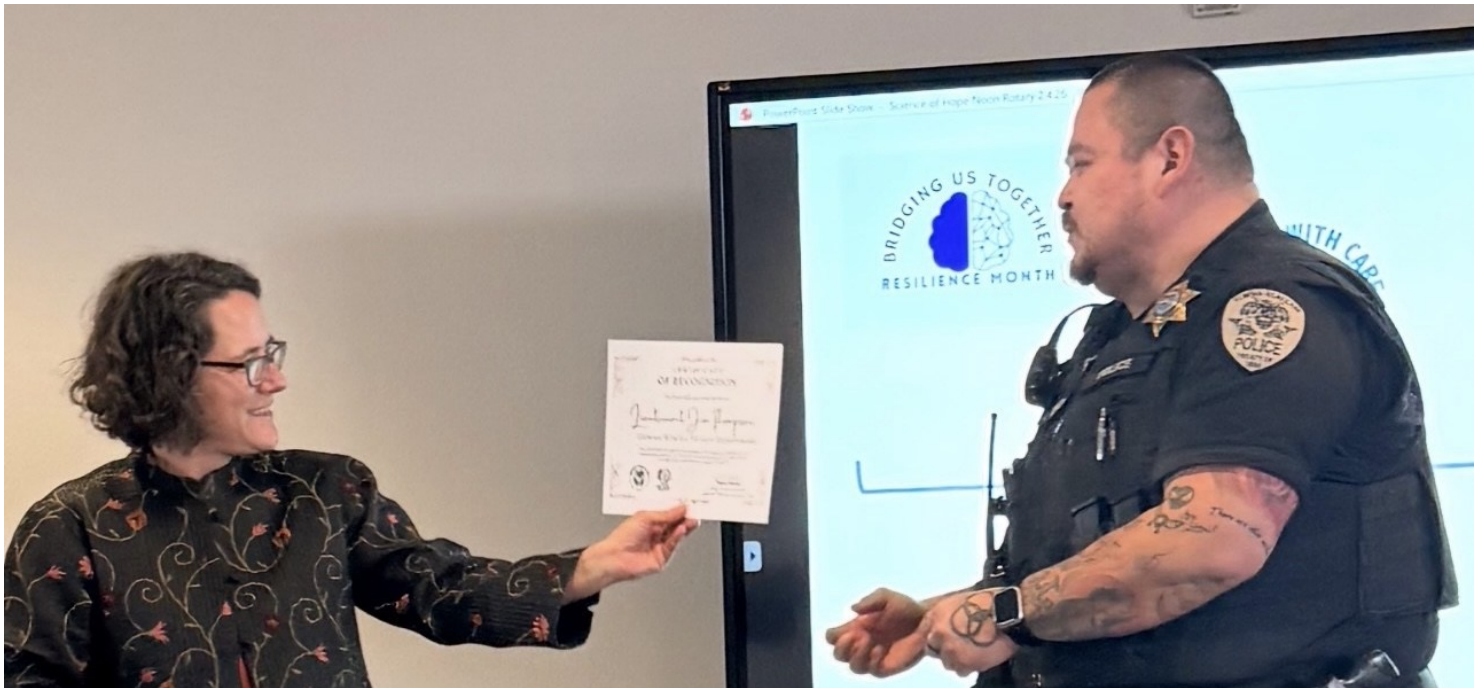




## Sequim and Lower Elwha Police Officers Honored for Handle With Care Leadership



**PORT ANGELES & SEQUIM, WA** – Lieutenant Jim Thompson of the **Lower Elwha Police Department** and Officer Daniel Martinez of the **Sequim Police Department** have been recognized with **Certificates of Recognition** for their outstanding work with the **Handle With Care Program**.

Lieutenant Thompson was honored for his advocacy and efforts to strengthen collaboration among partner agencies, ensuring children exposed to potentially traumatic events receive timely support. Officer Martinez was recog-

nized for his leadership in notifying school staff when students may have experienced trauma, improving communication and support between law enforcement and local schools.

The Handle With Care Program helps schools and community partners respond quickly and compassionately when children face potentially traumatic incidents. The awards, presented in early 2026, by the Clallam Resilience Project, recognize the officers' service and achievements throughout 2025.

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

LEPD (1) • Washington Water Supply Update (3) • Health Clinic (4) • SART (4, 6) • Community Health (5, 30) • Nutrition & Diabetes (6-7) • TVR (7, 14) • LEFA (8) • Heritage Center (10-13) • TANF (15) • Culture (16-19) • Elwha Museum at the Carnegie (20-21) • Recreation (21, 25) • Children's House of Learning (22-23) • Stevens Middle School (24) • Library (26) • Natural Resources (27-28) • Elwha Assembly (28) • Birthdays (29) • Elwha River Casino (31)

# 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



## ʔéłxʷaʔ nəxʷsłáyəm’ — 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.

### Mucus Boy (One of Many Versions)

A mother had seven boys and one girl.

One day the sister got lost and one by one the brothers disappeared in their attempts to find her. The mother cried so hard that a baby was made of her mucus pooling on the ground.

He grew up and went into the woods, where he found the bodies of his brothers. He found that his sister was a prisoner, married to a mountain lion.

When the lion hunted, he stuck her to a pitchy stump so she couldn't escape. The sister had a baby that was two-faced.

All the brothers came to rescue the sister, but she warned them to leave, that the lion would kill them.

When the lion returned, the two-faced child would tell that a brother had come. The lion would hunt down the brother and tear out his heart.

When Mucus Boy came he made sure he had stones covering his heart, so when the lion attacked, his nails got bent and Mucus Boy killed him.

He took his brothers hearts back and brought them back to life. The brothers and sister all went back home. One day the two-faced child got angry at the one who had saved them (Mucus Boy). The child called him names and finally said, "Mucus." The man covered his face, climbed to the sky, and was never seen again.

## Washington Water Supply Update

### **There's still not enough snow**

The drought declared in April and expanded in June continues with no end in sight.

A group of state and federal water supply experts — the [Water Supply Availability Committee](#) — says there's not enough snow in Washington.

### **A warm and wet winter**

So far, water year 2026 has been the warmest on record. It started in October with above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. This was followed by the warmest December on record.

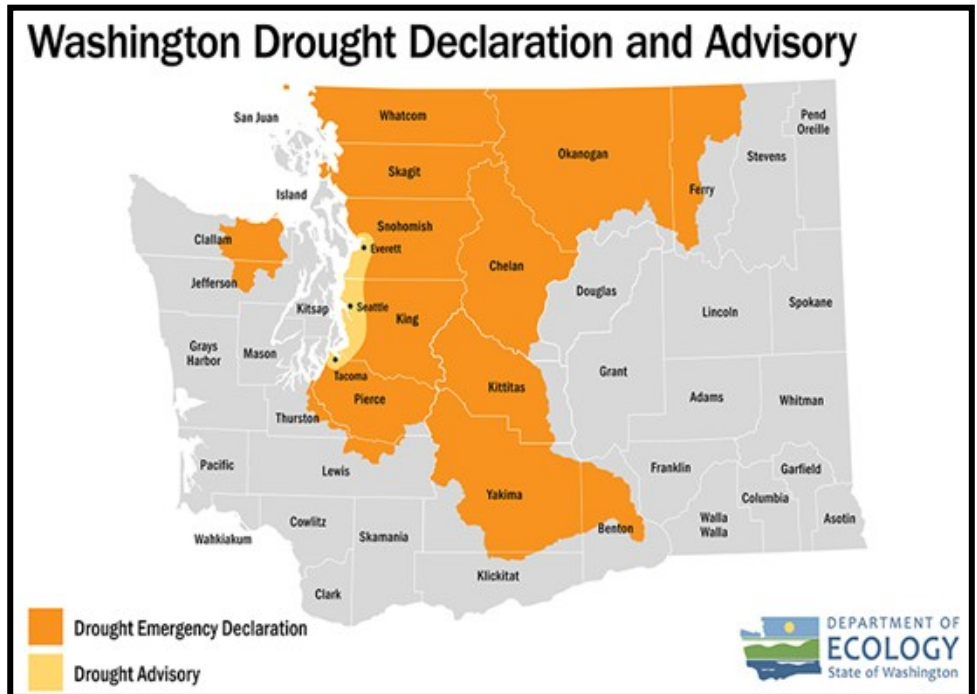
December precipitation improved long-term precipitation deficits, increased soil moisture and removed seasonal deficits from reservoirs. January continued the trend of being warmer than we need it to be. It was the 12th warmest and 22nd driest on record since 1895.

### **We need more snow**

Unfortunately, there wasn't nearly enough snow. In fact, according to Deputy State Climatologist, Karin Bumbaco, it would take a record-breaking amount of snow between now and April to get back to "normal" peak snowpack.

So far February has had above normal temperatures. Snowpack — currently 52% of normal — is the 3rd lowest on record for this time of year. According to Ecology's statewide drought lead, Caroline Mellor, the current snowpack percentage can be misleading. She said snowpack in many basins is as low as 35% of normal. The statewide average has been brought up by just a few "normal" basins in the northern Cascade Mountains.

Current streamflows in most of the state range from normal to above normal. This isn't necessarily good news as higher than normal stream-



flows in the winter can be connected to low snowpack.

To illustrate just how important snow is in this state, Yakima's reservoirs are currently at 132% of average. This sounds encouraging. But at full capacity the reservoirs there only hold 1 million acre-feet of water. Without that "sixth reservoir" of snowpack, there is nowhere near enough water for the needs of the area. An acre-foot is a measurement of water one foot deep spread over one acre of land. The water needs for irrigation and fisheries in the Yakima Basin from April through September are 2.5 million acre-feet.

### **Going forward**

Water users in the Yakima Basin can expect a water availability forecast from the Bureau of Reclamation in early March.

"Low snowpack across the state leaves us concerned for water supply when most needed in late spring, summer and early fall in much of the rest of the state too," Mellor said.

Temperature forecasts through April are uncertain, though there is a good chance for above normal precipitation. There is a high likelihood of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in the summer.

## Health Clinic

### Expanding Same-Day Appointments for Tribal Elders

As Medical Director of the Lower Elwha Health Clinic, I'm excited to share a new initiative designed to better serve our Tribal Elders. Many of you know that we now have daily appointment spots reserved for Elders. **Beginning in March, we will expand this program to include Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** specifically for same-day acute care needs.

Our goal is to reduce barriers and provide responsive, compassionate care for those who have contributed so much to our community.

This is a trial program, and we will carefully monitor how it works for patients, providers, and staff. Feedback from Elders and families will be invaluable in guiding improvements and determining whether this program should be expanded further.

Elders are central to the strength and well-being of our community, and we are proud to take this step to honor them with timely, respectful, and culturally responsive care.

— Adam Zerr, APRN

Medical Director, Lower Elwha Health Clinic

# SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART)

GET FREE, CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT  
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

WE SUPPORT AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO YOUTH 0-18YRS OLD IN LEKT, CLALLAM COUNTY AND SURROUNDING TRIBES.  
SART CAN PROVIDE PEDIATRIC FORENSIC EXAMS, ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND REFERRALS TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

WHETHER YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ASSAULT YOURSELF, OR WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD, A FRIEND OR SOMEONE ELSE, WE'RE HERE.

**LOWER ELWHA  
HEALTH CLINIC**  
243511 HWY 101 WEST  
PORT ANGELES, WA  
98363  
**(360) 452-6252, EXT. 1**  
**AFTER HOURS: (541)**  
**526-9256**



# Community Health

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

**Community Health Family Fun Night & Dinner!**

**Wednesday, April 29**  
**5:00-7:30pm**  
at Billy Whiteshoes Field

**Games & activities for all ages!**

Dinner at 5:30  
by Melissa Gilman & Audrey Gales

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



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

## Planting Seeds of Health Annual LEKT Wellness Fair

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

LEKT GYMNASIUM 2851 LOWER ELWHA RD.

**Early Access for Elders 1-3 PM**

**All Are Welcome 3-6 PM**

**Donate Blood on April 10 from 10am - 4pm!**

Washington state is experiencing a severe blood shortage. Donors have early access to the wellness fair starting at 1 pm.

**Scan to schedule**



or call 1-800-398-788 & use sponsor code 0668.

*One pint of blood can save up to three lives.*

### Limited Transportation Options Available

For transportation requests, reach out to Kat Barrow.

Email: [kat.barrow@elwha.org](mailto:kat.barrow@elwha.org)  
Call or text: 564-215-9952



**Welcome, Hammer!**

Hi, my name is Mark S. Charles aka Hammer. I'm the new Paratransit Driver for the Community Health Services Team. My grandparents were the late Foster and Irene Charles. My dad and mom were the late Leo Charles Sr. and Sharon Rose Charles. I'm happy to be employed by LEKT again. Last year I was honored to be the Cultural Coordinator for Tribal Journeys 2025 Paddle to Elwha.

To schedule a ride to a medical appointment, call the clinic at 360-452-6252.

### Same-day Appointments at LEKT Clinic for Elders

Call 360-452-6252 to schedule.

Transportation options available.

- **Medical:** Same-day appointments for elders available Mon-Thurs. Call starting at 8:00am to schedule.
- **Dental:** Same-day appointments for elders available Mon-Thurs at 11am. Call starting at 8:00am to schedule. Timeslot subject to change.

# Klallam Strong: Nutrition & Diabetes Newsletter

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

In this issue:

- \* ORAC
- \* Pesticides & Rice

## Pesticides & Rice

Most of the US rice grown comes from the southern states that used arsenical pesticides in former cotton fields. The pesticide stays in the soil indefinitely and can cause harm to brain development.

Buy rice from California, India and Thailand which has lower levels of arsenic.

Also.....use more water to cook your rice in and then drain the excess water. I have been doing this for years.



## Do you know your ORAC food level?

ORAC stand for “Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity”. A measure of the antioxidant level of foods; the higher the number, the greater potential for health.

Antioxidants can help lower the risk of cancer, degenerative diseases and more.

The USDA suggests having 3,000 to 5,000 ORAC units a day.

## Highest food ORAC values >10,000 a serving:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Cranberry          | • Beans                |
| • Berries            | • Plums/Prunes         |
| • Cherries           | • Red Delicious Apples |
| • Cloves             | • Red Grapes           |
| • Cinnamon           | • Oregano              |
| • Walnuts            | • Dark Chocolate       |
| • Chili Powder       | • Flax Seed            |
| • Pecans             | • Curry Powder         |
| • Kidney/Black/Pinto |                        |

**If you have diabetes, don't forget about your quarterly A1C test.**

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





LOWER ELWHA SART THIS APRIL-CREATING AWARENESS ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR US!

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

## 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.



## Food as Medicine Series: Understanding GLP-1's

By Dawn Travelstead, MS, RD, CDCES

With the increase of GLP-1 usage, I wanted to share with you some nutritional concerns and understanding of how these medications work.

#### How GLP's Work:

GLP-1 medicines mimic a natural hormone called "glucagon-like peptide-1", this is the body's built-in signal that helps *regulates appetite and blood sugar*. GLP is released from the gut and tells the brain "**You're satisfied**". GLP also slows down how quickly the food leaves the stomach.

#### Why do we lose the "You're satisfied" hormone?"

- Overconsumption of processed foods, especially high fructose corn syrup, which also causes high triglycerides in your blood.
- Chronic inflammation.
- Poor sleeping habits
- Excessive snacking
- High stress.

#### Nutritional Challenges:

- Loss of Lean Body Mass
- Reduced protein intake
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Lower energy levels.
- Eating enough fiber and antioxidant foods

#### Your role for success:

Making sure you are eating enough calories, protein and nutrients.

Preserve lean mass: exercise and resistance exercises are so important.

GI issues. Are you eating enough fiber and drinking enough water?

You may need to supplement vitamins D, calcium, magnesium, iron and B vitamins.

Weight plateaus will happen. Focus on healthy, clean eating.

For additional nutritional advice, please contact me by email or phone. I am here to help you through this journey.

# 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



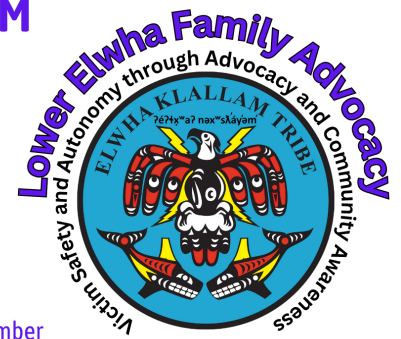
Lower Elwha Social Services



Cell: 360-460-1745



360-775-9346 - Emergency Phone Number



**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

Dear Tribal Members and Readers!

### Announcement and SAVE the DATES:

- It is that time again to do the annual commemoration of **April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month**. You and your family are invited to join us on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm (3pm poster making, 3:45 shawl ceremony and prayer; and 4pm – walk) Dinner and presentation to follow. Volunteers are needed.
- **LGBTQ+Two-Spirit Community Support Group**, Tuesdays, March 3 – extended until June 30, 2026) from 6pm-7pm at Lower Elwha Social Services Dining Room. To join on zoom, here is the link: Meeting ID 79328893385; Password: 4aCsyl
- **The Women Support Group Talking Circle** – soup for the soul. Effective Thursday, April 2, 2026, until June 26, 2026, will be held at Elwha Heritage Center from 2:00pm to 3:30 pm. It is also available on zoom at

- <https://tinyurl.com/mwudd4uw>
- **Meeting ID: 816 8058 5105; Passcode: 886920**
- **May 5, 2026, MMIWP – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People awareness and walk. This event is open to the public. More information will be shared as soon as it is available.**
- Our DOJOVW FY2022 grant is extended until September 2026.

### Other related Resources:

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-Hope/4673  
 StrongHeart Native Helpline: 1-844-7NATIVE (1844-762-8483)  
 HFCC: 360-452-HELP/4357  
 SART: 360-452-6252  
 or after hours: 541-526-9256  
 WomenSpirit Coalition Supervise Visitation: 360-203-3509

“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



Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday OLD MAN,  
WARREN STEVENS

Its Official—You're OLD!!  
You're eligible for Medicare & Senior Discounts now.  
Here is to having many more years together.

Love you always and forever,  
Your loving Wife

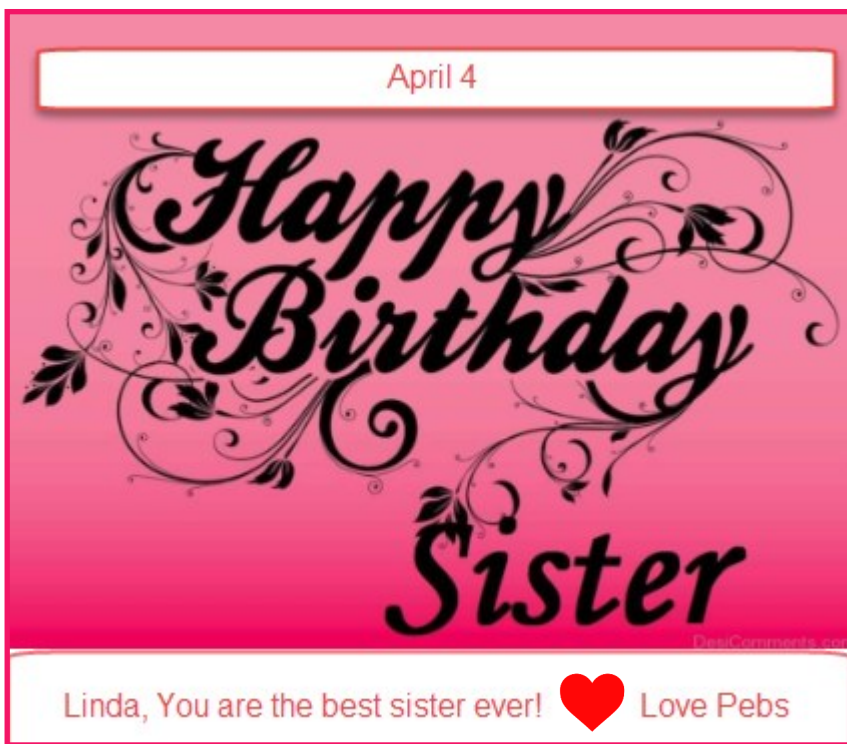
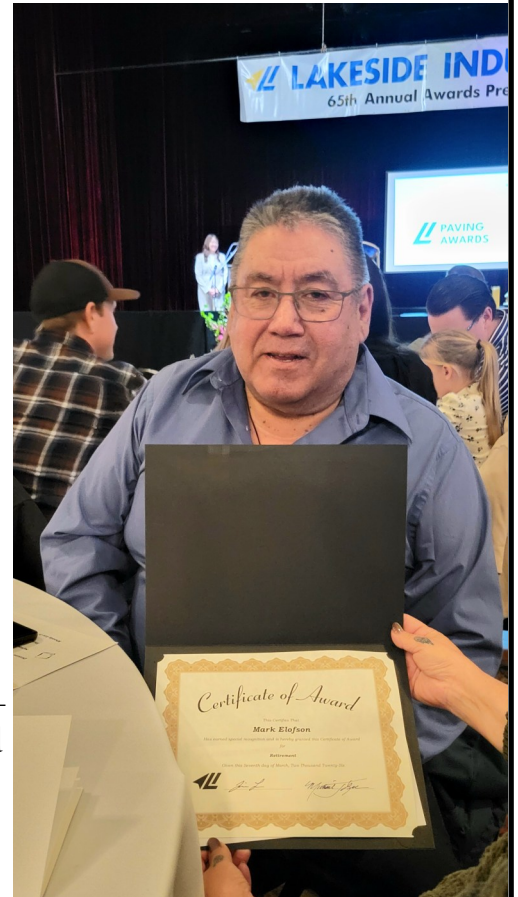
## Community Shout-Outs

On Saturday, March 7, 2026, my husband **Mark Elofson** was honored at the Annual Lakeside Industries Awards Ceremony at the Tacoma Convention Hall in Tacoma, Washington. It was a really special night for our family as Mark received his official Retirement Certificate along with a beautiful gold pocket watch engraved with his years of service — May 1990 to March 2026. Mark is a proud Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal member, and I couldn't be more proud of the life and career he has built. For 36 years he worked for Lakeside Industries with dedication, integrity, and a work ethic that never wavered. In all those years, he never missed a single day of work. Anyone who knows Mark knows that kind of commitment comes straight from his character.

Now that his employee file is officially closed, it's time for him to enjoy the next chapter of life. He's looking forward to doing more of the things he loves — bowling, spending time with our children and grandchildren, and traveling north to visit Chad and the girls in Canada.

On behalf of our whole family — his wife, kids, and grandkids — we are so incredibly proud of him. His hard work, dedication, and example mean more to us than words can really say. He has always taken care of his family and shown what perseverance and commitment look like.

Congratulations Mark. We love you and are so proud of you. Enjoy every minute of your retirement — you've more than earned it



Happy Birthday Sateva!!

# R.A.E.S.S. TO EMPLOYMENT

## Recompete Adult Employment Support Services

**A PATHWAY TO A LIVABLE WAGE FOR ADULTS 25-54**

### READY FOR YOUR NEXT STEP?

Whether you're starting fresh, changing direction, or looking for more stability for yourself and your family - we are here to support your journey.

Support rooted in community:

- Personalized training when it helps you reach your goal
- Continued support as you move forward
- Training through local and regional partners
- Connections to local employers
- One-on-one career guidance

### CAREER PATHWAYS CONNECTED TO OUR REGION

- ✓ Maritime and Marine Trades
- ✓ Natural Resources
- ✓ Construction and Skilled Trades
- ✓ CDL and Transportation
- ✓ Hospitality & Tourism
- ✓ Office & Digital Skills
- ✓ Healthcare

**YOUR GOALS.  
YOUR PATH.  
YOUR TIME.**

This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration through the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (as a sub-recipient of Federal Award Identification Number: ED24HDQ0G0574). The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Economic Development Administration.



**BEGIN YOUR PATHWAY**  
Visit us at: *Heritage Training Center*  
Call or text: 360-417-8545 ext 2912  
Email: [Nicole.Volkmann@elwha.org](mailto:Nicole.Volkmann@elwha.org)  
Office hours: 8:00am - 4:30PM  
MTWTFH

## Heritage Center News & Classes

**RAESS to Employment** (Recompete Adult Employment Support Services) supports committed community members in building a clear pathway toward livable-wage careers in high-demand fields.

This program is part of the federal Recompete Pilot Program, an investment designed to help communities close the prime-age employment gap (ages 25–54) by increasing access to training, support services, and workforce opportunities that lead to long-term economic stability. We focus on career pathways aligned with Recompete priorities, including construction trades, transportation (CDL), maritime, healthcare, and other in-demand regional industries.

Our approach is rooted in one-on-one case management. We work with you to understand your goals, identify barriers, and map out realistic next steps. This includes job readiness, career exploration, short-term certification training, and connection to comparable benefits to help you reach your goal. *For example, if you need flagging certification to support your job search in transportation, want to learn medical billing and coding, or want to build accounting fundamentals, we can help you get on your way through the right training and resources.*

Every plan is case-by-case and tailored to you—focused on building skills, removing barriers, and supporting your progress along the way.

Come see us at the Wellness Fair on April 10th.  
To schedule a career assessment, call 360-417-8545 ext. 2912.

*'This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration through the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (as a sub-recipient of Federal Award Identification Number: ED24HDQ0G0574). The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Economic Development Administration.'*

**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](mailto:heritage.center@elwha.org) or (360) 417-8545

**Intro to nəxʷsłayəmúçən**  
Every Tuesday (April 7th—June 9th)  
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**  
April 7th & 22nd  
9am—3:30pm  
Same day applications and interviews!

**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

We hear you! CPR Classes coming soon!  
What classes and workshops would you like to see offered at the Heritage Center?



Let us know by filling out this quick 2026 survey!

'THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE DISTRESSED AREA RECOMPETE PILOT PROGRAM (AS A SUB-RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL AWARD IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: ED24HDQ0G0574). THE OPINIONS, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION.'

# ATSSA FLAGGING CERTIFICATION

APRIL 11, 2026

**ELWHA KLALLAM HERITAGE CENTER**  
401 E FIRST ST  
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362  
(360)417-8545 X2912



- **READY TO WORK IMMEDIATELY!**
- **HANDBOOKS ARE YOURS TO KEEP.**
- **VALID FOR 3 YEARS**
- **ACCEPTED IN ALL STATES.**
- **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. REGISTER IN ADVANCE.**
- **ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS FROM ANY FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE WELCOME.**

**NOPRC**



North Olympic Peninsula  
Recompete Coalition

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES ON LAND AND SEA



Scan to Sign Up!



# Gig Harbor Boat Shop

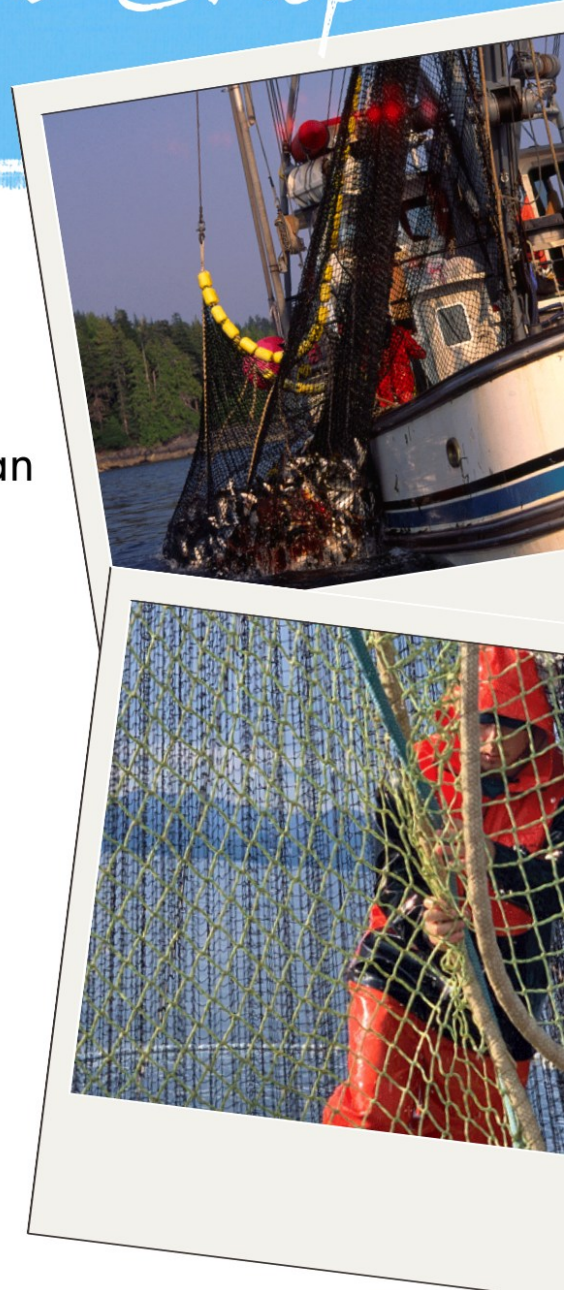
## CREW SCHOOL

### **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**





# Intro to nəxʷsł'ayəmícən

**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:** Tuesday @ 5 pm- 6 pm

**Starting April 7th- June 9th, 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**



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

**For more information contact:**

**Keoma Messenger at 360-461-4916**

**or 360-452-8471 ext. 7701**

COME TO JOIN

# Cooking Class

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Start 3:30 pm

 Tribal Center Kitchen

- **Clam Chowder**

HOSTED BY TANF



Each family will take home dinner ready to bake

RSVP by  
**APRIL 15, 2026**

DENISE.HUFF@ELWHA.ORG  
TEXT 564-215-1457



Learn basic cooking skills

Understand healthy eating

Build confidence in the kitchen

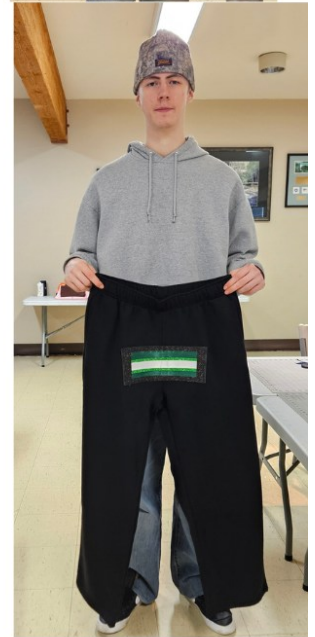


## Ribbon Classes

During the months of January & February we held ribbon hoodie & skirt classes.

**Huge thank you to our sewing aunties! Partners from ASP/Recreation, SART, STRONG, TANF, Culture & Community Health!**

Youth and community members had the opportunity to build practical sewing skills while working on their projects. Participants learned how to cut material, hem fabric, thread a sewing machine, properly iron their pieces, and safely operate a sewing machine. These hands-on lessons helped strengthen confidence, creativity, and valuable life skills while bringing the community together through learning.







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# ELWHA CANOE BLESSING CEREMONY

Thurs April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

3:30pm

Elwha Tribal Center - backyard

2851 Lower ELwha Rd Port Angeles, WA

Join us as we awaken Beautiful Sister

harmony.arakawa@elwha.org (564) 215-1445



Paʔáʔit ʔáyəs snáx wɔ

**Bring your own snacks**  
Bottled water is provided

# CANOE PRACTICE DATES

Monday - Friday  
4pm

Starting - Mon April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*time will change when summer break starts, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

Meet @ Marina (near yacht club)

TRANSPORTATION: RSVP in advance if you need a ride

harmony.arakawa@elwha.org

(564) 215-1445

# What's happening at the Museum?


We recently had the honor of hosting Ramona Bennett for a powerful afternoon of storytelling, history, and truth-telling. Ramona is as fierce as she is funny, and she had the room completely engaged—laughing one moment and reflecting deeply the next. Her words were a reminder of the strength of our people and the responsibility we carry to continue this work for future generations.

If you haven't yet, we highly recommend reading her book ***Fighting for the Puyallup*** and watching **FISH WAR** to gain a deeper understanding of the fight for treaty rights here in the Pacific Northwest.

## Looking ahead, we hope you'll join us for our next film screening:

 Kato: Dreams of Dark Earth

 April 7

 6:00 PM

 Elwha Klallam Museum

Our film nights are always free and open to the community, and we love creating a space where we can come together, learn, and share.

Our museum book club is still going strong! We're currently reading ***We Survived the Night*** by Julian Brave Noisecat, and as always, new readers are welcome to join us. It's been such a great way to connect, reflect, and explore Indigenous stories together.

We're always working to bring meaningful programming to the community, and we'd love to hear from you. If you have ideas for events, films, or topics you'd like to see at the museum, please don't hesitate to reach out.

To stay up to date on upcoming events, follow us on Facebook or join our email list by contacting us at [klallam.museum@elwha.org](mailto:klallam.museum@elwha.org).



**Family Fun Center (Mario Kart Trip) 2026**  
Tukwila, WA

This year I had 31 kids race to earn points to go on a trip to the Family Fun Center. Of those 31 kids that earned points, we only take 12 with us. Every Friday from January 16<sup>th</sup> until March 6<sup>th</sup> were the Fridays the kids could earn points.

Our Adult Chaperones were -

Mo Moses, Justine Clifford, Mariah Francis, Jada Cargo, Audrey Gales, Harmony Arakawa and myself.

The 12 kids that earned their points were –  
(1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary)

Jarison, Bryant, Tydus, Leilani, Karleigh, Phoenix, Vanna, JeDiyah, Annabelle, Zayne, Addisu, and Dreyson.



# CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF LEARNING



*Welcome Sonja Elobson as the Health Manager for the Childrens House of Learning. Enrolled Member of the Lower Elwha Tribe. She has her Masters in Education.*



*Welcome Leona McKinnon as the Administration Assistant at the Children's House of Learning. She is an enrolled Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal member.*



*Congratulations Patricia Brady completed her BA in Education She is our Lead teacher for Eagles*



# CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF LEARNING

## MARCH FAMILY NIGHT

THANK YOU TO THE FAMILIES WHO SHOWED UP TO MAKE MEDICINE BAGS. WE HAD GREAT FELLOWSHIP. NEXT MONTH WE WILL BE WORKING WITH WOOL.



# STEVENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## MARCH UPDATE



Students sing the Welcome Song in the middle school gym before it is closed for construction. The refurbished gym won't open until next school year.

### Students of the Month And what their teachers had to say!

**Jason Montero:** Jason is creative and reflective student who can lighten the mood of the classroom with his large bank of interesting facts. He is eager to engage and has shown the utmost respect to those around him.

**Ruben Peters:** Ruben brings a positive, focused energy each and every day. I appreciate his kind, respectful nature!



# April 2026

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                                      | Friday  | Saturday            |
|--------|--|---|--|---|---|---------------------|
|        |  | Elwha Beach Cleanup<br>1pm - 3pm<br><br>Softball/Baseball Day<br>Basketball Day | 1<br>4v4 Kickball Tournament<br>(Elwha Gym)  | 2<br>Redline Lasertag<br>1pm - 4p<br>MS/HS    | 3<br>Super Mario Galaxy<br>K-6 <sup>th</sup> (Elem)   | 4<br>10am - 6:30pm  |
| 5      | 6<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm  | 7<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm                                    | 8<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm  | 9<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm  | 10<br>Wellness Fair<br>1pm - 3pm<br>Elders Only<br>3pm - 6pm<br>All Welcome   | 11<br>10am - 6:30pm |
| 12     | 13<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm | 14<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm                                   | 15<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm | 16<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm | 17<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br><b>Mario Kart Qualifying Races MS/HS 4pm - 7pm</b> | 18<br>10am - 6:30pm |
| 19     | 20<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm | 21<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm                                   | 22<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm | 23<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm | 24<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br><b>Mario Kart Qualifying Races MS/HS 4pm - 7pm</b> | 25<br>10am - 6:30pm |
| 26     | 27<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm | 28<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm                                   | 29<br>Elder's Fitness Class<br>11am - 12pm<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm<br>Adult Basketball<br>Open Gym<br>6:30pm - 8:30pm | 30<br>After School Program<br>2:30pm - 4:30pm | <b>Gym Hours: Monday - Friday<br/>8am - 8:30pm<br/>Bathrooms/Saunas close at 8:15pm<br/>Hours are subject to change.</b>                    |                     |

## Library

### It's National Poetry Month!

You are invited to join the Library in celebrating the incredible art form which is poetry this National Poetry Month! We are featuring works from Native American poets like Joy Harjo, Fred Bigjim, Duane Niatum, Sasha taq<sup>w</sup>šəblu LaPoint, and Rena Priest, just to name a few. Here are a few of our other favorite books of poetry:

*When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through*, edited by Joy Harjo, former US Poet Laureate

*Dream Drawings: Configurations of a Timeless Kind*, by N. Scott Momaday

*On Resilience: Stories of Climate Adaptation Across Washington's Landscapes*, edited by Harriet Morgan

*A Muckleshoot Poetry Anthology: At the Confluence of the Green and White Rivers*, edited by Susan Landgraf

*The Pull of the Green Kite*, by Duane Niatum

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.

- Apr. 1: Introduction to Cybersecurity (NSDL)
- Apr. 8: Introduction to MS Excel (NSDL)
- Apr. 15: Internet Safety for Parents
- Apr. 22: Career Search Skills & Resume Workshop (NSDL)
- Apr. 29: Information Literacy in the Post-Truth Era: How to Tell Fact from Fake



### Do You Have Feedback for the Library?

If you have any feedback for us, including other services and classes you'd like to see offered by the Library, books you'd like to see added to the collection, or any other thoughts you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Jason M at [Jason.morris@elwha.org](mailto:Jason.morris@elwha.org) or 360-452-8471 ext. 7431 with any questions or comments!

### After-School Program Science and Crafts Activity

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Chelsea Korbolic joined the After-School Program for a science and crafts activity. She brought with her owl pellets for the kids to dissect, along with materials to create owls from yarn and cardboard! The ASP kids got to learn about what owls eat from dissecting the pellets (rodents, yum!), trying to identify what kinds of rodents the owls were eating from the bones they found. Huge thank you to Chelsea for taking the time to come down for this activity, the kids loved it!

### Weekly Class Schedule for April

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 12pm-1pm and again from 5pm-6pm and are offered through Microsoft Teams at the link posted in the Education and Recreation channel of Camp Crier or by scanning the QR code below, and may be attended in-person upon request. One-on-one tutoring is also available on a

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for Spring fence weir installation to monitor migrating juvenile salmon!

**April 20th – Salt Creek 8:30AM**  
**April 21st – Deep Creek –3:00 PM**  
**April 22nd – East Twin**



**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO REGISTER:**



- Chest waders & boots provided
- Meeting at NR or Laird’s Corner to carpool
- Bring a lunch, water & a waterproof top layer
- **Must be able to walk over uneven surfaces**
- **This work is physically demanding and most tasks require heavy lifting**

## Join the Climate Adaptation Steering Committee Meeting!



art by Lora Burke

**On April 2nd 10–11:30AM** at Natural Resources or on Teams. During this meeting, we’ll work together to refine our top five priorities for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

**Contact: [cameron.macias@elwha.org](mailto:cameron.macias@elwha.org) | (360)457-4012 ext7499**

*We’ll also be gathering input at the April community council meeting!*



## WELCOMING CAMERON TO THE TEAM ...

Cameron Macias has joined Natural Resources as **Wildlife Project Biologist/Climate & Cultural Liaison**. She recently earned her PhD in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho working on the Olympic Cougar Project. Cameron enjoys birding, gardening, traveling, & cheering for the Vancouver Canucks hockey team. She is thrilled to be home and serving LEKT in this new role!

In April, black bears are busy foraging for Spring goodies, like flowers, bugs & fresh greens. This Elwha valley bear knows that cleavers (AKA bedstraw) are a cleansing, nutritious food to harvest this month!



**Wildlife**

**cam capture**





**All are welcome!**  
**Sunday: Service start at 11:00**  
**Children church available**  
**Lunch follows**

**Monday: 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study**  
**“Audacious Faith “**  
**Believing God in the face of Impossibility**  
**hosted by Ralena (Reba) Cornelson**

**Thursday: 6:30 PM Men’s Bible study**  
**Hosted by Tony Delgado**



**APPLY ANYTIME BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 15TH FOR OUR SUMMER 2026 PROGRAM!**



You will learn:

- Wildlife tracks and sign
- Outdoor survival skills at an overnight 4-day camp (July 13-17 @ Quinault)
- How to work in the field
- And much more!



Apply Here



For more information, contact  
 Kim Sager-Fradkin  
 kim.sager@elwha.org



# April Birthdays



## April 1st

Brenda Francis-Thomas  
Joleen Kardonsky

## April 3rd

Johanna Blacksmith  
Roxanne Charles  
Lois Durgan  
Tawnya Newell  
Gerald Stangle  
Warren Stevens

## April 4th

Evelyn Ellsworth  
Linda Laungayan  
Michael Rounds  
Kalem Smith

## April 5th

Jenalee Charles  
Bradd Morton  
Lola Moses

## April 6th

Brittany Jones  
Jaedan Moore

## April 7th

Dorothy Boyd  
Holli Clark  
Nathaniel Thompson

## April 8th

Alan Charles  
Caymus Johnson

## April 9th

Sky Arakawa

## April 10th

Suzie Bash  
Joseph Luce Jr

## April 11th

Elaina Swanson

## April 12th

Darlene Bennett  
Alexis Charles  
Cassandra Charles  
Katia Mjelde  
Regina Williams

## April 13th

Even Mjelde

## April 14th

Byron Bennett  
Marlene Charles  
Zelby Gloria  
Duane Stephan Sr

## April 15th

Leon Miller-Lucero  
Skylar Wheeler

## April 17th

Beau Fiscus  
Khyla Miller-Pierce  
Michael Schleufer

## April 18th

Kevin Bolstrom  
Raven Charles  
Venessa Goldsbury  
Zachary Karanovich  
Sway Schroeder

## April 19th

Doreen Rhodes

## April 20th

Juan Maciass III  
Percy Peters

## April 21st

Daniel Bash  
Samuel Charles  
Gillian Elofson  
Kwyingsun Fernandes  
Hannah Hopie  
Dion Tom  
Robert Williams

## April 22nd

Trinity Gloria  
Sateva Henderson  
Tamera Luce

## April 23rd

Bradley Bennett Jr  
Malena Charles

## April 24th

Natosha Black-Adams  
Marvin Charles  
Brandy Williams

## April 25th

Linda Leonato  
Jared Moses  
John Sampson  
Skylar Walden

## April 28th

Brett Needham



# Planting Seeds of Health Annual LEKT Wellness Fair

Friday, April 10, 2026

LEKT GYMNASIUM 2851 LOWER ELWHA RD.



Early Access for Elders 1-3 PM

All Are Welcome 3-6 PM

## LEARN

about growing traditional plants!

## GROW

in knowledge and understanding of ways to make healthy choices!



## CONNECT

to local health and wellness resources!

## WIN

raffle prizes and other giveaways!

## Donate Blood from 10 am - 4 pm!

Washington state is experiencing a severe blood shortage. Donors have early access to the wellness fair starting at 1 pm.

*One pint of blood can save up to three lives.*

## Scan to schedule



or call  
1-800-398-788  
& use sponsor  
code 0668.

## Limited Transportation Options Available

For transportation requests, reach out to Kat Barrow.

Email: [kat.barrow@elwha.org](mailto:kat.barrow@elwha.org)

Call or text: 564-215-9952



# ELWHA RIVER CASINO

Monthly Edition  
April 2026

Stay Informed - Stay Connected



21+

## MONDAY & TUESDAY- GIFT MARKET

- Elwha Reward Member Invite Only. 12pm-8pm Monday & Tuesday's

## WEDNESDAY-SENIOR DAY

- Elwha Reward Members 55+ qualify for \$50 Hot Seats 11am-5pm, 20% off meal comps. & 2X PTS all day.

## THURSDAY- EARN & GET

- All Elwha Reward Members qualify to earn 300pts for a Mariners T-Shirt

## FRIDAY- HOT SEATS

- All Elwha Reward Members qualify for Hot Seats up to \$1,000 Cash 7pm-10pm

## APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup> -SLOT TOURNEY

- All Elwha Reward Members qualify to win up to \$300 6pm-8pm For Bunny Money Slot Tourney



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Live Band: Bad Neighbor Saturday, 8:00pm - 11pm

## SALISH WINDS SPECIAL

- 4/5/26 Easter Brunch

## ERC EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH:

Deanna- Cage/Cashier  
Abigail- Portier

Stop in and congratulate our Employees for their continued hard work!!

### CONTACT INFO

📞 360-452-3005 EXT. #114

📍 See Players Club for more information

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



**SAVE THE DATE:** MMIW/P Awareness Event

May 5th, 2026 Elwha Klallam Heritage Center