



February 2025

Elwha News

čəłəʔxʷaʔ syácam

Community Canoe Journey Meeting



Tuesday, February 20, 2025

In-Person-5:00PM-LEKT Dining Hall



Dinner Provided By:



ELWHA RIVER
CASINO

Let's pull together to prepare our upcoming Canoe Journey:
"Dams Removed, A River Reborn, Spirits Renewed."

Paddle to Elwha 2025

Beading materials available for gift making during the gathering

From the Chair's Corner:

Field Art & Event Hall held our 2nd collaboration event between the Field Hall Gallery, the Klallam and S'Klallam artist, presenting a collection of contemporary art, traditional pieces and artifacts from TsiWhitZen Village Site on November 9th, 2024 - January 18, 2025.

We, the tribal council would like to thank Steve Raider-Ginsburg, Executive & Artistic Director and Georgia Johnson, Gallery Manager of the Fields Art & Event Hall for working with Elwha and our Sister Tribes, Jamestown and Port Gamble. (The Strong People), Creating the ability for our artist to step up and show their talent. On January 18, the closing celebration of the exhibit "Strong People Strong Artists" was attended with stories shared by three distinct indigenous storytellers: Jamie Valadez - Elwha, Mackenzie Grinnell - Jamestown S'Klallam and Chris Jones, Port Gamble. After the story telling Irene Peters was recognized and wrapped in a blanket for her remarkable artwork for crafting a cat table, Title "Everything that lives is sacred" she drew for the Fields Art & Event Hall and creating the drawing for the flyer of the exhibit event. We would like to thank all those who featured their artwork in the exhibit, celebrating the strength, resilience, and creativity by the Klallam artist from Elwha, Jamestown, and Port Gamble Tribes. All the teachers, staff, vendors, docents and volunteers, who had made this special event take place during the gallery exhibition. We look forward to our future events with the Fields Art & Event Hall.









Happy Valentines Day and Happy 23rd Anniversary.

Your family, Niece's, Nephews, and Grand-Kids.

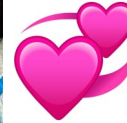
Jamie teaching cedar weaving at Fields Art Center.

We thank Jamie for her teaching!



Wishing my gorgeous granddaughter a very happy 15th birthday.

I love you Elvira Rose.
♥♥ Love always Grandma Dorene



January 3, 2025

To my favorite person.
Happiest birthday Loretta.

I love you so much
Love always Dorene

These birthday wishes were accidentally left out of January's issue. Many apologies to Elvira, Loretta, and Dorene. - Editor



Happy 9th Birthday Jaxon Jo! We love you as much as you love McDonalds pancakes!

Love: Dad, Amma, BB Amma, Auntie, Uncle and Jaidyn.

but the adoption of the rule banning commercial finfish net pen operations over state-owned aquatic lands is a positive step in the right direction. We strongly encourage the DNR Board to adopt CR-102 and the proposed rule that bans commercial finfish net pen aquaculture on state-owned aquatic lands.

Sincerely,



Frances G. Charles, Chairwoman

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Enc.: Seattle Times, January 5, 2025, OpEd: Protect WA's waters and tribal sovereignty: Ban commercial finfish net-pen aquaculture.

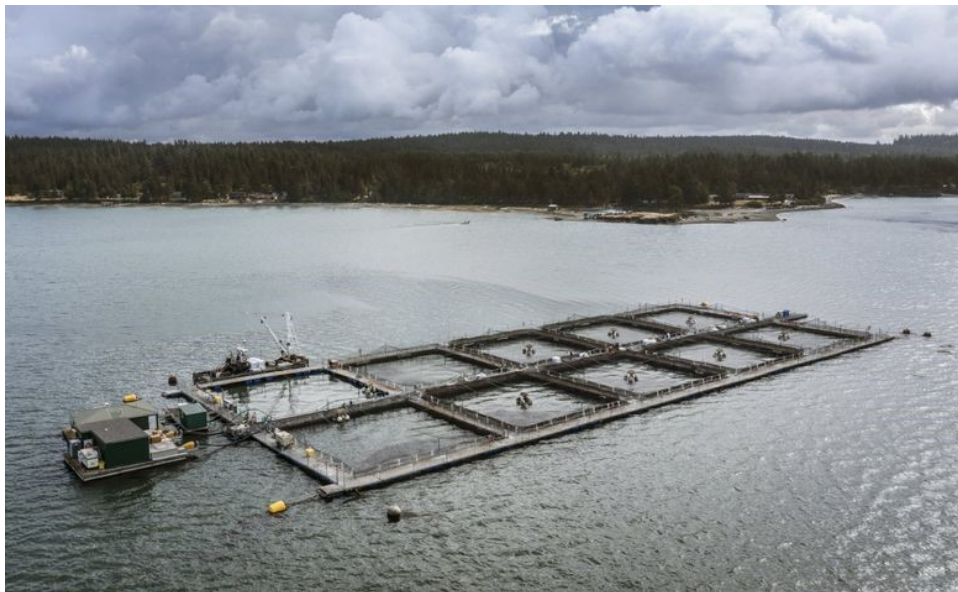
cc: Lower Elwha Business Committee

Natural Resources Director

Tribal Attorney

The Seattle Times

Protect WA's waters and tribal sovereignty: Ban commercial finfish net-pen aquaculture



Industrial net-pen aquaculture facilities confine non-native species in open-water cages, creating breeding grounds for disease, parasites and pollution that threaten the delicate balance of our marine environment, write the authors. Pictured is a net-pen aquaculture operation off of Lone Tree Point. (Steve Ringman / The Seattle Times, 2021)

For millennia, the lands and waters of Washington have sustained our peoples, cultures and traditions. Our rivers, bays and coastlines are sacred places of abundance, providing salmon and other marine life that feed not just our bodies, but our spirits and our economies.

As leaders of sovereign Tribal Nations, we carry a responsibility to protect these natural gifts for future generations. This responsibility compels us to support the Washington Department of Natural Resources' proposal to codify a ban of commercial finfish net pen aquaculture in our state waters. The state Natural Resources Board will consider a proposal to prohibit leasing for commercial net pen operations at its Jan. 7 meeting.

Net-pen aquaculture operations pose unacceptable risks to the health of our marine ecosystems, the vitality of our wild fish populations, and the sovereignty of tribal nations. These industrial facilities confine nonnative species in open-water cages, creating breeding grounds for disease, parasites and pollution that threaten the delicate balance of our marine environment. The impacts extend beyond the pens themselves, spilling into the waters our tribes depend on for fishing, cultural practices and economic well-being.

We have already seen the damage these operations can cause. In 2017, a catastrophic failure of a net-pen facility near Cypress Island released hundreds of thousands of nonnative Atlantic salmon into Puget Sound. These fish competed with native salmon for food and habitat, creating additional stress on already struggling wild salmon populations.

Even without such dramatic failures, net pens release untreated waste, excess feed and chemicals directly into surrounding waters. The consequences of this pollution ripple

through the food chain, impacting shellfish beds, wild salmon runs and the southern resident killer whales that rely on them.

For Indigenous communities, salmon are more than a resource — they are a way of life. Treaties signed with the United States guaranteed our rights to fish in perpetuity. These rights are meaningless without healthy fish populations and clean waters to sustain them. The unchecked spread of diseases, sea lice and escaped farmed fish from net pens directly undermine those rights and our ability to uphold our cultural and spiritual connection to the salmon.

Washington's tribes have long been at the forefront of efforts to restore and protect our state's salmon. We have invested millions of dollars in habitat restoration, hatchery programs and collaborative management to ensure that wild fish can return to our rivers and sustain future generations. Yet these efforts are undermined by the continued presence of harmful net pen operations.

Allowing these facilities to operate while tribal, state and federal governments work to restore salmon populations is like trying to bail water out of a sinking canoe while leaving a hole in the bottom.

Washington is not alone in recognizing the dangers of net-pen aquaculture. Alaska and California have already banned these operations in their waters, prioritizing the health of wild fish and marine ecosystems. British Columbia, too, is transitioning away from open-net fish farms following years of opposition from First Nations and environmental advocates. It is time for Washington to join them and take a stand for the health of our waters, the resilience of our fisheries and the rights of tribal nations.

We understand the need for sustainable food

production and support efforts to develop truly responsible aquaculture practices. Land-based, closed-containment systems offer a viable alternative to net pens, minimizing environmental risks while creating jobs and supporting local economies. By prohibiting commercial finfish net-pen aquaculture in our open waters, Washington can lead the way in promoting innovation while safeguarding the health of our marine environment. The proposal to ban these operations is not just about protecting the environment — it is about upholding tribal sovereignty, respecting treaty rights and preserving the traditions that have sustained our peoples since time immemorial. It is about ensuring that our children and grandchildren inherit waters teeming with life, not plagued by pollution and invasive species. We urge Washington's leaders to take this critical step and formally declare commercial finfish net-pen aquaculture is not fit for our waters. The time to act is now — for the fish, the water and the generations to come. Please join us in urging the DNR Board to ban commercial aquaculture net pen leases.



A farmed Atlantic salmon jumps out of the water within an open-water net-pen operation. In 2017, a catastrophic failure of a net-pen facility released hundreds of thousands of non-native Atlantic salmon into Puget Sound, creating additional stress on already struggling wild salmon populations, write the authors. (Ramon Dompfor / The Seattle Times, 2017)

Frances Charles: is chairwoman of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe,

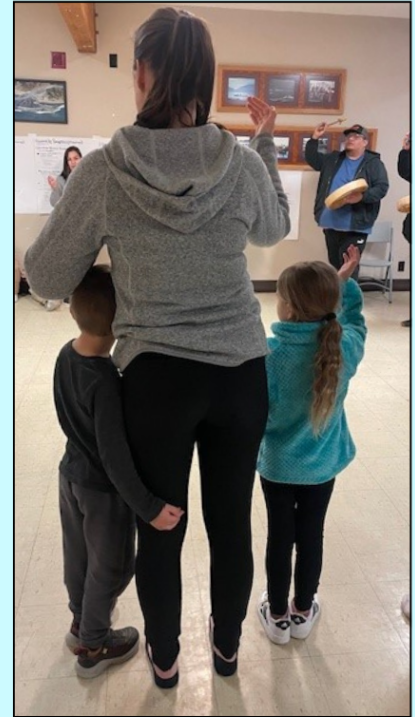
Leonard Forsman: is chairman of the Suquamish Tribe, a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.

Steve Edwards: is the Swinomish Tribal community chairman.

Councilwoman Tia Skerbeck Updates

Regalia Classes and Canoe Journey Prep!

Gift making has been under way for months, we've seen community wool skirt and shawl classes, and drum group is growing again. Keep an eye out on the culture program calendar for regalia classes and drum group dates. The calendars are found on the community calendar online at www.elwha.org/calendar and in Camp Crier.



Our new Canoe Journey Logistics Coordinator has hit the ground running and is working on the behind the scenes logistics of journeys. The Cultural Coordinator position is currently posted online, and hopefully by the time you read this, we will have someone hired and working with our community and canoe families to prepare for journeys

Know What's Going on -Sign Up for Elwha Alerts-

Always Be Notified

Sign up for Elwha Alerts and receive important notifications.



-  TRAFFIC UPDATES
-  EVENT REMINDERS
-  SEVERE WEATHER ALERTS
-  EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Text: ElwhaAlerts
To: 78015



From your smart phone text the word "Elwhaalerts" to the number 78015. This will add your phone number to the list of numbers to receive Elwha Alerts. Community events, closures, classes, food bank notices, and emergency are all sent out through Elwha Alerts. You can always opt out of alerts by texting "STOP" to 78015. There is no harm in texting "Elwhaalerts" again to 78015, it will make sure that you are signed up to get alerts.

Elders General Support Program



2025 brings new resources for Elders. The Elders General Support Program was approved, and has launched. This program offers \$1,500 in financial support per year to LEKT elders to assist with expenses related out of home activities and unexpected living expenses. A paper application or Smartsheet application can be submitted to request the annual support. Please reach out to Nancy Hamilton at 360-452-8471 ext. 2960 to apply.

WA Dept. of Natural Resources Net Pen Ruling

On Jan 7th, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources approved a new rule that bans the use of commercial net pen in State owned aquatic lands. This a good new for us, as it helps make sure that no net pens go into the Port Angeles Harbor again, and that the Elwha River restoration efforts continue and are not threatened by the harmful effects of net pens.



Tribal Health 2025 Legislative Priorities

With support from the American Indian Health Commission and Tribes throughout the State, there are a handful of health based legislative bills being proposed this Washington legislative season. One main bill aims to allow for Medicaid reimbursement for traditional medicine, if passed this would help our clinic get paid from Medicaid for patients who wish to receive a more traditional medicine approach to healthcare.



The second big legislative priority is request to the State to increase the amount of funding for Tribal Foundational Public Health Services. These State funds help Tribes ensure the health of their people are protected, plan for emergencies, and prevent chronic illnesses. An increase in the funding amount would mean more resources for Tribes to carry out public health work and serve our communities better.

LEKT

Community



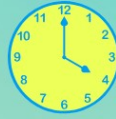
Wellness Warrior Fair

Wednesday

February 19, 2025



11:00AM-4:00PM



SELF CARE

SCAN ME!




LEKT Gymnasium 2851 Lower Elwha Rd.

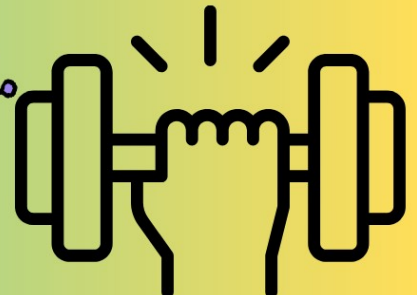
Port Angeles, WA

CONTACT: nancy.hamilton@elwha.org



WELCOME

**ENTER TO
WIN PRIZES**



Child Care News



Hello,
My Name is Jenniffer Miljour. I am the new Lead Teacher in the Whales room. I was blessed to work for Early Head Start for about 4 1/2 years and I formed many friendships with co-workers and families. I am grateful for the opportunity to be working with children again.

It is just me and my 3 year old min-pin chihuahua Roland. I enjoy crocheting, beading, cross stitch and any opportunity to learn new crafts. I pride myself in the compassion and love that I can show others as well as a warm smile.

The Whales Class has openings for children ages 5-12.

All of the child care classrooms received NEW culturally relevant books purchased with the TELF (Tribal Early Learning Fund) Grant. The Program will be purchasing drums for all the kids to take home. With this grant we have also been incorporating more traditional meals and enjoying visits from storytellers.

(Jamie Left Jessica Right)



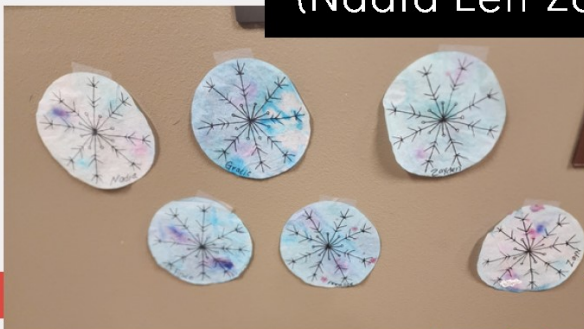


Cheyenne Wheeler, reading to our Ducks, was hired through the TELF Grant as The Cultural Educator for The Children’s House of Learning. Singing and drumming can be heard throughout the building when she is teaching in classrooms. Soon she will be collaborating with teachers and purchasing materials to enhance the existing curriculum with traditional Klallam values, language and culture.



The New Year has brought some great fun to the wolves classroom. The preschoolers conducted a water and food coloring experiment while making paper snowflakes. They created designs and shapes on geoboards with rubber bands and spent some time window painting. As well as many other winter themed projects.


(Nadia Left Zayn Right)



LOWER ELWHA GYM

February 2025

FYB - Elwha Youth Basketball
GYM Opens at 615am Wed ONLY
ASP in Dining Hall & Library during
Gym Floor Project

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						10am-6pm 1 Large Checkers & Connect 4 Movie in the Gym TBD 3pm	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Gym Floor Resurfacing							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Gym CLOSED							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Gym Closed Presidents' Day		Gym Closed		Gym Closed Canoe Journeys Community Event 5pm		Elders Movement 10am/11am ASP 230pm Black Light Night 10am-6pm Board Games 11am Mario Kart Tourney 3pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28		
8am-830pm Elders Movement 10am/11am ASP 230pm EYB 4pm Adult Basketball 630pm		8am-830pm Chair Volleyball 12pm ASP 230pm Pitching 5pm PA Rams Basketball 630pm		615am-830pm Elders Movement 10am/11am ASP 230pm EYB 4pm Adult Basketball 630pm		8am-830pm Noon Hoops 12pm ASP 230pm Pitching 5pm EYB Training 630pm	
8am-830pm Elders Movement 10am/11am ASP 230pm EYB 4pm Adult Basketball 630pm		8am-830pm Noon Hoops 12pm ASP 230pm Pitching 5pm EYB Training 630pm		8am-830pm Elders Movement 10am/11am ASP 230pm Activity TBD			

2851 Lower Elwha Rd
Port Angeles WA 98363

Phone: 360-452-8471 EXT 7440
Call: 360-912-4989
Email: jason.wheeler@elwha.org

Please Join Us

Must be in grades 9th-12th to attend



Games



Photo Booth

HIGH SCHOOL

Valentine's

DANCE

No bags/backpacks allowed into dance



School Appropriate
Attire



Light
Refreshments

When: Friday February 14, 2025
Where: Lower Elwha Gymnasium
Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm

This is NOT a school-sponsored activity. The Port Angeles School District has neither reviewed nor approved the sponsoring organization's program, personnel, and activities announced in this flyer. The sponsoring organization and participants agree to protect, indemnify, and hold harmless the District, its board of directors, employees, and agents, from all claims, liabilities, damages, expenses, or rights of action indirectly attributed to the organization or its program, personnel, and activities. Permission to distribute this flyer should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation of the program by the District.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe-Lower Elwha Family Advocacy Program. This project was supported by Grant #15JOVW22GG3388TRIB awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Empowering Youth through the Ways of our Ancestors

REGISTRATION

Please scan the QR Code to Register



Link will be available on Camp Crier, Lower Elwha Community
FB Page

Contact:

Melaine Wheeler, Program Manager

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



TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

"Empowering Youth Through the Ways of our Ancestors"

About the Program

This is a five-year grant funded program through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). It serves youth between the ages of 12-21 years of age. The program will follow the Healing of the Canoe Curriculum, providing individual wellness with the guidance of our ancestors. There will be additional classes and activities offered through the life of the program.

What to expect

- One time Registration is required for program.
- Transportation is provided.
- HOC Classes
- Culture classes
- Canoe Journey Prep
- Family Tree Project
- Intertribal Activities
- Roles within Potlatches
- and *much much more!*

Contact Info

Here are all the ways you can contact me:

- Email: melaine.wheeler@elwha.org
- Desk: (360) 452-8471 ext. 7417
- Cell: (564) 215-1724
- Office: Lower Elwha Tribal Center

Program Pillars

The Healing of the Canoe (HOC) is an LEKT culture-based life skills and substance abuse prevention curriculum. HOC was developed to teach youth the essential skills they need to navigate life's journey, while promoting a sense of belonging.

Throughout the life of the program, guest speakers will be invited to talk with the youth, in-line with the topic of the curriculum.

LOCATION:

**3080 LOWER ELWHA RD.
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362**



CONTACT:

**DARRELL "FUDGE" CHARLES
DARRELL.CHARLES@ELWHA.ORG**

LEKT S.T.R.O.N.G. PROGRAM

THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THE LOWER ELWHA TRIBAL COMMUNITY OPIOID USE DISORDER AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM (STRONG: SUBSTANCE ,TREATMENT, RECOVERY, OUTREACH FOR THE, NEXT, GENERATION) IS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OPIOID OVERDOSES AND OVERDOSE DEATHS, AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAT GRADUATE FROM A TREATMENT PROGRAM IN THE LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBAL COMMUNITY. THE POPULATION OF FOCUS FOR THE OPIOID ABATEMENT PROGRAM IS AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKAN NATIVES THAT RESIDE IN THE LOWER ELWHA TRIBAL COMMUNITY.

- **COASTAL JAMS**
- **COMMUNITY GATHERINGS**
- **INFORMATION NIGHTS**
- **HEALING CIRCLES**
- **INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATION**
- **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

S.

SUBSTANCE

T.

TREATMENT

R.

RECOVERY

O.

**OUTREACH
FOR THE**

N.

NEXT

G.

GENERATION

čarýéřat 2025

Contact Info: Harmony Arakawa
360.452.8471 x7422

namá skwáči	sčírakwátnát	caņanát	čxwátnát	ņestnát	čqčstnát	sqemáyu
02	03 9am-12pm Gift Making	04 9am-12pm gift making 4-7pm Tunic weaving	05 9am-12pm Gift Making	06 9am-12pm gift making 4-7pm Tunic weaving	07	08
09 9am-12pm gift making	10 9am-12pm Gift Making	11 9am-12pm gift making 5-7pm Drum Group in Dining Hall	12 9am-12pm Gift Making	13 9am-12pm gift making 4-7pm Tunic weaving	14 Jamestown Sobriety Jam	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18 9am-12pm gift making 4-7pm Tunic weaving	19 9am-12pm Gift Making	20 9am-12pm gift making 4-7pm Tunic weaving	21	22
23 9am-3pm Tunic Wool Weaving	24 9am-12pm Gift Making	25 9am-12pm gift making 5-7pm Drum Group in Dining Hall	26 9am-12pm Gift Making	27 9am-12pm gift making 4-7pm Tunic weaving	28 Port Gamble S'Klallam Pow Wow	

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL IN HEALTHCARE



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FREE CNA TRAINING WITH ON-SITE CLINICALS

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FREE CNA TRAINING



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HR@olympicviewcare.com or (360) 453-9206



FAQ

- First two weeks are unpaid. Next two are paid.
- Background checks before classes start. Crimes against people will automatically disqualify an applicant.
- In return for the free training, they ask for a year's employment. Also, this is an opportunity to build up experience in a location with a lot of mentors in the CNA field.
- After graduation, the student will become an RNA (Registered Nurse's Aide).
- Caldera will also help a student become a CNA (Certified Nurse's Aide) while working for them.
- CNA work can be heavy work, so must be able to lift heavy weights on a regular basis. All genders are encouraged to apply.
- CNA work is in demand pretty much everywhere.

January 2025 Newsletter

Klallam Strong: Nutrition & Diabetes Newsletter

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

In this issue:

- * Oatmeal
- * Yummy recipe
- * Did You Know
- * Diabetes Eye Exam

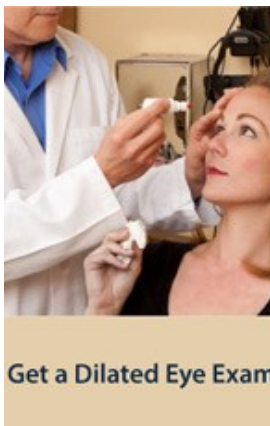
Your Yearly Eye Exam!!!!

More than 50% of people skip this important exam.

Diabetes puts you at a higher risk for vision impairment that can also lead to blindness.

Having a dilated yearly eye exam can prevent 95% of diabetes related vision loss. Early detection and treatment is key. Most eye issues have no symptoms.

Start your 2025 New Year resolution with scheduling your exam if it's been longer than a year. Your eyes will thank you!



Did you Know? Oatmeal contains a greater proportion of cholesterol lowering soluble fiber, more than any other whole grain.

January is National Oatmeal Month

Oatmeal dates back to Ancient Egypt and came to North America in the early 17th century by way of Scotland.

Steel cut are oat grouts chopped into tiny pieces. Rolled oats are oat grouts that have been flattened.

Oatmeal's benefits include:

(not instant, cooked or steel cut)

- lowers your cholesterol
- makes your feel full after a meal
- can lower your after meal blood sugar
- helps to reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease.

One study showed that children who were introduced to oatmeal are less likely to develop asthma.

Here's a yummy recipe, full of fiber and tastes GREAT!!

Oatmeal No Cook Cookies

Mix together:

- 1 cup steel cut oats,
- 1/2 cup peanut butter,
- 1/2 cup ground flax seed,
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips,
- 1/3 cup honey,
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds.

Roll into 1 inch balls and store in the refrigerator or freezer.

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



Welcome Back Nick Runningwolf — our new Dental Therapist!

Nick Runningwolf is an enrolled Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal member and is completing his Dental Therapy (DT) program with us. He returned in the middle of January, 2025.

Nick has trained with the Washington Dental Therapy Education Program (WDTEP) at Skagit Valley College and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community-Dental Clinic. The name of the DT program is **dəx^wǰayəbus**, which is a Lushootseed phrase pronounced as dahf-hi-ya-buus and translates to a **Place of Smiles**.

Nick is slated to complete his preceptorship with us by June and once he is fully licensed he will be an integral part of the dental clinic team with a focus on community outreach.

Nick actually started out here as a Dental Assistant Trainee in 2017 and started in the DT program in fall of 2022 with the support of the LEKT. Welcome back Nick!! We are all so proud of you and your accomplishments!!



Please call 360-452-6252

Ext. 2

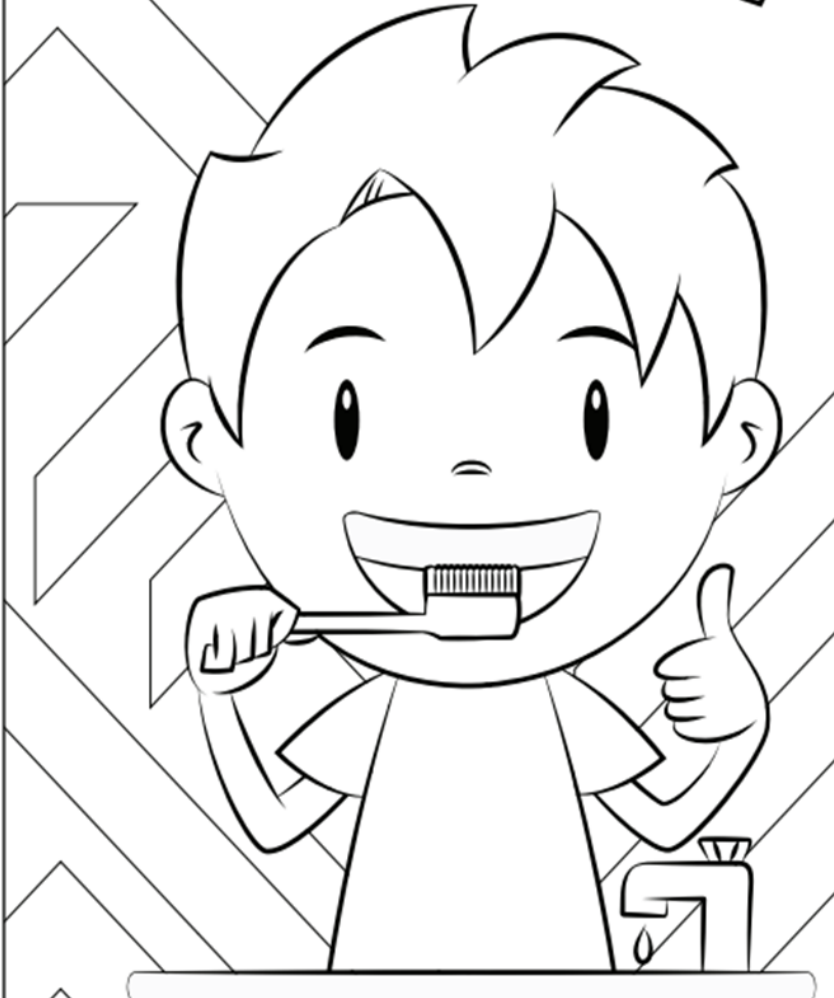
To schedule an exam and cleanings



Did you know February is National children's Dental Health Month?

The February 2025 National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) is brought to you by the ADA. This month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others.

Brushing Fights Cavities, Bruh



I brush my teeth twice daily with a fluoride toothpaste to keep my smile strong.

For more resources, visit: MouthHealthy.org



Place the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle to the gums and move the brush back and forth gently in short strokes.



Brush the outer surfaces, the inside surfaces and the chewing surfaces of all teeth.



To clean the inside surface of the front teeth, tilt the brush vertically and make several up-and-down strokes.



Brush your tongue to remove bacteria and keep your breath fresh.

Happy Birthday to Charlotte Rose from Mom and Papa



Happy Anniversary Mark
2/21/98. 27 years together! Love
Janet.



Happy birthday Nephew! I
love you the mostest! Love
Aunty Tev and Zoey



I want to wish Kenzie a very happy 20th birthday (February 14th). You are my favorite Valentine<3 You are such an amazing young woman. Your sisters, brother, and cousins adore you. I adore your sweet insect, plant, and animal loving self. You're a great friend and human. I am so proud of you and hope you have a best day. We love you so much. Happy Birthday!
-Love Mom and the fam

President Jimmy Carter passed away on December 29th, 2024 at 100 years of age. He was the 39th president of the United States, serving one term that lasted from 1977 to 1981. He is known for many things including establishing a national energy policy that included conservation, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his humanitarian work, and being a lifelong volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Among his accomplishments were several acts that changed the face of Indian Country as we know it.

Born in Georgia in 1924, Carter spent his childhood on lands taken from the Creek Indians more than a century earlier. As a child, Carter “regularly searched for Indian arrowheads,” biographer Peter Bourne wrote. “Ghosts of the evicted Creeks were very much in Jimmy’s mind as he grew up.”

During his presidential campaign in 1976, Carter’s staff reached out to the National Congress of American Indians and the National Tribal Chairmen’s Association. Carter met briefly with some leaders and his staff drafted a position paper that endorsed Indian self-determination policy, already in force. “It is time that the Federal government recognized that the Indian tribes have the right to determine the course of their lives,” the position paper stated. “The majority of decisions affecting tribal lives should be made in tribal council rooms not Washington D.C.”

The **American Indian Religious Freedom Act** was signed in 1978 in response to allegations that state and federal laws were disrupting Native American religious practices. AIRFA protects the right to practice traditional religions, including access to sacred sites, and the use of sacred objects.

The **Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act** was signed in 1978. Its purpose is to expand and improve educational



opportunities for Indian students by providing grants to tribally controlled colleges and universities to improve their physical resources including construction and renovation of facilities, faculty development, implementing student service programs, and purchasing equipment.

The **Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)** was enacted in 1978 in response to a crisis affecting American Indian and Alaska Native children, families, and tribes. Studies revealed that large numbers of Native children were being separated from their parents, extended families, and communities by state child welfare and private adoption agencies. In fact, research found that 25%–35% of all Native children were being removed; of these, 85% were placed outside of their families and communities—even when fit and willing relatives were available. This law establishes minimum standards and guidance when handling child welfare cases, and gives tribal governments exclusive jurisdiction over children who live on reservations.

“[Carter] recognized the sovereign status of Nation nations in America,” said Tadd Johnson, professor emeritus of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota. “And I think he’ll be remembered as a president who made a difference in Indian Country.”

RIP Jimmy Carter.

2024 Service Record	Dec	Fraud	1
911 Hang-Up	5	Malicious Mischief	1
Alarm/Alarm Check	7	Other Agency Assist	13
Animal Calls	8	Patrol Request	47
Burglary	1	Prisoner Transport	3
Business Check	175	Report of Open Door/Window	5
Citizen Assist	7	Robbery	1
Citizen Contact/paperwork /service	10	Stone Garden	1
Civil	2	Suicide/Suicidal	1
Community Oriented Policing	31	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	9
Assault	1	Theft	1
Death investigation	1	Traffic Stops/Control/Emphasis/Hazard	27
Disturbance	7	Violation of Court Order	2
Drug Violation	1	Welfare Check	9
DUI	2	Warrant Attempts/Arrests	10
Follow Up	9	Total	398

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Get free, confidential support whenever you're ready.



Lower Elwha Health Clinic
 243511 Hwy 101 West
 Port Angeles, WA 98363
 (360) 452-6252, Ext. 1
After Hours: (541) 526-9256



Whether you have experienced sexual assault yourself, or want to know more about how to help your child, a friend or someone else, we're here 24/7 with support and information to empower you to take your next steps.

SART Team Members: January Austin, ND; Lillian Easton, ARNP; Melissa Ellis, RN; and Iliana Jones

We provide support and services to youth (18 years and under) in the LEKT Tribal Community, Clallam County and surrounding Tribal Communities. SART can provide pediatric forensic exams, advocacy, support and referrals to youth and families in need of assistance.

Date	Resolution Number	Title	Vote		
			For/	Against/	Abstain
1/6/25	156-24	Enrollment of Aiyana Raine Charles	4	0	0
1/6/25	160-24	Approving Residential Lease of Lower Elwha Reservation Lot #314 to James Bolstrom Jr.	4	0	0
12/19/24	168-24	Approval of Purchase—CIP Surveillance Reporting Software	4	0	0
12/19/24	169-24	Appointment and Ratification of John D. Black as Family Healing to Wellness Court Judge	4	0	0
12/19/24	170-24	Approving Standard Agreement and General Condition between LEKT dba Elwha River Casino and JB Steel LLC	4	0	0
12/19/24	171-24	Approval of Lower Elwha Tribal Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2025	4	0	0
1/6/25	172-24	Application to the United States for Acquisition of Railroad Avenue Gaming Property in Trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and to Add Such Lands to the Lower Elwha Reservation	4	0	0
1/6/25	173-24	Application to the United States for the Acquisition of Railroad Avenue Hotel Property in Trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and to Add Such Lands to the Lower Elwha Reservation	4	0	0
1/6/25	174-24	Approval of Formal Request for an Extension to February 27, 2026 on Carryover Funds for Grant 90CI010030 for Early Head Start and Head Start Programs	4	0	0
1/14/25	01-25	Approval of Elwha River Riparian Resiliency Proposal to Department of Ecology	4	0	0
1/14/25	02-25	Approval of Appointment of Brandy Williams to Board of Commissioners Lower Elwha Housing Authority	4	0	0
1/14/25	03-25	Approval of Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Elder General Support Program	4	0	0

LOWER ELWHA FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

We help Tribal and Community Members with:

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

Contact Information

Beatriz Arakawa, Program Manager
 3080 Lower Elwha Road
 Port Angeles, WA 98363
 Office: 360-565-7257, Ext. 7453
 Cell: 360-460-1745
 Emergency: 360-775-9346



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

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Tribal Center

2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363
360.452.8471

Executive Director

Tonya Clark, Ext. 7469

Tribal Operations Officer

Lorinda Robideau, Ext. 7633

CFO

Brian Carroll , Ext. 7464

Accounting

Jo Klinski, Ext. 7460

Rachelle Wheeler, Ext. 7465

Elena Lifoifoi, Ext. 7476

Jessica Wright, Ext. 7667

Jalen Sampson, Ext. 7462

Cedar Box Smoke Shop

4779 S Dry Creek Road
360.477.1170

**Children’s House of Learning
(Early Head Start, Head Start,
Child Care, Prenatal Program)**

291 Spokwes Dr—

360.504.3141

Lola Moses, Ext. 7471

Deann Lester, Ext. 3402

Deanna Murray, Ext. 7470

Ralena Cornelson, Ext. 7474

Darla Owens, Ext. 7475

Education

Jessica Egnew, Ext. 7425

Elwha Peaks Cannabis

4775 S Dry Creek Road
360.912.7533

Elwha River Casino

631 Stratton Road, 452.3005
Mike Watson, GM

Elder Services

Samantha Acosta, Ext. 7466

**Employment Services/HR/
TERO**

Sandra Johnson, Ext. 7429

Brandy Williams, Ext 7427

Enrollment Services

Ext .7477

Facilities & Maintenance

Warren Stevens, Ext. 7432

Food Bank

22 Spokwes Drive
360.504.3678

Gaming Commission

631 Stratton Road

360.452.5628

Elaina Begay, Director

Health Clinic

243511 Highway 101 West

360.452.6252

Heritage Center

401 E. First Street,

360.417.8545

Nicole Volkmann, Ext. 2912

Housing Authority

22 Kwitsen Drive,

360.457.5116

Jennifer Hutto, Ext. 7554

Information Technology

Ken Giersch, Director Ext. 7541

Justice Center/Tribal Court

341 Spokwes Drive

360.452.6759

Klallam Counseling Services

243613 W Hwy 101,

360.452.4432

Stormy Howell, Ext. 7513

Law & Order/Police Dept.

Justice Center

341 Spokwes Drive

360.452.6759

Sam White, Chief of Police Ext.

2922

Library, Ext 7430

Lower Elwha Food & Fuel

360.477.1170

**Natural Resources/Fish Hatch-
ery**

760 Stratton Road

360.457.4012

Matt Beirne, Ext. 7485

Planning & Development

Arlene Wheeler, Ext. 7437

Prevention Health/GYM

Jason Wheeler, Ext. 7440

Social Services

3080 Lower Elwha Road

360.565.7257

Rebecca Sampson-Weed, Ext.
7456

BUSINESS COUNCIL



Frances G. Charles
Tribal Chairwoman, Ext. 7411



Russ Hepfer
Vice Chairman, Ext. 7412



Melissa Gilman
Secretary/Treasurer Ext. 7414



Steve Joaquin Robideau
Council Member, Ext. 7413



Tia Skerbeck
Council Member, Ext. 7420

Dates to Remember:

- 2/3-2/15 Gym Closed for Resurfacing
- 2/11 High School & Beyond
- 2/14 High School Valentine's Dance
- 2/14 Jamestown Sobriety Jam
- 2/17 President's Day
- 2/19 Wellness Warrior Fair
- 2/20 Community Canoe Journey Meeting
- 2/21 Black Light Night
- 2/28 Port Gamble Pow Wow



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