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SUQUAMISH NEWS

SUQUAMISH TRIBE

VOLUME 26 | MAY 2026 | No. 5



Wisdom of our Mothers

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Community Calendar

Meetings

Suquamish Tribal Council
May 4 & 27. Agenda and links sent via SUN Weekly Update & SUN text.

Suquamish Tribal Gaming Commission
May 5 & 19 , 10am at the Gaming Commission Bldg. Call (360) 394-8652 for details.

Suquamish Warriors
May 5, at 5:30pm at the Warriors Vet Center.

Suquamish Seafoods Board
May 19, at 1pm. Call Shanel Carlson at (360) 394-8512 for details.

PME Board
May 13 - contact Emily Sato at emilysato@clearwatercasino.com for details.

Suquamish Museum Board
May 21, 10am-noon at Museum. For info call (360) 394-8499.

Elders Council
May 19, 2-4pm at Elders Lodge. Call (360) 394-8417 for details.

Recovery Meetings
All are welcome to recovery meetings, Tues-Wed-Fri, 6pm at the Wellness Center.

Beyond Dieting May 26 at Wellness Center Osprey room. Meetings are on the 4th Tue of every month 5-6pm.

Community Events

Tribal Canoe Journey Regional Meeting
May 2, 12pm at HOAC. Lunch and snacks provided.

Early Learning Center Info Night
May 4 from 5:30-7:30pm at HOAC. Enrollment application info and help, pizza, raffle prizes.

Missing & Murdered Awareness Walk
May 5, 11:30am. Walk from Admin to HOAC.

Suquamish Community Baby Shower
May 11, 10am-4pm at HOAC. For recent and expecting Native moms in the Suquamish area.

Culture Night
May 13 at 5-7pm at HOAC.

Women's Health Day Luncheon
May 14, 10am-1:30pm at Kiana Lodge. Tribal Members & their households, and Gov't employees invited to attend.

Lunch & Learn
May 19, 12:15pm at the Elders Kitchen.

Healthy Eating Class
May 19, 5:00pm at the CKA Kitchen.

Big Moe's Salmon Bake
May 21, 10am-1:30pm at HOAC. For Tribal Elders and family of Big Moe.

Cedar Hat Class
May 30-31, 10:00am-4:00pm. Lunch and Snacks provided. Register online. Space is limited–tribal membership/household preference.

See the Suquamish Tribe website calendar for details on all the latest upcoming events.

On the cover

Three generations of Suquamish women — Dolores Mills, her daughter Lori Bakken, and granddaughter Brittany Bakken — represent the living thread of knowledge, care, and resilience passed among so many Suquamish families from one generation to the next.

This month's cover package explores The Wisdom of Our Mothers through stories of family, storytelling and community.



Among them, Jasmine Vollenweider shares her story of carrying forward her mother's legacy, while Cori Silvey previews an upcoming first-of-its-kind community baby shower designed to wrap support around new and expecting mothers. Coverage begins on page 10.
(Photo by Jon Anderson)

Soto and Williams welcomed into Suquamish Tribe

Suquamish Tribal Council formalized the adoption of two new tribal members following a majority vote during the tribe's General Council gathering in March.

Mataya Gliding Eagle Soto and Faith Anne Williams were formally enrolled into the Suquamish Tribe during a recent Tribal Council session.

"We would like to express our appreciation to those who supported their adoption bid," said the Stroud, Henry, and George families in a statement. "A BIG thank you to all of you for your support."

Suquamish News

Suquamish News is published monthly by the Suquamish Tribe. The publication is mailed to Suquamish tribal members. Copies are also available across the Port Madison Reservation, including tribal government lobbies and retail establishments. Current and back issues can also be found on the Suquamish Tribe website.

Tribal community members are encouraged to suggest story ideas, photographs, and artwork to be considered for publication. Send your ideas to communications@suquamish.nsn.us or by mail to Suquamish News Editor, PO Box 498, Suquamish, WA 98392. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

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Suquamish Tribe receives $1 million climate grant to expand energy work

By Jon Anderson
Suquamish News Staff Writer

The Suquamish Tribe has been awarded $1 million through the City of Seattle's First Peoples Climate Fund, supporting ongoing efforts to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience across the community.

The funding is part of a $5.5 million investment generated through Seattle's payroll tax on large employers. The grants support tribal nations and Indigenous-led organizations working on climate solutions across the Puget Sound region.

For Suquamish, the funding will build on recent progress, including the installation of heat pumps in more than 55 Elder households. The next phase will expand that work while also focusing on energy efficiency in tribal government buildings and workforce development in clean energy.

"This is just part of something that we've been doing for decades and for centuries, trying to manage our economies and our relationship with the Earth in a way that's sustainable," Chairman Leonard Forsman said.

Climate Resiliency Program Manager Hannah Ljunggren said the funding will allow the team to grow and continue delivering on its commitments to the community.

"This funding will allow the Climate Resilience Team to continue the expansion of its team and uphold its commitments to the tribal community," Ljunggren said. "This work will focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the improvement of tribal governmental buildings' energy efficiency. We will be looking at current systems and determining the best practices to improve comfort, reduce emissions, and increase efficiency."

Workforce development — training tribal members interested in clean energy jobs — will be central to the effort.

The award was formally recognized during an April 14 gathering in Seattle, where tribal representatives and Indigenous-led organizations met with city leaders and funding partners to share their work and discuss future goals.

Angela Flemming, Interim Research & Strategic Development Director, said the event reflected years of collaboration to ensure resources are directed back into Indigenous communities.

"These efforts are supporting Indigenous-led climate solutions grounded in ancestral knowledge, lived experience, and community expertise," Flemming said. "The stories and lessons shared during the gathering will play a key role in shaping a long-term, sustainable funding source for Indigenous environmental and climate initiatives."

Representing Suquamish Tribe at the event were Forsman, Flemming, Ljunggren and R&SD staff member Linda Lopez. They joined other awardees and partners to exchange ideas and explore opportunities for continued collaboration.



Ljunggren also participated in a panel discussion highlighting the tribe's climate initiatives and the progress made in a short time. She pointed to strong support from Tribal Council as a key factor in advancing the work.

The broader funding announcement comes as the region faces increasing climate pressure, including one of the warmest winters on record and ongoing drought conditions across Washington state.

For the Suquamish Tribe, the investment represents both a continuation of long-standing stewardship and an opportunity to expand efforts that benefit future generations.

Early Learning Center receives $5.7M campus expansion grant

By Erin Bischoff
Suquamish News Staff Writer

The Suquamish Tribe's Research & Strategic Development team helped secure a landmark $5.7 million grant for the Marion Forsman Boushie Early Learning Center in April.

The Washington State Department of Commerce funding will support a 5,600-square-foot expansion of the Early Learning Center to address critical space, safety, and accessibility needs.

The project will construct five new classrooms, including infant, preschool, and school-age spaces, each designed to meet licensing requirements and reduce current wait lists.

The expansion will also add child-accessible bathrooms, adult restrooms, a laundry room, a mothers' room, and a dedicated culture classroom to support daily programming and cultural instruction.

Suquamish received the second largest grant out of $56 million in funding signed by Gov. Bob Ferguson April 16.

Any family in Kitsap County who is working or attending school is eligible for childcare. Due to limited capacity, enrollment is determined using a priority point system, with families demonstrating the highest level of need admitted first until all available slots are filled. Remaining families are placed on a waitlist.

Speaking of enrollment, ELC staff are hosting a special application info night May 4 starting at 5:30pm at the House of Awakened Culture for parents and guardians who'd like to know more about how to apply for the 2026-27 school year.



Renewal Coastal Jam & Powwow outgrows longtime home

By Jon Anderson
Suquamish News Staff Writer

The Renewal Coastal Jam & Powwow, held April 24–26, drew large crowds this year and marked a major transition as the powwow portion moved from its longtime home at the House of Awakened Culture to the Clearwater Casino Resort.

For years, the full event — including both the Coastal Jam and powwow — has been held at the House of Awakened Culture. But steady growth in attendance has pushed the gathering beyond the capacity of the community space.

"We just outgrew that building," said Bearon Old Coyote, who has helped his father James Old Coyote organize the event in recent years.

This year, the event opened Friday evening with the Coastal Jam at the House of Awakened Culture, where canoe families from across the region filled the floor with song and dance.

By Saturday, the powwow portion shifted to the casino's convention center, providing more room for dancers, spectators, and vendors.

The Renewal Coastal Jam & Powwow traces its roots back decades. The Renewal Weekend was first conceived by Jame's father, the late Steve Old Coyote decades ago, and now continues as family tradition celebrating the sobriety and new beginnings.

"Renewal - it's springtime. That's the time for change, that's the time for renewal," Old Coyote said. "And at the same time, it's a celebration for sobriety — those who choose to walk that Red Road."

The powwow blends competitive dancing with cultural celebration, creating space for community members to gather, reconnect and honor those in recovery.

"It's one that we all look forward to every year," Old Coyote said. "The community just gets bigger and bigger."

Alongside the dancing, the Renewal Powwow Royalty Pageant highlighted the next generation of young leaders.

This year's pageant featured a dozen contestants, one of the largest groups in recent memory.

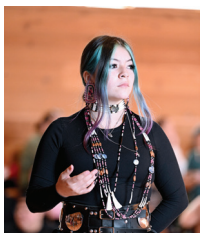
"We do this because being a part of our royalty and representing the Suquamish Tribe and the powwow that we're a part of is really important for the growth of our youth," said pageant organizer Kali Chargualaf. "The responsibilities they get to experience and learning about the tribe and the

RENEWAL WEEKEND cont. on page 19

















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For the future generations to come

By Cassandra George
Language Program Coordinator

The Suquamish Language Program's mission statement is to revitalize the Suquamish dialect of the txʷəlšucid language within the Suquamish tribal community. txʷəl ʔiɬlaq ɬuʔaciɬtalbixʷ. For the future generations to come, or literally: the people coming from behind. This is an important concept to illustrate with the program logo, because it differs so much from the English world. In Lushootseed, the future generations are coming from behind us. In English, the future is in front of us. The Lushootseed perspective puts more responsibility on the people in the present to consider what they are leaving behind for the next people to access. It shifts the focus from individual goals to collective responsibility to maintain the connection between Suquamish people and Suquamish language.

Our previous logo carried us far, but it was time for a change in our methodology and focus on development. We must remember that everything we do is for future generations, and this is represented in the new logo.

The logo design was developed in consultation between the Language Program and Suquamish Tribal Member and artist, Diana Riggins. Along with clearly capturing the urgency of language revitalization, it was important to create a logo that could easily be recognized and applied to a wide range of uses – from business cards, to posters, to digital platforms, and more.

Encircling the new design is a fishnet pattern, representing the cultural and practical traditions tied to the water and the various ways the Suquamish people are reconnecting to their language. Lushootseed Revitalizationist Shayna Bagley has strategically provided Lushootseed lessons on the beach, on the water, and during clam bakes on The Slab to strengthen this connection.



New Language Program Logo created by Diana Riggins

Inside the logo's border is the traditional shape of an ʔəʔutx̌s (sea going canoe), reinforcing a recognizable Suquamish presence. The paddlers are shown with their paddles raised, a symbol of respect and unity, and communicates the collective commitment required to carry the language forward.

Serving as the anchor of the design is an Elder speaking the language. The language itself is depicted as flowing swirls moving from the Elder to the generations of youth behind her. This design element represents the important role of language teachers such as Brandy Boure, Calina Lawrence, and Joey Holmes. Brandy is a Lushootseed teacher at Chief Kitsap Academy and breathes life into the language with tribal youth. Calina brings Lushootseed into all aspects of her life with her family, friends, and community. Joey speaks Lushootseed with his wife Denita Holmes and their children. They are one of very few tribal households where Lushootseed is used by both parents in varying capacities.

I am proud of how intentional we were with the design of the new logo. Our Language Program has a lot more work to do, and this logo will help carry us there and help remind us that language revitalization is not a single moment, but an ongoing passage from one generation to the next.

Summer Lushootseed Protocol Classes

Dates: Tuesdays from June 23 – July 21 (five weeks)

Times: TBD

Where: Classes will be offered in person at ʔiišədalʔtxʷ Family & Friends Center and online via Zoom.

What: Each class will teach the same protocols. Come to as many as you need to feel confident speaking on Canoe Journey and other tribal gatherings this summer! Classes will include protocol language for:

- Personal Introductions
- Asking Permission to Come Ashore
- Asking Permission to Leave
- Giving Permission to Come Ashore
- Giving Permission to Leave
- Simple Prayer
- Introducing a Song

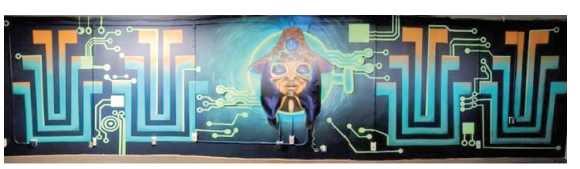
Additional class details will be shared in the Weekly Update.

Suquamish Tribe launches new Calls for Artists landing page

The Suquamish Tribe has created a new landing page for Suquamish tribal artists to get all the latest news and requests for tribal artists.

Among items recently added:

- **Suquamish TCJ Design**: The Cultural Resources Dept. is seeking submissions for a 2026 Tribal Canoe Journey design. $50 paid for all completed submissions; $600 awarded to the artist with the winning design. Deadline: May 1
- **The Bainbridge Island Museum of Art** has opened nominations for their annual BRAVA Awards, which includes a Salish-area Native Artist category with a $15K prize going to this year's winner! Deadline: May 18
- **Call for Poets**: The City of Bainbridge Island is seeking tribal poets to be part of an exciting public art project that will bring original poetry into a shared community space. Up to $500 honorariums will be awarded for selected works. Deadline: June 10



Tribal Artist Directory

The new Tribal Artist Landing Page has also carved out space for an Artist Directory to help get the word out on Suquamish makers who are available for commissioned work and other projects.

If you are a Suquamish tribal artist that would like to have to your contact info, website or socials listed, along with the type of work you do, reach out to communications@suquamish.nsn.us and we'll get you added!

To check out the new page, scan QR code or go to bit.ly/SuquamishArtists

Chairman's Report

By Leonard Forsman

Suquamish Tribe Chairman



Tribal Chairman Leonard Forsman and Vice Chair Josh Bagely welcome Rep. Emily Randall and local constituents to a town hall meeting at the House of Awakened Culture. (Photo by Jon Anderson)

The Suquamish Tribe maintains consistent government-to-government relations with local, state and federal government representatives as we continue our efforts to protect treaty rights and create partnerships that benefit the tribe and the greater community.

Protecting our heritage is a priority and the National Archives held a meeting to update Tribes on the future of the Sand Point Archives currently located in Seattle.

Officials informed the tribal representatives that the facility will remain in Seattle and that locations are being evaluated.

This will keep the collections that document much of our early history with the U.S. in the local area. This is a relief since the National Archives was previously considering closing the facility and shipping the collection out of state.

Representatives of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) traveled to our government offices to provide an update on proposed work on Terminal 46 the home base of their polar icebreakers and other vessels.

The USCG announced Alternative 2 that is a scaled back version of previous proposals that will have less impacts on fisheries habitat than the other alternatives but allow for new berthing opportunities.

Ecosystem Recovery

The West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) held their quarterly meeting. WSPER is attended and supported by elected leaders and staff from the cities of Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, the counties of Pierce and Kitsap and the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes.

I was honored to be re-elected to continue as Co-Chair of the organization.

We discussed and approved the annual work plan that concentrates on restoration of salmon habitat and improving water quality. We also made plans for hosting the Ecosystem Recovery Board later this year.

Welcoming visitors to our lands

In our respective roles on Tribal Council, we are often asked to provide ceremonial welcomes to groups and organizations visiting or conducting business our ancestral lands - here on the reservation, across Kitsap County, and in Seattle.

Representative Emily Randall, our member of the U.S. House of Representatives, held her town hall meeting at the House of Awakened Culture. Vice Chair Josh Bagley and I welcomed her, along with her staff and her constituents, to our lands.

Randall provided an update on her work in Washington DC including efforts to protect civil rights, treaty rights, health care budgets and funding for essential programs.

Visit Seattle, a non-profit destination marketing organization serving Seattle and King County that "champions the region as a world-class destination for travel and tourism," held their annual meeting in downtown Seattle.

After welcoming the membership to Seattle, I was able to hear updates about the upcoming FIFA World Cup soccer tournament preparations and a branding initiative entitled "Mother Nature's City" promoting outdoor recreation opportunities.

Housing and Helping

The Northwest Indian Housing Association held their annual conference at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort where I joined Tribal Elder Dickie Johnson in providing a blessing and a welcome to the attendees.

Fishline, our local non-profit that operates a food bank and provides services to low-income families and individuals in Poulsbo, held their annual fundraiser at Kiana Lodge.

After providing a welcome to the attendees, my partner Jana and me stayed to hear about the amazing services that Fishline has delivered since its inception, including providing 1,109,054 pounds of food in 2025. That is a 12% increase year-over-year.

The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) held their annual meeting in Suquamish. The AESD supports ESDs across the state to help them "deliver statewide programs and services to support student success."

Our Education Division provided cultural experiences including a water tour of traditional places on the M/V Challacum. I joined the Chief Kitsap Academy singers in providing a welcome to the attendees at our resort.

Education Matters

Tribes are still advocating for improved education for tribal students emphasizing the need for tribal culture and language curriculum in the public schools, the recruitment of native students into the teaching profession and more accurate data on student's tribal identity and performance.

As part of these efforts the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Office for Native Education held their annual Tribal Leaders Education Summit at the University of Washington.

Held in the traditional building known as the Intellectual House on the Seattle campus, the meeting included presentations on educational challenges and opportunities.

OSPI Superintendent Chris Reykdal addressed

(Cont. next page)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cont. from previous page

the attendees and emphasized the need for tribes to engage with the state legislature on the education budget in order to fund the programs needed for student achievement.

Locally we met with the North Kitsap School Board to get updates on the school district's programs supporting tribal students.

We are making some progress, but need more investment in tribal student services, which was communicated to the school board members.

The Chief Kitsap Academy School Board also met with Superintendent Brenda Guerrero and CKA Principal Lucy Dafoe and received briefings on their work for our students.

We are making progress in improving attendance and are fully staffed with instructors.

Looking head

The Suquamish Tribal Council held its annual work session at the Snoqualmie Casino. We reviewed the current tribal budget and discussed the 2027 budget process.

We also met with Port Madison Enterprises leadership, our Legal Department, our Higher Education staff, Human Resources Director, and Executive Director to review our work plan for the coming year.

We have convened an informal group to discuss the challenges and opportunities that Artificial Intelligence will present to our tribal government in the future.

As the technology matures, we need to protect our tribal sovereignty, including rights to intellectual and cultural property.

Thanks to tribal member Bryan Anthony and former tribal employee Kevin Bourgault for contributing to the effort.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to preparations for the upcoming Tribal Canoe Journey. We will be hosting a regional meeting of canoe family skippers in early May.

I encourage all tribal members and their families to consider attending our monthly Culture Night hosted by our Cultural Resources team.

Every gathering includes a shared meal and fun activities for children and adults alike.

Upcoming Tribal Council Open Sessions:
May 4 & 27

Suquamish Tribe hosts Rep. Randall Townhall at HOAC

Visit underscores tribe's relationship with Congress, importance of protecting treaty rights

By Jon Anderson
Suquamish News Staff Writer

Now in the second year of her freshman term in Congress, U.S. Rep. Emily Randall spent the morning of April 4 at the House of Awakened Culture in Suquamish, where she was welcomed by tribal leaders and took questions from community members on tribal sovereignty, immigration enforcement, ferry funding, childcare, and a wide range of other issues.

Randall was welcomed by Suquamish Tribal Chairman Leonard Forsman, who opened the event by grounding it in the tribe's long government-to-government relationship with the United States.

"As you know, the tribe has a treaty, the Treaty of Point Elliott, that established this reservation in 1855," Forsman said. "Once that treaty was signed, it was ratified by Congress. So, Congress plays a big role in our government-to-government relationships."

Forsman said that relationship remains central to the tribe's ongoing work to protect treaty rights and the Suquamish way of life.

"With that treaty and the trust responsibility that the United States has with the Suquamish Tribe, we're able to work really hard to protect our treaty rights," he said. "Protecting our salmon and shellfish — all these things are all about protecting our way of life."

Suquamish Vice Chairman Josh Bagley introduced Randall, thanking her for choosing Suquamish as the site of the town hall.

"I just wanted to thank her for reaching out and asking to do this town hall here," Bagley said. "I know a lot of people here in the Suquamish community want to have their voice heard."

Bagley described Randall as "a true partner of the Suquamish Tribe and all tribes along the Salish Sea," noting her work on the House Natural Resources Committee and commitment to supporting tribes and protecting treaty rights.

Randall thanked Tribal Council and Suquamish community for the warm welcome, saying returning home to Washington helps strengthen her work in on Capitol Hill.

"I am stronger in that fight and better prepared because of the stories and connections that I bring back to D.C. from here," she said.

The first audience question went directly to one of the most important issues in Indian Country: how she's working to protect tribal sovereignty amid threats from administrative actions and the federal budget process.



Randall said that concern had been on her mind even before she was sworn in. "I knew that working alongside tribal governments was important," she said, explaining that it was one reason she specifically sought a seat on the Natural Resources Committee and its Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee.

"And because Leonard told me to," she added in a quick aside, drawing a laugh for the crowd.

She said threats to sovereignty do not always appear in obvious ways, but can show up in contracts, budget language and federal line items that weaken self-governance or treaty protections.

"My team, every day, is making sure that we are finding the places where those attacks are coming and defending them as strongly as possible," Randall said. She also tied that work to the need to protect federal agencies that help uphold treaty obligations, especially on environmental and climate-related issues.

"We have to ensure that we are not de-funding federal agencies, so that we do not lose the ability to do the work to uphold our treaty responsibilities," she said. "The fight continues."

Other questions touched on the future of ferry funding, especially in Washington and Alaska; federal responses to ICE enforcement and civil liberties concerns; efforts to build bipartisan relationships in a deeply divided Congress; childcare and Head Start; and the growing challenge of misinformation and disinformation.

Throughout the morning, Randall repeatedly returned to the idea that her role is to bring the voices of the 6th District back to Washington and keep fighting for communities like Suquamish.

"Our community is worth it," she said. "I feel so proud to get to bring your voices with me to Washington, D.C., to fight for a better future for all of us."

Spring Greens event and cook-off brings the heat to House of Awakened Culture

By Jon Anderson
Suquamish Tribe Staff Writer

The Suquamish Tribe's Spring Greens event opened April 10 with a shared meal and a celebration of traditional plant knowledge at the House of Awakened Culture, bringing community members together to reconnect with the seasonal foods that have sustained the Suquamish people since time immemorial.

Hosted by the Traditional Food & Medicine program and led by coordinator and Council Member Azure Boure, the evening set the stage for a full day of hands-on learning the next day.



Boure walked attendees through a range of traditional plants, several of which would be featured in Saturday's workshops.

"Eating seasonal foods reconnects us with the rhythm of the land," Boure said. "That's how our ancestors lived, day to day."

She also emphasized ethical harvesting — encouraging people to gather in clean areas, be mindful of their surroundings, and approach the work with intention and gratitude.

"We are blessed here on the reservation," Boure said. "There are lots of places, little nooks and crannies where you can find so many different things."

Among the plants highlighted were:

- **Big leaf maple:** Bright green spring blossoms are edible and nutrient-rich, often prepared as fritters during their short seasonal window.
- **Dandelion:** A highly versatile plant with edible leaves, flowers, buds, and roots, used in everything from biscuits to teas.
- **Cleavers:** A sticky woodland plant that can be juiced or blended, valued for supporting the body's lymphatic system.



- **Nettle:** A nutrient-dense "superfood" used in teas, soups, and smoothies, far surpassing many common greens in vitamin content.
- **Miner's lettuce:** A mild, nutrient-rich green often mistaken for a weed, easily used fresh in salads or cooked into soups.

Throughout the evening, Boure mixed instruction with personal insight, encouraging curiosity and openness when trying new foods.

"We call it 'don't yuck my yum,'" Boure said, drawing laughter from the crowd as she encouraged participants to approach unfamiliar foods with respect.

She also spoke about the importance of mindfulness while gathering, describing how even the sting of nettle can serve as a reminder to stay present.

"If I'm out there thinking about everything else, I get stung," Boure said. "It's a reminder to be in the moment."

Harvest Basket Challenge brings the heat

That foundation carried into Day 2, where the space transformed into a lively mix of learning stations and a spirited cooking competition. Participants rotated through hands-on workshops, working directly with plants like dandelion, nettle, and big leaf maple —learning not just how to prepare them, but how to identify and gather them responsibly.

Meanwhile, the heat turned up as three teams stepped into makeshift cooking stations for the inaugural Harvest Basket Challenge, bringing the sounds of chopping, laughter, and a little bit of friendly chaos in the Chopped-style cook-off.

Hosted by Cultural Resources Director Kate Ahvakana, the teams were given a mystery basket and a three-hour window to transform traditional ingredients into something memorable.

Each team brought its own energy to the floor.

The Culture Team — calling themselves "3 and a Half Men" — worked with quick coordination under team captain Vincent Chargualaf, alongside Joey Holmes, Ryan Boure, and Christian Lawrence.

Across the room, the Elders Kitchen team, known as the "Kayas," leaned into experience and steady hands. Team captain Marie Sanders led the group, joined by Juanita Holton and tribal youth and budding young chef Grayson Moss.

The Marion Forsman Boushie Early Learning Center team — proudly calling themselves the "ELC Family" — brought a collaborative spirit to the competition, working together under team captain and ELC head cook Michael Skeman to create a dishes that reflected both creativity and connection.

Connection to the land was front and center when ELC team member Samantha Robson found fresh inspiration during a mid-competition break to forage fresh ingredients, bringing them back inside to incorporate into their meal.

As the clock ticked down, the room filled with the sounds of laughter, encouragement, and last-minute adjustments.

At the judges' table, Misty Sigo, Tribal Elder Donna Sigo, and Vice Chair Josh Bagley sampled each dish, weighing creativity, flavor, and presentation against the use of traditional ingredients. It was no easy task.

Each team brought something distinct to the table, they said, making the final decision a close one. Want to find out who won? Scan the QR code to watch the action unfold and see who earned the title of the Harvest Basket Challenge Champions.



Suquamish Youth Spotlight

Tatiana Fontes Lawrence

By Barb Santos
Family & Friends Center Director



The Family & Friends Center is proud to shine a spotlight on Tatiana Fontes Lawrence!

Tatiana is 17 years old and will be graduating this June from Kingston High School with her high school diploma, while also earning her Associate's Degree from Northwest Indian College. Her dedication to education is truly inspiring, and she plans to continue her journey moving straight into the summer to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.

Tatiana has been an active member of the Suquamish Youth Council, where she served as Secretary. She is a positive leader and an incredible role model for our youth, consistently leading by example with her drive, passion, and commitment to excellence.

Her achievements extend far beyond the classroom. Tatiana has played varsity basketball since her freshman year as a point guard. In her senior season, she earned Olympic League All-League First Team honors and was selected to compete in the High School All-Star Game on March 20, an opportunity where she proudly showcased her hard work and dedication.

She was also chosen to step into a leadership role as a coach for the Middle School All-Star Game on March 21, where her team fought hard and secured a close and exciting victory.

In addition to her academic and athletic accomplishments, Tatiana spent the past four summers interning with the Suquamish Tribe across multiple departments, including the Family & Friends Center, the Suquamish Museum, Human Services, and in Administration. These experiences have helped shape her growth, knowledge, and commitment to her community.



Tatiana is deeply passionate about continuing her education and returning to serve and uplift the Suquamish Tribe, helping to empower future generations.

Tatiana extends her heartfelt gratitude to her strong support system: her mom, dad, sister, brother, and grandmother. A special shoutout goes to her dad, Aaron Lawrence, who has been her rock and her basketball coach since she could walk.



Like Tatiana, Aaron also played varsity basketball at Kingston High School throughout his high school career. Tatiana shares how meaningful it has been to play on the same court as her dad and proudly wears his number #14.

We thank Tatiana for being such a powerful example of what it means to lead with strength, heart and purpose. The future is bright, and we are excited to see all that she will continue to accomplish.

You inspire us all—and you remind our people: we can.

Family & Friends Center May Activities

May is Health Awareness month; discussion and speakers will be scheduled throughout the month on mental health, sleep, teen self-esteem, physical education, and Sports.

May 5 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 6 **Bring your own Craft Night** 5-8pm
May 7 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 11 **Lil Kids group**
May 12 **Teen group**
May 12 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 13 **Bring your own Craft Night** 5-8pm
May 14 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 19 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 20 **Bring your own Craft Night** 5-8pm
May 20 **Song & Dance presentation** for Historic Preservation at the Clearwater Casino Lawn, 6pm
May 21 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 25 **F&F Closed** (Memorial Day Holiday)
May 26 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
May 27 **Bring your own Craft Night** 5-8pm
May 28 **Youth Ribbon Skirt** making 3pm to 5pm
June 1 **Song & Dance presentation** for Leadership Kitsap at Kiana Lodge, 6pm

TBD
Beading with Crystal Purcell, ring and/or pens
Baby sitting training

Spirit Hawk Canoe Club training

Sign ups are now open for youth who would like to train and race this year, even if it is for Chief Seattle Days only. Note: limited traveling this year, we are unable to travel with our six or eleven-man canoes this year. Please contact Barb Santos at bsantos@suquamish.nsn.us or (360) 394-7107.

The Wisdom of Our Mothers

Across generations, Suquamish women pass along love, strength, stories and the teachings that hold families together



By Jon Anderson
Suquamish News Staff Writer

For Dolores Mills, the answer comes simply. What does it take to be a good mother? "Just to give lots of love," she says with a twinkle in her eye.

At 94, soon to turn 95 on May 18, Mills has spent nearly a lifetime doing just that. The Suquamish Tribe's eldest female Elder is mother to six, grandmother and great-grandmother to many more, and the quiet center of a large family that still turns to her for prayer, comfort and steadiness.

Her daughter Lori Bakken does not hesitate when asked what her mother means to the family. "She's the glue that keeps us together," Bakken says.

Her mom was just one of many strong Suquamish women who Bakken drew knowledge, inspiration, and her own strength from.

"We grew up watching Great Grandma Cecilia clean her wool with the paddles and weave. She'd make wool socks, she'd make the wool sweaters, the wool hats," says Bakken.

"She taught me how to basket weave. I remember sitting on the floor of her little pink house on Phinney Bay right next to a rocking chair. It always smelled like cedar and cattails. And she was always teaching us something."

That kind of wisdom — steady, generous and enduring — lives at the center of many Suquamish families. It is passed along in quiet ways, through daily care, shared meals, prayer and presence.

Learning together

For Lori's daughter Brittany Bakken, those lessons began early — not just at home, but out in the community.

As a child, Bakken was part of a group of Suquamish girls who gathered regularly with Auntie Betty Pasco. Known simply as Kaya's Girls — a circle of young women learning together — it became a place where culture and life skills blended naturally.

They learned weaving, cooking and how to care for family. They heard stories. They spent time together not just as classmates, but as relatives.

"It wasn't just one lesson," Bakken says. "It was everything." Those gatherings, along with time spent with her grandmother and extended family, helped shape how she sees motherhood today — as something rooted in connection, not isolation.

Stories that teach

For Barbara Lawrence, those lessons often came through story.

Recalling childhood days spent clam digging and berry picking, "I thought the stories were entertaining us through drudgery," she says. "And then I realized," she says, with a pause, "the stories were teaching us something deeper."

A child acting up might hear a story that mirrored their behavior. Lessons about respect, responsibility or consequences were woven into narratives, allowing children to recognize themselves without being singled out.

It was a way of learning that stayed with you. Those teachings were not passed down by one person alone. Lawrence said she was raised by a network of women — her mother, aunties and Elders — who all played a role. That shared responsibility, she said, is part of what defines tribal motherhood, says Lawrence.



A mother's lesson, carried forward

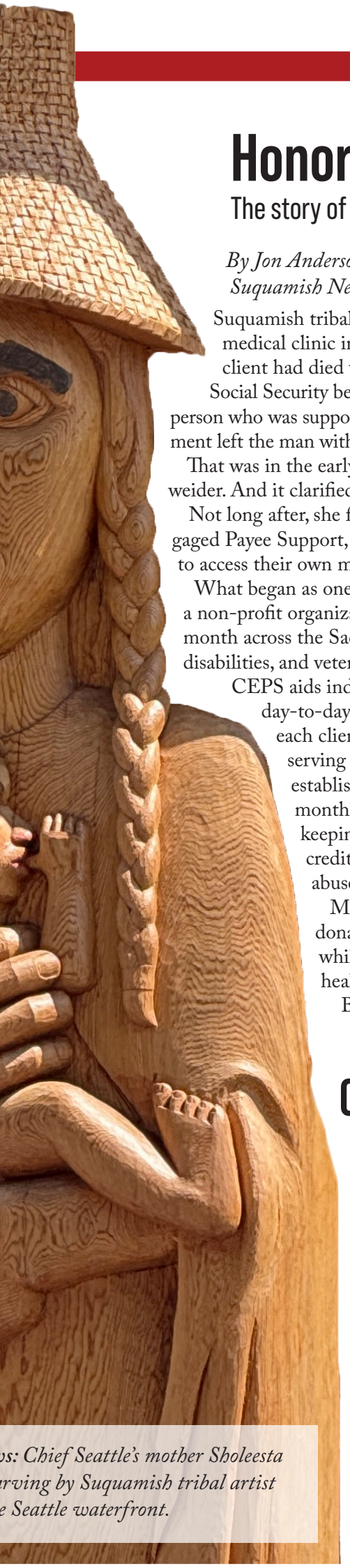
For Lawrence's son, Ian Lawrence, those teachings showed up in ways that shaped how he understands the world.

Among many moments that have stayed

WISDOM Cont. page 12



Looking at all our Tomorrow
holds her infant son in this ca
Randi Purser, featured on th



ws: Chief Seattle's mother Sholeesta
rving by Suquamish tribal artist
e Seattle waterfront.

Honoring a legacy

The story of how one Suquamish daughter carries on the good work of her late mother

By Jon Anderson
Suquamish News Staff Writer

Suquamish tribal member Patty Vollenweider was working at medical clinic in Northern California when she learned that a client had died while sleeping in a nearby public park. His Social Security benefits had been mismanaged by his payee, the person who was supposed to be helping pay his bills. That mismanagement left the man without the resources he needed to survive.

That was in the early 1990s and the moment stayed with Vollenweider. And it clarified a calling.

Not long after, she founded what is now known as Community Engaged Payee Support, or CEPS, built on a simple idea: people deserve to access their own money with dignity, safety, and trust.

What began as one woman's response to injustice has grown into a non-profit organization that now serves thousands of people each month across the Sacramento area, including elders, people with disabilities, and veterans.

CEPS aids individuals who have difficulty managing their day-to-day financial affairs. Services are designed to meet each client's individual money management needs, while serving as their representative payee. This includes establishing and maintaining a monthly budget, paying monthly bills, creating savings goals, organization and keeping track of financial records, negotiating with creditors, and protecting them from financial fraud, abuse, or exploitation.

Managing millions of dollars in payee funds and donations, CEPS helps clients maintain stability while also connecting them to housing, behavioral health services, and recovery support.

But for Vollenweider, the work was never just



about building better support systems. It was always grounded in finding better ways to care for the people who need them.

Radical simplicity

"Her work was radical in its simplicity," says her daughter Jasmine Vollenweider. "Meet people where they are, love them as they are, and believe in who they could become."

That philosophy was shaped by lived experience, a single mother raising two daughters while relying on public benefits. She also

MOTHER'S LEGACY Cont. page 12

Community Baby Shower aims to reshape support for new mothers

By Jon Anderson
Suquamish News Staff Writer

In a first-of-its-kind event for the Suquamish Tribe, a new community baby shower is being designed to do more than celebrate new life — it's meant to plant the seeds of what it looks like for a community to fully wrap around its mothers.

Organized by the Changing Tides, Helping Hands Home Visiting Program, the event will bring together pregnant and recently birthing Suquamish and Indigenous relatives for a day centered on care, connection and support.

Program Manager Cori Silvey says the vision goes



BABY SHOWER Cont. page 13

WISDOM
Cont. from page 10

with him for years, he remembers as a teenager walking through the Peninsula College parking lot and noticing something small, but seemed unusual to him. A woman was looking in the back of her car before she got into it.

When he pointed it out to his mom, she explained most women do that. "Let's sit and watch," she told him, motioning them over to a park bench. Sure enough, woman after woman looked in the back seat of their car before getting in.

"Son, these are all women who have either been attacked, know someone who has, or have been taught to do this," she told him.

"That was a really big lesson for me," he says. "Even though I'm not that guy, just being a guy, having a deeper voice, being larger than most women — it's easy to intimidate them without meaning to."

It was a difficult realization, but an important one. It taught him awareness, respect and responsibility — lessons he carries into his life today as a father, carver and canoe skipper.

Learning how to show up

For Cori Silvey, motherhood has been shaped as much by what she learned from others as by her own experience.

As a teenager, she spent time babysitting across the tribal community, including caring for children who would later become part of her daughter's extended circle.

One of those relationships came full circle years later, when Lenora Bagley asked if she could be part of her daughter Jurnee's life.

"She asked if she could be her auntie," Silvey says. It wasn't assumed. It was intentional. Lenora showed up — taking Jurnee to the park, setting up playdates and creating space for her to just be a kid while Silvey balanced work, school and parenting.

That experience has help reshaped how she thinks about community and motherhood — not as something one person carries alone, but as something shared.

Silvey continues to learn from the mothers around her — older and younger — often through quiet moments of observation. "I needed somebody to show me," she said. "Not tell me."



Now, as Jurnee turns 17, those lessons are still unfolding. For her daughter's birthday, Silvey created a scrapbook filled with letters from family and loved ones — a collection of voices reminding her who she is and how deeply she is cared for.

Auntie Lenora wrote that she was about Jurnee's age now when she first committed herself to becoming a steady presence in her life.

Meanwhile, with her own daughter transitioning into adulthood, Silvey is navigating what it means to parent in a modern world.

She maintains a TikTok account where she shares moments from Jurnee's life — always with permission — finding ways to celebrate her while staying connected.

It's a balance between old and new, between traditional teachings about respect, boundaries and care, and the realities of growing up in a digital world.

The thread that holds it together

Across generations, the form may change, but the core remains. Mothers, aunties and grandmothers teach through example. Stories carry lessons. Community steps in where needed.

Love is expressed through action. It shows up in a grandmother's prayers, in a mother's open door, in an auntie who makes time, in a quiet moment of guidance that stays with someone for life.

And sometimes, it can still be said in the simplest way possible. Just give lots of love.

MOTHER'S LEGACY
cont. from page 11

carried decades of sobriety, with experiences that grounded her approach in empathy rather than judgment.

"She knew firsthand how fragile stability can be," Jasmine says.

Vollenweider also carried Suquamish cultural teachings that emphasized community, connection, and responsibility to others.

"She was a proud Suquamish Elder, carrying forward the wisdom and responsibility of a lineage rooted in the teachings of Chief Seattle. Her Indigenous identity was not something she spoke about loudly — but it lived quietly and powerfully in how she showed up in the world. She believed deeply in community, in interconnectedness, and in honoring each person's spirit."

That belief guided how she built CEPS. The organization expanded beyond financial management to include housing support, mental health advocacy, and recovery services, becoming a trusted resource for people navigating some of life's hardest moments.

It also shaped how she treated people in everyday encounters.

Jasmine recalls a moment when her mother stopped to speak with a veteran holding a sign on an offramp. Simply listening to his story led to a connection with VA services. The man eventually found stable housing, remarried, and rebuilt his life.

"She reminded all of us — staff, clients, and partners — that focusing on the good is not naïve; it's necessary," says Jasmine.

A lasting legacy

Vollenweider passed away Dec. 6, 2025, at the age of 71.

In the months since, her daughter has stepped forward to carry on the work her mother began more than 30 years ago.

"I've had the privilege of learning from the very best," says Jasmine. "Since the inception of CEPS, I've walked beside my mother—not just as her daughter, but as her student."

Now helping to lead the non-profit, she continues the work grounded in the same values her mother instilled — caring for both clients and staff, removing barriers where possible, and staying focused on doing what is right.

Through CEPS, Patty Vollenweider's work continues.

"Her impact will ripple outward for generations," says Jasmine. "In every door opened to stability, every moment of dignity restored, every person who walks through our doors and finds not judgment, but hope."

BABY SHOWER cont. from page 11

beyond a traditional baby shower.

"We're hoping to plant some seeds around prenatal and postpartum care and community responsibility," Silvey says.

The event is structured to reflect that broader purpose. Along with a shared meal, participants will take part in morning and afternoon sessions focused on preparing for birth and navigating postpartum recovery. Experience tables will offer hands-on activities, while raffles and an "abundance table" will provide essential items for families.

But at its core, the gathering is about shifting expectations.

"At a regular baby shower, it's not just a bunch of pregnant people," Silvey says. "It's the pregnant person, and everyone else shows up for them."

That same idea, she said, should extend far beyond a single day.

"There isn't always an expectation for the entire community to keep showing up. We want to change that."

Silvey hopes the event also helps reframe birth as more than a medical experience, encouraging families to think of it as a ceremony — one that includes not just the moment of birth, but the care that surrounds it.

"We're going to talk about the birthing experience that you deserve," she said.

The event will also create space for conversations about mental health, including postpartum depression, and offer resources for both parents and partners.

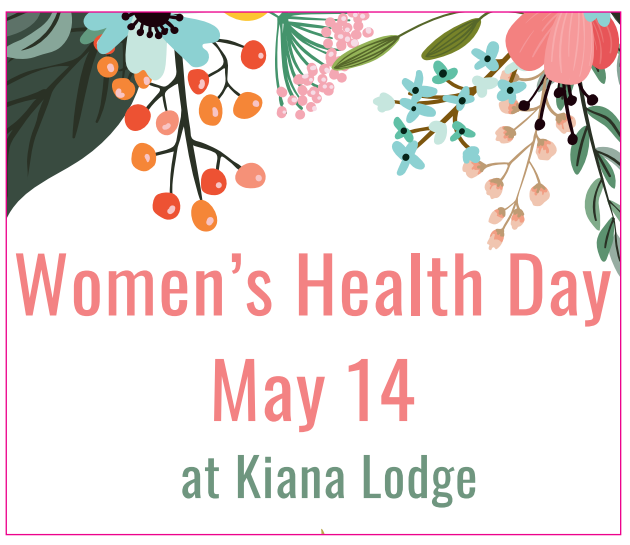
Community partners from across tribal programs will contribute supplies and support, helping ensure families leave not only with information, but with tangible resources.

For Silvey, the goal is long-term.

"We're casting a net over a smaller group of people," she said, "but I think the impact will still be generational."

The Suquamish Community Baby Shower will be held Monday, May 11. Pregnant and recently birthing Suquamish and Indigenous relatives are encouraged to attend.









In Service
Dispatches from the Suquamish PD



By Mark Williams
Suquamish Police Chief

Years ago, as a detective, I sat in the waiting room at Harrison Hospital with a sexual assault victim and her mother. Her mother was angry that we were there. At one point, she told her daughter, "What do you expect? You're a Native woman on a reservation."

That moment stuck with me. It broke my heart. It also made something clear — too many people have come to see these kinds of crimes as something to be expected.

I assure you, we have not.

At the Suquamish Police Department, we have worked to build a response that takes these cases seriously and treats victims with the care and respect they deserve.

Most people know officers receive regular training in areas like firearms, defensive tactics, deescalation, first aid, and driving. But our detectives also receive specialized training focused on handling complex and sensitive cases, including intense, traumatic situations, forensic interviewing, and trauma-informed response.

About ten years ago, I recognized gaps in how we were prepared for these cases. Since then, we've worked to strengthen those skills by adopting higher training standards and seeking out some of the best instruction available. That includes training aligned with Washington state standards on sexual assault and gender-based violence, as well as work with national experts in the field.

That training is making a difference.

Our investigators are better equipped to support victims, and that approach is shared across the department. Officers are learning from experienced detectives, and our overall response continues to improve.

We also work closely with Suquamish Integrated Victim Services to ensure victims have access to advocacy, support, and care throughout the process.

It's important to understand that coming forward looks different for everyone. Some people speak up right away. Others may take days, months, or even years. Whenever someone is ready, we will take their case seriously.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, I encourage you to seek help — whether that's through law enforcement or directly through Integrated Victim Services. You don't have to go through it alone.

I know this is a heavy subject, but it's an important one. No one should feel that this kind of harm is normal or expected.

We are committed to doing better, and to being there when it matters most.

On a lighter note, you'll soon see some new faces in the department, along with updated patrol vehicles featuring artwork created by tribal member artists. These designs reflect the community we serve, and I'm looking forward to you seeing them out in the field.

And thanks to everyone who came out to our pancake breakfast. More to come!





Child Support Services
Providing more than you might think

By Faith Reese
Child Support Services Program Manager

Many people don't realize that the Child Support Program provides more than just case enforcement. We also help families complete important legal steps that protect their children's rights and future.

If you need help:

- Adding a parent's name to your child's birth certificate
- Establishing legal paternity
- Getting an official copy of your child's birth certificate

Our office can guide you through the process and may be able to assist with the costs.

Establishing paternity and having an accurate birth certificate helps ensure your child has access to benefits, medical history, and legal protections.

If you have questions or think you may qualify for assistance, please contact our office.

We are here to support families and make the process as simple as possible.

Please reach out to me, Faith Reese, at (360) 394-8646 freese@suquamish.nsn.us

May 2026

WEEKLY Schedule

SUQUAMISH FITNESS CENTER

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
Dance 5:30pm-6:30pm

TUESDAYS
Elders Fitness 10:30am-11:30am
Adult Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm

THURSDAYS
Elders Volleyball 10:30am-11:30am
Adult Open Gym 6:30pm-8:30pm

SUNDAYS
Adult Open Gym 6pm-8pm

Notes

Schedule is subject to change. please look for updates on our facebook page and sun text alerts.

5243 NE Totten Rd
(360) 394-7142

HEALTH & FITNESS
wələx̌ʷildubutalʔtxʷ
(Strengthen Yourself House)

Women's Health Day
May 14
at Kiana Lodge

10:00am to 11:30am	Health Fair Activities
11:30am to 12:00pm	Lunch
12:30pm to 1:30pm	Speaker and activities

Tribal Member Robin Sigo will share her cancer journey story

Tribal Members and their households and Government employees are cordially invited.
Sponsored by Suquamish Tribe Public and Community Health Department
Contact Barbara Hoffman, RN for questions
360-394-8468

Health Benefits
Tip of the Month

If you pay for health or dental services up front you are not guaranteed to be reimbursed.

Please Call Health Benefits prior to paying for any services!

Contact Health Benefits for Assistance!
Office: (360)394-8424
PO Box 546, Suquamish, WA 98392

THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

SPRING CLEANUP
haʔlid ʔə ti pədtʼəsəbil

Dates and Locations

Adams	Apr. 30-May 3
George Lane	May 7-10
Tuckers Topsoil	May 14-17
Closed May 21-24	Made up June 11-14
Wee Wun	May 28-31
Sackman/Woolly Dog	June 4-7 & 11-14



Hours
Thurs – Sat: 10am – 5pm **Sunday:** Noon – 4pm
Items Accepted: Household Trash, Appliances, Furniture, Tires, Mattresses, Electronics (TVs, computers, printers, etc.)
Items NOT Accepted: Hazardous waste of ANY kind - tires, paint, oil, anti-freeze, fireworks, propane tanks, etc.

If you have larger quantities, or any questions, or need assistance, please contact:
Jaime Lawrence, Solid Waste Coordinator
(360) 471-3500 / jaimelawrence@suquamish.nsn.us
Shane Crowell, Solid Waste & Environmental Quality Program Manager
(360) 536-1672 / shanecrowell@suquamish.nsn.us

ELDERS LUNCHROOM MENU

MAY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
			Beverages : Choice of 1% Milk or Lactose Free Milk. Occasional substitutions may be necessary.	1 Elk Stew Pachado Bread Yogurt Parfait w/ Berries
4 **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!** Shephard's Pie Caesar Salad Brussel Sprouts Birthday Key Lime Pie	5 Hot Dogs w/ Chili and Cheese Macaroni Salad Jello w/ Fruit	6 Chicken a la King Brown Rice Peas Carrot-Raisin Salad Banana Pudding	7 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Bread Sticks Chocolate chip cookie Applesauce	8 Salmon Roasted Red Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Tossed Salad Pachado Bread Fresh Fruit
11 Chicken Soft Taco Spanish Rice Chuckwagon Corn Fresh Fruit	12 Cook's Choice Soup Pachado Bread Tossed Salad Yogurt & Fruit	13 French Dip Chips Cottage Cheese w/Fruit	14 **BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH** French Toast w/syrup Scrambled Eggs Sausage Links Spiced Fruit Cup	15 Beans and Ham Hocks w/ Rice Shortbread w/ Mixed Berries Pachado Bread
18 Sweet & Sour Pork Brown Rice Germany Veggie Blend Tossed Salad Applesauce	19 Hamburger Bar Potato Salad Baked Beans Pudding **STAY FOR THE LUNCH AND LEARN!!**	20 BBQ Ribs Pasta Salad Capri Blend Veggies Coleslaw Acorn Squash Strawberry Shortcake	21 Goulash w/ Rice Bread Sticks Spinach Salad Ice cream cup or Fudgesicles	22 Geoduck Chowder Tossed Salad w/ Sunflower Seeds & Cranberries Pachado Bread Banana Pudding
25 **Closed Memorial Day Holiday**	26 Hamburger Soup Egg Salad Sandwich Fresh Fruit Cupcakes	27 BBQ Chicken Pasta Salad Cucumber-Tomato Salad Spiced Fruit Cup	28 Deli Sandwich w/all the fixings Tossed Salad Chips Fresh Fruit	29 Indian Tacos Brownie

Elders Kitchen: (360) 394-8407. Please call to inform the kitchen if you would like to cancel home delivery for the day.

Elders Corner

By Melissa Lund, & Antonia Ewing
Elders Program

Well, April was a rainy month, and we were finally having some warmer days here on the Rez, but then a crazy hailstorm hit us mid-month! The ground looked like it had snowed; I hope all of you Elders who had a slippery ice blanket outside your house stayed safe.

Our Elders have started going to other tribe's honoring luncheons each month, and what fun we are having! The first luncheon was in March at Muckleshoot, and the fix was in, as Elder Tracy Tabafunda was the only Suquamish Elder to win a raffle prize — twice! We will have to rub her head for good luck next time.

As a special treat, Elvis and Ann Margret (that is to say, Elvis impersonator Danny Vernon & his wife Marcia) serenaded us. We also participated in the Chehalis Elders Honoring in April. It was good to see Elder Nancy Sigo attending with us. We've missed her!

Elder Mable Price and her husband Kirk celebrated seven years of blissful matrimony on April 20. Congratulations you two youngsters!

A little bird told us that Georgia George is back home. We are glad for her. Thanks go out to Elder Linda O'Connor, she shows our Elders how to make ribbon leis for Chief Kitsap Academy graduates each year. If you are interested in participating, look for the next date in the May Elders Calendar.

On a sad note, Elder Ted Jackson's fur-friend dog named Jimmy passed over the rainbow bridge. We are sorry for Ted's loss.

Our Snoqualmie Elders Trip is coming up later this month, going from May 28-June 1. For Elders who signed up, please make sure you have it marked on your calendar. If you must cancel, please contact Melissa Lund at the Elders Program at (360) 979-9252.

Thank you to the many Elders who came and signed up for the PSE Energy Discount Program, it certainly can make a difference in many of our group's electric bills.





Experts from Suquamish Tribe's IT Department help Tribal Elders solve their technology challenges and answer questions during the April Tech Tuesday event. More help is on the way May 26 from noon to 1pm in the Elders Lunchroom. (Photos by JoAnn Joe)

Heartfelt prayers and healing thoughts are being sent out to those who are going through health issues or hard times. We give our condolences to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

Best wishes to our Elders who have welcomed a new family member into their fold, and an especially big hug and many blessings to our Moms on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. We also salute our men and women Suquamish Warriors, and especially those who have paid the ultimate price, on Memorial Day, which is May 25.

We are all bound together, we are all connected, we all share the same breath. Until we meet again, may you make many joyful memories!

May Elders Events

Tue & Thu (Weekly) Elders Fitness
10:30-11:30am at the Fitness Center on Totten Road. Thursdays are also Elders Chair Volleyball Practice.

Wed, May 6 Graduation Lei Workshop
Noon-3pm at the Elders Lodge. Come help make leis for our CKA grads. Instruction by Elder Linda O'Connor.

Tue, May 12 Movie Night
Regal Poulsbo, meet Elders Staff at theater from 5:30 to 6 PM for tickets

Thu, May 14 Elders Footcare
By appointment only. Call Elders Program staff to book your slot.

Mon, May 18 Elders Fishing Trip
Port Townsend, RSVP with Antonia or Melissa, (more info at later date)

Tue, May 19 Elders Council Meeting, 2-4 PM, Elders Lodge; In-person or Zoom. Look easy-to-click link in the May 15 SUN Weekly Update newsletter.

Thu, May 21 Big Moe's Salmon Bake
10am-1:30pm at the House of Awakened Culture. Food, fun, and raffles! Come feast on salmon in remembrance of Big Moe!

Mon, May 25 Memorial Day (Tribal Offices Closed)

Tue, May 26, Technology Tuesday
Noon-1pm in the Elders Lunchroom. Bring your tech devices & questions for help with our expert IT staff. Also discussion about using/signing up for Elders Facebook Group.

Thu, May 28-Mon, Jun 1 Elders Snoqualmie Hotel Trip
Check-in 4pm on May. 28; check-out by 11am June 1. Only Elders who signed up for this trip can attend.

Contacts: Melissa Lund, EP Coordinator
(360) 394-8472, mlund@Suquamish.nsn.us

Antonia Ewing, Care Assistant
(360) 394-8675, aewing@suquamish.nsn.us



May Birthdays

May 1
Jeanette Lawrence
Jewelian Lawrence
Kyle Purser
Rachel Duthie

May 2
Dawn Ostenberg
Malia Carper
Michelle Charette
Mieka Price
Moralani Old Coyote -Williams
Robert Pastrana

May 3
Alexia Baldwin
Briann Lyons
Cindy Roberts
John Jones
Maureen Belmont
Nevaeh Gordon-Hawk
Zadia Pemble

May 4
Angela Ives
Brooke Orsen
Cole Forsman
Duane Napoleon Jr.
Eliana Edelstein
Kathleen Trotts
Reada Smith
Yasmeen Cruz

May 5
Agostinho Cordeiro
Brenda Guerrero
Brooke Edlen
Courtney Trask
Monique Pastrana
Virginia Gemmell

May 6
Cassie Swayze
Jessica Brown

May 7
Corbin Eaton
Daniel Adams
Jessicca Cordero
Jordan Camacho
Leroy Henry III
No-Yectee- Hemeh Alexis
Sierra Molver

May 8
Corey Manley
Jasmine Cannon
Karleen Crow
Luke Williams
Nettle Ahvakana-Villa

May 9
David Greer
Hayden Moss
Joshua George
Paisley Silvey
Shyla Ahvakana-Villa
Toshina Baldwin

May 10
Nancy Johnston
Sorin McNew

May 12
Cathlene Norris
Edward Cordero
Elias Neugebauer
Ellie George
Ryan Sigo
Warren Neugebauer

May 13
Angee Harrington
Christina Roberts
Emersyn Day
George Hill Jr.
Seylah McNew
Shardan Stark
Wanda Vollenweider

May 14
Bryna Lawrence
Cecelia Brown
Lori Wolfe
Mackenzie Crow
Michael George
Tu-tai-ud Brealan-Bayes

May 15
Anthony Carper-Black
Jennifer Pratt
Lillian Abler

May 16
Elizabeth Lindell
Elizabeth Townsend
James Bradwell Jr.
Keon Smith
Rebekah Nelson

May 17
Charles Deam Sr.
Eric Glaze
Golden Hawk Jr.
Isaac Johnson
Zachariah Mabe

May 18
Christopher Midkiff-Quade
Dolores Mills
Kira Yaeger
Korinn Bayer
Lily Stockwell

May 19
Benjamin Johnson
Christopher George -Old Coyote
Phenix Mabe

May 20
Georgianna Ungaro
Marlane Buckner
Oliva Purser
Robert Hagen
Roxanne Cruver
Sara Purser

May 21
Braden Hess
Clyde Brown
David Zurflueh
Kayla Purser
Melissa Bruce
Samantha Midkiff

May 22
Alan Lerdo Jr.
Bonnie Brown
Brayden Napoleon
Dylan Crow
Frances Jackson
Lori Deleon
Mark Pratt
Narmine Ridani
Robin Camacho
Shawn Boushie

May 23
Amie Adams
Callum Purser
Frasier Purser
Jasmine Vollenweider

May 24
Albert Agibinik Jr.
Matthew Hawk

May 25
Annabella Bowers
Arrianna Parrish-Day
Celia Williams
Charlotte Ives
Cheryl Cahill
Duran George
Jimee-Mai Webster
Telisha Hendricksen

May 26
Anthony Howard
Colleen Hickerson
David Sigo III
Destiny Dubois
Madison Pool

May 27
Althea Jones
Daniel George
James Armstrong
Julian George
Nata-chee Pratt
Orion Keller
Rigel Keller
Zaylee Moss

May 28
Chelsey Hettema
Daniel Smith
Jennifer Willis
Justice Zaiss
Meira Edelstein

May 29
Alexandra Purser
Bernard Adams
Christine Snider
Daniel Parkhurst
Emberlly Zaiss'Schaleger
LeAnne Nilluka

May 30
Amanda Carper
Caleb Stewart
Kristina Pearson
Mataya Soto
Ronald George Jr.
William Lund

May 31
Robert Kumpf-Fleming



SUQUAMISH YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026

SUQUAMISH YOUTH COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

at the Family and Friends Center
5243 NE Totten Rd. Poulsbo WA 98392

YOUTH COUNCIL POSITIONS OPEN!

VICE CHAIR
SECRETARY
FEMALE REPRESENTATIVE
HISTORIAN

Youth let's have fun! Being a leader, meet people, fundraising, volunteering, planning and hosting youth activities, community giveback, expressing concerns, attending leadership meetings and travelling!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
BARB, JANA, RYAN OR VINCENT
360-394-8576 OR
E-MAIL FANDFCENTER@SUQUAMISH.NSN.US



Free Mini Exhibition
Suquamish Museum:
Stories That Continue
Exhibition Opens:
April 1, 2026
Museum Open Wednesday-Friday, 9AM-4PM

RENEWAL WEEKEND cont. from page 4





powwow they represent — it's important work." Royalty serve as ambassadors throughout the year, representing the community at events, conferences and gatherings.

"They get to play a leadership role when they attend these events and wear their sash," Chargualaf said.

"There's many different people from different tribes in here," she said. "They're representing their tribes and their families too."

After more than an hour of interviews, a three-judge panel deliberated before selecting this year's winners.

2026-27 Renewal Royalty Winners:

- Senior Miss Renewal: Shaunie Cordero
- Senior Renewal Warrior: Dakotah Reynolds
- Junior Miss Renewal: Willow Squetimkin
- Junior Renewal Warrior: Nakotah Reynolds
- Tiny Tot Renewal Princess: Isla-lynn Ives
- Tiny Tot Renewal Warrior: Legend George

Chargualaf said the strong turnout reflects growing visibility and pride in the event.

"I actually love it," she said. "I love that there's a lot more visibility with the Renewal Powwow and that people are wanting to represent this powwow and wanting to represent themselves, their tribes and their families."

Chargualaf also offered special thanks to the talented artists who created this year's royalty regalia including:

- Crowns – Shilene George, Keenas Limon, Kailiyah Kriehble
- Warrior headbands – Janaka Old Coyote
- Sashes – Alaina Capoeman
- Drums – Bearon Old Coyote
- Rattles – Jimmy Price

Outgoing royalty were also recognized during the pageant, offering thanks to the family members, mentors and community who supported them throughout their year of service.

From a packed Coastal Jam to an expanded powwow stage, this year's Renewal Coastal Jam & Powwow reflected both growth and continuity, honoring culture, celebrating sobriety and marking the seasonal shift into spring.

"We go from darkness into light," Chargualaf said.

Wellness Center
Current offerings

Drop-in meetings at the Wellness Lobby

Tues 6 pm — Wellbriety — Walking the Red Road
Wed 6 pm — Women's Recovery — Support with mindfulness intention
Fri 6 pm — Rez Riders (NA)

Walk-in at the Elder's Lunchroom

Thu 1-4 pm — Crafternoon — Artists share skills and cultural crafts
Every Last Sat 9:30-11:30am — Fatherhood Circle

For more info call the Wellness Center at 360-394-8558.

THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

Suquamish News Editor, PO Box 498
Suquamish, WA 98392

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Suquamish Museum

Military Appreciation
FREE ADMISSION

MAY 6-29, 2026

Museum Open Wednesday-Friday, 9AM-4PM

For Military personnel who are active duty, reserve, retired, veteran, disabled veteran, or dependents.

Present a valid, non-expired military ID for free admission for you + up to five (5) guests. Limit 6 total admissions per ID per day.

Thank you for your service!

We Are the Voices of Our MMIWP Relatives

mmiwp AWARENESS WALK

11:30AM Walk from Admin to HOAC

What to Expect:
- Prayer
- Welcome
- Walk begins
- Honor Our MMIWP
- Memorial Walk
- Opportunity to Share
- Lunch
- End at 1:00PM

TUESDAY MAY 5TH

WEAR RED AND JOIN US AS WE COME TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS AND WALK IN HONOR OF OUR MMIWP RELATIVES

THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

FATHERHOOD CIRCLE

EVERY LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH!

9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM
IN THE ELDERS DINING ROOM
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Who Is Invited?

Dads, uncles, cousins, grandfathers, mentors, and those stepping in a caregiver role.



Fatherhood Circle invites father figures to listen, share, support one another, grow together, care for each other, and remember they are not alone.

Topics May Include:

Cultural skills & traditions
Mental health & emotional well-being
Parenting strategies
Community & family connections
Life skills & practical tools
Communication & relationships
Healing & personal growth

JOIN US

- Breakfast provided
- Check-in & Icebreaker
- Main topic or activity
- Closing reflection & raffle

Need help with transportation? We can help!

RSVP recommended to help us plan breakfast and support needs.



Contact Aaron Fast
for questions or to RSVP
360-394-1329
afast@suquamish.nsn.us

