

3sXeXa?L "It's All Written Down"

Skokomish Indian Nation

THE

SOUNDER

February 2026

p3dQWa'yat
"Time of QWa'yat Power"

SKOKOMISH TRIBE: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

The Skokomish Tribal Christmas Party was held on December 19th at the Community Center. There were over 200 of our community members in attendance with many of the little ones dressed in their finest and ready to have pictures with Santa, the Grinch, and of course, their loved ones. A handful of the littlest ones were not enamored with the idea of sitting on Santa's lap. John Gouley, Community Center manager, and his staff, put out some Holiday themed photo backdrops for people to use to create special family photos to commemorate the season. There were swag bags for everyone along with a tuwaduq themed' stocking cap and a special ornament. It's always nice to have these mementos from each years' Christmas celebration.

Before the dinner the Tom's After School Program students entertained us with the girls performing the Paddle dance while the boys drummed and sang the Paddle song. Most of these young drummers, and dancers, were performing in public for the first time, but it was after several training sessions with the After School Program staff with the assistance of Kimberly Miller. The drummers kept time very well as they sang and the girls were very attentive to their dance steps



and paddle moves. After the Paddle song they all stood together and sang Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer. This was a big hit with those in all those in attendance and the kids sang loud and proud. The After School Program does a great job providing a well-rounded experience for our students by giving them cultural, sports, and social activities to participate in.

The dinner was a wonderful



gastronomic delight. Our cooks always put together feasts that are fit for kings. From the local delicacies that our beaches and waterways provide. As well as the game that are harvested on our lands. Paired with other main and side dishes which present tasty choices that we have to dig into and enjoy. Lastly, there are the variety of desserts that are provided to top off this wonderful meal to welcome in the



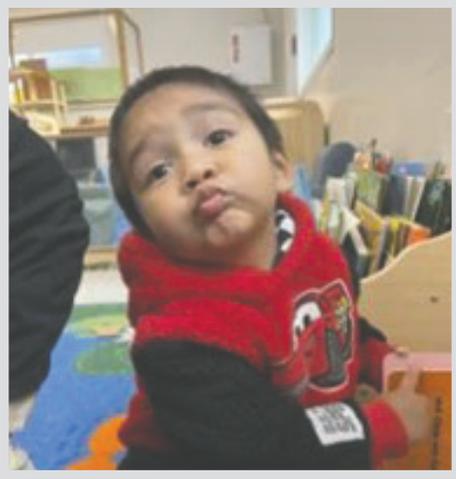
Holidays.

Kudos to our staff and community members who planned the this all well in advance. Starting with the decorations to set the mood. The goodies and swag that everyone received to commemorate the evening. Santa and the Grinch for delighting the youngest to the eldest who still believe in the magic of Christmas and the spirit of giving. To the Skokomish Tribal Council for providing the resources that were needed to make this all happen. Our fabulous cadre of cooks and preparers who gave us such a great meal. The volunteers who helped set the table and who stayed and helped to clean it all up when the festivities were done. To John Gouley and all of his Community Center staff who took care of the details before and afterwards. Our community is blessed.

By Tony Herrera



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



The Bear Room's student of the month is Gerald, who also goes by Douglas when his alter ego decides to make an appearance. Gerald is a great student and kind friend to his peers. He is currently learning his colors, and it seems like his favorites so far are red or pink. He also cleans up the toys that he is playing with when asked and has great manners. Anytime he wants something, he is the first to say, "pwease" and "tank you".



The Orca Room's student of the month is Melodiee! Melodiee just turned 4, and she is thriving and growing so much in class. She is extremely helpful with her friends in class and while playing. Melodiee is very outspoken and a strong leader to her peers. We love having her at the Skokomish ECE.



Eagle Class:

We're starting our study on reducing, reusing, and recycling! In our investigation, we'll be learning about what it means to reduce, reuse, and recycle items. The kids will engage in hands on activities to learn about the different ways we can help reduce waste in the classroom every day. Some projects and activities we're looking forward to are trash pickup around the playground, flattening cardboard, and making our own recycling bin to reduce waste. Valentine's Day is coming up, and we've got a lot of fun projects planned as well!

Orca Class:

The kids have enjoyed being able to be a part of teaching, and are able to show what they know and help their friends learn during circle time. They will continue learning their shapes, colors, numbers, and ABC's. We are almost done with the subject of exercise and will soon start learning about clothes. These kids are so independent about putting their own coats on and even trying to zip or do buttons. They will be more confident the more they learn. Soon it will be Valentines Day, and we will be doing crafts to decorate the classroom and items to take home to their loved ones.

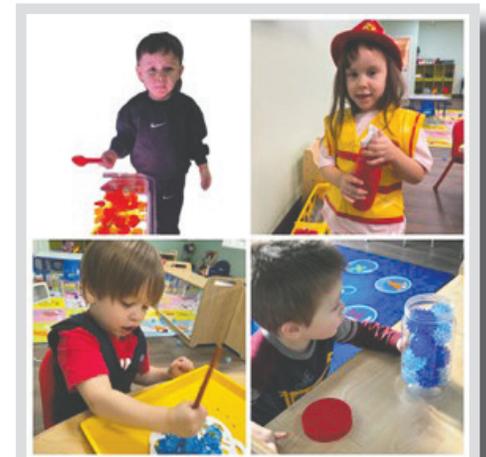


off the book he was reading, I knew I was looking at a unique individual. He is one of the wittiest and most intelligent kids I have met and never fails to impress me with his insight and humor." Mikey's English teacher, Jessie Sage, also shared, "Mikey is one of the most insightful students I've ever met. He is hilarious, brilliant, and a joy to be around. I am going to miss him next year." As Mikey prepares to transition to high school and think about his future, he keeps an open mind about his next steps. One idea he has considered is trade school, though he isn't fully committed and is continuing to explore his options. Wherever his path leads, we know Mikey is capable of anything he puts his mind to, and we are excited to see where he goes next.

Michael Plant is our Middle School Student Spotlight of the Month! Known to many as Mikey, he is an independent and thoughtful student. While Mikey excels in math, his favorite subject is History. History teacher Toby Syrett shared, "Last year, when I noticed Mikey walking to school down 106 without taking his eyes

Deer Class:

Our class has been exploring different types of containers; such as food containers, storage containers, and boxes. The children have been learning one-to-one correspondence and counting with different containers. They have been enjoying art activities based on the season and letters. Soon we will be starting Valentine activities!



CHILD FIND!

The ECE will host Child Find again this year on Tuesday, February 24th at the Community Center. In conjunction with Hood Canal School District, ESD 113 will bring specialists to provide professional screenings for children aged 0-5. The screenings included speech and language development, motor skills, learning and problem-solving skills, social-emotional development, and hearing assessments. It's a great opportunity to check your child's development.

Children who are in Head Start will be scheduled through the ECE. If your child does not attend the ECE, please contact Hood Canal to schedule an appointment.



Ages for skill development

SKILLS

0-1 year

- Sit without support
- Feed self with fingers
- Jabber pattern to speech
- Crawl and pull to stand
- Know and say "ma ma," "da da"
- Respond to name

1-2 years

- Walk alone
- Put objects in containers
- Use spoon and cup
- Scribble with crayon
- Take turns with adults
- Stack blocks

2-3 years

- Eat and drink without help
- Name simple body parts
- Can run, stop, squat, step up
- Use short sentences
- Move rhythmically to music
- Follow simple commands

3-4 years

- Jump, run, throw, climb
- Enjoy pictures and books
- Ask "where" and "who" questions
- Use materials to make things
- Use understandable speech
- Enjoy playing with others

4-5 years

- Hop on one foot
- Say most speech clearly
- Put on clothing with some help
- Draw a face
- Say first and last name
- Ask "why" questions

Apply for the 2026 Advocacy Boot Camp

Advocacy Boot Camp (ABC) is a leadership development program that provides tools, training, and resources to help Native women become better advocates for their communities and see themselves as future candidates for public office.

Applicants Must Be:

- Native/Indigenous woman
- Living in Washington state
- Over the age of 21 by 4/24/26
- Interested in developing a pathway to political leadership

Applications Due February 15th

Apply at nativeactionnetwork.org
<https://wkf.ms/4jckD9w>

For questions email: policy@nativeactionnetwork.org

Tom's Program

Happy New Year from Tom's Program and here's to an eventful fun filled 2026. We hope our youth families had wonderful holidays and were able to spend plenty of quality time with loved ones. It's nice to get the stresses of the holidays in our rearview and somewhat begin a new start. In the afterschool program we have been off to a great start so far. We have had numerous projects being offered in the art room. The kids learned about Coastal artwork shapes and drew their own artwork, wove 'god's eye' turtles, painted winter trees, learned a little about the culture of the Inuit, woven cedar trees, and made kid style dreamcatchers.

Outside the art room the kids continue to enjoy their STEM/STEAM toys which are building with multiple styles and shapes of magnets, blocks, Legos and many more diverse items that aid in their imagination and learning. On Wednesdays, we bring in a couple contract workers to come in and offer cultural classes such as beading, stick game learning, and singing/drumming/dancing.

In the gym during and after the afterschool program, the youth are working hard on bettering their basketball skills. They are working hard on their ball handling, shooting, lay-ins, rebounding and defensive fundamentals. The younger youth in the 6th grade and below have been playing their big hearts out in Shelton city league on the weekends. Not to mention they were killing it in their games.

In the upcoming month of February, we will be learning about 'living with love'. The kids will learn more about loving themselves, appreciating their own individuality/differences, and showing love to their family and friends.

WIGA Scholarship Program

The Washington Indian Gaming Association (WIGA) Scholarship Program provides scholarships to Native American and Alaska Native students pursuing opportunities in higher education. Awards generally range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for each academic year. Since its inception, the WIGA Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarships.

Application Requirements

Applicants must be:

- Enrolled members of one of Washington's 29 federally recognized tribes *or*
- American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled in a federally recognized tribe who are attending or plan to attend a higher education institution in the state of Washington.

Applicants may be pursuing degrees at community and technical colleges, four-year colleges, or post-graduate and professional schools.

Scholarship recipients from the previous year are eligible to re-apply under a reduced format.

How to Apply

Please read all instructions carefully. In order for an application to be considered it must be complete, including all required attachments. Use the form below to submit your application.

Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

To save your application without submitting, click on the "save and continue later" button at the bottom of the form. If you do not click the "save and continue later" button and press the back button, you will lose all the information you have entered.

Scholarship Renewal Application Guidelines

Please read all instructions carefully.

All returning applicants must have a 2.5 GPA or higher.

Students who received a WIGA scholarship in 2025-26 and are continuing in their current level of study may apply under the reduced format application. (For example, a 2025-26 WIGA Scholarship awardee

who attended a community college last year and will continue to attend community college in 2026-27 is eligible to reapply under the reduced format.

For the reduced format application, a copy of your tribal ID and your tribe's education policy are not required; the two letters of recommendation are optional; and Section VI should be a 250-word statement of progress.

Students who received a WIGA scholarship in 2025-26 and are now moving into a new degree program must apply as a new student. For example, a 2025-26 WIGA Scholarship awardee who completed an undergraduate program last year and is now pursuing a Master's degree must fill out the full scholarship application as a new student.

Award Amounts

The WIGA Scholarship Committee has discretion in determining the amount of each award and the total number of recipients, depending on the availability of funds and the pool of applicants each year. Scholarship amounts generally range from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Award Distribution

Scholarship recipients will be notified by email in May 2026.

At the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, scholarship payments will be made either directly to the student or to the financial aid office of the institution the recipient is attending, in the name of the student.

Checks will be distributed in August 2026. **Proof of class enrollment is required for all new scholarship recipients before checks will be distributed.**

Questions

Contact Rosina DePoe at (360) 352-3248 or by email at deputy@washingtonindiangaming.org.

To print and submit your application by mail, go to: <https://www.washingtonindiangaming.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/WIGA-Scholarship-2026-2027.pdf>

Washington Indian Gaming Association
525 Pear Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501



Next class

Febraury 11th and
25th @ 5:30pm



When: Wednesdays, 5:30pm to 7pm

Where: Skokomish WFD building (old TANF building)

What: Career Building Activities/ Food Provided

Who: WFD clients and community who want to get signed up for WFD.



A HUGE SHOUT OUT!!

I would like to give a shout out to Louis Auld, Aurora Gouley, and Molly DeLaCruz, and Jeri Maluyo. Our community lifts these guys up in many ways like fundraising and cheering them on while playing competitive softball all year round. November 5th, they traveled to Las Vegas Nevada for the Indigenous world series competition. They have teams that recruit them to play with them. The four of them support each other by housing, feeding, traveling and just making sure they are safe and sound. I do have to mention Jordyn Peterson, Alan Peterson, Weetly Cordova, and Dydemus Irene Cordova were also recruited on teams to compete as well. There are different categories in which the teams are placed. The Next Gen Women's team is placed in the competitive level and won first place in the Worlds competition. This is the team Aurora, Molly, and Jeri play on. They were a force to be reckoned with. If you ever get the chance to witness such competition you will know what the entails. Louis was able recruited to play on the B&B braves team to pitch. If you could see how dangerous this position is you would be concerned for him. The ball is hit so hard and quick, mind you the men are trying to hit it as hard as they can out of the ballpark, and sometimes he gets hit. This weekend he took one of the shin and still has a nasty bruise on his leg. His team too first place in the Worlds competitive level and Louis won best Defensive player award as well. My two babies both took home rings. This tournament is why these ballers play all year round to make sure they can compete at such a level. Please join me in congratulating our Skokomish Community members.

DNR Boat Motor: Bid Request

Bidding is OPEN 2/9/26 – 2/20/26

DNR Fisheries has two Honda 150 Outboard motors for auction and will be accepting BIDS from 2/2/26-2/6/26. Bidding will begin at the set BID amount stated below. The motors would come as is. Once Bids are collected the auction will be closed and motors will be awarded to the highest BID at which time arrangements for payment can be made at the Tribal Center(accounting office)

1. Honda 150xz BAPJ-1410540: This motor has 1,100 Hours on it, works, but has a hole in the water-jacket. Comes as is. **Starting BID \$500**
2. Honda 150 BAPJ-1410543: This motor has 1,100 hours on it and is in good working condition. Comes as is. **Starting BID \$ 1,000**

Submit bid in sealed envelope. Label the which engine you are bidding on. One bid per envelope. Please include Name, Contact(phone#) and amount of bid(must be eligible). Bids must be submitted by 5PM February 20, 2026

Please submit all bids to either Alex Gouley or Shera Jons at the Fisheries Building.
Additional question please ask Andy Pavone or Kevin Cagey at the Fisheries Building.

2026 Geoduck Vessel Inspection

Happy New Year to the geoduck fleet and our shellfish harvesters!

The Skokomish Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Department will be conducting the annual DOH vessel and vehicle inspections for transport of shellfish on Monday March 16 9:00-12:00 @ Lucky Dog Casino (all day if needed). This inspection will also provide an opportunity for those who need or want a Coast Guard inspection sticker on their vessel. If you have questions on the checklist prior to the inspection, please contact us.

All geoduck harvest vessels registering for the fishery require an annual inspection, as do vehicles and vessels that will be used to transport oysters, clams, and other shellfish under the Tribe's license. Personnel from the Department of Health will be present during this year's inspection.

In the past we have made accommodation to travel to do inspections, we ask if you need us to travel you provide a phone number and location of the vessel to schedule the visit. We still request that captains who are able to transport their boats to the casino please do so for this year's inspection.

The mandatory inspections will be offered to all geoduck captains as well as any other harvesters interested in having their vehicles and vessels inspected for transport of shellfish during non-Vibrio seasons. Please contact the Fisheries Department if you have any questions regarding the 2026 inspection (360)877-5213.

ATTENTION HUNTERS!

All hunting tags must be turned in at the Fisheries building by **MARCH 2nd 2026**.

Hunters will be charged **\$50 PER TAG** for each tag not returned by that date.



ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

SKOKOMISH INDIAN TRIBE HAS CONTRACTED THE CONFEDERATED CONSTRUCTION CO. LLC. TO CONSTRUCT THE SKOKOMISH INDIAN TRIBE WATER LINE EXTENSION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: INCREASE WATER PRESSURE TO HOMES AS WELL AS FIRE HYDRANTS THRU OUT THE COMMUNITY.

CONSTRUCTION WILL START AT THE SKOKOMISH POLICE DEP. ALONG US HWY101 AND TERMINATE JUST NORTH OF THE ENATAI HATCHERY:

FEBRUARY 23, 2026 THROUGH

JUNE 30, 2026

ALL CARS, BOATS AND TRAILERS THAT ARE ALONG THE WSDOT RIGHT AWAY FROM THE SKOKOMISH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FERELL GAS, WILL NEED TO BE TEMPORARILY MOVED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. THE CONTRACTOR WILL MAINTAIN TEMPORARY ACCESS AS NEEDED. WE ANTICIPATE IT WILL TAKE 2 TO 3 TO DAYS TO COMPLETE THE WORK PER PROPERTY.

To make prior accommodations or questions, please contact **Brent Kellogg** 360-426-4232 ext. 2060 OR **Thomas Kachman** 360-426-4232 ext. 2605.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

Rez Photo of the Month Answer



*The kids in this photo are none other than:
Kurt Peterson and Terri (Twiddy) Butler*

Housing Waiting List as of February 2026

Rental Applicants		Ownership MH/ Applicants	
1 Jonathon Dominguez	32 Harriet Pulsifer	1 Eleanor Smith	32 Rachel Smith
2 Jonathon Edwards	33 Charlie Henry Jr	2 Myranda Andrews	33 Aaron Wilbur
3 Willie Grover	34 Joseph B. Peterson	3 Jeff Johns	34 Jeremy Wilbur
4 Shannon Edwards	35 Doreen Strong	4 Jimmy Byrd III	35 Tyler Andrews
5 Brandon Carrington	36 John Smith	5 John Smith	36 Lashya Johns
6 Alexia Moon	37 Beth Burfiend	6 Addison Emerson	37 Maxamus Miller
7 Taylor Strong	38	7 Jamie Kenyon	38 Shera Johns
8 Treyton Andrews	39	8 Shannon Edwards	39 Amy Kenyon
9 Aaron Wilbur	40	9 Spilyay Miller	40 Timber Ware
10 Jeremy Wilbur	41	10 Kayla Strong	41 Jose Mendoza
11 Tyler Andrews	42	11 Matthew Auld Plant	42 Kristine McCann Swetland
12 Lashya Johns	43	12 Joel Allen-Johns	43 Sunsomay Keith
13 Maxamus Miller	44	13 Carrie Ann Smith	44 Angel KingGeorge Parker
14 Shera Johns	45	14 Alan Peterson	45 Torina Kenyon
15 Amy Kenyon	46	15 William Pickernell	46 Ben Tinaza
16 Timber Ware	47	16 Christine Tinaza	47 Valani Andrews
17 Jimmy Byrd III	48	17 Kaylean Mendoza-Lopez	48 Marilyn Thomas
18 Jose Mendoza	49	18 Beth Burfiend	49 Joshua Kennedy
19 Kristine McCann Swetland	50	19 Jonathon Dominguez	50 Bailey Plant
20 Sunsomay Keith	51	20 Ben Peters	51 Vera Smith
21 Angel KingGeorge Parker	52	21 Jonathon Edwards	52 Joseph B. Peterson
22 Torina Kenyon	53	22 Helen Tinaza	53
23 Billy Allen	54	23 Willie Grover	54
24 Ben Tinaza	55	24 Tyler Auld	55
25 Anthony Wilbur	56	25 Brandon Carrington	56
26 Valani Andrews	57	26 Alexie Moon	57
27 Marilyn Thomas	58	27 Chase Burfiend	58
28 Joshua Kennedy		28 Hattie Peterson-Williams	
29 Bailey Plant		29 Tristan Johnson	
30 Vera Smith		30 Taylor Strong	
31 Edward J Smith		31 Treyton Andrews	

Eligibility income at the time of admission shall not exceed the most recent amount established either by the Skokomish Tribe or by HUD, but in any case, cannot exceed 80% of the Median Income. Income as defined by 24CFR

You will be required to update your wait list application every (12) months to keep you active on the housing wait list. Applicants who have no change in circumstances still need to update their application in order for the Housing Department to determine if you are still interested.

Start on the path to homeownership — with help every step of the way



Interested in owning a home someday? Get free, expert help from a real person AND financial help with your home loan.

No matter where you are today, you can start on the path to reach your dream.

Washington State Homeownership Hotline
Call to be connected to support, guidance and financial help for homebuyers.
1-877-894-HOME (4663)

Deep roots in Washington state?
You could be eligible for the new Covenant Homeownership Program, which offers additional help with the down payment on a home. This program may be for you if:

- You or a parent/grandparent lived in Washington state before 1968
- That person is Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, or in another racial group identified in the Covenant study
- You meet income guidelines

Call the hotline or use the online form to get a call back.

Washington State Homeownership Hotline 1-877-894-HOME (4663)



A Clean Chimney is Important

Chimney cleaning is very important. You can either hire a chimney sweep and that cost is approximately \$100.00 or more or you can clean it yourself.

The initial cost of purchasing a brush and the rods for cleaning your chimney can be in the \$100 to \$150 range depending on the size of your flue and the height of your chimney. Once you've purchased the brush and rods the rest of your chimney sweeping only requires some elbow grease. Cleaning your chimney isn't difficult; the hardest part of the job is getting out the ladder. Once you've dug the ladder out you're well on the way. Don't forget to take a tape measure, pen and paper up there with you, (there's nothing worse than getting back on the ground and forgetting what the dimensions were). Now that you're on the roof if you have a chimney cap remove it. Some chimney caps can easily be removed by loosening 4 thumb screws at the base. Some chimney caps are permanently mounted and the screws are on the lid.

- Next measure the inside of your flue and write it down. Take a good look at your chimney while you're up there.
- Creosote will tend to be the heaviest at the top of the chimney where it starts to cool during the burning process. If there appears to be little or no creosote buildup just black soot a wire brush will work fine. If the creosote is really thick you may want to consider a flat wire brush that will give you more surface contact.
- Always use the brush that is the same size as chimney. If the brush is too small you won't make surface contact or if too large you will jam the brush and bend the bristles.
- Next determine the total height of your chimney. From smoke chamber to the top. If it is a one story home the chimney would average 15', two story around 25'. Chimney brush rods are available in 3', 4', 5' and 6' sections that screw together. Chimney brush rods are made of fiberglass and are very flexible; they can bend 90 degrees or more. This allows for cleaning any bends in your chimney.
- Before you start cleaning make sure all the rods are screwed together tightly, there is nothing worse than having them come apart during the cleaning.
- The chimney brush you purchase will be slightly larger than your flue and it is designed that way.
- The best way to clean the chimney is a foot at a time. Push the rod a foot down the chimney at a time, and then allow it to spring back up. Repeat this process down the entire chimney.

Water trapped in gutters can cause major damage to your roof and walls. Maintaining clean gutters help keep your home in good shape.

How to Clean Gutters

- 1) Gain access to the roof with a ladder. **Place ladder on firm level ground. Ladder should never be placed on uneven or slippery ground.**
- 2) Don't lean the ladder against a downspout or gutter, which can easily bend or break.
- 3) Remove leaves and twigs from gutters by hand or with a large spoon, a gutter scoop or a small garden trowel.
- 4) Wet down caked-on dirt, which can be difficult to remove without damaging the gutter itself, then remove it with the cutter scoop or trowel.
- 5) Put debris in a bucket or plastic trash bag placed on the roof or ladder. If you use a bag, you can just drop it when it's full.
- 6) Check that the downspouts aren't clogged. Use water to unclog your downspouts by placing a garden hose in the opening. But be gentle at first; downspouts aren't designed to withstand the same pressure as a house drain. If plugged downspout can't be cleared with a hose, use a smaller plumber's snake. Again, be gentle. Gutters are not as strong as house pipes.

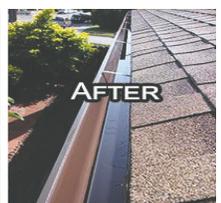
Things You'll Need:

- Garden Hose
- Garden Trowels
- Large Wooden Spoons
- Plastic Trash Bag/s
- Bucket/s
- Extension ladder
- Gutter Scoops or gloves for hands
- Plumber's Snake (small)

Tips & Warnings

Never hold on to the gutter or downspout for support. They are not meant to support your weight.

Make sure the ladder is **sturdy** and well secured.



ATTENTION

Skokomish Tribal Members:

On April 16, 2025, the Skokomish Tribal Council voted unanimously to approve the application for enrolled Members to petition for a non-member to be included on the ballot for adoption in June.

The application consists of a petition form and a family tree for tribal member petitioners to fill out. The application can be picked up at the front desk of the Tribal Center between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

To be valid an application must have twenty-five (25) signatures from enrolled Skokomish Members, eighteen (18) years of age or older. The printed name must be legible. The application must be returned to the Enrollment Officer, Celeste Vigil, no later than 3:00 pm on Friday, FEBRUARY 20, 2026, to be considered for inclusion on the June 2026 ballot.

This provides the time necessary for the signatures to be verified by Enrollment and for the Election Committee to review the names and compile the adoption ballot to be approved by the Tribal Council prior to the June meeting to ensure that the process operates as efficiently as possible. The adoption ballot will be approved at the March 2026 General Council Meeting.

The petition must be done by the enrolled tribal member, if not, the petition may be declared void. To pass the adoptee must receive at least 319 positive votes.

Should you have any questions please contact Celeste Vigil, Enrollment Officer at 360-426-4232, ext. 2020 or Tom Strong, CEO at ext. 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of a Guardianship Fact Finding Hearing that is scheduled to occur in the Skokomish Tribal Court. To: Margaret Dan, mother of M.D., a child who was in case number SKO-Y/C-06/22-127 previously adjudicated by the Court to be “a child in need of care” and thus the subject of an ongoing Dependency action. An enrolled member of the Skokomish Indian Tribe has filed a Petition in case number SKO-G-11/25-129 seeking to be appointed by the Court as long-term legal guardian for child M.D., and the Court has thus scheduled Hearing in that case number SKO-G-11/25-129 to determine whether long-term guardianship is in the best interest of the youth and of the tribal community. The Court will convene that Hearing at 10:00 a.m. on April 15, 2026 in the Skokomish Tribal Court. You are allowed and encouraged to participate in the Hearing. If distance or hardship is a barrier to your attending the Hearing, you may arrange with the Clerk of the Court to participate in the Hearing by telephone. If you fail to

appear for the Hearing in person or by telephone, the Tribal Court Judge will go forward with the Hearing without you, will consider the adequacy of this published Notice, may find you in default for failing to appear, and may enter an Order granting the Petition. You are allowed and encouraged to file a written response to the Petition. To prepare and file such a response to the Petition, it would be helpful to you to obtain a copy of that Petition. To obtain a copy of the Petition and to file a response, contact the Skokomish Tribal Court, 80 N. Tribal Center Road, Skokomish Nation, WA 98584, Telephone: (360) 426-4740, Fax: (360) 877-6672. Any written response you submit to the Court must be filed with the Tribal Court within 20 days of your receipt of (your awareness of) this Notice, and must be served on all parties in the case. Whether or not you file a written response to the Petition, if you appear at the Hearing in person or by telephone, the Judge will hear and consider any testimony or statement(s) you wish to provide.

SPIPA Entrepreneurship Program



There was an open house on November 21 & 22 at the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) Native Entrepreneurial program office, which is located at the Steamboat Island and Highway 101. The goal of this program is to assist Tribally enrolled entrepreneurs, from any Federally recognized Tribe. Do you need to develop a business plan? They're ready to help you do that. Are you running your own business but could use help with branding, logo development, business cards, web-site development? They've got you covered. Don't be afraid to reach out and visit with Arianna Smith, CWDP Entrepreneurial Program Specialist and Shawn Mc Elhinney, Entrepreneurial Program Coordinator.

The purpose of this open house was to display and inform people on the new equipment that has been acquired to better assist established or budding entrepreneurs with services that they may not be able to afford yet. All of this equipment is state-of-the-art and there

are upcoming opportunities to learn from specialists available to provide training on how to utilize each one. There's a giant computerized quilting machine which can accommodate up to a California King sized quilt. Sergers and sewing machines are available. Embroidery sewing machines, a large 3D printer, two laser style engravers, a direct-to-fabric applique printer and an accompanying press that can handle up to a 3x sized t-shirt. Are you a blogger? There's also a sound-proof studio with all the bells, whistles and cameras to look as professional as possible. Then, there's a bank of computers with video editing software programs at your convenience to create a great finished product.

Obviously, the goal is to enable enrolled tribal members to establish, enhance and expand their knowledge and capacity. Give them a call, check out the full menu of services available to business minded tribal members and watch for upcoming classes.



MEDICARE CHANGES FOR 2026

Dear Skokomish, Tribal Elder,

We are writing to let you know about an important update to Medicare for the year 2026.

Medicare has approved a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for 2026. Because of this increase, your monthly Medicare premium or deduction amount may have changed. To make sure you receive the correct reimbursement, we must have updated information on file.

What We Need from You

Please provide the following documents as soon as possible:

- A copy of your 2026 Medicare notice showing your current monthly deduction
- A copy of your Skokomish Tribal ID
- Confirmation that your mailing address and phone number are correct

These documents help us ensure your reimbursement is accurate and processed without delay.

How to Submit

You may bring your documents to the Skokomish Health Department, mail them, or call us if you need help or have questions.

If we do not receive updated documentation, your reimbursement may be delayed or adjusted incorrectly.

We are here to support you and appreciate your time and cooperation. Thank you for allowing us to continue serving you.

Sincerely,

Beth Burfiend

Billing and Benefits Manager – CAC

Skokomish Health Department

bburfiend@skokwellness.gov

360-426-5755 ext. 2101

Tooth Grinding (Bruxism)

Look at your teeth in the mirror. As we age, our teeth can become flat and worn. This is especially visible on the front teeth. You may notice that these teeth might have rough jagged edges. The tips of the canine teeth may have been worn flat, or you may notice that your back teeth have flat areas of circular wear. Wear is to be expected as we age. However, if you have a history of cracked teeth, repeatedly failing dental fillings, or extensive tooth wear this may be caused by tooth grinding or bruxism.



Tooth grinding usually occurs while you are sleeping. Most people who grind their teeth are unaware that they do. Over time, tooth grinding can cause significant damage to your teeth that is very difficult or impossible to repair.

Treating worn teeth is a significant challenge for both the dentist and the patient. Fillings and crowns repeatedly fail under the intense pressure caused by tooth grinding. Correcting the damage caused by tooth grinding may be impossible.

While repairing worn teeth is difficult, limiting future damage is possible. When unusual tooth wear is noted, a simple occlusal guard can be made that is worn while sleeping. The guard protects teeth and fillings from excessive force and prevents future wear. If you have concerns about tooth grinding, please contact the clinic for an evaluation.

Please call 360-426-5755 or stop by the Wellness Center to schedule an appointment.

More information on tooth grinding or bruxism is available from the Academy of General Dentistry at <http://www.knowyourteeth.com>

National Child Dental Health Month

Good dental health begins with your child's first tooth.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children visit a dentist when they get their first tooth or no later than 12 months of age. This is an opportunity for the dentist to assess the development of your child's teeth and review important information about preventing cavities. The good news is that tooth decay is preventable with daily oral hygiene and a healthy diet!



early cavities can be stopped from progressing to the point where they require a filling.

Use a small soft toothbrush or damp cloth to clean your infant's teeth. Brush every surface. Your dentist may recommend that you use a "rice-sized" amount of toothpaste with fluoride.

If your child can't brush, have them rinse their mouth with water after eating sugary or sticky foods.

Assist older children with toothbrushing and flossing. They may need your help brushing every surface of every tooth.

We would love the opportunity to help keep your child's mouth healthy. Please schedule an appointment for your child at the Dental Clinic. Please Call 360-426-5755 or stop by the Skokomish Wellness Center.

Some tips for preventing cavities:

If your baby uses a bottle or a sippy cup at naptime or bedtime it should only contain water. Juice, milk, formula and breast milk can cause cavities to form. Cavities are caused by germs (bacteria) – so avoid putting food, pacifiers, or utensils in your mouth and then in your baby's mouth. This reduces the transmission of cavity-causing bacteria from your mouth to your child.

In the early stages, cavities can look like chalky white spots on your child's teeth. With good hygiene and application of fluoride, these

DIABETES AWARENESS

As we ease into the new year, the Skokomish Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) would like to encourage any diabetic or prediabetic members, or any member of the Skokomish community who are at-risk for developing diabetes, to schedule an appointment with their primary care provider for A1C testing on a quarterly basis—that is, once every three months. Doing so allows you and your provider to stay on top of your diabetes management routine & allows you to get out in front of many symptoms of that may result from diabetes. In addition, you are encouraged to complete bloodwork related to diabetes management at least once a year. This gives you and your care team a more finely tuned look at your diabetes management and helps to better determine which medications or lifestyle practices are positively or negatively impacting your ability to manage your diabetes. If you are interested in receiving educational materials pertaining to diabetes management or have questions about Skokomish SDPI, please contact Sasha Redfield at redfield@skokwellness.gov or by phone at (360) 463-1890.



A Love Story About Taking Care of Your Heart

The lifelong relationship that begins before you even know it

Every love story has a partner who never leaves your side. In this one, that partner is your heart. From your very first moment, it has worked for you without pause. It beats through excitement, stress, laughter, and rest. And like any loyal companion, it needs steady care at every age.

When Love Begins: Primary Prevention

Showing care before problems start

Youth
A young heart feels loved through play, movement, and curiosity. Colorful foods—fruits, vegetables, and whole grains give it the fuel it needs. Simple stressrelief skills help it stay calm, and avoiding vaping or smoking protects this early bond.

Adults

As life gets busy, the heart still wants your attention. A daily walk, a bike ride, or dancing in the kitchen reminds the heart that you care. Balanced meals, steady sleep, and avoiding tobacco help keep the relationship strong.

Elders

Later in life, the heart appreciates gentle movement like stretching or water exercise. Meals lower in salt support smooth circulation. Staying connected with others brings joy the heart can feel.

Listening Closely: Secondary Prevention

Noticing early signs with love and awareness

Youth

Blood pressure checks, cholesterol tests when recommended, and attention to emotional wellbeing help catch early whispers from the heart.

Adults

Regular checks—blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar—are like asking, “How are you doing?” Noticing changes in breathing or energy helps you stay tuned in.

Elders

More frequent monitoring helps catch subtle changes. Chest discomfort, swelling, or shortness of breath deserve gentle attention. Reviewing medications keeps everything in harmony.

Staying Together Through Challenges: Tertiary Prevention

Supporting the heart when a condition becomes part of the story

Youth

Some young hearts need extra support. Following treatment plans and staying active within safe limits help the bond stay strong.

Adults

Taking medications as prescribed and attending cardiac rehab when recommended show commitment. Healthy routines keep the story moving forward.

Elders

Coordinated care, safe activity, and watching for medication side effects help protect the heart’s comfort and rhythm.

The Heart’s Love Letters

Your heart doesn’t speak in words; it speaks in clues. These tests help you understand what it’s trying to tell you:

- Blood pressure shows how hard the heart is working.
- A lipid panel reveals the balance of fats in your blood.
- Blood sugar or A1C shows longterm energy use.
- A basic metabolic panel, TSH, and hsCRP offer hints about how the rest of your body supports your heart.
- An EKG, when needed, shows the rhythm of its beat.

The Love Story Continues

Caring for your heart is one of the longest relationships you’ll ever have. Whether you’re young, busy with adult life, or enjoying later years, your heart responds to every act of kindness. When you treat it with steady love, it gives you more moments, more memories, and more chapters to enjoy.

And just like any important relationship, caring for your heart isn’t something you have to do alone. When you’re unsure what your heart is trying to tell you, talking with your healthcare provider can help you understand its needs more clearly. Sharing your concerns with loved ones can also bring comfort and support. Sometimes the strongest act of love is asking for help, letting others walk with you as you learn how to care for the heart that has been caring for you all along.



South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
USDA Foods Program
February Delivery Date

Skokomish
02/13/26

Across from Tuwaduq Family Services
Services 11:00am-1:00pm




NOTE: Please stick to the monthly schedule for the USDA Commodity Food Program. Food distribution staff have other duties that they are responsible for on the days they are not issuing commodities. If you're unable to make the date, please call and schedule an appointment with appropriate staff. For USDA Food, call SPIPA at 360.426.3990
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.




Skokomish WIC

Women, Infants, and Children
WIC provides healthy foods & nutrition information for you and your child up to age 5.

For appointments and questions, contact:
Debbie Gardipee
360.463.4439
Email: dgardipee@spipa.org
SPIPA main number: 360.426.3990

Next WIC date:
Monday, February 9th
SPIPA IPC, phone appts.

*We will offer both phone and in person appointments.
Date subject to change.*



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Washington WIC doesn't discriminate.

ICW on Education

Being a former public-school teacher and school principal, the education of our children is close to my heart. Education is so important, the great equalizer that opens doors and never stops happening.

Emphasize to your child the importance of learning:

- Make sure that they are on time to school each day, this creates good habits and is great practice for entering the working world!
- Emphasize that learning happens at different rates and in different ways for everyone, remind your children that we should all be lifelong learners!
- Spend time when possible with your child reading, telling stories, or any other activity that shows them that you are a learner too.

Celebrate successes together and be a resource for your children.

New Year, New Goals:

Skokomish Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Supports Career Pathways

As we welcome a new year (2026), many of us feel inspired to set fresh goals, explore new opportunities, or take steps toward a more stable and fulfilling future. For tribal members living with disabilities, these goals can feel exciting, and sometimes overwhelming. The Skokomish Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program is here to walk alongside you. Offering support, guidance, and practical tools to help you move forward with confidence. Setting goals doesn't have to be

complicated. Sometimes it starts with something simple like wanting a steady job, learning a new skill to be an entrepreneur, building a routine, or finding work that feels meaningful. Our program helps break those goals into manageable steps so you don't have to navigate the process alone. Vocational Rehabilitation provides a wide range of services designed to meet people where they are. This includes help with training opportunities, resume and cover letter building, and exploring career paths that match your strengths

and interests. We also understand that life comes with real world challenges such as transportation, health needs, or confidence barriers, and we work with you to find solutions that fit your situation. Most importantly, our program is built on encouragement. We believe in the abilities, resilience, and potential of every tribal and community member we serve. Whether you're just beginning to think about your next steps of your ready to take action, Skokomish Vocational Rehabilitation Program is

here to support your journey. We would be honored to be a part of exploring your goals and helping you achieve them.

Please feel free to reach out to us!
We are here to help you prepare for work

Rosetta LaClair
Rlaclair@skokomish.org
Chinook Miller
cmiller@skokomish.org
360-426-7788

FEBRUARY IS SAFE TEEN DATING MONTH

This is the time where you show and teach you teens about the boundaries of dating and what a healthy relationship looks like. Every parent wants their children to be safe and happy while exploring the "dating" world. Here are some tips to help your teens explore and understand what a healthy relationship looks like:

Respect Boundaries: You have the right to build and establish healthy boundaries. Boundaries help define what you are comfortable with and how you want to be treated by others.

Healthy boundaries:

- I am cool with following each other on social media but not sharing passwords.
- I am comfortable kissing and holding hands, but not in public right now.
- I am okay with texting occasionally, but not constantly.
- I am comfortable with some touching, not I am not ready to have sex.

Unhealthy Boundaries:

- I need to know where you are always.
- If you love me, you won't spend time with other people.
- I need you to stop talking to other guys or girls because you might cheat, and I get jealous.
- I can't stand to see you struggling

like this, so I need to help you change.

Respect levels of Consent: Consent means respecting boundaries and **never** making assumptions. Consent should be clear, enthusiastic, and freely given. When practicing consent, here are some flags you should know:

Green Flags indicating that your partner respects consent include:

- Is this, Okay?
- Do you want to slow down?
- Do you want to go further?
- Should I stop?

Red Flags that suggest your partner is not respecting consent include:

- Pressuring you to do things you **do not** want to do.
- Saying that you "owe" them something (i.e. Material items, sexual acts, etc.) because you are dating or they "did something" for you
- Reacting with sadness, anger or resentment if you **do not** consent or do something.

Engage in Respectful Communication: Growing up, you may have been told to keep your thoughts to yourself or that feelings did not matter because of your age. You should be able to voice your concerns and needs without fear of harming the relationship.

Why is Respect Important in a Relationship?

- Builds trust: Respect fosters trust and emotional safety in relationships.
- Promotes Equality: It ensures that both partners have equal say and value in the relationship.
- Supports Well-Being: Respect contributes to emotional well-being and self-esteem.

Disrespect Harms Relationships: Disrespectful behavior can happen in any relationship, whether with someone we are dating, a friend, classmate or family member. Knowing the types of abuse and coming signs of abusive behaviors is essential to recognizing them.

Common types of Relationship Abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional or verbal abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse
- Technology facilitated abuse (digital abuse)
- Stalking

Disrespectful or Abusive Behavior:

- Touching any part of you without your consent.
- Calling you names or putting you down.
- Telling you what to do or what to wear.

- Pressuring you to have sex or perform sexual acts.
- Using social media or other technology to track your location or activities.

Remember: No one deserves abuse in any form, and every type of abuse is harmful and serious. If you or someone you know is experiencing relationship abuse, love is respect. We are here at TFS 24/7 via phone, chat or text to discuss your situation, identify next steps, and support you in making the decision that's best for you.

We are here in the Domestic Violence program to help you, be with you or just to have someone to talk with. You can reach out 24/7 at 360-545-2303 (Linda cell) or our office 360-426-7788. You are not alone, contact Linda Charette or Starla James. If there is an emergency call 911.

Upcoming events: Domestic Violence Program

Come to the Community Center on February 12, 2026, from 10:30 – 1:00 to make your valentine something special. Stay for Elder's Lunch and leave with a special Valentine for your loved ones.

February 12, 2026, DV will be at Youth Council to share about safe dating and healthy relationships March is International Women's Day; there will be a "Pop-Up" with celebration and information honoring the women in your life. Date to be set soon!

Elder's Trip to Washington State Historical Museum

Perry Carrington fired up the Elder's Bus on January 14th to take eight elders to visit the Washington State Historical Museum, in Tacoma. The main focus of the visit was to view the "This Is Native Land" addition. The museum spent over four years creating this presentation regarding Tribes and tribal communities across Washington State. With the emphasis on showing contemporary life of Native people, how and where they live. What their foods, art and customs are. And this is not done with artifacts and photos, it's done so with video presentations from tribal community members, on their reservations, and talking about what they value and treasure about their culture, history, and lifestyle. This is a permanent addition to the museum, not a short term exhibit.

The elders took their time viewing the different stations, watching the accompanying videos, some of which were community members whom they knew, even some of their relatives. Pam James was a consultant on the process of researching and creating "This is Native Land" and as such she traveled to each reservation, in Washington State, met with their representatives to inform them of the mission of the museum for this addition. Gordon James is the focus of one of the video exhibits, speaking of his personal relationship with the Skokomish River, how his ancestors told him stories about the importance of honoring and preserving the life of the salmon and the environment. The video was filmed with his family gathered together and enjoying a day on the Skokomish River, specifically on Rocky Beach. This is the goal of the museum, to show contemporary scenes of the reservation with tribal members expressing their attachment to the land, it's fragility in today's outside influences, and how Natives benefit from the preservation of it for future generations.

Another video is of Yvonne Peterson, and her granddaughter, illustrating how cedar bark basketry weaving is being preserved and perfected by many tribal community members throughout the Pacific Northwest. The video also shows Yvonne and many others,



gathering bear grass on the shores of Grays Harbor, near Aberdeen. Examples of various materials used in basketry are shown and Yvonne explains how weavers have evolved the tradition and the important role that it holds in current tribal customs. It's fascinating to watch our own people providing a glimpse of ourselves for others to learn about.

Other video presentations show participants in Indian Relay Races, on horseback, like at the Omak Stampede and other locations, primarily in Eastern Washington. These are young men and women who learn how to take care of their horses, to work as a team and in various roles to promote

the best results in competitions. It's a unique lifestyle which strives to preserve the long tradition of horse culture in specific Native communities. You actually get the feel of what it's like to ride a horse, bareback, during a competition. It's a real commitment by these young people that they've grown up around and do their best to make a living with. Another video presentation shows urban Natives and how the work to keep their traditions and identity while surrounded by the dominant society and the pressures and challenges that they have to deal with on a daily basis. There's even a segment that shows how Day Break Star was fought for and established at



the former Ft. Lawton military base grounds. This is in the Magnolia section of the city of Seattle. It's now a thriving center for Natives of all Tribes, with a school, administrative services for various programs to help youth, and adults, provide programs to foster the arts and other traditions.

Another aspect of this display is tactile, throughout the addition you'll find items which have been handcrafted by Natives, like a woven gathering basket,



a beaded cylinder, a replica of ancient fishing equipment that you can touch and feel. The beaded cylinder and a baby board are both made by Denise Emerson, Skokomish. There are replicas of fileted salmon which you can touch as well. The goal to show Native culture and contemporary life in Washington State has been brought to life in a very convincing manner and anyone who wants to can learn from this.

La Dean Johnson, Mary Hernandez, Marcella Johns, Marcy Tinaza, Louie Miller, Perry Carrington and Pug Allen all agreed that this was a very informative and an enjoyable experience. If you have the chance to check it out, you'll be impressed as well, I am sure.

By Tony Herrera

Happy New Year Elders

We would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts last year. The many donations and volunteer hours were truly appreciated. Our most recent fundraisers were held on November 21, 2025, (bazaar) and December 7, 2025 (breakfast fundraiser). We are planning another fundraiser soon, so please keep an eye out for the flyer or phone call.

On January 14, 2026, we took a trip to the Washington State Historical Museum, in Tacoma to view the exhibit (**This is Native Land**). It is the museums featured exhibit and well worth seeing. If there is interest in seeing this exhibition, we may be able to schedule another trip, please let us know.

Our Elders Exercise Program (SAIL) continues to be offered to those interested in attending every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center gym. We encourage you to come work out with us-it is beneficial to keep your body healthy and moving and it is time well spent. After exercising, lunch is offered to enjoy and have good conversation with others.

We held an Elders Advisory meeting on January 22, 2026, and received many good ideas from those who attended. Your input is important to us, and we welcome your ideas and suggestions-your voice matters. We will be holding Advisory meetings every 3rd Thursday of every month. The next one to be held on February 19, 2026, starting at 12:30 community center lunchroom.

The Elders Birthday Lunch and activities is scheduled on February 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Community Center. There will be board games and cornhole before lunch, followed by a movie after lunch.

Thank you for your continued support. Happy Valentines Day everyone.

Perry Carrington Skokomish Elders Program Coordinator

For questions, please call 360-426-7788 or 360-968-3416

Congratulations Linda!



Linda Charette was recognized by WomenSpirit Coalition with a Service to Community Award. Huge congratulations, and an even bigger Thank You for all her work with the Skokomish Domestic Violence Program. She is making a difference!

FIRST FOODS: CRANBERRY



One of the first foods of the Twaduuq is wild cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) which is the native cranberry in the Twana lands. The larger cultivated cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) is not native to Washington but readily naturalizes and can cross breed with the wild native. Cranberries have been harvested for as far as can be remembered and keep very well when hand-picked. Cranberry has always been a very important winter food for this reason. These fruit are good for staying hydrated when eaten fresh and can be eaten cooked or boiled. Traditionally they were stored in boxes or baskets until they turned brown.

Traditionally cranberries have been managed by controlled burning to keep berry production high and keep trees from overgrowing the bogs where they most naturally grow. The plants are more productive when pruned and/or burned. Today Washington is the second largest grower in the country after Wisconsin. This industrial scale growing has abandoned hand picking in favor of either machine picking or vacuum harvesting where flooded bog ponds are pumped out at harvest. Such modern techniques destroy the long-lasting quality of the fruit resulting in cranberries now being a short season crop usually available fresh at stores only in the fall and early winter. Frozen and canned cranberries are available year-round, but these are far less nutritional. Traditional hand picking the way the Skokomish have done ensures the highest nutritional value which includes phytonutrients,

polyphenols and the flavanol, proanthocyanidin (PAC) which is why cranberry is also a first medicine used by peoples of the Salish Sea. The PAC and antioxidant factors in this fruit make it excellent for treating or avoiding urinary infections and protecting the digestive tract.

Many cranberry growing operations in Washington today are being done by an aging generation who may not pass on their practices. Could this be an opportunity for native people to make new inroads to a traditional livelihood that connects them with their traditional lands? I have a friend who grows cranberries in the conventional modern way in artificial bogs that have to be watered and are maintained with herbicides to perpetuate a monoculture growing regimen. Yet this isn't how they were cultivated by the Twana.

Cranberry naturally grow with their companion Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum* & *R. columbianum*) which has the same name in Twaduuq. This association suggests that a productive growing setup should include both. Cranberry also naturally grows alongside sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), bog blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*), bear grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*). A polyculture approach to growing in bogs could produce a more viable overall yield for small growers over a longer growing season. All of these plants offer valuable production in a human scale operation. Maybe growing cranberries will have a new revival in Washington that includes first peoples cultivating first food and medicine in an ancient tradition.

January Advisory Committee Newsletter 2026



January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Cervical cancer is highly preventable. Regular Pap and HPV screenings and the HPV vaccine greatly reduce risk. Women ages 21–65 should follow screening guidelines. The HPV vaccine is safe and protects against most cervical cancers. We, as a community, can encourage our loved ones to stay up to date on screenings and vaccinations.



For Facts, Resources and Guidelines Click Here



Shoalwater Bay's Jingle Bell Café

Shoalwater Bay's Patient Navigator, Tanya Brown, hosted a wonderful Jingle Bell Cafe' event. A presentation was given on the use of Narcan and its impact on the human body. Attendees gathered to share in some light snacks while making beautiful wreaths from cedar foliage. There were 62 attendees, with 13 pledging to have their mammogram and/or cervical screenings.

Welcome SPIPA's NEW CCCP Coordinator

In early November, the Health & Wellness Team at SPIPA welcomed their new Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Coordinator, Hope Adams. Hope comes to SPIPA from Ft. Worth, TX, where she was the Ending the HIV Epidemic Program Manager. Originally from Colorado, Hope has also lived in Oregon and California. She moved to Washington in July to be closer to her family. Hope brings expertise in health program development, management, and evaluation. She's very excited to be part of SPIPA and the Health & Wellness Team!



UPCOMING EVENTS
Men's Wellness Event:
Intertribal Event : Jan 30, 2025
5:30-7pm in Nisqually Elder's Lunchroom

Next Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 2026,
10:00AM - 12:00PM at SPIPA

New Quarterly SPIPA Nutrition Newsletter!

Created in partnership with the American Cancer Society and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center's Cook for Your Life Program, this newsletter is now published. We want this newsletter to reflect the voices and wisdom of our communities. If you or someone you know is a cancer survivor and would like to share your story, recipes, or strategies that helped with pain and side effects, please reach out! We'd love to feature your contribution in a future edition.



View the Newsletter Here,
Or Scan the QR Code!

Join the Advisory Committee by contacting Cher Castello or scan the QR code!
Cher Castello ccastello@spipa.org 360.550.6224



February Diaper Distribution

Skokomish Tribe

02/13/26

Across from Tuwaduq Family Services
11:00am-1:00pm

Pull-ups | Diapers | Wipes | More

Need diapers? You may qualify! Households on or near Tribal lands and enrolled in programs like WIC, SNAP, or TANF may be eligible.

Call SPIPA at 360.426.3990

You deserve support that honors who you are.

The Native & Strong Lifeline is here for you.

Text N8V to 988.

Get judgment-free support from trained Native counselors—available 24/7. For mental health resources, visit NativeAndStrong.org

TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

1st
Christopher Tinaza

3rd
Genny Rogers
Cory Mann
Kyan Peterson

4th
Walter Andrews
Wilma Adams
Silas Campbell

5th
Kathleen Raines

6th
Joshua Kennedy
Josephine Rabuck

7th
Jose Mendoza
Cameron Henry

8th
Elaine Peterson
Eileen Peterson
Robbie Kesler
Maxamus Miller

10th
Jacqueline McCann
Michael Lewis

11th
Alisha Longshore
Vanessa Kennedy

12th
Dawn Lawrence
David Ware
Abahay Sparr-Cordova

13th
Marie Gouley
Katherine Jackson
Shalie Wilbur

14th
Demetria Washington
Sashina Stephens

15th
Christopher Gouley
Loretta LaClair
Louisa Pulsifer

16th
Edward Green, Jr.
Travis Prest
Andy Peterson
Jean Parker

18th
Annabelle Wilbur

19th
Misty Byrd
Winona Plant-Poulin
Nick Wilbur, Jr.

20th
Thomas Peterson-Bluebird
Saturday Carey

21st
Jeff Johns
Lauren Smith
Cecilia Longshore

22nd
Cody Andrews
Alex Gouley
Isabelle LeClair
Isaiah Ives
Elena Prest
Mesha Longshore

24th
Pamela Hodgson
Terri Butler
Thomas John
Gerald Strong
Austin Escobar

25th
Karine Archer
Ava Smith

26th
Kyle Johnston
Peter Wilbur

27th
Shane Miller
Mandy Wilbur

28th
Laurie Clayton
Angel King-George
Kylan Gobert
Louis Auld

February 3, 2026
Happy Birthday, Kyan!
I hope you have a good one, and it's everything you want it to be ❤️
I Love you So Much!
Mom & Dad~

Happy Birthday Norman!
Thanks for all you do for the Tribe!

FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



CLUB LUCKY MULTIPLIER

**EVERY TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY
10AM – 6PM**

Based on your Club Lucky level, receive an **EXCLUSIVE** multiplier.

CLUB LUCKY = 2X Lucky Points

LUCKIER DOG = 3X Lucky Points

LUCKIEST DOG = 4X Lucky Points



WEARABLE WEDNESDAYS

**EVERY WEDNESDAY IN FEBRUARY
10AM – 8PM**

Earn 50 Base Points.
Get a **FREE** Wearable.



ON-THE-GO BAGS GIFTING

**EVERY THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY
2PM – 8PM**

Earn 200 Same Day Points to receive a gift.

Points must be earned on the date of gifting to receive the gift.

Gift Items will be revealed each week at the time of pickup.

Gifts include:

- Loulu Rocking Horse style Bag
- Journeyman Backpack
- Loulu Top Handle Handbag
- Journeyman Crossbody Bag



HANDBAG HOT SEAT

**EVERY FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY
6PM-8PM
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES**

You could win up to **\$500** each drawing time on Fridays in February. Drawings every 30 minutes. Select a Handbag to reveal your prize in Lucky Bucks.

BONUS DRAWING: Friday, February 13 at 8:30PM Hot Seat Drawing for a Diamond Necklace.

FINAL WEEK BONUS: Friday, February 27 Hot Seat Drawings - Winners keep the Handbag and Lucky Bucks.



TWISTED SPIN

**EVERY SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY
4PM-8PM
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES**

Drawings each Saturday to play the Twisted Spin game.

Spin the Tiles on the gameboard to reveal prize values. Align the gems and reveal the prize.

You could match up to \$2,500 in Lucky Bucks or a diamond.

One Free Drawing Entry daily upon inserting your Club Lucky card .

One additional entry for every 50 base Lucky Points earned.

Start earning entries on February 1.



SUPER SLOT TOURNAMENT

**EVERY SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY
2PM-7PM**

You could win a share of over **\$1,000** in **Lucky Bucks** each Sunday.

Five Tournament rounds each Sunday, a new tournament every hour.

Earn 10 Points to get into that hour's round.

Earn up to an additional 4 plays by earning 10 points per hour to improve your ranking.

Every Tournament played by a Club Lucky member adds Lucky Bucks to the 1st Place prize value.



SUPER GIFTING

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
12PM-6PM**

Club Lucky members receive a **FREE Gift**.

Seattle Football Team 55x85 Oversized Fleece Blanket.



**BOOK YOUR SUMMER ESCAPE AT SKOKOMISH PARK
OR WATERFRONT AT POTLATCH**
SKOKOMISHTOURISM.COM

The Drift

FAMILY DINING AREA

KIDS MENU INCLUDED:
12 years old or under

OPEN 11AM - 9PM

Now open for all ages to dine. One member at the table must be 16 years or older.



KIDS' MENU

Chicken Tenders | \$8.5

two (2) breaded tenders served with choice of side and one dipping sauce
add a tender | \$4.25

Mini Corn Dogs | \$6.5

eight (8) crunchy, honey coated mini corn dogs served with choice of side

Grilled Cheese Sandwich | \$6.5

served with choice of side

Macaroni Bites | \$6.5

creamy cheddar cheese mixed with stick macaroni and coated with a crispy cheddar batter, served with choice of side

SIDES

fries, tots, or a fruit cup

Congratulations

to our recent jackpot winners

John from Shelton	\$16,977
Benjamin from Seattle	\$15,318
Justin from Olympia	\$13,250
Susan from Brinnon	\$12,494
Deanna from Elma	\$12,432

OVER \$357K IN JACKPOTS IN DECEMBER 2025!

CALL-IN ORDERS

Call 360-877-2300 to place your order



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE DRIFT MENU



ORDER CURBSIDE ONLINE AT myluckydogcasino.com

VALENTINE'S DINNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 4PM - 9PM

Special Menu includes tender 8oz. Prime Rib with Au Jus, Lobster Tail with Drawn Butter, Loaded Mashed Potato, Seasoned Asparagus, Dinner Roll and Raspberry White Chocolate Cheesecake.

\$75 per person

PRIME RIB

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Enjoy \$5 off Prime Rib Special when you show your Club Lucky card.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS

EVERY THURSDAY | 11AM - 9PM

Served with Garlic Bread.

Enjoy \$5 off when you show your Club Lucky card.

FEATURED COCKTAILS

Lady Luck | \$10

Grey Goose® vodka, cranberry juice, and grenadine, shaken to a rosy shimmer and poured over ice. Topped with a cherry.

Red Bull® Raspberry Spritzer | \$7

A bright, creamy fusion of Red Bull® and raspberry syrup, swirled with half-and-half and topped with fresh raspberries, whipped cream, and sparkling red sprinkles.

19330 US-101, Skokomish, WA 98584 | myluckydogcasino.com | (360) 877-5656



Rez Photo of the Month



Can you name the young kids in this photo?
Please turn to page 5 for the answer! Good luck!

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Rez Sudoku Puzzle of the Month

					4			
6	5							
8	2			1	6			3
5	7		1				6	2
2				9				8
4	9				5		3	7
3			6	8			7	1
							5	9
			7					

Fill the empty squares with numbers 1 to 9 so that each row across, each row down, and each 3x3 square contains all the numbers from 1 to 9. Good Luck!

The Sounder

3sXeXa?l "It's All Written Down"
 North 80 Tribal Center Road
 Skokomish Nation, WA 98584
 Phone: (360) 426-4232 ext 2053
 Fax: (360) 877-5943
 E-Mail: sounder@skokomish.org
 Mark Warren, Editor

Letters to the Editor are published at the discretion of the Editor, as space permits. No letter which contains defamatory or malicious statements will be published. Any letter which contains questionable material will be sent to our legal office for review. All letters must contain the writer's signature, address and telephone number. Letters not signed will NOT be published. The Editor reserves the right to edit a letter for content, clarity and length.

Views and opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writer of the letter. They are not endorsed by the Sounder, Tribal Administration, Tribal Council or the Skokomish Indian Nation as a whole. The deadline for the sounder is the third Thursday of every month.