHARE TRADITIONAL, FISHING, HUNTING OR POSITIVE EXPERIENCES IN LIFE.

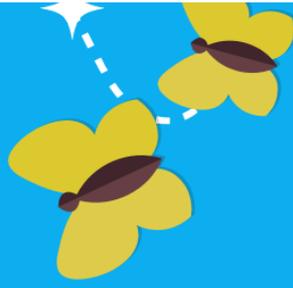
TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENTS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO MELAINE WHEELER, TYP PROGRAM MANAGER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

EMAIL: MELAINE.WHEELER@ELWHA.ORG

PHONE: 360-452-8471 EXT. 7417



*\*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*



# SPRING BREAK 2026

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE  
\*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*



PROGRAMS	MONDAY 3/30	TUESDAY 3/31	WEDNESDAY 4/1	THURSDAY 4/2	FRIDAY 4/3
RECREATION *PERMISSION SLIPS REQUIRED*	OPEN GYM 8AM-8:30PM ELDER'S FITNESS 11AM-12PM	ELWHA BEACH CLEANUP 1PM-3PM 1ST GRADE - 12TH GRADE COLLABORATION W/TYP	KICKBALL TOURNAMENT *ALL AGES*	LASER TAG, ARCADE & WELLY'S *MS/HS*	DEER PARK MOVIE *1ST-6TH GRADE*
LIBRARY	STORYTIME & CRAFTS 9AM-11AM DROP-IN 1PM-3PM	MOVIE 11AM-1PM ELWHA BEACH CLEANUP 1PM-3PM DROP-IN 3PM-5PM	SLIME TIME! 11AM-1PM DROP-IN 3PM-5PM	LASER TAG, ARCADE & WELLY'S *MS/HS* COLLABORATION W/REC.	DEER PARK MOVIE *1ST-6TH GRADE* COLLABORATION W/REC.
S.T.R.O.N.G. *CARVING SHED BEHIND CENTER*	CANOE CARVING 9AM-4:30PM *ALL AGES*	CANOE CARVING 9AM-4:30PM *ALL AGES*	CANOE CARVING 9AM-4:30PM *ALL AGES*	CANOE CARVING 9AM-4:30PM *ALL AGES*	CANOE CARVING 9AM-4:30PM *ALL AGES*
TYP (TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM)	ROOTS & REMEMBRANCE STORYTELLING TIME 6PM @DINING HALL	ELWHA BEACH CLEANUP 1PM-3PM 1ST GRADE - 12TH GRADE *PERMISSION SLIPS REQUIRED*	SMORE'S NIGHT 4PM-6PM COLLABORATION W/STRONG *ALL AGES, COOKING SHED*	FRESHWATER BAY FIELD TRIP 9:30AM DEPT. - 3:30PM RETURN 1ST GRADE - 12TH GRADE *PERMISSION SLIPS REQUIRED*	CRAFT DROP IN 12-21 YEARS OF AGE TYP HUB @SOC. SERV. 9AM-4PM *TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE*

**PROGRAM CONTACTS:**

**RECREATION**  
360-452-8471 EXT. 7440

**LIBRARY**  
360-452-8471 EXT. 7431

**S.T.R.O.N.G.**  
564-215-1202

**TYP**  
564-215-1724





# ERC News Letter

# March 2026

## Promotions:

**Monday & Tuesday- CERAMIC MUG SET**  
 Elwha Reward Members Invite Only  
 12pm-8pm While Supplies Last!

**Tuesday 3rd & 31st- Celebration Slot Tourney**  
 All Elwha Reward Members  
 Sign-ups begin at 5:30pm | Tourney @6pm  
 1st Place: \$300 | 2nd Place: \$150 | 3rd Place: \$75

**Wednesday- SENIOR DAY**  
 Elwha Reward Members **55+ ONLY**  
 \$50 Hot Seats 11am-5pm  
 2x Points All Day  
 20% OFF Salish Winds when you visit the Player's Club

**Thursday- Ladies Night**  
 Elwha Reward Lady Members qualify for  
 (1) Drawing Ticket & \$100 Hot Seats  
 from 6pm-8pm

**3/27- 17th Anniversary Hot Seats**  
 All Elwha Reward Members qualify for  
 \$500 Hot Seats Every Half Hour  
 \$2017 Hot Seats Every Hour from 7pm-10pm

**Tuesday 17th- Leprechaun Hot Seats**  
 All Elwha Reward Members qualify  
 for \$200 Hot Seats from 5pm-10pm

## Events:

21+

**Saturday March 21st-**  
*Salish Winds*  
 Come visit the Salish Winds  
 Restaurant for live music played  
 by Rewind  
 8pm-11pm

**Saturday March 28th-**  
 Come visit the Salish Winds  
 Restaurant on our casinos 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Anniversary for live music played  
 by Bread & Gravy  
 8pm-11pm

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

***Tribal Holiday Closure***

March 9th—Billy Frank Jr Day