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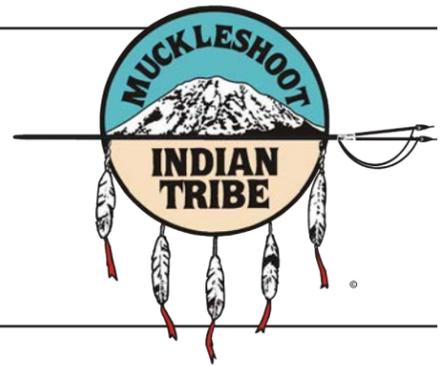
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MUCKLESHOOT MESSENGER

January 2026 Edition



MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN RESERVATION — AUBURN, WA

Muckleshoot Supports Home Team Harvest with \$50,000 Donation

MUCKLESHOOT — Food insecurity continues to impact many families across King County and ensuring people are fed has always been a shared responsibility.

Continued on P2 >



Indigenous Peoples' Night Hosted by Muckleshoot Indian Tribe at Seattle Kraken Game

Read on P3 >

Smoke & Cedar Named No. 1 Best Casino Steakhouse

Smoke & Cedar at Muckleshoot Casino Resort has been named the No. 1 best casino steakhouse in the 2026 Newsweek Readers' Choice Polls, earning national recognition from diners across the country.

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Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Annual Christmas Party A Celebration of Community and Holiday Joy

By Shayna Brown

MUCKLESHOOT — On Dec. 20, Muckleshoot Tribe's Annual Christmas Party brought families together for a festive day filled with excitement, tradition, and holiday spirit. The event blended cultural pride with modern fun, creating a jolly good time for all ages.

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Continued from P1:

Muckleshoot Supports Home Team Harvest with \$50,000 Donation

... At this year's Home Team Harvest event hosted by Northwest Harvest, the Muckleshoot Tribe contributed \$50,000 to support hunger relief efforts across the region. Councilmembers Virginia Cross and Anita Mitchell attended the event on behalf of the Tribe.

Muckleshoot has partnered with Northwest Harvest for nearly 25 years supporting efforts to address hunger and food access for families throughout King County. The tribe also contributes to food banks and hunger relief programs throughout the year recognizing that access to food is foundational to health dignity and community wellbeing.

As Seattle's Host Tribe Muckleshoot continues to step forward in caring for people beyond their own community. The \$50,000 donation reflects both a long standing partnership and an ongoing commitment to taking care of people today and for future generations.



Federal Way Lightrail Expansion

The Sound Transit Federal Way light rail extension opened Dec. 6, expanding regional transit access in South King County.

Vice Chairman John Daniels Jr. attended the opening and offered remarks. Eli Nelson represented the Tribe's canoe family and sang a song for those who came to see this historic expansion.



Indigenous Peoples' Night Hosted by Muckleshoot Indian Tribe at Seattle Kraken Game

SEATTLE — On Dec. 16 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe hosted Indigenous Peoples' Night with the Seattle Kraken at the Climate Pledge Arena. It was a reminder that Native peoples are still here.

Members representing the Muckleshoot Canoe Family opened the night with song, welcoming fans and setting the tone for the evening. The opening reflected the continued presence of Indigenous culture and community in this region.

The night was part of Muckleshoot's ongoing partnership with the Seattle Kraken, which has created space for Indigenous

visibility and representation in professional sports. Hosting Indigenous Peoples' Night continues that work and strengthens the relationship between the Tribe and the organization.

For Muckleshoot, hosting the night meant showing up in a public space and being visible. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the Tribe's connection to this place and to remind the broader community that Native people remain present today.

The event brought Indigenous presence into Climate Pledge Arena in a visible and meaningful way.



Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) will provide on-site Enhanced ID services for the Muckleshoot community.

**February 11-13, 2026 (Tuesday-Thursday)
Muckleshoot Community Center (Upstairs)**

COST & PAYMENT

- Enhanced ID fee: \$60
- Payment method: Credit/Debit only (no cash accepted)

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR ENHANCED ID

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Two proofs of Washington residency (e.g., utility bill, car registration, bank statement, lease agreement)
- Identity documents such as Tribal ID, Social Security card, W-2, or paystub

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Registration strongly encouraged to guarantee same-day service.
- Walk-ins accepted based on capacity.

DSHS DISCOUNT INFO

- Some individuals may qualify for reduced DOL fees through DSHS.
- Members should contact DSHS directly before the event to confirm eligibility.
- Discount eligibility will not be determined onsite.



Muckleshoot represented at King County Good Eggs Breakfast

Muckleshoot Vice Chairman John Daniels Jr. joined local and regional leaders at King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer's Good Eggs Breakfast to hear updates on flood control efforts and other regional issues.

The featured speaker was Michelle Clark, executive director of the King County Flood Control District, who shared an update and participated in a question-and-answer discussion. Mayors from Auburn, Kent and Algonia also provided brief updates.

Also in attendance were newly elected King County Councilmember Stefanie Fain, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Algonia Mayor Troy Linnell, Auburn City Councilmember Hanan Amer and Federal Way City Councilmember Mike Park.

The breakfast provided an opportunity for Tribal, county and city leaders to connect and stay engaged on issues affecting communities throughout King County.

Continued from P1:

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Annual Christmas Party A Celebration of Community and Holiday Joy

By Shayna Brown

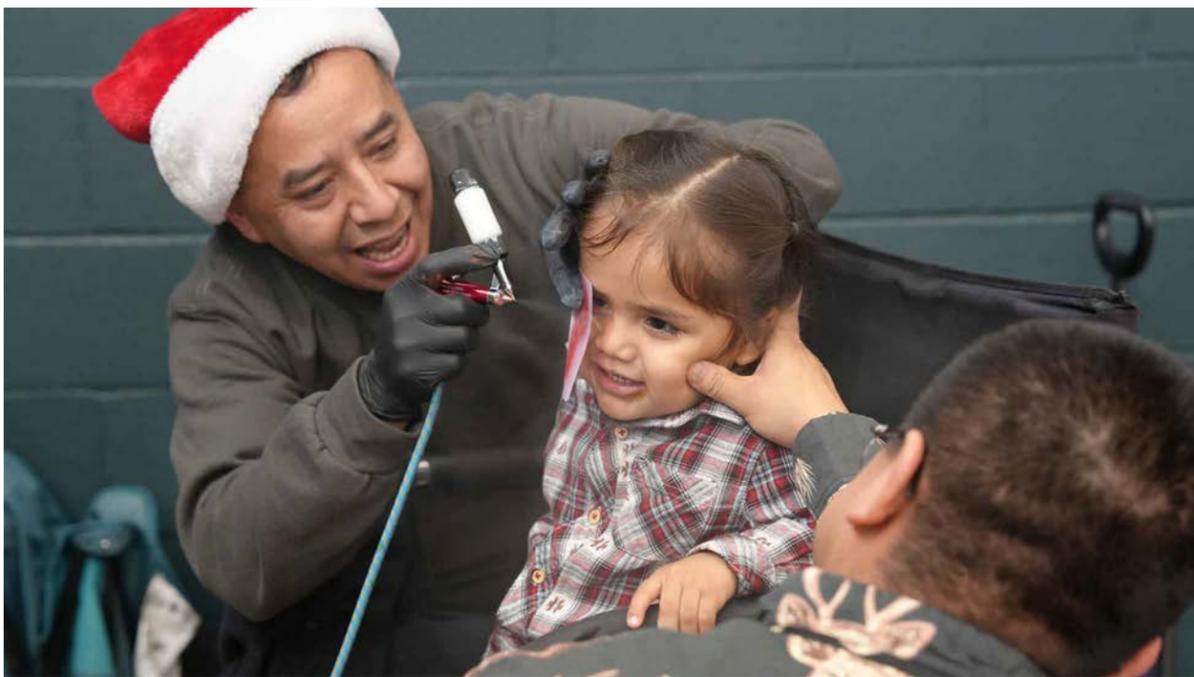
... This year's celebration featured an impressive lineup of attractions. The community was able to enjoy thrilling outdoor rides and cutting-edge VR experiences that transported them into imaginative fun worlds. The climbing wall had youth racing to the top. The video game truck was a constant hub of energy, giving cousins, friends and siblings a chance to play together throughout the event. Indoors, winter craft stations

offered a cozy space for families to create custom beanies, scarfs, and keepsakes that captured the spirit of the season.

Photo booths were scattered throughout the venue, along with professional caricatures, and even a robotic sketch artist, giving families and friends the chance to capture fun festive pictures and drawings to take home. These captured moments add-

ed a personal touch to the celebration and helped preserve the joy of the day.

As always, the Christmas Party highlighted the Tribe's commitment to unity, cultural pride, and community connection. Elders, youth, and families shared a sense of belonging, laughter, and holiday cheer, making the event one of the most meaningful gatherings of the year.





Continued from P1:
**Smoke & Cedar
 Named No. 1
 Best Casino
 Steakhouse**

... Located on the 19th floor of the resort, Smoke & Cedar is known for its Pacific Northwest focused menu.



“Winning the best casino steakhouse award is an incredible honor for Smoke & Cedar. Our team takes pride in crafting an unforgettable dining experience pairing locally sourced ingredients premium meats and seafood and exceptional service with the breathtaking views of Mount Rainier. This recognition reflects our commitment to excellence and our passion for creating a destination where every guest feels truly special. Most importantly, it honors the strength of our Tribal heritage and the dedication of our people, reminding us that every achievement is rooted in our traditions and community.”

— Junior Maldonado, Chief Operating Officer

The 2026 recognition builds on recent praises for Smoke & Cedar. The restaurant was named best steakhouse in 2024 and best fine dining in 2025 in The Seattle Times Best in the Pacific Northwest People’s Choice Awards, reflecting continued excellence and consistency from the culinary and service teams.

Smoke & Cedar’s success also contributes to the community. Revenue from the resort supports Tribal programs like education, health care, housing and cultural preservation while helping fund regional philanthropic efforts from schools to first responders and local nonprofits. Dinner at Smoke & Cedar is not just a night out. It is part of how the Tribe uplifts the community and sustains a legacy of giving back.

**Tacoma City Ballet
 Donates Tickets to
 the Muckleshoot
 Tribal Community**

Tacoma City Ballet donated 250 tickets on Dec. 12, to members of the Muckleshoot Tribal community offering families and youth the opportunity to experience ballet and the performing arts together.

The donation reflects a desire to build stronger relationships with Native communities and to create opportunities for Indigenous families to experience the arts. Under the leadership of Erin Ceragioli, executive and artistic director of Tacoma City Ballet and director of the Tacoma City Ballet School, the organization continues to explore ways to expand access and participation.

Ceragioli has shared her respect for Indigenous history in ballet and her admiration for the legacy of Maria Tallchief, the first Native American prima ballerina and one of The Five Moons who helped shape American ballet. Inspired by that history, she introduced an annual Indigenous Peo-



ples’ Night during The Nutcracker in 2024 with the hope of encouraging Indigenous youth and families to see themselves reflected in the art form and to consider participating in ballet.

In addition to the ticket donation, Tacoma City Ballet has begun offering free ballet classes to Indigenous youth who are interested in learning the art form, helping remove financial barriers and create

welcoming entry points. Ceragioli often speaks to the lifelong value of ballet, emphasizing that it teaches discipline, perseverance, and confidence qualities that stay with students throughout their lives.

Through these efforts, Tacoma City Ballet continues to open doors, build relationships, and support access to the arts in ways that are respectful, intentional, and community focused.

Muckleshoot Ugly Sweater Brunch Brought A Festive Morning of Holiday Spirit

By Shayna Brown

On Dec. 23, the Muckleshoot Ugly Sweater Brunch event brought the community together for a cheerful and light-hearted celebration that embraced the fun breakfast side of the holiday season. Guests arrived at the Muckleshoot Resort Event Center in their most colorful, and creatively deco-

rated sweaters, turning the venue into a lively, cheerful tone for the event.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch spread featuring classic favorites. Families and friends gathered around tables to celebrate, enjoy good food, and soak in the fes-

tive ambiance. The relaxed setting made it easy for guests of all ages to mingle, reconnect, and enjoy the holiday spirit together. It was the kind of morning where no one was in a rush, and every conversation felt a little warmer.



Roaring Fun at Jurassic Kids Bingo

By Shayna Brown

The Muckleshoot Bingo hall roared to life on Nov. 26 as families gathered for the much anticipated Jurassic Kids Bingo event held annually. Enrolled Muckleshoot Tribal children and household members ages 6–17 were greeted with face painting, photo booth fun, Dino nuggets and special gifts, setting the stage for a night of laughter and community.

The bingo games themselves were the highlight, offering over \$10,000 in prizes and plenty of chances for young players to play their chance of winning an early Christmas present! The evening blended the excitement of bingo with a prehistoric twist.

Beyond the prizes, the event was about togetherness bringing families closer while creating lasting memories for the community. With its mix of games, entertainment, and community spirit, Jurassic Kids Bingo proved to be more than just an event, it was a celebration of culture, fun, and family.



ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS: Have You Used the Member Services Portal?

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe’s Member Services Portal is an online portal created for Tribal members. On the dashboard, you can find community updates and notices, upcoming events, and popular resource links.

Tribal services and programs are available to browse through the navigation menu on the left side of the portal, including education programs, scholarships, student support, health and wellness services, housing

and community development, cultural programs, social services, and more.

The navigation menu also includes the community calendar, notices and closures, digital articles from the Muckleshoot Messenger, and election information.

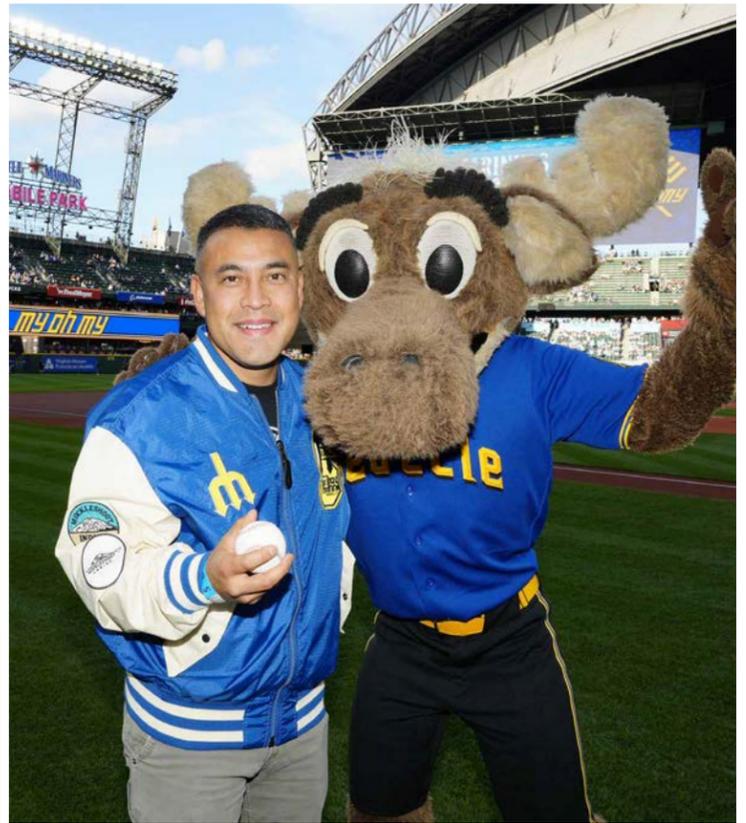
The portal is intended to save you time and keep everything in one place. If you have not visited the portal recently, take a few minutes to explore and familiarize yourself with it.

There is a lot of information that moves quickly, so we encourage you to bookmark and check the dashboard regularly to avoid missing out on things and stay up-to-date with reliable information.

The screenshot shows the Member Services Dashboard with sections for: 2026 TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION, NOTICES & CLOSURES (Dental Office Closure - January 14, 8 AM - 10 AM), POPULAR LINKS (Tribal License Plate Reimbursement, Muckleshoot Housing Authority Online Payments, Tribal Transit Website), UPCOMING EVENTS (Weaving Wednesday at Culture Building, Positive Indian Parenting), and FROM THE MUCKLESHOOT... MESSENGER (Miss Indian World Meets Families and Students During Muckleshoot Visit). An Event Calendar for January 2026 is also visible, showing various community events.

Visit muckleshoot.nsn.us/Member-Portal

My, Oh My! Moments from the 2025 Muckleshoot & Mariners Partnership





Miss Skopabsh
 2025-2026
Karmen Paul
 — 15 & under —
Sweetheart Team Dance Special
 February 7th, 2026
3 \$100 CASH PRIZES!

So get your **SWEETHEART OR BESTIE** and come on out and showcase your moves.

CAR SEAT SAFETY

SAFE KIDS SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Always read and follow your car seat and vehicle instructions for proper use and installation of your car seat.

	BEST PRACTICE	WA STATE LAW
REAR-FACING	AAP RECOMMENDATIONS	RCW 46.61.687
1	Children should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible until they reach the height or weight maximum of the car seat.	Children up to age 2 must be properly secured in a rear-facing car seat.
FORWARD-FACING		
2	Children should ride in a forward-facing car seat, with a harness, until they reach the height or weight maximum of the car seat.	Children ages 2-4 years must ride in a car seat with a harness (rear or forward facing).
BOOSTER SEAT		
3	Children should use a booster seat until the vehicle lap-and-shoulder belt fit correctly. Most children will need a booster seat until they are between 8-12 years old.	Children 4 and older must ride in a car or booster seat until they are 4'9" tall.
SEAT BELT		
4	All passengers should buckle up safely for every ride.	Children over height 4'9" must be secured by a properly fitted seat belt (typically starting at 8-12 years old).

Under 13? Per WA State Law, all children under 13 years old should ride in the backseat, when practical to do so. ●●●●●

CAR SEAT RESOURCES

Crashes are the leading cause of death for children under age 13. Proper use and installation of car seats helps keep children safe. Protect the ones you love by learning more today.

HAVE YOUR CAR SEAT CHECKED:
bit.ly/Find-A-CPST

SIGN UP FOR A FREE CAR SEAT CLASS:
www.southsnofire.org/carseats

SAFE KIDS ULTIMATE CAR SEAT GUIDE:
ucsg.safekids.org

WASHINGTON STATE LAW:
wacarseats.com

OTHER RESOURCES:
 AAP Safety Tips: www.healthychildren.org
 Safe Kids Worldwide: www.safekids.org

www.southsnofire.org/safekids

MUCKLESHOOT

xx

VALENTINE'S POW-WOW

xxx

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026 X GRAND ENTRY 1&7PM

MENS & WOMENS: GOLDEN AGE - 55+ 1 ST \$600 - \$400 - \$200 - \$100 MENS: (18-54) GRASS, FANCY, CONT. & ORIGINAL 1 ST \$600 - \$400 - \$200 - \$100 WOMENS: (18-54) TRADISH, JINGLE, FANCY & BUCKSKIN 1 ST \$600 - \$400 - \$200 - \$100	TEEN BOYS: (13-17) TRADISH, GRASS, FANCY 1 ST \$200 - \$150 - \$100 - \$50 TEEN GIRLS: (13-17) TRADISH, JINGLE, FANCY 1 ST \$200 - \$150 - \$100 - \$50 SPECIALS: • SWEETHEART (16+) • NO PARKING ON THE DANCEFLOOR 1 ST \$300 - \$200 - \$100 - \$50	JR BOYS: (6-12) TRADISH, GRASS, FANCY 1 ST \$150 - \$100 - \$75 - \$50 JR GIRLS: (6-12) TRADISH, JINGLE, FANCY 1 ST \$150 - \$100 - \$75 - \$50 DRUM CONTEST: 1 ST \$2000 - \$1500 - \$1000 - \$500
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MUCKLESHOOT COMMUNITY CENTER - 17432 SE 392ND ST, AUBURN, WA, 98092

Traffic Camera Notice:
 The City of Auburn has activated traffic cameras at three new locations, with a warning period scheduled to run through Jan.12 to Feb. 11 before tickets are issued for speeding violations, according to the city.

The new traffic cameras are now operating at:

- Auburn Way South along SR 164 between the R Street SE bridge and Muckleshoot Plaza for eastbound traffic. (Muckleshoot Hill)
- 15th Street NW between M Street NW and Ron Crockett Drive for eastbound traffic.
- A Street SE between 17th Street SE and 21st Street SE for southbound traffic.

*Muckleshoot
Birthday Shout Outs*

12/13

HAPPY 6TH BIRTHDAY NAKOA!! GRANDMA LOVES YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!!

Happy Birthday

Christine Sanchez

January 3
May all the best be achieved for you!

1/12

Tia Ahshapanek

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TEETEE. WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
- YOUR FAMILY ♡

12/2

TWOdles

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MELIODIS WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH! LOVE, MAMA AND YOUR FAMILY!

12/18

HAPPY BIRTHDAY OMRI BECCA SUE!! GRANDMA LOVES YOU!



Birthday shout outs are back! Use the QR code to submit a shout out for the next Messenger.



Muckleshoot Birthday Shout Outs

**Happy 21st Birthday to my beautiful daughter
Isabell Flores (Izzy) 1/01**



For Isabel Flores:

Watching you grow over the years has been one of the greatest joys of my life. You've faced challenges with grace, chased your dreams with courage, and loved others with a heart that shines so brightly. As you step into this new chapter, know that 21 isn't just about a number, it's about confidence, independence, and trusting yourself.

Never forget where you come from but always believe in where you're going. The world is better because you're in it, and I'm so proud to call you my daughter.

Here's to unforgettable memories, big dreams, and a future filled with love, laughter, and endless possibilities. I'll always be cheering you on — today and every day.

I love you more than words can say.

Love Mom, Andre, Uncle, and Family

Happy 1st Birthday Remington Colt Starr!



Your mommy and sisters love you so much bub!
-Telleasha, Hermione & Milian

January 10th

Happy 74th Birthday to my dad Alfred Williams Sr!! Thanks for being the best father we can have love you lots happy birthday!! Love all the Williams kids..

- Valerie Williams

**Happy birthday to
my amazing mom
Nellie Starr!**

**We appreciate you and we
love you lots**

**- sponsored by your
favorite child - me - you
know who - who put you in
print like the icon you are**

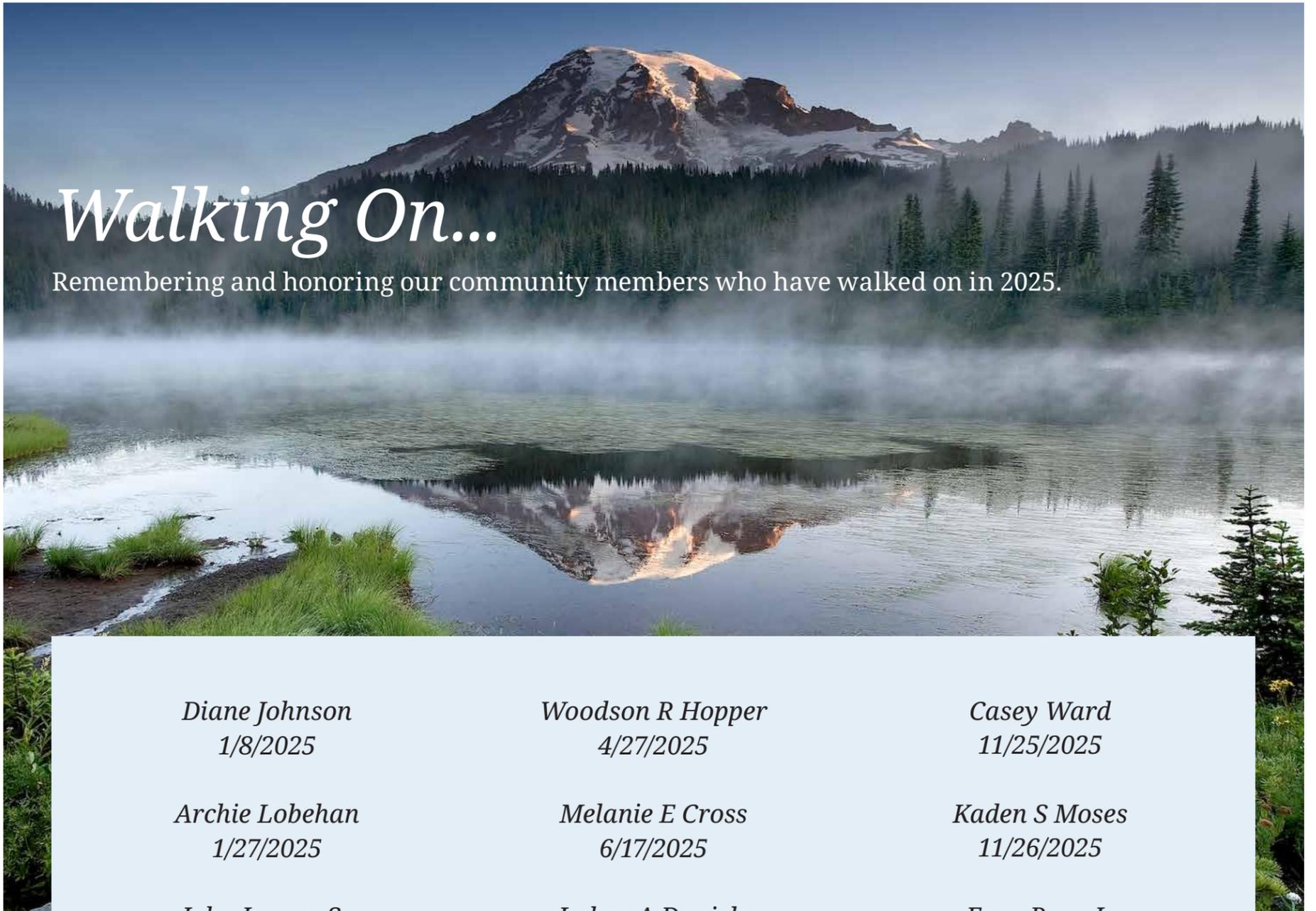


December 31st

January 25th

*Happy Birthday Veronica Gonzalez!
May your day be peaceful, joyful, and
exactly what you need.*

- Bernyce Elkins



Walking On...

Remembering and honoring our community members who have walked on in 2025.

<i>Diane Johnson</i> 1/8/2025	<i>Woodson R Hopper</i> 4/27/2025	<i>Casey Ward</i> 11/25/2025
<i>Archie Lobehan</i> 1/27/2025	<i>Melanie E Cross</i> 6/17/2025	<i>Kaden S Moses</i> 11/26/2025
<i>John Jansen Sr</i> 1/27/2025	<i>Lukas A Daniels</i> 6/18/2025	<i>Esau Penn Jr</i> 12/1/2025
<i>Jose Gutierrez</i> 2/7/2025	<i>Raphael Lozier Jr</i> 7/21/2025	<i>Lawrence Mitchell Jr "Larry"</i> 12/10/2025
<i>Marvin M Ross Jr</i> 2/9/2025	<i>Roy Tee Tapia</i> 8/10/2025	<i>Chandler Price</i> 12/11/2025
<i>Julius M Jake</i> 2/17/2025	<i>Leo J LaClair</i> 8/14/2025	<i>Elaine Ciunci</i> 12/13/2025
<i>Lorraine Cross</i> 3/3/2025	<i>Manny Oliver</i> 9/3/2025	<i>Jack D Baker</i> 12/16/2025
<i>Lisa James</i> 3/7/2025	<i>Richard Gonzales</i> 10/22/2025	<i>Wayne W James</i> 12/21/2025
<i>Metotisi Filipo Jr</i> 3/31/2025	<i>Susan R Starr</i> 11/11/2025	<i>Jessica R Lozier</i> 12/29/2025
<i>Phyllis Williams</i> 4/13/2025	<i>LenNessa Abrahamson</i> 11/15/2025	<i>Curtis Lee Jerry</i> 12/30/2025
<i>Angela Mitchell</i> 4/18/2025	<i>Frances Marie Johnson</i> 11/19/2025	<i>Isabelle (Bella) James-Clark</i> 1/2/2026