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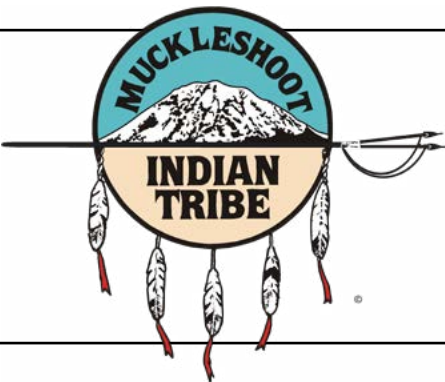
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MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN RESERVATION — AUBURN, WA



Canoe Journey 2026: Healing Through Our Waters by Honoring Our Ancestors

By Katie Manzanares · MUCKLESHOOT — The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe welcomed Canoe Families to Muckleshoot homelands in July as they made their way south during the 2026 Canoe Journey.

77 Canoe arrived at Alki Beach on July 29 before traveling to Muckleshoot, where the Tribe hosted dinner, camping and a Coastal Jam at the community center.

Vendors were set up throughout as families gathered for an evening of songs, dancing, food and time together. Many camped overnight before getting an early start the next morning to continue the Journey south.

For many families, the next stop was the Puyallup landing as they continued toward the final destination at Nisqually.

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Chairman's Corner:
Tribal Canoe Journey 2026
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The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Visit Muckleshoot Reservation

By Sean Daniels | Photos by Shayna Brown
On Aug. 3, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe was honored to welcome representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board to our homelands.

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Rep. Kim Schrier visits Muckleshoot Early Learning Academy



By Katie Manzanares · AUBURN — U.S. Rep. Kim Schrier visited the Muckleshoot Early Learning Academy on Aug. 7, meeting with Muckleshoot Indian Tribe leaders and staff to learn more about the Tribe's Head Start program and the work being done to support the health, education and overall well-being of Muckleshoot children and families. *Continued on P7 >*



Muckleshoot Sobriety Powwow Brings Native Communities Together
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Muckleshoot Community Center: Celebrating Three Years
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Muckleshoot Hosts Native Fitness 20 in First for Tribal Community
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Chairman's Corner: Tribal Canoe Journey 2026

I am so pleased to have an opportunity to reflect and share an important message regarding Tribal Canoe Journey 2026 that I find so incredibly fitting and appropriate in dealing with an incredibly difficult time, challenge and loss suffered by the hosting Tribal Nation, Nisqually, during the heart of their responsibilities hosting protocol. This is especially meaningful given the strength, grace, character and resilience their leadership and people showed throughout.

For every sunrise... there must also come a resulting sunset. This is the way of our world, a natural part of the cycle of all things and exactly as our Creator intends...

This doesn't make the end of a day's light feel any less like a loss, but it does allow us to appreciate the beauty of its radiance and brilliance as it comes to its natural end.

Hands raised in love, support and respect as we received formal notice of the profound loss our host Nation, Nisqually, suffered during the hosting of Tribal Canoe Journey 2026. The passing of their own honorable Chairman, Ken Choke, who crossed over on his final journey during hosting and protocol. May the Nisqually Nation, Chairman Choke's family and all those impacted feel the glow and bask in the splendor of the warmth his remaining light leaves behind with all of us... especially relevant in that unique and sacred moment, where so many were present on the Nisqually lands and directly touched by the si?ab's influence and people.

It was beautiful and appropriate following such profound loss that it then became our turn to help light up the darkness for the Nisqually Nation and the family of sq'wali?abš si?ab... As Indian people, we know it is our responsibility to carry this work in a good way, and it was done with honor and a sacred intent. This is what ceremony is truly all about.

This was also my direct and resulting pride and gratitude as our Muckleshoot Canoe Families took the floor immediately following learning of this profound loss. We were able to honor the Nisqually people, their leader, Chairman Choke, and his family through our collective culture and way of life. The beauty and power of this moment coupled with the grace and spirit of our people in it is a memory I will carry with me forever and always cherish.

I was so incredibly proud to represent and lead Muckleshoot as a direct result of the way our people carried themselves and honored our Nisqually relations in the heart of an incredibly difficult and challenging day. The strength and character displayed are who we really are as Muckleshoot people, and our ancestors were present, watching and proud... I have no doubt.

All of our love, support and intention from Muckleshoot to the host Nation and people, Nisqually. It was an honor to be able to address this directly to the Nisqually people on the floor of their house during Tribal Canoe Journey protocol, and it remains one now, as we help to hold them up through the difficult days which we've already shared and, just as importantly, those yet to come.

Thank you to our Muckleshoot Canoe Family and Black River Canoe Family for representing Muckleshoot in a good way with good hearts.

Thank you to all who attended and shared in the beauty and strength of Indian canoe and potlatch culture.

Thank you to Nisqually, our host Nation, for your hospitality, generosity and kindness... especially through the loss, grief and mourning.



I am so grateful and my heart is full as we continue to come together for Tribal Canoe Journey annually, reclaiming our identity and (re)building our Tribal Nations through ceremony, culture and connection.

Donny Stevenson
Chairman, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Muckleshoot Tribal Council Represents Tribe at Torrey Pines

By Katie Manzanares · Muckleshoot Tribal Council Secretary Jessica Garcia-Jones and Councilmember Louie Ungaro traveled to San Diego, California, Aug.7-8 to represent the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe at the DCCC Leader's Circle Weekend and Issues Conference at Torrey Pines.

Throughout the weekend, our Tribal leaders had the opportunity to connect with congressional leaders and candidates from across the country, strengthening relation-

ships and bringing Muckleshoot priorities directly into conversations with current and future federal leaders.

Among the issues important to Muckleshoot are protecting our treaty-reserved fishing rights and salmon, defending Tribal sovereignty and gaming, and ensuring federal funding and policies continue to uphold the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations.





For our people, having a voice in these spaces matters. Our ancestors fought to protect our rights and sovereignty, and today that work continues by showing up, building re-

lationships and making sure Muckleshoot priorities are heard by those making decisions that impact Indian Country.

We are proud to see Muckleshoot represented and our leaders continuing to advocate for our people, our sovereignty and generations to come.

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Visit Muckleshoot Reservation

... Through meaningful government-to-government dialogue, we shared how Muckleshoot continues to invest in the health, well-being, infrastructure, and future of our Tribal community while strengthening partnerships that support Tribal sovereignty and growth.

During the visit, the HHS delegation toured several key Muckleshoot facilities, including the Muckleshoot Health & Wellness Center, where they learned about the Tribe's comprehensive health services, such as medical care, dental and optical services, pharmacy operations, fitness facilities, and aquatic programs.

The group also visited the Behavioral Health Program building and received an overview of the services and resources available to



community members. During their visit to the Behavioral Health Program, the delegation was welcomed with traditional wellness items including nettle tea, sage with a shell, and a medicinal sleep aid. Staff explained the purpose of each item and demonstrated how they are traditionally used.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work together in service to our people. Thank you, Assistant Secretary, Gustav Chiarello, for your time, leadership, and commitment to strengthening Tribal-federal partnerships.

The visiting HHS Delegation included:

1. Gus Chiarello, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, HHS
2. Norris Cochran, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, HHS

3. Ed Heidig, Regional Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
4. Devin Delrow, Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs
5. Carmela Roybal, Associate Director for Tribal Affairs
6. Jillian Curtis, Director of Finance, Indian Health Service (IHS)
7. Hilary Edwards, NPAIHB Director of Legal and Government Affairs
8. Veronica Smith, NPAIHB Government Affairs
9. Jason Lovett, NPAIHB Government Affairs





Continued from P1:

Canoe Journey 2026: Healing Through Our Waters by Honoring Our Ancestors

... Muckleshoot members participated throughout this year's Journey, including the Muckleshoot Canoe Family and Black River Canoe Family.

Canoe Journey brings Tribal communities together along the waterways of the Salish Sea and continues traditions that have connected Indigenous people for generations.

At each stop, Canoe Families follow traditional protocol by approaching the shore and asking permission to come ashore. Those traveling in the canoes are referred to as pullers because of the pulling motion used with the paddle.

The modern Canoe Journey was sparked by the Paddle to Seattle in 1989 as part of Washington state's centennial celebration. Since then, Canoe Journey has grown to include more than 100 canoes and Canoe Families from Native American tribes, First Nations, Alaska Native communities and other Indigenous cultures from around the world.

Canoe Journey is about more than traveling from one destination to another. Fam-

ilies travel long distances along ancestral waterways, stopping in Tribal communities along the way. Host nations provide meals and a place to gather, while families share prayers, drumming, songs, dances, gifts and cultural teachings.

This year's Journey ended in Nisqually, where the Nisqually Indian Tribe hosted the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually Medicine Creek Potlatch from July 31 through Aug. 5.

The theme, "Healing Through Our Waters by Honoring Our Ancestors," reflected the importance of the water, culture and teachings that continue to connect generations.

It had been 10 years since Nisqually last hosted Canoe Journey in 2016.

Following the final landing, Canoe Families gathered for five days of potlatch and protocol, continuing the tradition of sharing songs, dances, prayers, gifts and teachings with one another. Late on the evening of Aug. 4 the Black River Canoe family took the floor, following on the afternoon of Aug. 5, the Muckleshoot Canoe Family took the floor at Nisqually, sharing songs

and dances as part of the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually Medicine Creek Potlatch.

Their time on the floor marked another part of Muckleshoot's participation in this year's Canoe Journey, from welcoming hundreds of Canoe Families to Muckleshoot homelands for dinner, camping and Coastal Jam to continuing the Journey south to Nisqually.

For Muckleshoot, this year's Canoe Journey was an opportunity to both welcome Canoe Families to Muckleshoot homelands and continue the Journey alongside them.

From hundreds of people gathering for dinner, camping and Coastal Jam to Muckleshoot pullers continuing south and the Muckleshoot Canoe Family taking the floor at Nisqually, the Journey brought together culture, community and generations.

Canoe Journey continues to provide a place for Tribal communities to reconnect, share culture and carry teachings forward for the generations to come.









Continued from P1:

Rep. Kim Schrier visits Muckleshoot Early Learning Academy



... Muckleshoot Tribal Chairman Donny Stevenson and Tribal Councilmembers Virginia Cross and Eileen Richardson joined Early Childhood Education staff in welcoming Schrier to the academy and sharing the history and continued importance of Head Start in the Muckleshoot Community.

Muckleshoot's connection to Head Start dates back to the program's earliest days. In 1965, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe received one of the first two federal Head Start grants awarded to Native American Tribes, along with the Navajo Nation.

Cross was hired as the Tribe's first head Start director the same year, helping establish a program that has continued serving generations of Muckleshoot children and families for more than 60 years.

The visit gave Schrier an inside look at Muckleshoot Early Childhood Education and its partnerships with the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center, including ef-

forts to bring medical, dental, nutrition and other services directly to children enrolled in the program.

The morning began with introductions and recognition of Muckleshoot Tribal Council members, followed by a video welcome from students in Lushootseed.

Staff then presented highlights from the Muckleshoot Head Start 2025- 2026 annual report, showing how early education at Muckleshoot extends beyond what happens inside the classroom. A major focus of the presentation was the connection between health and school readiness and the importance of making services accessible to families.

Through its partnership with the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center, the Early Childhood Education program connects children with routine medical care, immunizations, health screenings, dental services and nutrition resources.

The partnership also includes the Mobile Health Clinic, which helps bring services closer to children and families rather than requiring families to navigate multiple locations for care.

For Head Start families, that access can mean identifying a health concern earlier, completing a needed screening or helping ensure a child is healthy and ready to learn.

During the 2025-26 program year, 100% of children enrolled in the program had health insurance and 100% had continuous, accessible health care, according to information presented during the visit. The program also reported that 97% of children were up to date with the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment schedule for well-child care and 97% were up to date on immunizations. All children who were eligible received preventive dental care.

The program reported 118 participants completed vision and hearing screenings, while 112 children completed growth assessments. Of those 112 children, 19 were at or above the 95th percentile. Screenings and assessments also helped identify children who may need additional services or support, including 17 children with vision concerns and one with a hearing concern. The program reported 12 children identified with autism spectrum disorder.

The numbers were part of a larger message shared during the visit: Early childhood education and health are closely connected, and addressing children’s needs early can make a difference as they prepare to enter school.

Dental care has become another important part of that approach. Muckleshoot Health and Wellness dental services provide children with oral exams and dental health screenings, preventive care and

teeth cleanings, dental hygiene education and treatment referrals when additional care is needed.

Children have also had the opportunity to participate in a dental “field trip,” helping introduce them to dental care in a setting designed to make the experience familiar and less intimidating.

Nutrition services are incorporated into the program as well. Children receive nutritious daily meals and snacks that meet U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program standards. Nutrition education is also provided to children and families to encourage healthy eating habits and food choices.

Regular growth monitoring and developmental screenings allow staff to track each child’s progress and identify areas where additional support may be needed.

Mental and emotional health are also part of the program’s approach to supporting the whole child. Muckleshoot Early Childhood Education contracts with the YMCA of Greater Seattle for mental health services, including classroom observations, teacher consultations, family consultations and direct services for children.

According to information presented during Schrier’s visit, the program’s current mental health consultant has worked in the Muckleshoot community for more than 16 years. Staff also discussed how collaboration across Tribal departments can become especially important when a larger public health concern reaches the community.

During a measles response in 2025, Early Childhood Education nursing staff, the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center, public health leadership, Tribal Council, school programs and partner departments worked together to increase vaccination rates and help protect young children. From March to August 2025, vaccination rates among children younger than 4 doubled, while vaccination rates among children 4 and older increased fivefold, according to the presentation. Both groups surpassed 95% completion for the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, reaching the threshold associated with herd immunity.

The response was highlighted as an example of what can happen when Tribal programs work together and are able to respond directly to the needs of the community. Throughout the presentation, staff emphasized that the goal is not simply to provide individual services, but to build a system around children and their families.

The Mobile Health Clinic plays a role in that work by expanding access to care and allowing services to reach families where they are. Early Childhood Education nurs-



es also work alongside Muckleshoot Health and Wellness staff to coordinate vision and hearing screenings, blood pressure checks, lead screenings and growth assessments.

Schrier’s visit included a tour of the Mobile Health Clinic and the Early Learning Academy’s cultural playground, providing an opportunity to see some of the resources discussed during the presentation firsthand. The visit concluded with gift presentations from children representing the Salmon, Cougar and Eagle classrooms, along with the Muckleshoot Child Development Center Head Start classroom.

For Muckleshoot Early Childhood Education, the visit provided an opportunity to show how the Tribe is approaching early learning through more than academics.

Health care, dental care, nutrition, mental health, family support and early identification of developmental needs are incorporated into a system intended to give children the support they need during some of their most important developmental years.

One message shared from a former Head Start student during the presentation captured what that support can mean from a child’s perspective. “I just love it here, this school has everything I need,” the 7-year-old former student said after attending a family engagement event at the facility.

The congressional visit gave Muckleshoot staff the opportunity to share that work directly with Schrier and highlight how partnerships between Tribal programs are helping remove barriers to services for families. It also showcased a model built around the idea that preparing children for school means caring for the whole child from their education and physical health to their emotional well-being and connection to community.



Muckleshoot Sobriety Powwow and Coed Softball Tournament Brings Native Communities Together



By Katie Manzanares · The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe welcomed dancers, singers, families and visitors from across Indian Country for its annual Sobriety Pow Wow, held July 24 through 26 at the Muckleshoot Powwow Grounds in Auburn.

Throughout the weekend, the powwow grounds were filled with people coming together to dance, sing, visit with family and friends and celebrate culture in a drug and alcohol free environment.

People traveled from Tribal communities throughout the region and beyond to take part in the gathering. From the arena to the rows of vendors and food stands, there was something happening across the grounds throughout the weekend.

Grand entries were held Friday evening, twice on Saturday and again Sunday afternoon. Dancers of all ages filled the arena in regalia as drums and singers carried the songs throughout the powwow grounds.

Dance contests included traditional, fancy, grass and jingle, along with golden age and other adult categories. Teen and junior dancers also competed throughout the weekend, and tiny tots ages 5 and younger were welcomed into the arena.

Special contests included men's grass and women's fancy.

Indian Hill of California served as host drum. Mike Sanchez and Gayle Skunkcap served as announcers, Merlin Kicking-Woman served as arena director and Reuben Twin served as whipman.

Outside of the arena, vendors offered Native art, clothing, jewelry and other items, while food stands gave families and visitors plenty of options to enjoy while spending the day at the powwow.

The annual Muckleshoot Sobriety Pow Wow is about more than competition and dancing. At the center of the gathering is sobriety, recovery and the strength that comes from culture and community.

During the powwow, people in recovery are called to the floor and recognized for their sobriety. Recovery chips are handed out as the community gathers around the arena to acknowledge and celebrate those on their journey. The moment gives everyone a chance to show their support, whether someone is just beginning their recovery or has been walking that path for years.

The tradition is an important part of the annual powwow and reflects what the weekend is about: bringing Native people together in a drug and alcohol free space where recovery can be celebrated alongside culture, family and community.

The weekend also included a coed softball tournament at Muckleshoot Tribal School. 14 teams competed in the double elimination tournament, with six men and four women on the field at all times adding another way for people to come together throughout the weekend.

For many families, powwows are also a chance to reconnect with people they may not see often. Throughout the weekend, children, teens, adults and elders could be seen visiting around the grounds, watching family members dance, shopping with vendors, sharing food and spending time together.

By the time the weekend came to an end Sunday, the annual gathering had welcomed people from near and far to Muckleshoot for three days of dancing, singing, competition, food and community, all while honoring sobriety and recovery.





Team photos courtesy of Moonlight Media



Team photos courtesy of Moonlight Media

Muckleshoot Community Center: Celebrating Three Years of Community, Culture & Connection

By Shayna Brown · This June marked three years since the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe opened the doors to the Community Center and Youth & Teen Center – a milestone that celebrates not just a building, but the growth, connection, and strength of our people.

On June 21, 2023, the Tribe welcomed the community to a grand opening celebration that introduced a vision years in the making: a 124,000-square-foot facility designed to be a safe, welcoming, and vibrant home for the Muckleshoot community. The center was designed to be a place to gather, cel-



brate, and learn. The center has flourished over the past three years and it has truly become the heart of our community.

Only weeks after opening, the center proudly hosted Paddle to Muckleshoot

2023, welcoming nearly 11,000 guests from across the region. The gathering marked a powerful beginning for the facility, showcasing its role as a place of unity, filling it with song, laughter, and shared heritage. This is a powerful reflection of what the



center was built to represent. Since the first celebration, the Community Center and Youth & Teen Center have hosted countless events, programs, cultural gatherings, youth activities, and family celebration -- each strengthening the bonds within our Tribe.

As we honor this three-year anniversary, we celebrate not only the facility itself, but importantly the people who bring it to life every day. The center stands as a testament to the Tribe's commitment to future generations, cultural preservation, and community wellness.

To honor this milestone, the Tribe hosted Community Fun Day on August 1, 2026, inviting the Muckleshoot community to join in a day of celebration featuring:

- Musical Chairs

- Plant Walk
- Corn Hole Tournament
- Karaoke/Lip Sync Competition
- Traditional Squirrel Dance Challenge
- Bouncy Houses, Water Slides, Fresh Cotton Candy

As we celebrate this anniversary, we recognize not just the building itself, but the community that fills it - families, youth, elders, and staff who bring energy, culture, and connection into every room. The center stands as a testament of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's dedication to creating spaces where our people can thrive together.

Here's to many more years of gathering, learning, celebrating, and building good memories at the Muckleshoot Community Center.

National Night Out 2026: MIT Police Department Led a Winning Night of Community Spirit

By Shayna Brown · The Muckleshoot Police Department hosted a successful National Night Out 2026 on Aug. 4, bringing families, youth, and community members together for an evening of connection and fun at the MIT Community Center. The event is held as annual celebration of unity and public safety. It opens the door for greater safety awareness, the opportunity to build stronger relationships with local police and emergency services, and fosters understanding.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including raffles, community information booths, a lively donut-eating contest, and interactive police and fire truck displays that were especially popular with kids. The annual basketball game once again drew a big crowd of support, highlighting friendly competition and teamwork with the Muckleshoot Police Department winning 100 to 87.

National Night Out continues to be an important opportunity to connect with local law enforcement in a positive, welcoming environment. This year's event strengthened relationships, encouraged conversation, and celebrated the shared commitment to safety and community well-being.

We raise our hands to everyone who came out, volunteered, and helped make the day such a success.





Muckleshoot Hosts Native Fitness 20 in First for Tribal Community

By Katie Manzanares | Photos by Katie Manzanares and Shayna Brown

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe welcomed health and wellness professionals from across Indian Country Aug. 4 and 5 for Native Fitness 20, marking the first time the long-running training was hosted at a Tribal entity.

Held at the Muckleshoot Wellness Center, the two-day event brought together Tribal health professionals for hands-on training centered on movement, traditional foods, Native games and culturally grounded approaches to health and wellness.

Muckleshoot Tribal Chairman Donny Stevenson opened the gathering by welcoming participants to Muckleshoot and sharing history about the Muckleshoot people and their homelands. His remarks gave those

visiting for Native Fitness 20 an opportunity to learn more about the Tribe and the community hosting the training.

Native Fitness 20 is organized through the Western Tribal Diabetes Project at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and is designed to give Tribal Diabetes Coordinators, fitness staff and other health and wellness professionals practical skills they can bring back to their own communities.

This year's event looked different from a traditional health conference. Rather than spending two days sitting through presentations, participants moved between breakout sessions that put many of the lessons into practice.

Day one included Northwest Traditional Foods with Valerie Segrest, traditional games with Shane Lopez-Johnston and

Tommy Ghost Dog, a HYROX circuit with Tayla LaClair and Muckleshoot wellness trainers, trail running and plant-based recovery with Rachel Heaton, and aquatic exercise with Amelia Merrill.

Traditional games offered participants a chance to get moving while taking part in activities rooted in Native culture. One of the games was double ball, bringing participants together through movement, competition and teamwork.

The activity also demonstrated one of the ideas behind Native Fitness: Exercise and wellness do not have to happen only inside a gym. Traditional games and other culturally connected activities can get people moving while creating an experience that feels relevant and welcoming to Native communities.

Food was another important part of the training. During Segrest's Northwest Traditional Foods class, participants took a hands-on approach to Native nutrition, making rose hip jam, nettle tea and trail mix with cinnamon.



The session connected food, culture and wellness while giving participants ideas they could take back to their own communities. Alongside the physical activities offered throughout Native Fitness 20, the class showed how wellness can include not only how people move, but also the foods and plants that have long been part of Native communities.

Day two continued with additional hands-on sessions, including HYROX training, breath work and movement with Marissa Baumgartner, trail running with OJ Fiannder and aquatic exercise.

The training's approach is designed to ensure the lessons do not end when the event is over. Participants can return home with ideas and resources that can be adapted for different ages, abilities and communities as they continue their work supporting Native health and wellness.

Hosting Native Fitness 20 at Muckleshoot brought that work directly into a Tribal



community for the first time and allowed participants to experience many of the lessons in a setting where culture, community and wellness were connected throughout the training.

From double ball and traditional foods to trail running, aquatic exercise and strength training, the two days showed there is no single way to approach fitness and wellness.

The gathering closed Aug. 5 with a prayer from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, send-

ing participants home with new skills and ideas they could carry back to their own communities.

For Muckleshoot, hosting Native Fitness 20 was an opportunity to welcome people from across Indian Country to Muckleshoot homelands while supporting a shared goal of creating healthier Native communities through movement, food, culture and connection.

Seahawks Cheerleaders Bring Dance Clinic to Muckleshoot Youth



By Katie Manzanares · Muckleshoot Youth and teens had the opportunity to learn from Seattle Seahawks cheerleaders during a special dance clinic Monday, Aug. 3, at the Muckleshoot Community Center.

Two Seahawks cheerleaders visited the community to lead participants through a day of dance, movement and fun. A total of 98 Muckleshoot Youth and teens participated, including 61 youth and 37 teens.

Participants were divided into three rotations, with two sessions for youth and one for teens. The clinic welcomed participants of all ages and genders, creating an inclusive environment where everyone was encouraged to get involved, learn and have fun.

The clinic is part of the ongoing partnership between the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the Seattle Seahawks, which continues to create opportunities for Muckleshoot youth to engage with the organization. The first clinic was held in 2022.

Beyond learning new moves, the clinic gave participants an opportunity to be active, build confidence and try something they may not have experienced before alongside their friends and peers.

The Tribe and Seahawks are currently working to update programming for Muckleshoot Youth as the Seahawks enter a new season and students prepare for the upcoming school year.

Through continued opportunities like the cheerleader clinic, the partnership brings experiences directly to Muckleshoot Youth and creates positive ways for young people throughout the community to participate.



Excellence in Tribal Higher Education: Central Washington University Tour

In May, Muckleshoot Scholarship and Internship took a group of high school students on a tour of Central Washington University. Students had the opportunity to see the campus, tour the Office of Inclusivity and Readiness, and meet with the CWU Tribal Relations AVP, Dr. Zoe Higheagle Strong. Watch for more opportunities for college tours this Fall!

Excellence in Tribal Higher Education

The Scholarship End-of-Year Celebration was a huge success, even in drizzly weather. Students shared a meal that was cooked on the Tribal College’s fish pit, and made new connections with staff and each other.



Excellence in Tribal Higher Education: Fabian Mendoza & Lydia

Scholarship Career Advisors were thrilled to support graduation activities this June, including hosting a table at Intro to Tribal Council, and at MTS Graduation.

Submitted by Muckleshoot Tribal College and Adult & Higher Education

CCEOP

The College and Career Readiness Program is a career exploration program that enables Muckleshoot Tribal enrolled youth, as well as Muckleshoot descendant youths to explore careers in a variety of professions and businesses, and through these experiences, gain the knowledge and confidence necessary for making future career education decisions. The program involves many aspects, all designed to educate students in their career direction and choices.

APPLICATION

2026-27 SY SESSION

October 26, 2026-May 28, 2027

OPENS: AUGUST 4, 2026 8 AM

CLOSES: SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 5 PM

APPLY HERE:

These positions are open to enrolled and descendants of Muckleshoot Tribal Members, ages 14-18 years old, and currently enrolled in school. Youth will be selected on a first come first serve basis.

Contact Us

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38723 172ND AVE SE
BLDG B
AUBURN, WA 98092

Food!
Prizes!
Giveaways!

Muckleshoot Scholarship Orientation

FALL 2026

SEPTEMBER 1st

12:30 - 2:30 PM

In-person at the
Muckleshoot Community Center
17432 SE 392nd St, Auburn, WA 98092

Virtual on Zoom
muckleshoot-nsn-us.zoom.us/j/98092

Students receiving Scholarship must attend Orientation once per academic year

ScholarshipsDept@muckleshoot.nsn.us



EMERGING PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT: MAKOA ELGIN

Makoa Elgin was recently honored at the 2026 Adult & Higher Education Ceremony, where he earned a Master of Science in Botany with a concentration in Evolution, Ecology, and Conservation Biology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and served as a featured speaker. Guided by his Native Hawaiian and Muckleshoot heritage, Makoa is committed to using science and conservation to support Indigenous communities and protect the lands that have shaped him. This summer, he will begin a year-long internship with the renowned Harold L. Lyon Arboretum in Honolulu, gaining hands-on experience in plant conservation, research, and education while helping steward Hawai'i's unique ecosystems. We are proud of Makoa's achievements and look forward to the positive impact he will continue to make.



Keane Williams and Miranda Kitsap-Moses are spending their summer internship with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Department, gaining hands-on experience in fisheries research, field sampling, data collection, and resource management. Both students were especially passionate about interning within the Tribe, making this opportunity a meaningful way to learn from tribal professionals, strengthen their connection to the community, and contribute to the stewardship and sustainability of Muckleshoot fisheries and natural resources.



With a passion for preserving and sharing Muckleshoot history, LeOta Berry is spending her summer internship working alongside Tallis King George on archival and historical research rooted in Muckleshoot culture and heritage. A highlight of her experience has been the opportunity to connect with descendants of Chief Leschi, whose leadership and advocacy during the Treaty of Medicine Creek era left a lasting impact on Tribal communities throughout the region. This summer will also include a visit to the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., where she will help explore artifacts, records, and historical resources that support the preservation of Muckleshoot history for future generations.



RECORD GROWTH FOR SUMMER 2026

This summer marks a major milestone for the Internship Program, **with 16 internship participants, a 166% increase over Summer 2025**. This growth reflects the rising interest among Muckleshoot students and emerging professionals in gaining hands on experience, building career skills, and exploring opportunities that align with their educational and professional goals.

The continued expansion of the program demonstrates the value of investing in our future workforce. Each internship provides participants with meaningful learning experiences, professional mentorship, and opportunities to strengthen connections to their communities. As the program grows, so does our ability to support the next generation of leaders, professionals, and change makers who will help shape the future of the Muckleshoot Tribe.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY



This year's interns represent a wide range of career interests, including Fisheries and Marine Biology, Natural Resources, Forestry, Business, Criminal Justice, Healthcare, Social and Human Services, Chemical Dependency Studies, Construction, Theater and the Arts, and Sports and Recreation. By developing talent across diverse fields, these future professionals are helping build a stronger, healthier, and more self-sustaining Muckleshoot community.

Email: Internship.Dept@muckleshoot.nsn.us

OFFICE BASIC

FREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR AGES 16 & UP

Required Orientations are Tuesday & Thursday in room 202 at 3PM at MTC

Larry Cordier
253-876-3256

Lawrence.Cordier@muckleshoot.nsn.us

www.mtcollege.org

Class Days & Times

Monday & Wednesday

9/21 – 12/10*

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Learning Outcomes:

Microsoft Office	Typing	Certification
Google Apps	Computer Literacy	Resume Building
Computer Security & Safety	Information management	

*12/10 is a Thursday, but this will be the final day for all classes.

tə səli?čəł gʷələ swələxʷ dxʷ?al syayusčəł

Our Hearts are Strong Towards Our Work.

OFFICE INTERMEDIATE

FREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR AGES 16 & UP

Required Orientations are Tuesday & Thursday in room 202 at 3PM at MTC

Larry Cordier
253-876-3256

Lawrence.Cordier@muckleshoot.nsn.us

www.mtcollege.org

Class Days & Times

Tuesday & Thursday

9/22 – 12/10

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Learning Outcomes:

Microsoft Office	Typing	Certification
Google Apps	Computer Literacy	Resume Building
Computer Security & Safety	Information management	

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Our Hearts are Strong Towards Our Work.

OFFICE ADVANCED

FREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR AGES 16 & UP

Required Orientations are Tuesday & Thursday in room 202 at 3PM at MTC

Larry Cordier
253-876-3256

Lawrence.Cordier@muckleshoot.nsn.us

www.mtcollege.org

Class Days & Times

Tuesday & Thursday

9/22 – 12/10

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Learning Outcomes:

Microsoft Office	Typing	Certification
Google Apps	Computer Literacy	Resume Building
Computer Security & Safety	Information management	

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Our Hearts are Strong Towards Our Work.

Vol.8



Michelle.Williams@Muckleshoot.nsn.us



ScholarshipsDept@muckleshoot.nsn.us



EFFECTIVE TEACHING INSTITUTE



A photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, a large tree trunk is covered in thick green moss. The background is filled with many tall, thin trees and lush green foliage, creating a dense canopy. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

The institute welcomed 333 participants, more than doubling attendance from the past two years. The continued growth reflects increasing demand for Indigenous-centered professional development and reinforces the institute's role in supporting educators across the region.

Muckleshoot Tribal College proudly hosted its 6th Annual Effective Teaching Institute from June 23 to 25, bringing together educators, Tribal leaders, students, community members, and partners for three days of culturally grounded professional development. The institute featured keynote speakers Dr. Robin Minthorn and Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton of The Seattle Times, along with presenters from Tribal organizations, educational institutions, community partners, and the Portland Area Indian Health Board. Through workshops, place-based learning, and field excursions, participants explored Indigenous ways of knowing, language revitalization, outdoor education, disability inclusion, and community engagement.



Vol. 01 FTI Newsletter

Workshop & Training funds enrolled Muckleshoot Tribal Members on a biennially basis (once every 2 years) to attend any educational and wellness workshops, conference, or training. The funding is to cover registration fees, travel expenses, lodging, per diem and shuttle fees, application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event for approval.



The diagram shows a human figure split vertically into two halves: yellow on the left and red on the right. The left half represents hypovolemic heatstroke, and the right half represents exertional heatstroke. Various symptoms are listed on either side, connected to the figure by lines. The left side lists: Faint or Dizzy (with a dizziness icon), Excessive Sweating (with a sweat drop icon), Cool, pale, clammy skin (with a thermometer icon showing a low temperature), Nausea or vomiting (with a stomach icon and exclamation mark), Rapid, weak pulse (with a heart icon showing a weak pulse), and Muscle cramps (with a cramp icon). The right side lists: Throbbing headache (with a lightning bolt icon), NO Sweating, Body Temp above 103 (with a thermometer icon showing a high temperature), Red, hot, dry skin (with a sun icon), Nausea or vomiting (with a stomach icon and exclamation mark), Rapid, strong pulse (with a heart icon showing a strong pulse), and May lose consciousness (with a fainted face icon).

Faint or Dizzy

Throbbing headache

Excessive Sweating

NO Sweating

Cool, pale, clammy skin

Body Temp above 103

Red, hot, dry skin

Nausea or vomiting

Nausea or vomiting

Rapid, weak pulse

Rapid, strong pulse

Muscle cramps

May lose consciousness

- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

THE

Muckleshoot Messenger

HELP US HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

THE MUCKLESHOOT MESSENGER RESPECTFULLY INVITES FAMILIES TO SHARE OBITUARIES AND MEMORIALS

SHAYNA.BROWN@MUCKLESHOOT.NSN.US

253-421-1517

PSE COMMUNITY RESOURCE DAY

EVERY WEDNESDAY @ MUCKLESHOOT HOUSING AUTHORITY

Need help with your PSE bill?

We're partnering with PSE to bring free, one-on-one assistance directly to our community every Wednesday.

A PSE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP TRIBAL & COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Apply for the PSE Bill Discount Rate (BDR)

See if you qualify for Weatherization Assistance

Life Support Designation Information & Enrollment Assistance

Apply for the Flexible Payment Program (FLEX)

Apply for the Home Energy Lifeline Program (HELP)

WHAT TO BRING: YOUR PSE BILL

LOCATION: MHA - 38037 158TH AVE SE, AUBURN, WA 98092

WHEN: EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10:00 - 2:00 PM

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

CALL MUCKLESHOOT HOUSING AT 253-833-7616 TO SCHEDULE YOUR 30-MINUTE APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL Child Passenger Safety BOARD

an nhtsa recognized program

How long should children sit in the back seat?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, all children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat

cpsboard.org

SPRING 2026*

SCHOLARSHIP HONOR ROLL

GPA 3.5 OR BETTER

*LIST IS INCOMPLETE AND WILL BE UPDATED ONCE ALL SPRING GRADES HAVE BEEN TURNED IN

TIA AHSAPANEK
Northwest Indian College

IRENE ANDERSON
Northwest Indian College

COLE BAKER
Liberty University

LATANA BAKER
Northwest Indian College

NEA BARR
Green River College

VENECIA BARRERA
Northwest Indian College

GAVEN BELLACK
Green River College

LEOTA BERRY
Tacoma Community College

JASMINE BLAND
Letourneau University

DYLAN BRASSARD
University of Puget Sound

DAVID CABANAS
Northwest Indian College

BRITNEE CARSON
University of Washington

TYRON CORBRAY
Northwest Indian College

BRADLEY COURVILLE
Centralia College

BRENDA DANIELS
Highline College

DANAE DANIELS
Northwest Indian College

JUANITA DANIELS
Northwest Indian College

TIFFANY ESCALON
Northwest Indian College

AUTUMN GAUDET
Palm Beach Atlantic University

HUNTER GAUDET
Palm Beach Atlantic University

JIMI HANSEN
Spokane Community College

CHANEA HENDERSON
University of Washington- Tacoma

TAMARA HUBERTY
The University of New Mexico

IRENE ISADORE
Northwest Indian College

BEATRICE JANSEN
Northwest Indian College

TAESHAWN JOHNSON-BETHELY
Tacoma Community College

TANIA KORNDORFER
Washington State University

TAYLA LACLAIR
Green River College

MARITZA LEONARD
Unity Environmental University

CHELLYNA LESTER
Bellevue College

BRANDON LEUSCHEN
Evergreen State College

SUZETTE LOUIE
Northwest Indian College

LETICIA LOZIER-FRYBERG
Northwest Indian College

VERONICA MILLER
Northwest Indian College

CARLA MILNE
Highline College

NOLAN MILNE
Highline College

SAMANTHA MILNE
Northwest Indian College

MARY JANE MONAHAN
Northwest Indian College

KEILANI MOSES
Northwest Indian College

THELMA MOSES
Northwest Indian College

LATANYA MUSTIN
Seattle University

ANGELA NICHOLS
Northwest Indian College

DARIUS NICHOLS
University of North Texas- Dallas

LAMONT NICHOLS
University of North Texas- Dallas

MARIO PAUL
Northwest Indian College

AMIAH PEDRO
University of Washington- Tacoma

PAMELA PENN
Northwest Indian College

NOVA PULSIFER
Northwest Indian College

ROSEANN REEVES
Northwest Indian College

LEESCHELLE SOHAPPY
Bellevue College

LORETTA SOHAPPY
University of North Dakota

HAILEY STARR
Northwest Indian College

SHALENA SUMMERS
Clover Park Technical College

JACOB TAYLOR
Washington State University

MATTHEW THOMPSON
Northwest Indian College

CORRINA ULIMA
Green River College

KATE ULIMA
Northwest Indian College

GENO WEST
Green River College

HELEN WHITEEAGLE
Green River College

WAHLEAH WIGHT
Green River College

VANESSA WILLIAMS
Northwest Indian College

STEVEN YANISH
University of Washington- Tacoma

SPRING 2026*

SCHOLARSHIP VOCATIONAL HONOR ROLL

GPA 3.5 OR BETTER

*LIST IS INCOMPLETE AND WILL BE UPDATED ONCE ALL SPRING GRADES HAVE BEEN TURNED IN

KAYLI BENNETT
Pima Medical Institute

MANUEL CASTILLO
Pierce College

MARTINA DELGADO
Green River College

JESSICA ELDER
Highline Community College

DENISE GALLEGOS
George Washington University

TAMMY GOURDINE-PETZOLDT
Shoreline College

FAWN HUTCHENS
Pierce College

ELIJAH LOBEHAN
Shoreline College

KRISTINA LOBEHAN
Green River College

MACKENZIE LOBEHAN
Shoreline College

JOSEPH MARCHANT
Ivy Tech Community College

KAREN RANKIN
Colorado Northwestern Community College

JENNIFER SMITH
Montana State University

KAREN SOHAPPY-LARA
Green River College

DEREK SUMMERS
Green River College

SEALTH THOMAS
Shoreline College

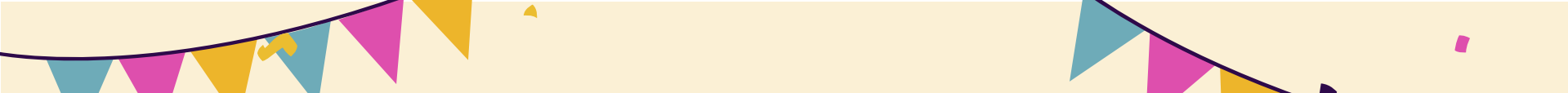
BETTINA WILLIAMS
Harvard Extension School

JACINDA WHITEEAGLE
Green River College

LAVONNA WHITEEAGLE-BROWN
University of Washington

P18 · AUGUST 2026

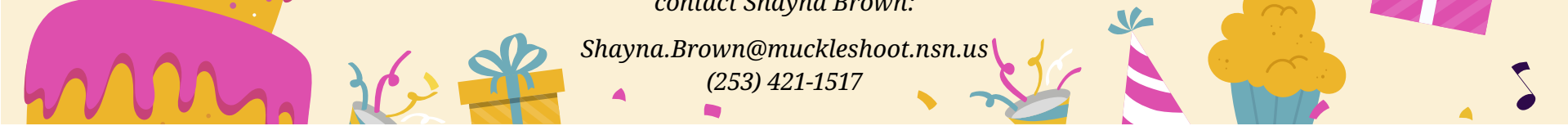
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT MUCKLESHOOT.NSN.US/MESSENGER



Muckleshoot Community Birthday Shout Outs

Birthday shout outs are back! For questions and/or submissions, contact Shayna Brown:

Shayna.Brown@muckleshoot.nsn.us
(253) 421-1517





Happy Birthday!!

TO MY FIANCÉ STEVEN & BROTHER-IN-LAW ANTHONY!!

YOUR FAMILY LOVES & VALUES YOU BOTH SO MUCH.

HAPPIEST OF BIRTHDAYS TO YOU BOTH, THE YANISH BRO'S.

Happy Birthday to OUR favorite 49er fan,

Brysen Jansen



August 22nd, "Best day in the world."

Chefawny

Happiest birthday to my sister José! You're a powerful woman and an incredible mom, and I'm proud of you every single day. You carry so much with ease, and even when life gets heavy, you still show up with love for all of us. I'm rooting for you – so shine strong, your mom is always with you, and I know she's just smiling so big. We can't wait to celebrate you. I love you with all I got, Happy Birthday!



August 24th



Happy 9th Birthday to our amazing son, Jaeson Isaac!

AUGUST 4TH



Today we celebrate the incredible young man you are becoming. You have such a kind, giving, and caring heart, and you make everyone around you smile. Whether you're playing sports, hunting, exploring the outdoors, or making memories with your friends, you bring so much joy and adventure wherever you go.

We couldn't be more proud to call you our son. Watching you grow into such a thoughtful, respectful, and fun-loving boy has been one of life's greatest blessings.

We love you more than words can ever express. Happy Birthday to the best son, brother, grandson, nephew, and friend. We hope your day is filled with love, laughter, and all your favorite things!

Happy 9th Birthday, Jaeson! We love you always and forever! 🍕🎂🍷🎁

Love, Mom, Dad, Alex, Kaela and Isa

Happy Birthday Mom (Laurie Molina), Mr. Duke, and Colby White Jr.

We love you so much and wish you all the best on your special days. May you be blessed with many more happy and healthy years to come.

Also, Mom, congratulations on celebrating turning 70 years young. You are a blessing to our family, and we love you to the moon and back. Thank you for all your sacrifices and love. We appreciate all that you have done for our family and also acknowledge your contributions to our community. Thank you for being a loving and hard-working role model.

Mr. Duke, Happy 8th Birthday! Thank you for continuing to be our teacher, an inspiration, and the light of our lives. You have influenced and changed our walk of life in so many wonderful and beautiful ways; we will be forever grateful.

Colby Jr. Happy 20th Birthday Marine! We're so proud of you and wish you safety, strength, and blessings always. Thank you for your dedication, service, and sacrifice to your family and country.

Love and Hugs, (Daughter/Mom) Madrienne and Family <3







Ruben – August 30th



Happy birthday to the best husband and father we could ask for 🥰
I hope you have An amazing day and I can't wait to celebrate your day ❤️
Thank you for everything you do for our little family 🥰
Me and rj love you so much ! Happy freaking birthday !

Jazaun King, turning 2

Happy 2nd birthday!! T.T. Tai & Shannon loves you

August 5th



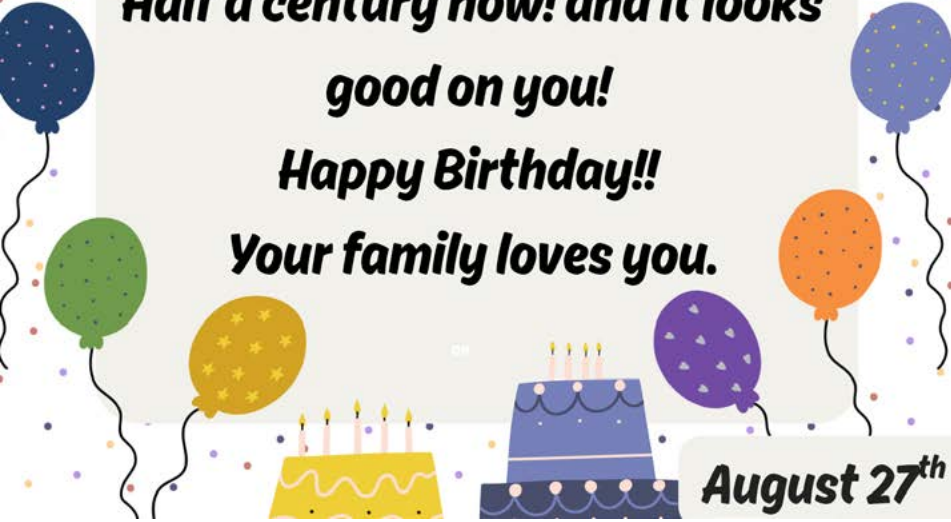
HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEILANI FRANQUEZ-CROSS!!



Happy birthday to my uncle Marvin Ross III

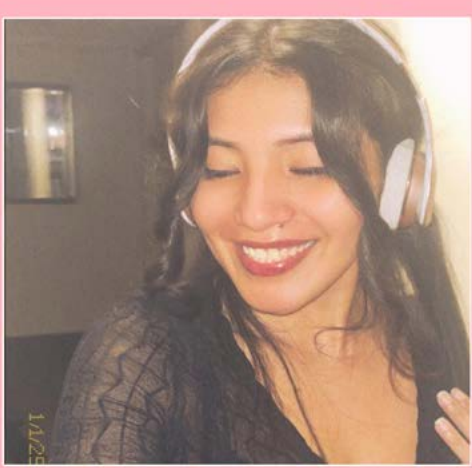


Half a century now! and it looks good on you!
Happy Birthday!!
Your family loves you.



August 27th

Happy Birthday Katelyn Lozier!



August 12th



♥️ TIANA LOZIER

August 26th

Mary Ann Moses

Turning 80

Your daughters wish you a very Happy Birthday!
Love you ma!
– Sonja, Fay, and Katie



Rylee Markantonatos

HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR AMAZING SON, RYLEE!
YOUR STRAIGHT-A ACHIEVEMENTS, DEDICATION TO SPORTS, AND INCREDIBLE CHARACTER CONTINUE TO MAKE US PROUD.
HERE'S TO ANOTHER TRIP AROUND THE SUN.
WE LOVE YOU, KIDDO!
– MOMMA LAN AND DAD



August 20th



Walking On...

Remembering and honoring our community members.

Clayton Gabriel Jansen

July 01, 1979 - July 09, 2021

Clayton Gabriel Jansen aka "Goofy" was born in Auburn, Washington on July 1, 1979, the son of David Jansen and Irene Barr, died on July 9, 2021, in the same town he was born at. He was the most amazing guy with a huge heart, always checking on his family specifically his nieces and nephews.

Clayton prided himself on being the protector of his loved ones. He always knew how to make you smile and feel good even if he had to act goofy just to get that smile from you no matter how it may have made him look. The things he enjoyed doing were simple things but most important to him. A few things Clayton enjoyed doing was weaving baskets, beading, cooking, hunting, fishing, drawing, studying jewelry, picking huckleberries, going to Big Rock, Lake Tapps, Green River and White River, but most importantly being around his family.

Clayton is survived by his mom, Irene Barr; siblings Corrina, Charles, Delilah, Rev, Joey, Monica, Martina, Erica, and many others that call him brother. He was an uncle to many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death is his dad David Jansen.



In Loving Memory of Irene Barr

June 3, 1951 - August 23, 2024

Irene was born on June 3rd, 1951 and passed away on August 23rd, 2024 at the age of 73.

My mom, Irene Rita Barr. Happy go lucky. She was always beading. Everyone bought beadwork from her she made beaded medallions, keychains, God's eyes and Dreamcatchers.

She loved Picking berries in the mountains on the back roads and always on the go. Everyone knew her as Wawa. She loved going to the river going to big rock.





Doug Moses

July 19, 1943 - November 10, 2024

I wanted to share a few snaps of my dad, Snoop Dougie-Doug. My cousin Carlene (Babe) Moses gave him that nickname, and honestly, it just stuck! He absolutely LOVED Snoopy, so of course we had to make sure Snoopy was represented on his headstone too.

That was my dad — a little silly, a lot of personality, and always leaving us with a story, a laugh, or a memory to smile about. Looking through these pictures brings up so many emotions, but mostly I’m grateful for the love and the good times we shared.

And yes... Snoop Dougie-Doug was definitely his government name in the family!



Happy Heavenly Birthday Richard Gonzales - July 27th

Happy Birthday to the Best Dad, Father in law And Grandpa! We miss you dearly there's not a day goes by that we don't think of you.

Love Your children Son in law and grandchildren



MEMORIAL FOR RALPHIE & LIL RALPHIE “JAMES”



Saturday August 29th, 2026
Headstone Blessing at 10am
New White Lake Cemetery
1305 Dogwood Street SE
Auburn, WA 98092

Meal & Giveaway to follow at
Muckleshoot Shaker Church
16407 SE 392nd St
Auburn, WA 98092

OFFICIATING
BUD & TRUDI MOSES