



č?é?ƣx^wa? syəcəm

August 2026

Thank You From Frances Charles & Family

Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

On behalf of our families and my late husband Jerry, we want to thank everyone who provided support, prayers and thoughts during our loss. To the tribes who donated food to the funeral. The Elwha tribal clinic staff, hospice staff, and his doctors. He appreciated them all. To the delegates who wrote letters; Senator Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. To our Good friend and retired Congressman Derek Kilmer.

There were many who had provided food, and flowers to our home during our grieving. Thank you to the Jamestown Tribe and the Port of P.A. for your donations toward dinner. Those who guided in the arrangements of the funeral service, the outside agencies & tribes who had provided food and flowers, and the Veterans graciously honored Jerry at the tribal center and a remarkable grave site service. Our families are so grateful for the support you all provided to make it a beautiful day for Jerry's next journey. We ask you keep us and our tribal communities in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank You,
Frances and all of our families.



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Lower Elwha Business Committee



Back Row:
Tia Skerbeck, Secretary/Treasurer
Steve Robideau, Vice-Chairman

Front Row:
Melissa Gilman, Chairwoman
Frances Charles, Council Member
Russell Hepfer, Council Member

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.

The Destruction of the Klallam Village at Pysht During the 1930's

As told by Ed Sampson, 1992

When we were at the village of Pysht working on the logging, the logging jobs ended. And there was no more work there again. And so we left our homes and moved to Port Angeles.

Then the logging bosses tore down our houses. Our houses were torn down and burned to nothing left of the Indians homes. Everything, our belongings that were inside the houses, everything that was inside and didn't get taken out, that wasn't brought to Port Angeles. All our belongings, water buckets, beds, dishes, everything we owned. Our belongings and everything inside was torn down by the bulldozer. Everything we owned.

We weren't told by the logging bosses about our houses being torn down. It was their own idea. We didn't know what they were going to do. That's the way it is. We Indians have been treated badly by the white men.

Pysht was a very nice Indian village. That was our home. It was where we were from. It was our land. And it was taken away by the white men, evil white men.

ᑭᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ Council Corner

Summer has been a busy time for many of us! We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our high school and college graduates. Your hard work and accomplishments are worth celebrating, and we wish each of you continued success in the next chapter of your journey. We also want to thank the many community members, staff, volunteers, and partners who helped make this year's Canoe Journey a success.

In June, we co-hosted the 2026 Youth Summit with the American Indian Health Commission and WA Department of Health. This year's summit brought together 175 youth and chaperones from Washington for a week of learning, cultural connection, relationship-building, and leadership development. Through workshops, activities, and shared experiences, youth strengthened their resilience and gained skills to help navigate challenges while preparing to become future leaders.

As wildfire season continues, current burn restrictions remain in place, and all outdoor burning is prohibited. We encourage everyone to do their part to reduce fire risk and help protect our community. Now is also a good time to ensure air purifiers are clean, have fresh filters if needed, and are in good working order to help maintain healthy indoor air quality during periods of wildfire smoke.

Many community members have noticed the significant erosion occurring along the beach at the end of Charles Road. The Tribe continues to assess the erosion and its potential impacts on nearby infrastructure and cultural resources. Efforts are underway to evaluate long-term solutions that will help stabilize the shoreline while protecting our infrastructure, natural, and cultural resources.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the strength of our community. Together, we will continue working to protect our people, our lands, and our traditions while building a strong future for generations to come.



THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with
you again
Because a vision softly creeping, left its seeds while
I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain, still
remains
Within the sound of silence

In restless dreams I walked alone, narrow streets of
cobblestone
Neath the halo of a streetlamp, I turned my collar to
the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon
light, split the night
And touched the sound of silence

And in the naked light I saw, ten thousand people,
maybe more
People talking without speaking, people hearing
without listening
People writing songs that voices never shared, and
no one dared
To stir the sound of silence

Fool, said I, you do not know, silence, like a cancer,
grows
Hear my words and I might teach you, take my arms
then I might reach you
But my words, like silent raindrops fell, and echoed
in the wells of silence

And the people bowed and prayed to the neon god
they'd made
And the sign flashed its warning in the words that it
was forming
And the sign said the words of the prophets are
written on the subway walls
And tenement halls, and whispered in the sounds of
silence



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Gerald Charles



MEMORIAL SERVICE

JULY 9TH 2026 AT 10:00AM
LOWER ELWHA GYMNASIUM



Order of Service

MC

Edward Thomas

OPENING PRAYER

Lou Arakawa

VETERAN SPEAKERS

Ralph Ellsworth & Lee Douglas

OBITUARY

Lynda Mapes

SLIDESHOW

Ashley Pitchford

DRUM GROUP

BURIAL

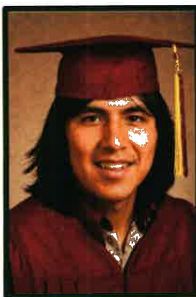
Place Road Cemetery

PRAYER SONG

Lou Arakawa

LUNCH – Lower Elwha Tribal Gym

CEREMONIAL BURNING - on Charles Road



PALLBEARERS

Darrell Charles Jr
Melvin Gildow
Garth Hopie
Samuel Hough
Darrell Markishtum
Raymond Moses



HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Kenneth Seo Arakawa Jr
Mark Steven Arakawa
Payton Cable
Phillip Lane Charles Jr.
Darrell Jerome Duckett
Nancy Hamilton
Verna Elaine Henderson
Vincent Charles Rennie
Russell Nyle Hepfer
Roger Jay Hutchison
Romy Laungayan
Brian "Boo-Boo" Leonato
Lena Ann Liles
Kalsey Leigh Macias
Wesley Scott Macias
Dorene Rhodes
Mark Romero
William (Billy) Sanchez
Michael Schleufer
Christina Skerbeck-Gildow
Steve Worth

Vincent Boyd
Ralph Ellsworth
Chris Gish
Jim Allen
Alex Hamrick

We extend our acknowledgment to all other branches comprising the distinguished men and women who have served our nation.



MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 9th, 2026

Dear Frances,

I am writing to offer my condolences over the passing of your dear husband Jerry. Jerry lived a life that embodied true love for his country, community, and service.

His service to our country as a member of the U.S. Army is to be commended.

While Jerry was a proud veteran, and we thank him for his service, he was also deeply proud of the children you cared for and raised together. His legacy and values will live on in the children he so loved and in everyone in our community that was touched by his care and commitment to public service.

His commitment to his community shone through in the way he supported and championed your leadership and the services that you've provided not just to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, but for all the 57 tribes of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest.

Jerry's service, care, and love will be remembered by all of us. I hope you will cherish all the great memorials built over decades together. Again, I offer my deepest condolences for your loss.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell

United States Senator



PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 8, 2026

Family of Captain Jerry Charles, U.S. Army (Retired)
2851 Lower Elwha Rd
Port Angeles, WA 98363

To Jerry's family and loved ones,

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jerry—a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and community leader. Please accept my most heartfelt condolences during this incredibly difficult time.

For over 20 years, Jerry served in the United States Army with honor, bravery, and distinction, retiring as a Captain. Yet, his devotion to his fellow servicemembers did not end there. He not only revitalized VFW Post 29 in Port Angeles but went on to establish the VFW Elwha Post 121 on the Lower Elwha Reservation to provide Tribal veterans with a sanctuary of brotherhood, recognition, and support that will impact generations to come.

He was a leader who truly understood the meaning of service, country, and community. His legacy of mentorship of fellow veterans and his example as a prolific volunteer have left indelible marks on countless people who looked to him for support. His commitment to serving the community continued in his role with the Lower Elwha Housing Authority. We are profoundly grateful for his legacy.

My thoughts and deepest sympathies are with your entire family, and all who were lucky enough to call him a friend.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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EVERETT, WA 98201-4107
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SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003
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TOLL FREE: (866) 481-9186

920 WEST RIVERSIDE AVENUE
SUITE 485
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 624-9515

1301 A STREET
SUITE 213
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 572-3636

THE MARSHALL HOUSE
1323 OFFICER'S ROW
VANCOUVER, WA 98661-3856
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e-mail: http://murray.senate.gov/email
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825 JADWIN AVENUE
SUITE 160K
RICHLAND, WA 99352
(509) 453-7462

Frances, and all of Jerry's family and friends — I'm so sorry I can't be with you today, but I couldn't let this day pass without saying what Jerry meant to me.

Jerry was a good and kind man. He was the kind of person who made the people around him better, and who spent his life looking out for others, especially those who served this country.

I want to tell you one story.

Some years ago, we held a pinning ceremony in Port Angeles to honor Vietnam veterans — men and women who came home decades ago and, too often, never heard the words "thank you." Jerry was my partner in that. He spread the word. He made sure people showed up. And when the day came, I had the honor of pinning him — and pinning every veteran he brought with him.

That was Jerry. He didn't just show up for himself. He brought people with him, and he made sure no one got left out.

It's the thing I loved most about Jerry and Frances. They were a package deal. I'd text

Frances to ask how she was doing, and she'd answer about Jerry too. They traveled together. They cared about people together. They showed the rest of us how it's meant to be done ... side by side, with the people we love.

That's a model for all of us. Show up. Bring your people. Care, together.

There's a proverb that says: "When a soul dies, the winds blow. The greater the soul, the greater the winds."

Having gotten to know Jerry over the years, I am sure of one thing: there are going to be strong winds in Port Angeles for a very long time to come.

Frances — my heart is with you and your whole family. Jerry was loved and he will really be missed.

- Derek Kilmer, Good Friend & Retired Congressman, WA 6th District



Jerry's Biography...written by Jerry Charles

Jerry Charles was born November 8, 1954 in Seattle. His father was George Charles and his mother was Bernice Anderson.

Growing up in Seattle was a fun and challenging life for Jerry. He had many friends. They would meet up in downtown Seattle and have fun walking around looking. The best place to spend time was the Seattle Center. Until everyone had to take a bus home before it got too dark or late.

He grew up on the north side of downtown, and on the south side, attending various schools. He eventually got sent to Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, where he met many new friends.



Upon graduating high school he joined the Army where he served for 20 years.

He had a family and kids, divorced and separated from his kids. Jerry then returned home to continue his next chapter in his life.

Jerry and Gator's heart connected once again. Jerry became the Tribal Veterans Representative for the tribe and advocated for all veterans, fighting for their benefits and rights. He joined most of the veterans' organizations and helped make a difference in their community.

He was also very active in his culture, becoming a dancer in the Big House at Esquimalt, and serving as an elder in Canoe Journeys.

Jerry attended many colleges and achieved his PhD. He always advocated that everyone should

serve in the armed forces for at least two years and take some martial arts.

Jerry cannot say how much he loved his children: daughters Jaylee, Tanya, Alexis, and Krystal, son Joshua, step children Ashley and Michael. Cannot forget the grand kids - Maurice, Sahnai – 25 grandchildren and great grandchildren in all. And don't forget the many nieces and nephews...you know who you are!

But most important was his wife, the one who knew him well, everything about his crazy life. He was totally fulfilled with her in his life.

God speed, my dear wife.



JOURNEY TO HOME:

A Homebuying Workshop for Elwha Klallam Tribal Members!

Join us for an exclusive evening designed to help you claim your piece of the map. We're breaking down the barriers to affordable homeownership and giving you the blueprint to succeed – with mortgage programs built specifically for Native borrowers.

WHAT WE'LL COVER:

The Perks: Lower down payments and flexible credit requirements. Explore home loan options designed for Native borrowers, including: HUD 184 · Heritage One · Covenant Loans

The Path: A step-by-step guide to the mortgage application & homebuying process.

The Plan: Financial tools to help you buy a home with total confidence.

Stop wondering...start planning.

Reserve your seat today!

EVENT DETAILS:

Wednesday, August 12
6:00–8:00 PM

At 2851 Lower Elwha Rd,
Port Angeles, WA 98363

SCAN TO RSVP!



HOSTED BY:
CORINA FIEDLER

Senior Loan Officer
NMLS244676 | Branch NMLS2721651
M: 253.255.5941 | O: 406.609.4646
Corina.Fiedler@ccm.com
www.TheFiedlerTeam.com



THE FIEDLER TEAM
CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE®



BACK TO SCHOOL

**AUG
27**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
CRESCENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SEPT
3**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PAHS Registration

- ✓ Tues. Aug. 18 7:30am-3pm
Rider Day | Freshman
- ✓ Wed. Aug. 19 7:30am-3pm
Rider Day | Sophomores
- ✓ Thurs. Aug. 20 7:30am-3pm
Rider Day | Juniors & Seniors

What to expect:

- ASB Photo
- School Photo
- Schedule Pickup
- Pre-order yearbook
- Order Class T-shirt

Stevens Middle School Registration

- ✓ Friday August 21 What to expect:
9am-3pm
7th & 8th Grade
 - ASB Photo
 - School Photo
 - Schedule Pickup
 - Pre-order yearbook
 - School Merch

PASD Back-to-School Event

- ✓ Sat. Aug. 15 10am-1pm
Jefferson Elementary

Crescent School District

- ✓ Tues. Aug. 25
Back-to-School BBQ

A large white sign with a red border is the central focus. It features the text 'Cower Elwha Early Head Start' in a red serif font, followed by 'SUMMER BREAK' in large, bold letters where 'SUMMER' is dark blue and 'BREAK' is yellow. Below this, 'CLOSED AUGUST 7– SEPTEMBER 2, 2026' is written in a red serif font. At the bottom of the sign, it says 'We'll reopen on Thursday, September 3rd' in a dark blue sans-serif font, followed by 'Have a wonderful summer!' in a black sans-serif font and a simple sun icon. The sign is set against a vibrant beach background with a blue sky, ocean, and palm trees. In the foreground, a baby is playing in the sand with toys like a teddy bear on a beach chair, a bucket, a rattle, and alphabet blocks. A beach umbrella is also visible.

Cower Elwha
Early Head Start

SUMMER BREAK

**CLOSED AUGUST 7–
SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**

We'll reopen on
Thursday, September 3rd

Have a wonderful
summer! ☀️

WELCOME

Back to School

**EARLY HEAD START &
HEAD START STUDENTS
CLASS BEGINS**

SEPTEMBER 3

CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-3PM

FRIDAY 8AM-12:30PM

2026

Library

LEKT Library Summer Reading Program

If your child hasn't started reading for this year's Summer Reading Program (SRP), it's not too late! The SRP runs through Sept. 2nd and we've got cool prizes weekly (Mondays at 3pm in the Library) for kids who read, including Legos, art supplies, STEM kits, a dinosaur terrarium, and more. The grand prize, which will be awarded on the 2nd at 3pm in the Library, is a pair of Anker wireless noise-canceling headphones. Other grand prizes include a large art supply kit, a giant 24" Squishmallow, and a Lego Star Wars X-Wing. This year's theme is *Unearth a Story*, which centers on dinosaurs, fossils, and paleontology. Here are some of the amazing books you can find here in the Library about dinosaurs, fossils, and paleontology:



Speaking of fossils...

Burke Box Fossils Box Is Coming to the Library!

We are very excited to announce that for the week of Aug. 24th-28th, we will have the Burke Box Fossils box here in the Library! This comes courtesy of the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, and contains an assortment of items related to fossils and paleontology, includ-

ing real fossils. Some of the fossils which you will be able to check out (and touch!) include a mammoth tooth, a fish fossil, and a coprolite, among many others. What's a coprolite? You'll just have to come to the Library and find out! (Hint: it's gross!) The Fossils Box will be available all week, and we will be doing an interactive program for all ages on Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 25th and 26th, both at 1-2pm here in the Library. We hope you'll join us!



BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

August 19th
11am-4pm

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES
AVAILABLE FOR
K-12 STUDENTS
IN
LEKT LIBRARY**



For more information

Jessica Egnew
jessica.egnew@elwha.org
(360) 452-8471 Ext. 7425

Makayla Micheal
makayla.micheal@elwha.org
(564) 215-9275

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

FALL SPORTS

2026



STEVENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

COED X-COUNTRY, VOLLEYBALL, FOOTBALL, BOYS BASKETBALL

STEVENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

FALL SPORTS

START SEPT. 3

PORT ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL

BOYS X-COUNTRY, GIRLS X-COUNTRY, FOOTBALL, GIRLS SOCCER,
GIRLS SWIN & DIVE, BOYS TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL

PAHS FOOTBALL

START AUG. 19

PAHS BOYS X-COUNTRY, GIRLS X-COUNTRY, GIRLS
SOCCER, GIRLS SWIN & DIVE, BOYS TENNIS,
VOLLEYBALL

START AUG. 24

CRESCENT HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL

DON'T FORGET THE FOLLOWING:

- **SPORTS PHYSICAL**
- **SIGN-UP THROUGH FINAL FORMS**

Recreation Calendar**August 2026**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Middle School 6th Graders – Crescent Elementary 6th Graders – Port Angeles School District					
3	Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm	4	5 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Matball @1pm	6 Wild Waves MS (6 th -8 th) Gym Hours 1230pm-830pm	7 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Super Smash Bros Tourney 1pm-3pm	1 Gym Hours 10am-6:30pm
10	Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Dr dish/Vertimax @1pm	11 Wild Waves Elem (2 nd -6 th) Gym Hours 1230pm-830pm	12 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Kickball @1pm	13 Dave & Busters MS/HS (6 th -12 th) Gym Hours 1230pm-830pm Gym Floor Closed All-Day	14 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Mario Kart Tourney 1pm-4pm	15 Gym Hours 10am-6:30pm
17	Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Basketball camp	18 Bowling Elem (1 st -6 th)	19 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Mushroomball @1pm	20 Dimension XR MS/HS (6 th -12 th) Gym Hours 1230pm-830pm	21 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm	22 Gym Hours 10am-6:30pm
24	Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Agility footwork	25	26 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Gagaball @1pm	27	28 Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm	29 Gym Hours 10am-6:30pm
31	Elders Fitness Class 11am-12pm Volleyball camp	Gym Hours – Monday – Friday 8am-8:30pm Bathrooms/Saunas close at 8:15pm Hours are subject to change Field Trips Highlighted (Permission slips due the day before Trip @1pm)				

BLACKBERRY CAMP

OPEN TO LEKT
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

.....
Meeting Hub:
Social Services

AUGUST 13TH-15TH
9:00-6:00PM
.....

Berry Picking
9:00-12:00
Jam Making
1:00-6:00

Stop by and enjoy

- Good Company
- Snacks
- Fun Activities

For transportation, please contact:
Audrey Gales: 564-215-3049
Kat Barrow: 564-215-9952



EMPOWERING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

TVR's mission is to provide a compassionate, holistic approach in serving Native Americans and Alaska Natives with 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.

Eligibility for Services:

1. Enrolled with a State or Federally recognized tribe.
2. Reside within the service area.
3. Have a physical or mental disability, documented with a provider.
4. Employment barriers.
5. 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.

Services Available:

- Vocational Skills Assessment
- Career Counseling & Guidance
- Vocational Training and Education
- Post employment services
- Transportation assistance for job related activities
- Supported employment services, including job placement and job coaching
- On-the-job training (OJT)
- Referral to other community resources
- Job Search Skill Development
- Assistance with work related support services: tools, equipment, license fees, work clothes, uniforms and safety equipment

TVR Team Information

Elwha Heritage Center - (360) 417-8545
Jim Allen, Program Manager
Keeoma Messenger, TVR Counselor

Elwha Social Services - (360) 565-7257
Jeremy Acosta, TVR Counselor

More information at QR Code



www.facebook.com/LEKTVR

Clallam County August Primary Election

Ballots Mailed: July 15

YOUR VOTE, YOUR POWER

Take part in shaping what comes next

ELECTION DAY

**August 4, 2026
until 8pm**



Voter's Guide



***Register or
Update***



Ballot Sample



clallamcountywa.gov/elections

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



Greetings everyone!

The LEFA – Lower Elwha Family Advocacy staff wanted to thank all of you planning team, participants, supporters, sponsors and partners: OVW grant, City of Port Angeles Park, Goodwill/Rite Aid, Elwha clinic/KC, Natural Resources, Social Services, and more, for making the LGBTQ+ Two-Spirit awareness walk a success.

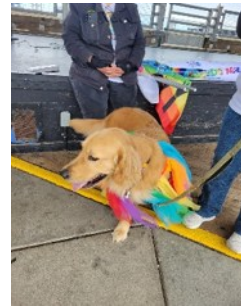
Thank you for the opportunity to be with the **Native Youth Leadership & Prevention Summit 2026**, hosted by the **Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe**. We were making salmon/fish net.

On-going event: “LGBTQ+ Youth Group” every Friday, June 26th – September 25, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 PM at Lower Elwha Social Services Conference Room, Snacks will be provided.

You matter! From the book, “*Healing Your Emotional Self*” by Beverly Engel, “*Unless you are willing to acknowledge and feel your pain at being emotionally abused, you will find it difficult to experience compassion for yourself or others.... Remember, self-compassion is a direct antidote to the judge’s poison. ----Call up your nurturing inner voice and talk to yourself with compassion and understanding whenever you are being self-critical or powerless.*” pg.217. LEFA has several self-help books like this one that are available for you to borrow, if you are interested.

Grateful to our grant funder: “This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW22GG03388TRIB 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

Respectfully, LEFA



Graduation Announcement: Zelby Rae Gloria Earns Bachelor's Degree in Film

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe proudly celebrates the accomplishments of **Zelby Rae Gloria**, who recently graduated from **Central Washington University** with a **Bachelor of Arts in Film**.



Zelby, 21, is an enrolled member of the **Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe** and also has strong family ties to both the **Tlingit** and **Jamestown S'Klallam**

communities. She is the daughter of **La-Trisha Suggs (Kardonsky-Cook)** and **Raymond Gloria** of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Her grandparents are **Theresa (Kardonsky-Cook)** and **Lloyd Lehman**, and the late **Nellie (Sullivan) Gloria** and **Kasko Gloria**.

A graduate of **Port Angeles High School**, Zelby began her higher education journey at **Peninsula College**, where she earned her Associate of Arts degree before transferring to Central Washington University to pursue her passion for filmmaking and screenwriting.

Throughout her educational journey, Zelby remained dedicated to her academic goals while giving back to her community. She served as a **Youth Representative for the Port Angeles Education Foundation**, demonstrating her commitment to supporting education and youth leadership.

Zelby's success was made possible through her determination, hard work, and the support of numerous scholarship programs. She extends her sincere gratitude to the organizations and foundations that invested in her educational journey:

- Peninsula College Longhouse Scholarship
- William Bissell Scholarship
- Native Vision Scholarship
- Minton Scholarship
- Adeline Smith Memorial Klallam Language Scholarship
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Higher Education Program
- Koniag Education Scholarship
- American Indian Endowed Scholarship

With a bachelor's degree now in hand, Zelby looks forward to pursuing a career in the film industry, where she hopes to combine her passion for storytelling and screenwriting with creative filmmaking. Her achievements serve as an inspiration to other Native students, demonstrating that dedication, perseverance, and community support can open doors to exciting opportunities.

Congratulations, Zelby, on this outstanding accomplishment! Your Tribal families are proud of you and wish you continued success as you begin the next chapter of your journey.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM?

We're excited to launch new Museum Activity Sheets designed for K–12 students! These interactive sheets encourage observation, exploration, and deeper engagement with the exhibits. While they were created with students in mind, anyone is welcome to give them a try.

We need your help testing them out! Complete an activity sheet and a short review during your visit to be entered into a drawing for a **Welly's gift card**. (One entry per person, regardless of how many sheets you complete.)

We're also continuing our community photo preservation project. The Museum has a scanner available to help digitize older family and community photographs so they can be preserved for future generations.

So many of our stories live in albums, shoeboxes, and drawers. By scanning these photographs, we can help ensure those memories and pieces of our shared history are preserved for years to come.

To schedule a photo scanning appointment, call **360.452.8471 ext. 2908** or email **klallam.museum@elwha.org**.

We'd also love your input. What programs, films, speakers, or events would you like to see at the Museum? Your ideas help shape the work we do.

Thank you for your continued support. The Museum continues to grow little by little because of this community.



Elections Committee

To the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribal Community,

On behalf of the Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe Elections Committee, we would like to extend our sincere apology to our community for the challenges experienced during this year's Tribal Council election.

The Elections Committee consists of seven appointed tribal members who are entrusted with overseeing the election process:

- **Sateva Henderson** – Chair
- **Sharmaine Wright** – Co-Chair
- **Rayin Blewett** – Secretary
- **Courtland Coutlee** – Treasurer
- **Jeffrey Hepfer** – Committee Member
- **Amy Redner** – Committee Member
- **Tammy Hesshughes** – Committee Member

As committee members, our responsibility is to ensure elections are conducted fairly, professionally, and efficiently. This includes meeting important deadlines, coordinating with vendors, managing election materials and payments, and ensuring every eligible voter—both within and outside of our community—has a fair opportunity to participate in the election.

Unfortunately, this year's election process did not meet the standard that our community deserves. We experienced several unforeseen challenges that affected the timely delivery of ballots and overall communication throughout the election season. As a newly appointed core committee, we also faced the unexpected loss of our committee advisor at the beginning of the election cycle and did not have a replacement until the middle of the process. While these circumstances created additional obstacles, we recognize that the responsibility ultimately rests with us, and we sincerely apologize to every community member who was impacted.

We also experienced significant communication and project execution issues with our contracted election printing vendor, which contributed to delayed ballot mailings and, in some cases, ballots not being received at all. Although these circumstances were beyond our direct control, we acknowledge the frustration and disappointment they caused and understand the importance of restoring your confidence in the election process.

The good news is that we have already begun implementing meaningful improvements for next year's election, including:

- Selecting a new election printing and mailing vendor.
- Implementing a hybrid voting option for tribal members who reside outside the local area.
- Establishing a consistent meeting schedule throughout the year to better prepare for election season.
- Reviewing and revising the Election Rules and Regulations and Tribal By-Laws to strengthen election procedures.

- Expanding communication by utilizing social media platforms and additional methods to provide timely election updates, deadlines, and important announcements to the community.

Our goal is to ensure next year's election process is organized, transparent, accessible, and seamless for every eligible voter.

We also recognize that there may be additional ideas and perspectives within our community that can help us improve. We encourage anyone with questions, concerns, suggestions, or constructive feedback to contact the Elections Committee by email at:

Elections@elwhaelections.org

Your input is important to us, and we are committed to listening, learning, and continuously improving.

We respectfully ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate these challenges and grow in our roles. Every member of this committee accepted this appointment because we care deeply about our Tribe and our people. Serving our community in this capacity is both an honor and a responsibility that we do not take lightly.

Thank you for your grace, your feedback, and your continued commitment to strengthening our Tribal government and election process. We remain dedicated to earning your trust and ensuring future elections reflect the integrity and professionalism our community deserves.

Respectfully,

The Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe Elections Committee



LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

ʔəʔtɬx̣ʷə nəx̣ʷsɬayəm "Strong People"

2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Phone: 360.452.8471
Fax: 360.452.3428

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

FUNERAL COST SUPPORT POLICY

PURPOSE

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe recognizes that the passing of a Tribal citizen or immediate family member is a time of grief, remembrance, and cultural significance. In keeping with the Tribe's commitment to supporting the wellbeing of its citizens and preserving the dignity of those who have passed, this Funeral Costs Support Policy establishes a framework for providing financial assistance toward eligible funeral-related expenses.

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that available assistance is administered fairly, consistently, and transparently while respecting Tribal and individual families' traditions, values, and cultural practices. This policy outlines eligibility requirements, covered expenses, funding limitations, and the application and approval process for funeral cost assistance. Through this policy, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe seeks to provide support to families during times of loss and to honor the memory of Tribal citizens in a manner consistent with the Tribe's customs, resources, and responsibilities.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funeral costs support under this Policy, the deceased must be an enrolled Elwha Tribal member or the spouse (legally married or registered domestic partner) of an enrolled Elwha Tribal member. Travel expenses are available for Tribal members who need to travel out of area or return to the reservation for a funeral for immediate family members (parents, siblings, grandparents, children of a Tribal member or their spouse).

Requests for funeral costs support must be made by the immediate family or executor of the estate of the deceased.

COSTS COVERED

The Tribe will provide up to \$7,000 in total support, based on actual expenses.

Expenses covered may include:

- Funeral home costs.
- The cost of a casket or urn.

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE
FUNERAL COST SUPPORT POLICY

Approved by Tribal Council - June 25, 2026

- Burial costs.
- Ceremony, ceremonial burning, and reception costs (flowers, food, decorations, photographs, etc.) (up to \$1,000 total).
- Travel expenses for Tribal members who need to travel out of area or return to the reservation for a funeral for immediate family members (parents, siblings, grandparents, children of a Tribal member or their spouse), which can include airfare, fuel, lodging, and per diem.

REQUIREMENTS

Family members or executors seeking funeral costs support must provide:

- A copy of the death certificate.
- Documentation of any life insurance, Victims of Crimes Act funds, Go Fund Me or other community support, and any other sources of funds that are available to cover the deceased's funeral expenses.
- Documentation of actual expenses, such as an invoice from the funeral home or other vendors, and receipts for other costs.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Family members or executors seeking funeral costs support should fill out the Funeral Costs Support Form, attach documentation listed in the requirements section above, and email or turn in the filled form to the Lower Elwha Enrollment Department.

Funeral costs support requests will be reviewed by the Lower Elwha Enrollment Department to verify the name and enrollment number of the deceased. The Enrollment Department will forward verified requests to the Tribal Council for final approval. The Enrollment Department will process approved requests, and will pay the funeral home invoice directly, and pay other vendors directly or provide a reimbursement check for receipts provided to the family member or executor for any additional expenses covered under this policy.

Funds are available under this Policy beginning June 25, 2026. No retroactive requests will be honored.

ENFORCEMENT OF POLICY

Funds provided under this policy must be used for actual documented funeral expenses. Families have no rights to funds that are not actually expended on funeral costs, if costs total less than \$7,000. If funds provided under this policy are misused, the Tribe may pursue criminal and/or civil actions under Tribal law in the Lower Elwha Tribal Court.



LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

ʔəʔtəˈwə nəxˈsʔayəm "Strong People"

2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Phone: 360.452.8471
Fax: 360.452.3428

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE FUNERAL COST SUPPORT FORM

Name of deceased: _____

Deceased (or spouse's) LEKT enrollment number: _____

Date of death (*please attach a copy of death certificate*): _____

Person responsible for paying funeral costs: _____ (name)
_____ (phone number) _____ (email)

Relationship to deceased: _____

Funeral Home name: _____

Person/company preparing food for reception: _____

Is there another source of funeral costs support available (such as life insurance)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe and attach proof of amount available:

What costs are you requesting support with (up to 7,000 total)? *Please attach invoices, receipts, or other proof of costs; payment will not be made without proof of actual expenses.*

☐ Funeral home costs: \$ _____

☐ Other expenses: \$ _____

☐ Cost of the casket or urn: \$ _____

☐ Travel costs:

☐ Burial costs: \$ _____

☐ Airfare/Bus fare: \$ _____

☐ Ceremony/burning/reception costs (up to \$1,000):

☐ Fuel (up to \$50/day):

\$ _____

☐ Flowers: \$ _____

☐ Lodging (one room):

\$ _____

☐ Food: \$ _____

☐ Per diem (\$50/day/person):

☐ Decorations: \$ _____

\$ _____

☐ Photographs: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ _____

Revegetation team inventories conifers in the former lakebeds



We counted 5100 conifer trees across 100 riparian bankside acres between the two former reservoirs. Many of these were planted by LEKT and ONP. Over half were Douglas fir, followed by 15% Western Red Cedar. An awesome surprise was counting some naturally recruited Yellow Cedar saplings, which typically prefer a higher elevation!



Riparian conifers are vital to Elwha River recovery, providing bank stability, shade/cool water refugia, insects for salmon, carbon absorption & improved air quality, and long-lasting in-stream wood when they mature and fall.

Thank you to the staff from DNR Forest Resilience Division, Washington Conservation Action, Jefferson Conservation District, & Clallam Conservation District who came out to help over three days of surveying.



Climate Change Steering Committee

It's not too late to join!

Meeting **August 31st | 10AM** | Zoom & in Natural Resources Conference Room

Contact cameron.macias@elwha.org for Zoom info



Community members interested to learn more about LEKT's Climate Adaptation Plan are encouraged to attend!

Wildlife Education Program highlights

Youth from LEKT, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Skokomish, Makah, and Quinalt spent an incredible week in Quinalt, learning tracking, bow making, fire making, animal harvesting and other skills from Quinalt, Panthera, Cedar Root School, and LEKT leaders. Students received guidebooks, backpacks, boots and other gear funded by an ANA grant and QIN. Food was provided by Panthera.





Intro to nəxʷsł'ayəmícən

Who's invited: All welcome

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

When: Mondays @ 5 pm- 6 pm

Starting July 7th- Sept 7th, 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 through Microsoft Teams.**

For more information contact:

Keeoma Messenger at 360-461-4916

or 360-452-8471 ext. 7701

August Birthdays



August 1st

Dasan Charles-Elofson
Jessica Egnew
Debra Gloria

August 2nd

Frank Bennett III
Tony Cargo
Woody Cargo
Curtis Green
Jesse Vail

August 3rd

Josephine Edgington
Olivia Yazzie

August 5th

Samual Luce

August 6th

Renee Bennett
Deborah Charles
Kyra Hurley

August 7th

Hunter Bennett
Robert Elofson-Gilbertson
Sebastian Foster

August 8th

Elijah Cargo
Samantha Dredge
Matthias Sawyer-Lucas

August 10th

Juanita Charles
Brandy Clark
Linty Hopie
Gayla Johnson

August 11th

Kason Albaugh
Myles Cayenne
Colleen Matte

August 12th

Becky Charles
Travis Francis
Hunter James
Romy Laungayan

August 13th

Jonathan Arakawa

August 15th

Jada Cargo

August 16th

Nylene Charles
Daniel Johnson

August 17th

Adam Kardonsky

August 18th

Jean Schaeffer
Victoria Smith
Tyson Springfield

August 19th

Bryce Lauderback
Franklin Lawrence

August 21st

Ralena Black Crow
William Fernandes
Ava Francis
Monique Hopie-Pearce
Annalise Sanchez

August 22nd

Rayin Blewett
Alan Charles
Dorothy Sampson

August 23rd

Taylor Jones
Kielar Point
Elena Turrey

August 24th

Kaylee Konopaski

August 25th

George Charles
Roger Fernandes
Gerald Foster Jr
Julian Wells

August 26th

Alison Dick
Melonie Pearce

August 27th

Anthony Boyd Sr
Hope Daniels
Nyle Hepfer
Antonio Martinez-Boyd
Cheyenne Wheeler

August 28th

Gordon Charles
Alexsandra Muck
Charles Needham
Matthew Needham
Delsin Zmuda

August 29th

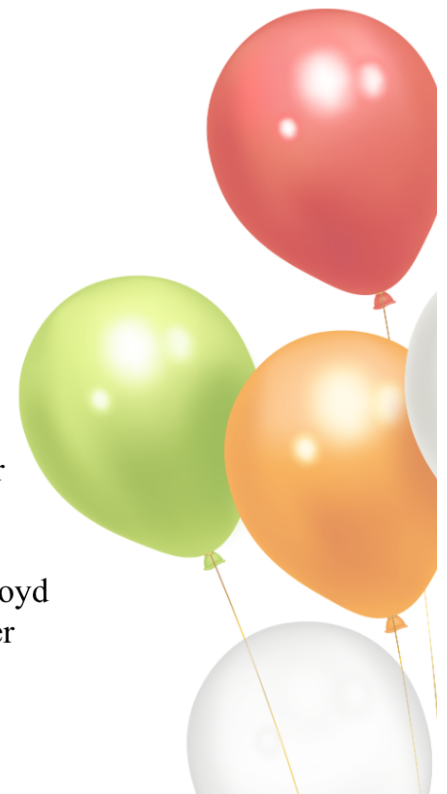
Garth Hopie

August 30th

Phillip Charles Jr
Jeremy Charles
Corvis Dunn
Jenae James
Kurtis Roberts
Tracie Romero

August 31st

Alice Eastman
Patricia Elofson



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