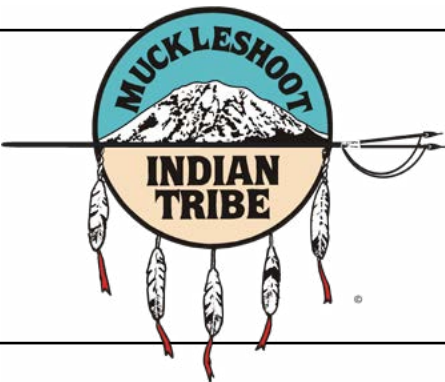


MUCKLESHOOT MESSENGER

September 2026 Edition



MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN RESERVATION — AUBURN, WA

New Year, New Royalty: Skopabsh Powwow 2026

By Shayna Brown · The 2026 Skopabsh Powwow was filled with good energy, good relatives, and good songs. Thank you to every dancer, singer, vendor, family, and visitor who came out and helped make this year's gathering strong. Your presence keeps our circle growing, and we're grateful for the spirit you continue to bring to the Muckleshoot community.

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Building Positive Futures: Youth Health Fair & Back to School Bash

By Shayna Brown · This year's Back to School Bash in partnership with the Youth Health Fair on Aug. 27 was the perfect sendoff to summer – and our community showed up ready to celebrate. The Muckleshoot Powwow Grounds turned into a mini carnival of waterslides, rides, rock climbing, and food vendors. This event kept our youth engaged throughout the afternoon, offering both fun and meaningful opportunities to prepare for the upcoming school year.

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Muckleshoot Keta Creek Family Fishing Derby in Honor of Leeroy Courville Sr.

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Chairman's Corner: Orange Shirt Day



Every single one of your Indigenous friends are either a residential/ boarding school Survivor, a Survivor's child, a Survivor's grandchild, or all three.

Every. Single. One.

Just this past May (2026), our family through the brilliant research of my younger brother Keith and his partner Rose, confirmed that the first born child of our grandmother Marie Daniels was a victim of the Boarding School system who will never get the opportunity to move on or heal- it was right there in black & white, in a Google Docs report titled, “Chemawa and Forest Grove Indian School Deaths,” under a tab labeled, “Deaths and Burials at Schools.”

Number 311 on a list of 367 total names denoting deaths which occurred at these schools- “Simmons, Edgar Arthur, Death Date: 1938/09/20, Remains returned home.” With an additional note stating: “Not a student. Infant born at Chemawa, died age 4 days old. Burial at Grand Ronde.” Grand Ronde is the home and Tribe of our Grandfather- Edgar Arthur Simmons- the baby's namesake.

We come from a family directly and harshly impacted by the removal and relocation policies of the Nation's past: 14 siblings amongst my father's immediate family...

all of whom were removed from the home and separated from one another, from their siblings, from their parents, from their family, from their people and from their culture. It is only through their strength of character and their fortitude that our generation and each that follows are blessed to be able to be here today... thanking each of them today for finding the way and creating the path for our generation. Our family story is sadly NOT unique.

Specifically, when you look at our Simmons / Daniels family history- 14 siblings born to the same household/ mother and father... all of whom were ultimately removed from this Tribal home as a matter of policy aimed at cultural genocide and assimilation. All were removed and replaced into the Western system as children... a system intentionally weaponized to destroy Tribal families, Tribal communities and Tribal people. A system designed and intended to destroy Tribes. To remove children and to take from them every piece of their Tribal identity and remake them instead into assimilated citizens of Western society. Actively and intentionally robbed of every part of their Tribal culture and traditional teaching- their language and their spiritual faith. Their hair was cut, their regalia and garb were discarded or disposed of, and they were beaten for speaking their own tongue. Their names were both literally and figuratively erased and they were given new ones.

To be crystal clear, I'm not talking about some far off historical reference or story you have to read in an archive about some far-off or way-back historical trauma- I'm speaking about our mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles- a single generation before us. This was the reality for our family from Muckleshoot and Grand Ronde- the reality of the Simmons/ Daniels family- the reality not of some distant Ancestor many-times removed from or unknown to us; but instead, the reality of our own father and his siblings- our Aunties, Uncles, Moms and Dads.

The power and importance that despite all of this, our family Elders had the strength and fortitude to fight for their Indian. They found a way to keep that core Muckleshoot / Grand Ronde part of who they really were and to out-last, out-fight, out-live and out-class every agent and system designed and intended to destroy them and who they really were! They found their respective ways home... each of them. One step at a time- one sibling at a time. They found their path back to the source- their homelands and people. Back to Muckleshoot. They built relations with one another and re-learned how to be family- brothers and sisters. They reclaimed their place within

our Tribal Nation... building connections and contributing to the growth and success of our Tribal Nations, together.

In doing so, they subsequently provided the ability, the option and the opportunity for each of us- my generation and beyond- to know our own place and to claim our own home and identity. Our family literally refused to allow our Tribe to be taken... from them or from us.

Because of our Elders, we get to be family with one another. Because of them, we get to be Muckleshoot and Grand Ronde. Because of our Elders, our children know and love one another as beloved family connections... Because of Dad, Uncle, Auntie, Mom- the power that runs through their (and subsequently our) veins, and the miraculous strength, fortitude and will to remain true to our fundamental spirit as Indian people, we each get to help define the future of our Tribal Nations.

We- as a family- truly are a miracle of strength and reclamation... and that fight- the one to make miracles real and to reclaim our Tribal name and identity, is what truly defines my father... and each of his siblings... as bəqəlšut tubšədəd / Muckleshoot Warriors!!!

14 siblings- all of whom were removed from their home, family, parents and Tribe... but all of whom also found their own respective ways back. That is truly the Red Road and it is more powerful than words have the ability to describe. Honoring this strength and the survivors while also remembering our families first born son- who we only learned of and confirmed this past May. Who we now know paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Daniels/ Simmons family- by spending the four days of his short life on this Earth at Chemawa Indian School with his teenage mother and father and will never have the ability to physically return home except in our family's spirit and hearts... this is what Every Child Matters and Orange Shirt Day are really all about... Edgar Arthur Simmons matters...

Sadly- as we all know- as extreme an example as it is, my family's story and experience are hardly the exception or unique in our Tribal communities or Indian Country. Every single one of our families share their version of this experience and story.

So, because of this, we wear orange in solidarity and in recognition... in truth and in healing. We wear orange because each of these stories deserves to be told. We wear orange because- Every Child Matters!!!"

Donny Stevenson
Chairman, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Larry Gossett Returns to Muckleshoot, Shares Progress on Book

By Katie Manzanares · More than five decades after Larry Gossett came to the Muckleshoot Reservation looking for Native students to recruit to the University of Washington, the longtime civil rights leader returned to the Muckleshoot Tribal Council Chambers to share another piece of that history.

Larry Gossett, a former King County Councilmember, social justice fighter, and longtime community leader, met with Tribal Council to provide an update on a book documenting his life, activism and decades of public service. During the visit to the Muckleshoot reservation, Gossett brought draft chapters for Council to review, including sections on the fishing wars and places where Muckleshoot is part of his story.

His connection to Muckleshoot reaches back to his early years as an activist and organizer.

In 1968, Gossett helped establish the Black Student Union at the University of Washington and was among the student leaders pushing the university to create more opportunities for students who had historically been underrepresented on campus. Their efforts included increased recruitment of Black, Asian, Latino, Native American and low income students, along with stronger academic programs and support.

When Gossett became involved in recruiting students to UW, that work brought him directly to Muckleshoot. In an interview later documented by HistoryLink, Gossett



recalled coming to the Muckleshoot Reservation looking for Native students with high school diplomas who could be recruited to attend the university. His recruitment work also took him into Black communities in Seattle and Latino farmworker communities in the Yakima Valley.

Gossett graduated from UW in 1971 as the university's first student to earn a degree in African American Studies. He later served as executive director of the Central Area Motivation Program and went on to serve more than two decades on the King County Council.

His work throughout the region also connected him with Native activist Bernie Whitebear, Latino civil rights leader Roberto Maestas and Asian American activist Bob Santos. Together, the four became known as Seattle's "Gang of Four," building relationships among Black, Native, Latino and Asian American communities and working together on civil rights, social justice and issues affecting communities throughout the region.

That history was part of the conversation as Gossett updated Council on his book

and shared draft material that includes Muckleshoot.

The sections provided to Council touch on the fishing wars and Muckleshoot's place in a larger period of Native treaty rights and civil rights advocacy in Washington. The fishing wars were a defining period for treaty tribes and led to the 1974 Boldt Decision, which reaffirmed treaty fishing rights. For Muckleshoot, protecting treaty reserved fishing rights remains an important part of the Tribe's history and its continued work to protect sovereignty, culture and natural resources.

The visit concluded with a special recognition from Tribal Council. Vice Chair John Daniels Jr. and Councilmember Virginia Cross wrapped Gossett in a blanket, recognizing his decades of community advocacy and his longstanding relationship with Muckleshoot.

From coming to Muckleshoot as a young activist recruiting Native students to returning decades later with a book that includes the Tribe's story, Gossett's visit brought that history full circle and highlighted a relationship built across generations.

Muckleshoot Tribal Council Meets With Gov. Bob Ferguson on Tribal Priorities

By Katie Manzanares · Muckleshoot Tribal Council leaders met with Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson at the state Capitol this week for direct government-to-government discussions focused on priorities important to the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and its members.

Chairman, Donny Stevenson, Tribal Council Secretary, Jessica Garcia-Jones, and Councilmember, Eileen Richardson represented the Tribe during the meeting with Ferguson. Discussions included Tribal sovereignty, gaming, economic issues, and other matters important to the Tribe.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Muckleshoot leaders to bring Tribal priorities directly to the governor while continuing to strengthen the longstanding government-to-government relationship between the Tribe and Washington state.

“Direct government-to-government consultation and collaboration” was at the center of the meeting, Stevenson said.

Stevenson said Tribal and state leaders discussed shared priorities and goals, including areas where continued collaboration can serve Muckleshoot members and Washington residents while building on the relationship between the Tribe and state.

Government-to-government consultation recognizes the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe as a sovereign government and provides a direct avenue for Tribal leadership to engage with state officials on decisions and policies affecting the Tribe.

The Muckleshoot Tribal Council maintains official government-to-government relationships with Washington state as well as federal, county, city and other local governments.



Those relationships allow Tribal leaders to advocate for Muckleshoot interests across issues affecting the Tribe, its members, lands, resources and economic future.

Stevenson thanked Garcia-Jones and Richardson for representing Muckleshoot and for continuing to build connections with Ferguson directly.

The meeting reflects the Tribe’s continued work to protect Tribal sovereignty, advance Muckleshoot priorities and maintain strong relationships with government partners throughout the region.



Continued from P1:

New Year, New Royalty: Skopabsh Powwow 2026

... We also want to honor and congratulate our newly crowned 2026 Skopabsh Powwow Royalty. Some are returning leaders, and some are stepping into these roles for the first time, but all of them carry our community forward with pride.

2026 Skopabsh Powwow Royalty

- Tiny Tot Princess: Sheila Penn
- Little Warrior: Ruben Starr
- Jr. Miss Skopabsh: Skuya Elkins
- Miss Skopabsh: Tyla Freeman
- Warrior: Fayden Moses
- Kiya: Lisa Elkins

And we lift up our outgoing 2025 royalty for their dedication and leadership throughout the year. Thank you for representing Skopabsh with heart.

2025 Skopabsh Powwow Royalty

- Tiny Tot Princess: Kaylina Myers
- Little Warrior: Corey Starr
- Jr. Miss Skopabsh: Kinsley Penn
- Miss Skopabsh: Karmen Paul
- Warrior: Fayden Moses
- Kiya: Emma Allen

Thank you again to everyone who joined us and to those who participated. We look forward to another year of carrying these teachings, celebrating our youth, and keeping our traditions strong.





Continued from P1:

Sla-Hal Weekend Brings Community Together

By Katie Manzanares

Gray skies and rain didn't stop Sla-Hal players, singers, families and spectators from filling the grounds near Muckleshoot Casino Resort for three days of competition and community Sept. 11-13.

The 2026 Muckleshoot Sla-Hal weekend brought people together for a weekend filled with songs, laughter, visiting and plenty of stick game.

Under the large Muckleshoot tents, spectators surrounded the games as singers and drummers kept songs going throughout the weekend. Players competed while friends and relatives gathered along the sidelines, catching up and spending time together.

This year’s main tournament featured a \$30,000 first-place prize, followed by \$20,000 for second, \$12,500 for third and \$7,500 for fourth. Fifth and sixth place each received \$2,500.

The tournament offered 13 ways to win, including two consolation prizes, six spotlight games and a prize for the longest winning streak.

But competition was only one part of the weekend.

Sla-Hal has long been a place for Native people to gather, share songs, strengthen relationships and carry traditions forward. That spirit could be seen throughout the weekend as generations sat together around the games and the grounds remained full despite the wet weather.

The weekend culminated Sunday afternoon with the Muckleshoot Showdown between Franky Cayou, Swinomish, and Lyndon Scott, Piikani, with Cayou coming away with the win.

“I’m thankful to be asked to point the Showdown,” Cayou said. “Thanks to the stick game community and the Tribe for asking me to be part of the weekend, and thanks to everyone who trusted me with their bet.”

The Showdown capped three days of Sla-Hal at Muckleshoot and another weekend of bringing people together through songs, competition and community.



Muckleshoot Keta Creek Family Fishing Derby in Honor of Leeroy Courville Sr.

By Shayna Brown

The Muckleshoot Keta Creek Family Fishing Derby in honor of Leeroy Courville Sr. held on Aug. 15 was more than a day of fishing. It was an opportunity for families to come together, share stories, and pass on traditions to the next generation.

Events like this remind us how important it is to teach our children about our history and the practices that have connected our people to the land and waters for generations. When our youth learn these traditions firsthand, they gain a deeper understanding of who they are and where they come from. By keeping these teachings alive, we strengthen not only our families but our Tribe as a whole.

Throughout the day, kids and adults lined the banks of Keta Creek, enjoying time together outdoors and learning from one another. There was plenty of excitement as participants tried their luck at landing the biggest catch. Prizes were awarded for the largest fishes caught, creating a little friendly competition and plenty to celebrate.

The event also featured treats and refreshments for everyone to enjoy, including an ice cream, and coffee and energy drink stand that kept participants fueled throughout the day. Whether people came to fish, support their families, or simply spend time with the community, there was something for everyone.

This event was especially meaningful as it honored the life and legacy of Leeroy Courville Sr., a U.S. veteran, former Muckleshoot Tribal Council member, and fish commissioner. Leeroy had a deep love for the Muckleshoot people and dedicated much of his life to serving his community. He was always willing to share what he had learned through his experiences and enjoyed teaching younger generations the lessons and values he carried throughout his life: community and family.

Our youth continue to learn from parents, grandparents, Elders and remind us that our traditions stay alive through the people who choose to carry them forward. As we look ahead, gatherings like the Keta Creek Family Fishing Derby help ensure that our stories, teachings, and way of life remain strong for our generations to come. With every lesson shared, every fish caught, and every memory made, we continue strengthening the bonds that make the Muckleshoot community resilient and thriving.



Continued from P1:

Building Positive Futures: Youth Health Fair & Back to School Bash

... Students were able to prepare for the upcoming school year with free haircuts and braiding services, ensuring they headed back to class feeling confident and supported. Local food vendors added to the atmosphere, offering a variety of options that kept the community wellfed as they enjoyed the day’s activities.

The Youth Health Fair provided valuable resources, education, and support for students and families, reinforcing the message that a healthy start leads to a strong school year.

The event also welcomed special guests Dallas Goldtooth and Kasey Nicholson, whose performances brought laughter and entertainment. Their presence added a dynamic element to the celebration and contributed to the overall success of the Bash.

“Muckleshoot is a beautiful community, they are very blessed and fortunate to have all the unity and the beautiful things they have that supports the kids and families, and it’s really cool to see this tribe really thriving and giving back to the community in different forms, whether it be powwows, community functions or leadership.”

— Kasey Nicholson

“I think Muckleshoot is a beacon for other tribes and how they should treat their community, how they uplift each other, and how they support the next generation view. I think that the opportunities that this tribe is doing for its own peoples is pretty spectacular.”

— Dallas Goldtooth

Together, the Back to School Bash and Youth Health Fair highlighted our community’s commitment to uplifting youth through wellness and helping students begin the school year with positivity and pride. We extend our appreciation to everyone who attended, as well as to the dedicated event committee and the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center for their hard work and support for our students as they head into the new school year.





A Day with Our Everyday Heroes: YDP Hero Day

By Shayna Brown

Throughout the day, the youth development program engaged with individuals who dedicate their lives to public service, they met local firefighters, learned about emergency equipment, and gained insight on how quick thinking saves lives. The firefighters also left the youth with a great memory, inviting them to play in the water spray from the firetruck hose – a moment that made the learning experience even

more unforgettable. Police officers shared demonstrations and talked with the youth about safety, responsibility, and the importance of building trust within the community. Military representatives offered insight into service, teamwork, and leadership, showing the students how these values shape strong futures. Events like YDP Hero Day help our young people see that heroes aren't just in movies – they're right here in our community,

showing up, working hard, and making a difference for our people. The goal of the event was to inspire youth by connecting them with real people who serve with courage and commitment. By learning directly from these professionals, students gained a deeper appreciation for the roles that protect and support our community every day.



Driveline Baseball Camp Brings Training to Muckleshoot Youth

By Katie Manzanares

Young Muckleshoot athletes had the opportunity to sharpen their baseball skills this summer as Driveline Baseball brought its training program to the Muckleshoot Athletic Club.

The two-day Driveline Baseball Camp was held Aug. 17-18 and gave young athletes the chance to work on pitching, throwing and hitting through specialized instruction and drills.

A total of 37 athletes participated between the pitching and hitting camps, with sessions divided between players ages 12 and younger and those 13 and older.

The first day focused on throwing and pitching, while the second turned the attention to hitting. The format allowed athletes to spend dedicated time developing differ-

ent parts of their game while learning techniques used in high-level baseball training. Driveline Baseball is known for its data-driven approach to player development and works with athletes to improve performance through specialized baseball training.

Bringing the camp to Muckleshoot gave local athletes access to that level of instruction right here in the community.

The camp also continued the Muckleshoot Athletic Club’s efforts to create opportunities for young people to stay active, build their skills and experience new approaches to athletics.

Sports Facility Supervisor Jay-J Yarbrough-Jones said the camp was well received and that the Athletic Club hopes the partnership can continue.

“We had a total head count of 37 athletes at the camp between the pitching and hitting camps, and we look forward to doing something similar to this with Driveline again in the future,” Yarbrough-Jones said.

For the young athletes who participated, the two days offered more than another



chance to step onto the field. It was an opportunity to learn, challenge themselves and continue developing their game alongside other athletes from the community. With 37 athletes taking part in its first camp, the partnership could also open the door for more Driveline training opportunities at Muckleshoot in the future.



Muckleshoot Youth Visit Port of Seattle

The Port of Seattle recently hosted Muckleshoot Indian Tribe youth to gain a better understanding of the Port organization and aviation and maritime internships and jobs. This visit also included an SEA art tour, fun team building exercises and sum- miting to the top deck at SEA for a birds eye view of the airfield.

This week, the Port hosted Muckleshoot Tribal Members who are currently studying carpentry via the Muckleshoot/Green



River Community College program at the Port's Marine Maintenance North Facility. Students learned more about the Port's maintenance department, how to progress in skilled labor and they connected with Port's skilled trade leaders and employees.

The Port of Seattle is grateful for the agreements we have with our local Tribes and we remain committed to attracting Tribal Members to maritime and aviation employment. We also thank the Port of Seattle's Human Resources Talent Connections Program, Workforce Development Program and the Marine Maintenance Team for providing great experiences that expanded these Tribal horizons.



Muckleshoot Tribal College
Congratulations to Our
2026 Summer Quarter
Excel Students

We want to take a moment to celebrate the students who completed Excel Basic and Excel Expert this Summer quarter. Learning new software takes patience, and doing it over a summer, often alongside jobs, family obligations, Canoe Journey, and everything else a season brings, takes real commitment. Our students showed up week after week, worked through the practice problems, asked good questions, and pushed past the moments when a formula just would not cooperate. That persistence is exactly what turns a class into a skill.

To every student in both courses: congratulations, and thank you for the energy you brought to the classroom. Whether Excel

was brand new to you or you were continuing an educational journey that began with our Excel Basic course, this quarter moved you further along the path toward real mastery. That is especially true of our Excel Expert students, who built on a strong foundation and took on the more advanced work that separates comfortable users from confident ones. We are proud of your hard work, and we look forward to seeing where you take it next.



Scholarship Department

Scholarship hosted its “First Time Student” Orientation, giving special attention and care to students who will be moving away from home to attend college this fall.



CCEOP Summer Session 2026

The CCEOP Summer Session ran from July 7th through August 14th, with an additional two weeks for our Tomanamus worksite. A total of 104 students successfully completed the program! During the summer session, participants worked collectively at 50 different worksites and participated in 6 field trips.



Tomanamus Mountain
Worksite Crew July 7th – August 24th

We had six Muckleshoot youth hired through CCEOP to work at Tomanamus this summer. The students learned about and participated in plant identification, fish relocation, walkway construction, garbage cleanup, environmental science workshops, watershed projects, team-building activities, safety training, and trail work on Vashon Island.

CCEOP Summer Field Trips:

Western Washington University - July 16th

Students received a guided tour where they explored buildings and learned about student life.



Evergreen State College - July 23rd

Students visited the college's organic farm, where they learned about agricultural programs, related coursework, picked fresh fruit, learned about the Native Pathways Program and Native arts courses.

Alki Canoe Landing - July 29th

Students had the honor of supporting the Alki Canoe Landing during Canoe Journey.

Perry Technical Institute - August 6th

Perry Technical Institute provided students with a tour of its facilities and an overview of its trade-focused educational programs.

Casino Career Fair - August 11th

Students toured various departments throughout the casino and learned about the wide range of career opportunities available.

Financial Literacy Workshop
August 7th

had the opportunity to learn about FAFSA and gain an understanding of the college application process.



Port of Seattle (SeaTac Airport) - August 13th

Our final field trip of the summer was hosted by the Port of Seattle at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Students participated in an art walk featuring works by local artists displayed throughout the airport. They were also given the unique opportunity to visit the top of the airport facility and observe aircraft takeoffs from an outdoor viewing area.

Muckleshoot Tribal College Pre-Apprentice Carpentry Program, Summer 2026

Students, family, and staff gathered to celebrate the graduates of this summer’s Muckleshoot Tribal College cohort at a lunch celebration on August 26. This cohort has worked hard to learn the fundamentals of the construction trade, including framing, drywall, plumbing, and electrical. Their curriculum includes the construction of a model bathroom, equipping students with the skills necessary for home maintenance and other remodel

work. Under the leadership of Green River College carpentry instructor Robert Bean, this summer’s cohort constructed 14 portable planter boxes for the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center’s Community Health Program. Students also visited the Port of Seattle’s Marine Maintenance facility where students were exposed to a multitude of career opportunities in the shop: carpenters, welders, pile drivers, millwrights, auto maintenance, and more. Please join the Muckleshoot Tribal College in congratulating Kuleace Eyle-John, Baden Geiger, Floyd Gonzales, Noah Guevara, Blaze Long, Micah McDaniel, Deborah Monahan, Samuel Moses, Tony Rutherford, and Viliamu WhiteEagle.



Deborah Monahan, Tony Rutherford, Noah Guevara, and Samuel Moses at the Port of Seattle Marine Maintenance facility August 19, 2026.



MTC Carpentry students hearing from Juan Martell, Senior Manager of Marine Maintenance for Port of Seattle.



Summer 2026 MTC Carpentry Graduates! From L to R: Noah Guevara, Viliamu WhiteEagle, Blaze Long, Tony Rutherford, Justice Bill, Micah McDaniel, Robert Bean, Deborah Monahan, Floyd Gonzales, Baden Geiger, Samuel Moses, and Kuleace Eyle-John.



Micah McDaniel, Deborah Monahan, Blaze Long, and Baden Geiger with planter boxes the cohort constructed for MHWC Community Health program.

Workshop & Training

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.



CCDF Program Update

Effective June 1, 2026, the Muckleshoot Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program has moved to full categorical eligibility, making it easier for families to apply for child care services.

Under this change, all Indian children living within the CCDF service area, as defined by the Muckleshoot CCDF Plan, are eligible for child-care services. Parents or guardians are no longer required to be employed, attending school, or participating in a job training program to qualify.

Families who have applied since June 1 may have noticed that employment verification and pay stubs are no longer required as part of the application process.

Eligibility Definitions

Indian Child: A child who is either enrolled in a federally recognized tribe or is a first-generation descendant of an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe (the child’s biological parent must be an enrolled tribal member).

Service Area: A 30-mile radius from the Muckleshoot Tribal Administration Offices (Smoke Stack). If your residence falls within an overlapping service area shared with the Puyallup Tribe or Snoqualmie Tribe, and you are located within their primary service area, you must first apply through that Tribe’s CCDF Program.

Required Documents

To receive childcare services, families must provide:

- Proof of the child’s eligibility as an Indian Child
- Proof of residence
- The child’s current immunization records, or:
- A doctor’s note outlining a plan to bring immunizations up to date, or
- A valid Certificate of Exemption signed by a physician

Apply with QR Code:





Free

Muckleshoot CCDF

CHILDCARE

Services



Eligibility:

Reside within the Muckleshoot CCDF service area: 30 mile radius from the Muckleshoot Tribal Administration.

Need care for an Indian Child (registered in a federally recognized tribe or biological parent is enrolled in a federally recognized tribe) between 5 weeks through 12 years of age or up through 18 years of age with a disability.

Call Us
253-876-3032

Email Us
ccdf.applications@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Apply Online:





Scholarship Department

2026-2027 APPLICATION DEADLINES

New Degree Students

Summer Quarter/ Semester 2026 April 1-May 28

Fall Quarter/Semester 2026 June 1-August 20

Winter Quarter/ Spring Semester 2027 November 2-December 3

Spring Quarter 2027 February 1-March 4

Continuing Degree Students

Summer Quarter/ Semester 2026 April 1-June 4

Fall Quarter/Semester 2026 June 1-August 27

Winter Quarter/ Spring Semester 2027 November 2-December 10

Spring Quarter 2027 February 1-March 11

All applications close at 12:00pm PST.

Students moving or staying in a dorm need to have their applications submitted at **least 45 days before the start of the term with a travel request on file.**

Running Start

Vocational & Certificate

Application must be submitted at **least 30 days before the start** of your term and we need an application **each term.**

Application must be submitted at **least 30 days before the start** of your term and we need an application **each term.**

ScholarshipsDept@muckleshoot.nsn.us





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

tə s'cali?čəł g'wələ swələx'w dx'ʔal syayusčəł

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

tə s'cali?čəł g'wələ swələx'w dx'ʔal syayusčəł

Our Hearts are Strong Towards Our Work.

P15 · SEPTEMBER 2026

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

FOSTER

CONSULTING & BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

TRIBAL FINANCE & ENTERPRISE
LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Empowering Tribal Enterprises Across Key Financial Industry Sectors

Santana Deanda Program Operations Specialist
2026.616.8426 santad2@uw.edu

This four-week, non-credit online certificate is designed for tribal professionals overseeing gaming operations, regulatory compliance, and guest experience with a focused lens on financial strategy, analysis, and oversight.

Participants will gain practical tools to:

- Understand and interpret financial statements
- Conduct financial ratio analysis to assess enterprise health
- Create and manage budgets across departments
- Strengthen financial controls in sovereign business contexts
- Explore career pathways in finance and enterprise leadership

Taught by faculty from the UW Foster School of Business and tribal-industry experts, this program blends applied financial knowledge with culturally relevant enterprise leadership practices.

WHO SHOULD ENROLL

- Tribal enterprise staff (finance, economic development, business operations)
- Early-career professionals exploring tribal financial leadership roles
- Tribal members interested in business or finance careers

KEY BENEFITS

- Immediate Impact: Practical toolkits, templates, and checklists
- Flexibility: Live sessions (6–9 PM PST) plus on-demand materials
- Networking: Ongoing peer and mentor engagement
- Credential: Digital certificate and UW-branded badge

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Modular Delivery:** Four weekly modules, each with a 3-hour live webinar and 2–3 hours of self-paced activities
- Interactive Content:** Real-world tribal case studies, group discussions, and live Q&A with sector leaders
- Expert Instructors:** UW Foster School faculty paired with tribal-industry practitioners and sponsors US Bank
- Peer Learning:** Cohort-based group work to foster cross-enterprise networking

PROGRAM DETAILS

Start Date: October 20, 2026

Duration: 4 Weekly Sessions

Format: Online via Zoom and Canvas LMS

Tuition: FREE

Learn More: foster.school/tfel-cert

Scan QR or use link to Register



<https://uwfoster.tfaforms.net/139>

SUPPORTED BY



Every Child Matters Dinner



Wednesday
September 30th, 2026 5:30PM
Muckleshoot Casino Event Center

Muckleshoot Tribal Member/Household
Community Event
Alcohol & Drug Free

SURVIVORS COME AND SHARE
YOUR STORIES
HELP EDUCATE OUR FUTURE
GENERATIONS

for more info
FRANKIE.LEZARD@MUCKLESHOOT.NSN.US

CORRECT FIT FOR
HARNESSTRAPS



PINCHING
Indicates the strap is too loose



NO PINCHING
Indicates the strap is tight enough

- Harness straps should fit snugly
- Unable to pinch any excess webbing
- Positioned at armpit level.



www.wacarseats.com

WASHINGTON STATE CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

TRIBAL FINANCE & ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

UW FOSTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

SCHOLARSHIP
SEMINAR SERIES



PURPOSE

The purpose of our Seminar Series is to build a strong community and equip our MIT Scholarship students with the skills needed to succeed in higher education, all while integrating Muckleshoot traditions, language, and culture into the academic experience.

DETAILS

Who: MIT Scholarship Students
Time: 11:30am–1:30pm
Location: Muckleshoot Tribal College (Other events TBD)
Dates: Listed at bottom (Most seminars land on every 2nd Tuesday)
There will be light refreshments provided.

**DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF
2026–2027**

November 10: Medicine & Mental Health
February 9: Flower Bar
April 13: Self Advocacy
May 11: End of School Year Celebration

Zoom Link: [Muckleshoot-nsn-us/my/advisor](https://muckleshoot-nsn-us/my/advisor)
ScholarshipsDept@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Checklist for Seat Belt Fit



1

Child's back against vehicle seatback

2

Knees bend over the seat without slouching

3

Feet firm on the floor

4

Shoulder belt lies across the shoulder

5

Lap belt snug on the upper thighs, low on hips

6

Child can stay in position for the entire ride

NATIONAL
Child Passenger
Safety BOARD

an nsc managed program



Muckleshoot Walks Together to ‘Change the Narrative’

By Katie Manzanares

Suicide Prevention and Overdose Awareness parade brings community together for prevention, recovery and healing.

Muckleshoot Indian Tribal members, families, departments and community partners came together Sept. 17 for the Muckleshoot Suicide Prevention and Overdose Awareness parade, “Changing the Narrative,” an afternoon dedicated to honoring those lost to suicide and overdose while raising awareness around prevention, recovery and healing.

Presented by the Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Program and Family Support Center, the parade was held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on 392nd in front of the Pow Wow Grounds. Members, families, friends, employees, first responders and programs from across the community participated, carrying a shared message reflected throughout the event: You are not alone.

Muckleshoot Tribal Council Chairman Donny Stevenson opened the gathering by welcoming those in attendance and speaking about the importance of bringing conversations about suicide and overdose into the open.



“We have an opportunity to come together and walk together today to help change the narrative and to do away with stigma associated with things that we often remain either quiet or silent about,” Stevenson said.

Stevenson spoke about the impact suicide and overdose continue to have on Tribal communities and emphasized that prevention also means creating spaces where people feel supported enough to talk about what they are experiencing.

“Nobody at Muckleshoot is alone,” Stevenson said.

Throughout his remarks, Stevenson returned to the importance of connection to family, community, culture, ancestors and future generations and the strength those relationships can provide during difficult times.

“If you’re a part of our Tribe, you’re part of our community,” Stevenson said. “You’re one of our members and you’re part of our family. We always have a place to belong.”

Stevenson also reflected on how far Muckleshoot has come in a generation. He spoke about the opportunities available to young people today that previous generations worked to create, while emphasizing the responsibility to remember the struggles that helped shape the Tribe and continue building a better future for the generations to come.

That responsibility, he said, also includes acknowledging trauma and addressing issues that previous generations may not have been able to speak about openly.

Stevenson spoke from his own experience as a man in recovery, sharing a message about the importance of breaking silence and allowing others to help carry the weight.

“We are all as sick as the secrets we keep, and we’re all as well as what we share,” Stevenson said.

He thanked those who came out for taking part in what he described as the shared responsibility of healing the community.

Following Stevenson’s remarks, the parade got underway, with Muckleshoot departments, programs, members, families and community partners joining together in a visible show of support for suicide prevention, overdose awareness and recovery.



Mountain View Fire and Rescue joined the procession with a fire engine and aid car, representing first responders who answer emergencies and provide lifesaving care throughout the community.

Muckleshoot Elders In Home Support Services also participated alongside the Muckleshoot Canoe Family and Culture Program, which pulled Eagle Spirit through the parade.

As the canoe family passed, organizers highlighted culture as a protective factor

in suicide and overdose prevention and spoke about the strength that comes from remaining connected to culture, family and community. One speaker shared how participating in canoe family and being on the water had personally been life changing, encouraging others to find opportunities to become involved.

The parade also included members of a local car club, while a community member was recognized for reaching 10 years of sobriety and for keeping her children involved in culture and the powwow way of life.

Many more Muckleshoot departments, programs, members, families and community supporters participated throughout the afternoon, each contributing to the event’s message of awareness, prevention, recovery and hope.

For those remembering someone lost to suicide or overdose, those walking their own path of recovery and the families, friends and programs supporting them, “Changing the Narrative” created a space to acknowledge experiences that can be difficult to talk about and to do so surrounded by community.

As Stevenson reminded those gathered, Muckleshoot people have their families, their ancestors, their children and one another.

Together, the community walked to make sure no one had to walk alone.



NPAIHB Native Fitness Conference Brings Wellness Leaders Together at Muckleshoot Indian Tribe



By Caryn Avila

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN RESERVATION — August 4 & 5, 2026 — Wellness-Fitness professionals and Tribal leaders gathered August 4–5 at the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe for Native Fitness, a two-day event focused on health, movement, culture and community wellness.

The conference featured keynote speaker OJ Fiander, owner and CEO of Native Fitness. OJ shared nearly three decades of experience as an entrepreneur in the health and fitness industry, along with lessons from the past seven years spent working with tribes across the United States.

OJ said his work has increasingly focused on giving back and helping tribal communities strengthen their wellness programs. He noted that diabetes rates continue to be a serious concern in Indian Country despite substantial investments in prevention and treatment.

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians, established in 1997, has received more than \$2.3 billion in funding, OJ said. However, he argued that funding alone has not produced the desired results.

“In my view, this is not a funding problem—it’s an operations problem,” OJ said.

He emphasized the need for tribal wellness facilities to have clear systems, measurable goals and defined expectations. According to OJ, effective programs should include:

- Clear performance metrics
- Standard operating procedures

- Staff training that explains both what employees do and why it matters
- A shared definition of success
- Accountability and consistent execution

“These teams are the frontline of preventative health in our communities,” OJ said. “We owe them better support, better systems and leadership that prioritizes results.”

In addition to the keynote presentation, Muckleshoot offered breakout sessions addressing traditional foods, plants, movement, aquatic fitness, recovery and traditional games.

Valerie Segrest, owner and CEO of Old Growth Solutions, led a session on Northwest traditional foods.

Racheal Heaton presented culture, wellness and traditional plants, plant-based fitness recovery.

MIT Wellness Center team—including Tayla LaClair, Clayton Menzel, Jeffrey Sheldon and Andrade West—led a HYROX fitness session. Amelia Merrill, Marcia Jansen, and Tiffanee Leeper of Muckleshoot Aquatics conducted a water aerobics breakout session.

Participants also took part in a traditional games’ session led by Shane Lopez Johnston and Tommy Ghost Dog. Marissa Baumgartner led a breakout on breathwork and movement.

The breakout sessions highlighted the connection between physical activity, cultural knowledge and long-term community health. By bringing together wellness professionals and tribal community members, NPAIHB-Native Fitness aimed to promote practical strategies that can strengthen prevention programs and support healthier futures throughout Indian Country.

The two-day conference brought together tribal partners from 12 states to learn new ways to support their communities in the fight against diabetes. Through exercise education, plant-based recovery and nutrition, the event empowered Native people with practical tools to improve individual and community wellness. The gathering also reinforced the importance of combining culturally grounded practices with structured, sustainable wellness programs. Traditionally the conference was held at commercial venues Muckleshoot was the first Tribe to host on a reservation. It took a lot of great people to make this happen.

A special thank you to the following MIT support teams.

- Tribal Council Chairman Donny Stevenson, Welcome to Muckleshoot
- General Services
- MTS Tribal School
- Transportation
- Inter-governmental affairs
- MIT communications IGA
- HWC Facilities



Mindfulness GROUP

DISCOVER THE POWER OF MINDFULNESS

Join us for a practical, beginner friendly session designed to help you reconnect with the present moment even on your busiest days.

Why Attend?

- Better emotional regulation
- Tools to manage stress and anxiety
- Better communication and emotional awareness
- Deepened self-compassion

Facilitated by:
Yecenia Harris, MA,
LMHC, CMHS, EMMHS

Date: Sept. 24th, Oct. 1st,
8th, 15th; 22nd
Time: 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Location: BHP
Who: Adults 18+

Sign up at BHP: 253-804-8752

Celebrate Land, Community & Stewardship

Tomanamus Community Day

October 1, 2026
Medicine Eagle Flats 9am-2pm
Greenwater, WA (Just after Greenwater Fire Station)

Ride Up: MIT Tour Bus at Community Center
Load @ 8:15am
Depart CC @ 8:30 and 10:30
Returns from event site @ 11:30, 1:30, 3:30
OR
Carpool and Park: Park at Gold Hill Lot
(follow signs to FS Rd 70)

**Very Limited (20) Handicap/Elder Parking within yellow gate, that requires short walk or shuttle.*

Salmon Lunch
Raffle: Posted at 11:45pm (must be present to win)
Rock wall, archery, fishing pond, 40 natural resource related booths and more!

This is a non-smoking, school centered event.

MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE & RESCUE

EMERGENCY PREP

- ⚠ Make family evacuation & communications plan.
- ⚠ Keep flashlights & batteries.
- ⚠ Know two ways out of your neighborhood.
- ⚠ Follow emergency alerts & evacuations.
- ⚠ Build 2-week emergency kit.

FOLLOW US

www.ready.gov/kit

Help Improve Indigenous Lung Health

JOIN OUR RESEARCH STUDY TODAY!

What's involved?

- You will be asked to participate in three study visits over a 21-month period
- You will be randomly assigned to one of two study groups
- Your regular medical care will not change.
- Participants are provided with a \$40 gift card after each study visit for a total of \$120.

We Need Volunteers

The Muckleshoot Medical Clinic is partnering with Fred Hutch Cancer Center on a research study investigating lung cancer screening in tribal healthcare settings.

Your participation could help improve Indigenous health for future generations.

Who can participate?

- Adults aged 50-77
- Commercial tobacco use within the past 15 years
- Smoking history equivalent to:
 - One pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years
 - Two packs of cigarettes a day for 10 years
 - OR a similar amount

Interested? Scan this QR Code:

Or contact our research team:
Loretta Sohapp
Ph: (253) 939-6648 ext. 7231
Email: loretta.sohappy@muckleshoot-health.com

Fred Hutch Cancer Center

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE

MUCKLESHOOT ATHLETIC CLUB

WINTER WIFFLE LEAGUE

STARTING NOVEMBER 8TH
AGES 16+ - 4+ PLAYER ROSTER
TRIBAL MEMBERS & HOUSEHOLDS
LIMITED TEAM SPOTS AVAILABLE

SUNDAYS
11AM-5PM

702 M ST SE,
AUBURN, WA

Call Us
(253) 569-6308

For More Information
jacob.yarbrough@muckleshoot.nsn.us

P20 · SEPTEMBER 2026

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



WE ARE LOOKING FOR
CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY
MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL MEMBERS

We are gathering a current list of Muckleshoot Tribal members who are currently serving on active military duty.

Your service represents the strength, resilience, and commitment of our people. We want to ensure you are recognized, supported, and connected to available resources.



Please provide your name, branch of service, and contact information to:

Jessie.Herda@muckleshoot.nsn.us



For questions, please contact:

(253) 876-3256

MUCKLESHOOT VETERANS PROGRAM

Thank you for your service.

MUCKLESHOOT VETERANS DEPARTMENT



MUCKLESHOOT ELDERS

**SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS
TICKET DRAWING
SIGN UPS**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE SIGNED UP FOR
THE TICKET DRAWINGS: PLEASE CONTACT
US AT THE ELDERS COMPLEX FRONT
DESK (253) 876-2888

FALL HOOPS TRAINING

Basketball fitness challenges and skill drills—our Fall Hoops Training is where young athletes grow, play, and shine.

SIGN UP TODAY

AGES 7-17 MUCKLESHOOT COMMUNITY



Contact Nate Bisson Muckleshoot Y&T Center 253-410-1666



Register to vote

Online at **VoteWA.gov**
by October 26



Missed the deadline?

You can still register in person at a
Vote Center until 8 p.m. on Election
Day, November 3.



206-296-VOTE (8683)



elections@kingcounty.gov



King County
Elections



vote!

Vote. You Count.

Return your ballot by 8 p.m. sharp
on November 3 to the ballot drop
box at the Muckleshoot
Community Center!



Your vote matters.

Make it count.

- 1 Get registered at VoteWA.gov
- 2 Mark your votes and sign your envelope
- 3 Return your ballot to a drop box by 8 pm on Election Day!

Election Day is November 3

Need help?



206-296-VOTE (8683)



elections@kingcounty.gov



kingcounty.gov/elections

King County
Elections

vote!

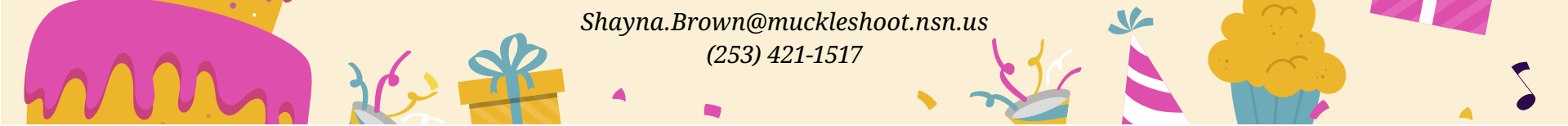


Muckleshoot Community

Birthday Shout Outs & Birth Announcements

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

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





Mardee Marquard

September 14th



Happy birthday Momma! We all Love you with all our hearts. Thank you Mom for all your Love and support.

Love Chris, Teddy, Malia and Nelson, Rhino, Dan, Taneesha, Mar, and Andrew <3

Kathy Filipo

SEPTEMBER 7TH

Happy birthday my katkat we love you!

From front desk



Happy Birthday Harley Jansen

September 7th



Happy 19th Birthday son! Have an awesome day! Love mom & dad

September 16th

Happy 85th Birthday Jackie Swanson!

Lots of Love from your children, grandchildren & great grandchildren



September 14th

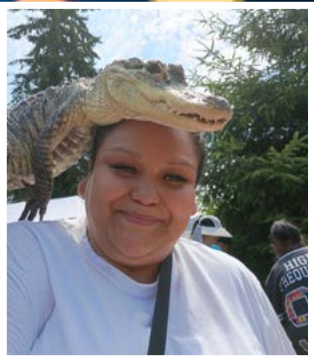
Happy Birthday, Nekole!

You are a blessing upon our family and we love you so much. You deserve the best year ever.

-Auntie, mom, and the kids

Happy b.day auntie~sister I hope you have the best day ever and many more to come!

Love, Sonya and girls



September 14th



Happy 16th Birthday to my oldest child, Alex Edwards - My Bub!

Mommy loves you so much, my son! Watching you grow into the young man you are today makes me so incredibly proud. 🥹❤️ I'm so proud of your growth, and I hope you know just how much you are loved.

I hope you enjoy your special day, my son! Happy 16th Birthday, Bub! Mommy loves you always and forever ❤️

MARDEE
MARQUARD



Happy Birthday to the best mom ever! ❤️
I'm so grateful for you and everything you do.
I hope your day is filled with so much love and
happiness. I love you so much! 🥰🎂

HAPPY
Birthday
Joylenne



September 4th

Happy birthday mama ❤️
I hope you had so much fun in Hawaii!
You deserve every single blessing you wish for 🎂❤️
you are the best mother / grandma any of us can wish for ❤️
rj loves his gram gram
happy birthday mama 💕

Makius
Douglas-Dawn
WhiteEagle



June 7th 2026



Welcome to the world our first son, grandson & last baby of our family! you are the one we needed to complete us and we love you so much. we needed you & we're so blessed. Kuthla would've loved you! We love you always Papa Man.

MUCKLESHOOT
INDIAN
TRIBE

Muckleshoot
Messenger

Birth
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Muckleshoot Messenger respectfully
welcomes birth announcements and is
honored to share your family's new addition

Shayna.brown@muckleshoot.nsn.us

(253-421-1517)

We Appreciate our
readers



Glory Raye
Stevenson-Zarate



hiit ǵǵwǵs happy birthday Glory Raye Stevenson-Zarate!!!
Congratulations to Jordan and Jason on the birth of their
first baby as Tina and I welcomed our 3rd grandchild to our
family and Tribe!!! Family and connection is what it's really all
about... Beautiful blessings and gratitude... we love you all!!!



Walking On...

Remembering and honoring our community members.

In Loving Memory of Lisa Marie Moses

May 7, 1974 – August 26, 2026

Lisa leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue through the many lives she touched.

She is lovingly survived by her spouse, John Elkins II; her sons, Dayton Fulgencio and Daynen Fulgencio; her daughters, Tamara Moses, Chanteya Hicks and her spouse Steven Petrie, and Shaughnessi Hicks; her daughter in-laws Shahayla Castillo, Desiree Elkins, Kaylie Elkins and Chelsea Elkins; her son in-laws John Elkins III and Antonio Castillo; her 16 grandchildren; her brother, Albert Moses; her sister, Eleanor Moses-Dowman and her spouse, Tony; along with her nieces, nephews, extended family, and countless friends and loved ones.

Lisa’s love was not measured by words, but by the way she showed up for the people she loved. Through a meal she prepared, something she created with her hands, time spent tending her garden, a laugh shared with family, or simply being present, Lisa had a special way of creating memories that will be cherished forever.

She gave love freely, and she leaves behind pieces of herself in everyone who knew her. Her laughter, her kindness, her strength, her creativity, and the memories she created with her family will continue to live on.

Although our hearts are broken by her passing, we are grateful for the years, the laughter, the love, and the countless memories we were blessed to share with Lisa.

Lisa will never truly be gone.

She will live on through her children, her 16 grandchildren, her family, her friends, her community, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing and loving her.

Until we meet again, may you rest peacefully, Lisa.

You were deeply loved.

You will be forever missed.

And you will never, ever be forgotten.