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MUCKLESHOOT MESSENGER

October 2026 Edition

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN RESERVATION — AUBURN, WA



A drawer of wood fire starters from the Arthur Ballard Collection.

Keeping Muckleshoot History Close to Home

By Katie Manzanares and Shayna Brown

New Collections and Exhibits Manager Kristine Leier is Preserving the Tribe's Past While Looking Toward the Future



Muckleshoot Vice Chairman Joins Mount Baker Groundbreaking

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Gathering in Remembrance, Moving Forward in Strength

By Shayna Brown · On September 30, 2026, the Muckleshoot community gathered in solidarity and reflection at the annual Every Child Matters Dinner, an evening dedicated to honoring the survivors of residential and boarding schools, remembering the children who never returned home, and supporting the ongoing journey of healing for Indigenous families and communities.

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Chairman's Corner: Happy Indigenous Peoples Day!

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New Flag Honors Native Peoples at Seattle City Hall

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Grandparents Brunch Brings Generations Together

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Learning from the Land at Tomanamus Community Day

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Chairman's Corner:
sləxʷx̌il ʔə ti ʔacʔaciɬtalbixʷ!
Happy Indigenous Peoples Day!



In his 1500 letter from prison (after being forcibly removed as Governor of the Viceroyalty of the Indies on Hispaniola to Doña Juana de la Torre — a friend and attendant to Queen Isabella of Spain), Christopher Columbus wrote IN HIS OWN WORDS:

"There are plenty of dealers who go about looking for girls; those from nine to ten are now in demand, and for all ages a good price must be paid…"

His very own words defending and justifying his rule of cruelty and its root economy directly based in the human trafficking of young Indigenous children and girls… even in his own time, his acts were seen as evil and heinous — and were in-fact the reason he was removed from rule and imprisoned by the Spanish royalty (and that's a historically low bar of standard to have to clear — being literally the same royals responsible for the Spanish Inquisition).

So… it is with this in mind when I see so many sad and angry people taking the chance to weaponize a strategically and intentionally placed, "Happy Columbus Day," toward and against Indigenous/Native/Tribal people, populations and our many incredible allies while we collectively celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, it seems pretty evident that it isn't a coincidence these are with very little question the same base and people acting as Epstein-apologist and/or deniers-excusing denying, justifying, defending or making every excuse under the Sun to keep the files (and therefore, the offenders) hidden in the dark and under shadow… given this, it is absolutely no wonder and makes perfect sense the proud claims by a current-day Administration and its supporters to be "proudly resurrecting" Columbus!!!

Yep — when you take a step back and look at it through this lens, you can see the direct through line from the 1500s right up through today and that all makes a heck of a lot of sense….

In the meantime, we proud Indigenous people will continue to gather and celebrate together in honor and recognition of the rich history and countless contributions our Muckleshoot/ Tribal/ Indigenous/ Native/ Indian people have and continue to make across this nation and right here in our bəqəlšuɬ homelands!

Donny Stevenson
Chairman, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Tribal, State Leaders Gather for Centennial Accord





By Katie Manzanares · Tribal and state leaders from across Washington gathered Oct. 12-14 at Snoqualmie Casino & Hotel for the 37th Annual Centennial Accord Meeting, hosted by the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

The annual meeting brings the the state's Tribes together with the governor and state agency leaders to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Centennial Accord, signed in 1989, provides a framework for the government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations and the state.

This year's agenda included Governor-Tribal Leader Conversations, State-Tribal Leaders Collaboration, and a Culture Night hosted by the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. The meeting began on Indigenous Peoples' Day, which included a panel hosted by the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

Eileen Richardson, Muckleshoot Tribal Council member, shared her thoughts about the gathering:

"There couldn't have been a better day to begin the Centennial Accord than Indigenous Peoples Day. It was great to sit among tribal leaders from across the state of WA. Hearing everyone talk about their concerns and commitments to their people, the concerns and commitments we all have as Indian Tribes. We all have a shared responsibility and commitments to our people. When we come together in the same space to voice these concerns together it makes it much more meaningful and impactful. Governor Bob Ferguson and staff did well listening and responding to Tribes. The hope for next year is that he will be scheduled to stay the entirety of the time, rather than 1 1/2 of the 3 days."

Gov. Bob Ferguson marked the opening of the meeting on social media, writing, "It was meaningful today to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day as we began the 2026 Centennial Accord meeting, hosted by the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe." He said the annual meetings bring Washington's Tribal Nations and state leaders together to strengthen their partnership.

A Letter from Muckleshoot Tribal Council: 2026 Muckleshoot Canoe Landing



Reflecting back during Indigenous Peoples day we wanted to thank you for your support during the 2026 Muckleshoot Canoe Landing at Alki Beach. We welcomed seventy-seven canoes and hundreds of visitors to the shore as they stopped at our homelands for rest before they made their way to Nisqually. This is a tradition which we honor as a part of our heritage, cultural identity, and responsibility as Muckleshoot people, the Federally Recognized Treaty Tribe of King County. This event was an expression of our cultural sovereignty, tribal relationships, and our reciprocity to those on the journey. Your support ensured we could practice our cultural identity, host visitors from near and far, and do so safely and in an organized and respectful manner. Thank you for your continued partnership; we value your time, expertise, and contributions. We look forward to continuing our work together in the future. Please accept this letter as a token of our respect, gratitude, and acknowledgement of the contributions you made that made our event possible and a success.

We raise our hands to you.
Muckleshoot Tribal Council

Muckleshoot Canoe Family Performs at Washington State Fair

By Katie Manzanares · The Muckleshoot Canoe Family joined several other Tribes on Sept. 24 for Native American Days at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. The event brought together Tribal communities to share their songs, dances, and traditions with fairgoers while celebrating the rich cultures of the region. The Muckleshoot Canoe Family proudly represented the Tribe, sharing traditions that continue to be passed down.









Muckleshoot Vice Chairman Joins Seattle Redevelopment Groundbreaking



By Katie Manzanares · Muckleshoot Tribal Vice Chairman John Daniels Jr. joined community members, project partners, and local leaders Oct. 15 in Seattle for the groundbreaking of Rainier Rising Early Learning Center, and the Mount Baker Redevelopment, a project combining affordable housing with early learning and community spaces.

The first phase will include 239 affordable rental homes near the Mount Baker light rail station. The full redevelopment is planned to provide more than 400 homes for more than 1,000 people. One-third of the homes will be reserved for households earning up to 30% of the area median income, and 60% will have two or more bedrooms. The homes are expected to remain affordable under a 99-year ground lease with the City of Seattle.

The project is being developed by El Centro de la Raza and Mercy Housing Northwest, with the University of Washington, the city, the state, and other partners. The work follows years of collaboration and community engagement that began in 2018. The site was formerly home to a UW laundry facility.

The Rainier Rising Early Learning Campus will include eight classrooms designed to serve more than 120 children from infancy through preschool. The campus will also provide professional development and training for early learning educators. Plans for the broader development include public open space, a community hub, and commercial space intended for local and BIPOC-owned businesses.

"It was an honor to be part of this important milestone celebrating community, opportunity, and a brighter future for so many families and children," Daniels said. "Congratulations to El Centro de la Raza, Mercy Housing Northwest, and all the partners working together to make this vision a reality."

The first phase of the redevelopment and the early learning campus are scheduled for completion by 2029.









New Flag Honors Native Peoples at Seattle City Hall

By Katie Manzanares · A new flag honoring the Native peoples of the Seattle region was raised outside City Hall on Friday, Oct. 9, ahead of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Muckleshoot Tribal Council Chairman Donny Stevenson joined Seattle Mayor Katie B. Wilson, U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Suquamish Councilmember Jay Mills, and community representatives for the ceremony. Lummi artist Louie Gong designed the flag, whose image has become a visual symbol of Indigenous Peoples' Day in Seattle.

The flag-raising was a collaboration among the City of Seattle, the Indigenous Advisory Council, and the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. Wilson said the flag recognizes Native Seattle's past, present, and future, and pointed to the city's ongoing work with Tribal governments and Native organizations.

"Speaking to help tell our story, in our own words ... is so important and such an honor," said Stevenson.

Indigenous Peoples' Day was observed Monday, Oct. 12.

Continued from P1:

Gathering in Remembrance, Moving Forward in Strength

... The message of Every Child Matters extends beyond words on an orange shirt. It is a call to action for all of us to honor survivors, educate ourselves about this history, uplift Indigenous voices, and create a future where every child is valued, respected, and connected to their culture. Native Nations in the U.S. also recognize this day, acknowledging the shared history and supporting healing and reconciliation. The day emphasizes that "Every Child Matters" and encourages reflection on the lasting impacts of these schools.

The responsibility to remember belongs to all of us, and the work of healing continues with every conversation, every act of support, and every commitment to protecting future generations. We encourage everyone to carry the message of Every Child Matters beyond this event, by learning the history, sharing the truth, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, and standing together to protect the well-being, culture, and future of our children.



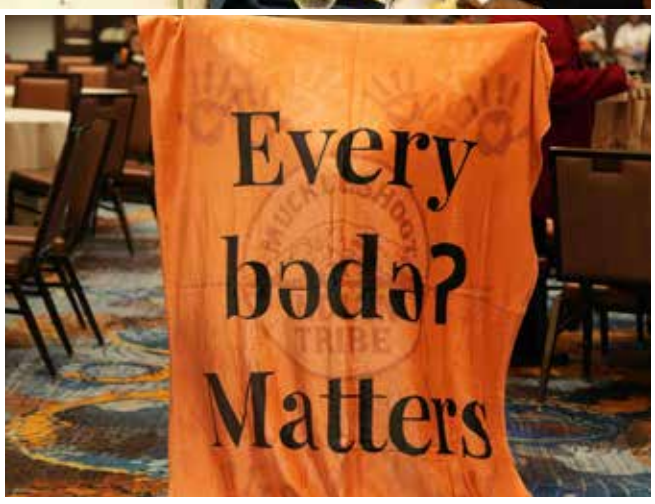












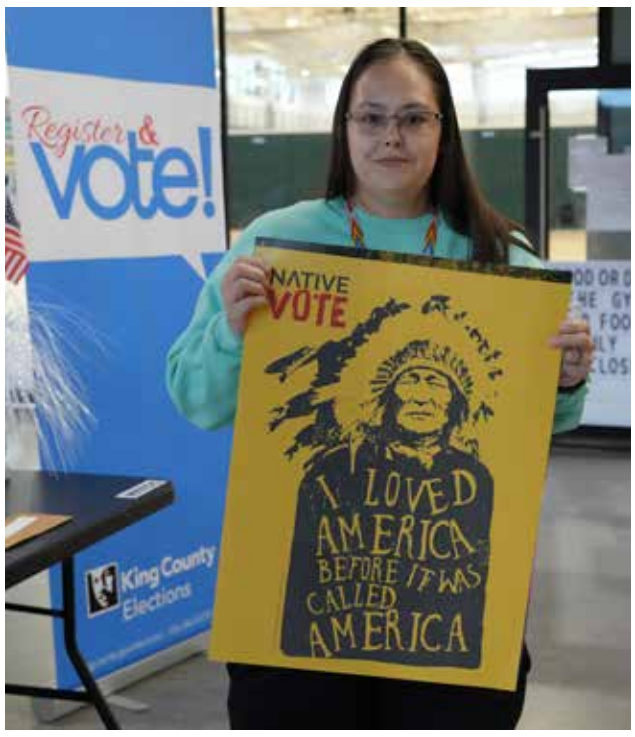


Voters Get Registration Help at Community Event

By Katie Manzanares · The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Department hosted a voter registration event Oct. 22 at the MIT Community Center. Thirteen people registered to vote, and many other already registered voters came to support the event.

Representatives from King County Elections, Native Vote Washington, and Intergovernmental Affairs staff helped attendees register, update their registrations, find election information, and get answers to their questions. Everyone also enjoyed free swag and a raffle open to all who joined the event.

Many community members also came through to get information and receive voter support, including Elders and children of all ages. Their presence highlighted the importance of intergenerational engagement and helping young people to understand voting and the significance of civic engagement through a Native lens. The event was a Tribal Council lead initiative; IGA would like to thank them for their continued support and leadership in this engagement. Finally, the Athen's Pizza was a hit among all attendees!













Continued from P1:

Keeping Muckleshoot History Close to Home

By Katie Manzanares and Shayna Brown

We sat down with Kristine Leier, Muckleshoot's new Collections and Exhibits Manager, to talk about the stories held in the Tribe's collections and the work of preserving them.

Inside the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's collections, one basket tells a story of family, care, and huckleberry picking.

The basket was made by Amy Kimball Starr and given to her great granddaughter, Georgiana Starr, who was born in 1940. According to Leier, it originally held materials to help care for the new baby. The basket stayed in the family and was later used for huckleberry picking at Potato Hill, in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, south of Mount Rainier.

"I'm always drawn to objects with stories," Leier said. "Especially if you know who made an item or the purpose behind it, the intention."

Now, Leier is preparing the basket for a new exhibit in the Philip Starr Building, where it will be displayed alongside a photograph of Amy and another of Georgiana holding the basket with her father.

For Leier, Muckleshoot's new Collections and Exhibits Manager, having those details makes all the difference. An object can tell part of the story, but knowing who made it, who used it, and where it has been gives it life. And there are plenty of stories waiting to be told.

Tucked inside the Philip Starr Building is a collection that many Muckleshoot members and employees may not realize is there, or that they can request to see.

Baskets line shelves inside the environmentally controlled collections room. Drawers hold stick game pieces, fishing tools, carvings, and other cultural materials. Nearby, archival boxes contain photographs, documents, maps, newspapers, and other records. There are oral histories, cassette tapes, digital media, rare books, Tribal publications, and archaeological collections.

Some items have extensive histories attached to them. Others still leave questions. Learning those stories is part of what Leier loves about the work.

Finding Her Way Into the Museum World

Leier was born and raised in Walla Walla, Washington, and grew up with history already around her.

Her father worked as an archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla, and family vacations frequently included stops at National Park Service sites.

"I think that sparked my interest in history from a young age," Leier said.

Still, like many people trying to figure out what they want to do with their lives, she didn't immediately know what that interest would become. At Washington State University, mentors helped her begin connecting the pieces. One was Mary Collins, who Leier said had previously worked with her father and was director of the Museum of Anthropology.

At the same time, Leier spent her summers working as an interpretive ranger at Whitman Mission National Historic Site in Walla Walla, where she had opportunities to work with the museum collection.

"I think those two experiences kind of helped me figure out, like, 'Oh, this is a path I want to pursue,'" she said.

Leier earned her undergraduate degree from WSU before completing a master's degree in museum studies at Arizona State University. Her first job after graduate school was as museum curator at Nez Perce National Historical Park, where she would spend the next nine years. The position gave her extensive experience caring for collections, developing exhibits, working with Tribal communities, and understanding the responsibility that comes with caring for cultural materials belonging to a culture other than her own.



Drawer of gaming bones and sticks



Drawer with bow case and arrows.

"I'm not Native American," Leier said. "So for me, it was just really nice to work with others in the community there" and learn how to appropriately care for items and understand the considerations surrounding them.

After nearly a decade in Lewiston, Leier and her husband were ready for a change.

They had talked for several years about eventually moving to Western Washington. Leier has two brothers, one in Renton and one in Port Orchard, as well as extended family in the region. With two young sons of her own, being closer to family became even more important.

Then she saw the Muckleshoot position.

"I read the job description. I was like, this is really very similar to the work I'm already doing," Leier said.

She had never seen the Tribe's collection before accepting the position. That meant arriving at Muckleshoot also meant discovering what was here.

After years working with Plateau material culture, Leier is now immersing herself in Coast Salish collections and Muckleshoot history.

"I always really like coming into a new collection or working with new collections," she said. "Kind of like, what new things can I bring to the table here?"

More Than What is On Display

Leier started in May and quickly found there was plenty to do.

As Collections and Exhibits Manager, she is responsible for far more than the artifacts people may see in display cases.

The Tribe's collections include archives, photographs, paper documents, manuscripts, maps, digital media, oral histories, videos, library materials, objects, and archaeological collections.



Clockwise from top left: coiled baskets, drawer of canoe carving tools, whale bone carving, drawer of canoe models made by various tribal members.

"I think people realize we have the objects," Leier said. "I don't think people often realize archives is part of that."

The archaeology collection is another large part of the program. The Tribe is an official repository, and archaeological materials make up a significant portion of what is cared for by the department.

Some materials are housed at the Philip Starr Building, while additional and oversized collections are stored at Reynolds Farm and Indian Agency is a historic Muckleshoot site with a log cabin. The Tribe's main goal of the property is to eventually use the buildings and landscape as an interpretive site for Tribal Members, schoolchildren, and the public.

Then there is the daily work that most people never see.

Each object has to be cataloged and tracked. Information is entered into a museum database so items can be located for exhibits and research. Objects may need specialized archival housing or custom supports.

During a tour of the collection, Leier pulled open drawers where individual pieces rested in carefully constructed trays. Some were supported with archival cushioning to keep them stable as drawers are moved.

The room itself is controlled, too.

Generally, Leier said, museum collections are kept between approximately 64 and 68 degrees. Relative humidity is typically maintained around 45% to 55%, although the ideal environment can vary depending on the material.

For metal, for example, lower humidity may be preferable.

Those numbers may seem like small details, but poor storage conditions can have lasting consequences.

Heat and humidity can contribute to mold, pests, corrosion, and other deterioration. Once damage occurs, it may be difficult, or impossible, to reverse.

That is one reason Leier is bringing in a conservator to conduct a condition survey of the Tribe's collection.

The assessment will identify objects needing immediate attention, determine which may require professional treatment, and help Leier develop priorities for future conservation funding.

One object already on her mind is a fragile firearm believed to date to around the 1850s.

According to information associated with



Child size coiled basket, circa 1900.



Drawer of spoons and bowls.

its donation, the firearm was found near the Green River. Its condition is visibly fragile, and Leier would like to eventually exhibit it, but not before it can be properly evaluated and stabilized.

Especially considering what was happening in this region during that period, Leier understands the significance of preserving an object that may date back that far. But she is equally careful not to assign a history to an object that the records cannot confirm.

That attention to documentation comes up again and again as she walks through the collection.

When History Has a Name

Knowing where an object came from can transform it.

Throughout the collections room are beautiful baskets, cedar items, tools used for fishing, carvings, stick game pieces, beadwork, and other cultural materials.

But not everything has a known Muckleshoot maker. That is what makes objects with strong documentation particularly valuable to Leier.

The Amy Kimball Starr basket is one example. Another potential addition to the collection is an original land patent connected to Willie Jake, one of Muckleshoot's original allottees.

Leier recently met with a man who had acquired historical photographs. During their conversation, he showed her the document and indicated he was willing to sell it.

"That would be a wonderful resource for the Tribe to have because this belongs here," Leier said. "It belongs to the Tribe."

Bringing materials like that home is one way the collection continues to grow.

The Tribe also holds approximately 300 objects associated with the Arthur Ballard collection, according to Leier. The materials date to the early decades of the 20th century, and some were acquired from Muckleshoot people during that period.

There are still questions surrounding the history and circumstances under which some of those materials were originally collected. That, too, is part of the work.

The associated Ballard papers are one of the archives' most requested collections. Because they contain particularly sensitive information, however, access is restricted to Muckleshoot Tribal members and requires an additional request process.

Leier is also interested in learning whether there may eventually be opportunities to bring additional original historical materials back to Muckleshoot from institutions that hold them today.

It all comes back to something she repeatedly emphasized during the tour: the more information that remains with an object, the more meaningful it becomes.

A basket is different when you know who wove it. A photograph changes when someone can identify the people standing in it.

And an everyday object made today may become an important piece of Muckleshoot history 50 or 100 years from now.

History does not have a required age.

Leier said contemporary pieces can be intentionally collected and preserved now, with the artist's name and story documented from the beginning.

That prevents future generations from having to ask the same questions she is trying to answer about older objects today.

The Collection is Here to be Used

Perhaps one of the most important things Leier wants members and employees to know is that the collection is not simply storage.

People can use it.

Anyone interested in conducting research can contact the program and complete a research request form. Requests go through Leier's supervisor, Melissa Calvert, for approval, and access depends on the material requested.

Some information is restricted because of cultural sensitivity or privacy. Other collections are available for research by members, employees, families, or outside researchers depending on the request.

Muckleshoot members can also use the archives to research family history.

Staff can help search photographs, documents, and other records for information about relatives, families, and Muckleshoot history.

The program also offers a service that may be particularly useful to families: digital scanning of historical photographs.



Leier showing a plank house model from the Arthur Ballard Collection.

Members can bring photographs in to be scanned without giving up the originals. Families receive their photographs back, while digital copies can help strengthen the Tribe's historical record when permission is given.

In fact, Leier said many of the photographs already in the Tribe's database were acquired that way. There are still gaps she hopes members may eventually help fill.

One example is documentation from the struggles over fishing rights of the 1960s and 1970s. While the Tribe has some material, Leier said the collection does not fully reflect the amount of Muckleshoot history from that era.

Family photographs, documents, and firsthand knowledge can help.

The program can even provide temporary storage for important objects.

Members who have items they want kept in a secure, environmentally controlled space can talk with the program about temporarily housing them. Ownership does not transfer to the Tribe simply because an object is stored there.

Sometimes items eventually return to their owners. In other situations, the Tribe may later purchase an object and formally add it to the collection.

Looking Forward

For someone who has only been at Muckleshoot since May, Leier already has a long list of projects.

Some will be immediately visible.

She is refreshing temporary exhibit cases in the Philip Starr Building and plans to rotate objects approximately every four to six months.

The Amy Kimball Starr basket will be one of those exhibits. Another will feature cedar hats made by Doris Allen. Leier also developed the Nesika Club a 1930s exhibit which is currently installed, bringing together objects, photographs, and newspaper clippings. She lights up when those pieces can be put together.

Historic photographs showing the same objects now sitting in the collection are particularly exciting because they allow viewers to see the object in context rather than simply behind glass.

Other projects will happen mostly behind the scenes.

There is a backlog of collections that need to be processed and cataloged following a period when the position was vacant. Leier is working through database records and hopes eventually to move the collection into updated museum software that could make research and access easier.

She is also being included in conversations surrounding the Tribe's planned interpretive center on the Seattle waterfront. While details are still being developed, historical photographs and potentially other materials from the collection could play a role.

At the Reynolds property, Leier hopes the Tribe can eventually develop a dedicated archaeological repository.

Bringing those collections together under one roof would improve storage and free additional room at the Philip Starr Building as the rest of the collection continues to grow.

And Leier is thinking about the exhibits members and employees already know.

Some have been in place for years.

Rather than simply replacing them, she is considering ways to refresh those spaces with new imagery, changing digital elements, and more interactive experiences.

The goal is not change for the sake of change. It is finding new ways to make people stop, look, and connect.

Passing it On

There is another part of the job Leier hopes to grow at Muckleshoot: opportunities for young people.

At Nez Perce National Historical Park, working with youth, volunteers, and interns became one of her favorite parts of her job.

Museum work is a niche career. So are archaeology, collections management, conservation, public history, and exhibit development.

For someone who has never been exposed to those fields, it may never occur to them that these jobs exist.

Leier remembers being that young person.

Her father's archaeology career introduced her to history. Mentors helped her understand the possibilities. Working at Whitman Mission let her experience museum collections firsthand.

She would like to offer that same kind of exposure here.

"It was one of my favorite aspects of the job, just getting younger generations excited about this area of work and knowing what those options are," Leier said.

She hopes internships and other opportunities could eventually give Muckleshoot youth direct experience with the collection.

For a Tribe with a collection that will continue growing long after any one employee is gone, that matters.

Because ultimately, the work happening inside the Philip Starr Building is not simply about keeping old objects safe.

It is about making sure a basket remains connected to Amy Kimball Starr and Georgiana Starr.

It is about identifying the people in old photographs before those names are lost.

It is about preserving oral histories before voices disappear, bringing important documents back home when possible, caring for objects properly, and documenting what Muckleshoot people are creating today so future generations will not have to wonder who made them.

And it is about making sure members know this history is here, and that they can come see it.

"We're here and we are available for any of their research needs, if it's a work project or just a personal one," Leier said.

For Leier, the collection is not finished. It is still being built, researched, understood, and brought home, one story at a time.



Cedar hats made by Doris Allen on exhibit in the Wildlife & Culture Department in the Philip Starr Administrative Building.



Leier and the flintlock rifle found in a hollowed-out log along the Green River. It is believed to date back to the Treaty Wars in the 1850's.

First Father Daughter Dance Celebrates Family

By Katie Manzanares · Fathers and daughters came together for an evening of dancing, laughter, and quality time during Muckleshoot's first Father-Daughter Dance, held on National Daughters Day at the Muckleshoot Event Center.

Dressed up for the special occasion, fathers and daughters arrived ready to make a night of it. Throughout the evening, families enjoyed food, stepped into the photo booth for fun photos, and filled the dance floor together.

For some, it was a chance for dads to take their young daughters out for a special night. For others, it was a reminder that daughters never outgrow the opportunity to spend meaningful time with their fathers. The evening highlighted a bond that continues through every stage of life.

Holding the dance on National Daughters Day made the celebration especially fitting, giving fathers an opportunity to honor their daughters while creating new memories together.

Events Planning Manager Frankie Lezard said a Mother-Son Dance is also planned, offering another opportunity for Muckleshoot families to celebrate their relationships.

As the music played throughout the evening, fathers and daughters danced and enjoyed their time together.

Celebrating family is at the heart of Muckleshoot. Events like the Father Daughter Dance create space to strengthen relationships, celebrate one another, and make memories that families can carry with them for years to come.

Grandparents Brunch Brings Generations Together

By Shayna Brown · On Sunday, September 27, 2026, Muckleshoot families and community members gathered for a heartwarming Grandparents Brunch celebrating the special role grandparents and Elders play in our lives and community. The event brought together multiple generations for a morning filled with delicious food, and meaningful connections. Grandparents enjoyed spending time with their children and grandchildren, sharing stories and memories that made the gathering truly memorable. Events like the Grandparents Brunch remind us of the importance of honoring our Elders and recognizing the wisdom, guidance, and love they pass on to future generations. Their teachings and support help strengthen family bonds and preserve the values and traditions that enrich our community. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success. We are grateful for the grandparents and Elders whose dedication, resilience, and care continue to inspire our families every day.




2026 C.C.E.O.P. Summer Program Update

Growing Opportunities. Building Skills. Preparing Muckleshoot Youth for the Future.

The College, Career & Education Opportunities Program (C.C.E.O.P.) continues to grow—and with that growth comes even more opportunities for Muckleshoot youth to work, learn, explore their interests, and prepare for their futures.

This summer marked an exciting milestone as C.C.E.O.P. increased its hiring capacity to 100 youth, making the 2026 Summer Session our largest to date. Through partnerships with 23 Muckleshoot Tribal departments and five local businesses, youth gained hands-on work experience while developing important skills in communication, teamwork, responsibility, and professionalism.

More importantly, these experiences gave our youth the opportunity to discover their strengths, explore different careers, and begin imagining what their futures could look like.

By the Numbers

- 100 summer hiring capacity
- 23 Tribal department partners
- 5 local business partners
- 130 school-year applicants screened and interviewed
- 94 planned school-year hires

Growing Our Team



As C.C.E.O.P. grows, we are also expanding our team to provide more individualized support to our youth.

We welcomed Phoenix Dorsey-Billy, our 11th & 12th Grade Program Manager, who supports upperclassmen as they prepare for graduation, college, training, career pathways, and life after high school.

Kallen Blacksmith, our Youth Development Coordinator, develops workshops, curriculum, cultural activities, field trips, and other experiences that encourage youth development and career exploration.

We also welcomed Genevieve Yates, our Youth Intake Specialist, who helps guide youth and families through the application, eligibility, interview, onboarding, and placement process.

Together, these positions strengthen our ability to support youth from the moment they apply through their work experience and preparation for their next steps.

Tomanamus Youth Crew — Year Two



This summer marked our second year partnering with Manulife and continuing the Tomanamus Youth Crew. Led by Youth Crew Supervisor Jerry Emery Jr., six youth participated in hands-on environmental stewardship and outdoor work while building teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and a stronger connection to the land.

The partnership continues to provide a unique opportunity for youth to develop practical job skills while contributing to meaningful projects.



Exploring What Comes Next





"Every experience is another opportunity for our youth to discover their strengths and begin building their future."

Career and education exploration remained an important part of the summer.

Youth visited Western Washington University, The Evergreen State College, and Perry Technical Institute, where they learned about college life, admissions, financial aid, skilled trades, technical programs, and different career pathways.

C.C.E.O.P. also partnered with Breakwater Investment Group for a financial literacy workshop focused on budgeting, saving, investing, and making informed financial decisions.

Youth also participated in the Muckleshoot Indian Casino Career Fair, connecting directly with all Muckleshoot Casino and Resort departments, and career professionals.

Whether a young person chooses college, technical training, an apprenticeship, skilled trades, or entering the workforce, our goal is to give them the information and experiences they need to make decisions that are right for their future.

Looking Ahead to 2026–2027

The momentum continues into our upcoming school-year session.

C.C.E.O.P. screened and interviewed 130 youth applicants for the 2026–2027 session and plans to hire 94 youth to work from October 14, 2026 through May 28, 2027.

We currently have 17 job sites within the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and five local business partners, providing approximately 80 youth placement opportunities.

To place all of our youth, we are still seeking an additional 15–20 positions.

Help Us Create More Opportunities

If your department is interested in mentoring a youth employee, we would love to hear from you.

Being a C.C.E.O.P. job-site mentor is more than providing a youth with a place to work. It is an opportunity to help a young person learn responsibility, professionalism, communication, teamwork, and confidence—skills they can carry with them throughout their lives.

For information about becoming a C.C.E.O.P. job site, please contact:

Genevieve Yates,
Youth Intake Specialist
Genevieve.Yates@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Kallen Blacksmith,
Youth Development Coordinator
Kallen.Blacksmith@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Completed applications may also be submitted to CCEOP@muckleshoot.nsn.us.

For additional program information:

Michele Rodarte
9th–10th Grade Program Manager
(253) 876-3291

Phoenix Dorsey-Billy
11th–12th Grade Program Manager
(253) 876-8092

Investing in Our Youth, Together

We are proud of how much C.C.E.O.P. continues to grow, but we are even more proud of the youth we have the opportunity to serve. Every job placement, mentor, workshop, college visit, and community partnership helps our youth discover

their strengths and take another step toward their future.

Thank you to our Tribal departments, community partners, local businesses, mentors, and families who continue to invest in Muckleshoot youth and make these opportunities possible.













Roll and Register Brings Voter Help to the Rink

By Katie Manzanares · Roll & Register brought free skating, a live DJ, giveaways, and voter registration assistance to El Centro Skate Rink in Federal Way on Saturday, Oct. 17. Vice Chair John Daniels Jr. was among those at the event, where young adults ages 18-24 could get help registering to vote. The event was held in partnership with the Seattle Seahawks, the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, and King County Elections.







Muckleshoot Higher Education End-of-Summer Barbeque









Muckleshoot Higher Education wrapped up the summer with its annual end-of-summer barbecue, bringing staff together for an afternoon of food, games, and fun.

Staff enjoyed a variety of games and activities, shared a meal together, and put their culinary creativity to the test with a friendly dip contest. The barbecue provided a chance for staff to relax, connect, and celebrate another successful summer together.

Photos collage: Nicole Cabral from NWIC, Sahara Singh, Josie Benito, Patrick Eagle, Phoenix Dorsey-Billy, Dr. Denise Bill, Justice Bill, Justine Koble, Kallan Blacksmith, Angela Dodd, Andrea Gonzales

Muckleshoot Scholarship Program Orientation



The Muckleshoot Scholarship Program held its annual BIG Orientation on September 1 at the Muckleshoot Community Center, welcoming approximately 140 students, with about half attending in person and the other half participating online.

The orientation gave students an opportunity to learn more about the rules and expectations of the Muckleshoot Scholarship Program while reviewing best practices for success as a college student. Students also enjoyed a Hawaiian barbecue lunch and had the chance to participate in raffles featuring a variety of great prizes.

The annual orientation helps students start the academic year informed, prepared, and connected to the resources available through the Muckleshoot Scholarship Program.









Muckleshoot Scholarship* Orientation

WINTER QUARTER/ SPRING SEMESTER 2027

Thursday, December 10th at 12-1 pm

in-person or on zoom

Muckleshoot Tribal College Room 204

https://muckleshoot-nsn-us.zoom.us/my/advisor

Students receiving Scholarship must attend Orientation once per academic year

*MIT Scholarship is for enrolled Muckleshoot Tribal Members only

ScholarshipsDept@muckleshoot.nsn.us

MUCKLESHOOT SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTS

APPLICATION PARTY

High School Seniors, current Scholarship students, and prospective college students,

Join your College and Career Advisors at the Tribal College

39811 Auburn Enumclaw Rd SE

Wednesday, November 4th

1:00-4:00pm

Tribal College RM 205

Receive support with:

- Applications to college
- FAFSA
- Scholarship applications

and more!

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

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

ScholarshipsDept@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Learning from the Land at Tomanamus Community Day

By Shayna Brown · On October 1st, 2026, Muckleshoot Tribal members and community members gathered in the foothills of Mount Rainier at the Tribe's Tomanamus Forest property in Medicine Eagle Flats, for a day of celebration and connection. Community Day offered families the chance to learn about the programs shaping the future of this land while enjoying activities, cultural stations, and the annual delicious salmon lunch.

Throughout the day, families discovered, created, and had fun moving through hands-on learning spaces that highlighted culture and stewardship. From educational exhibits and cultural demonstrations to creative activities and outdoor exploration, each station highlighted the importance of the role every generation plays in preserving Muckleshoot values, knowledge, and traditions.

Youth and families were encouraged to ask questions, build new skills, and deepen their understanding of how traditional teachings and modern conservation efforts work together to care for the land. This annual event provides the space to build knowledge, confidence, and relationships that will guide the next generation as stewards of our homelands.















Muckleshoot Employee Softball Game

Photos by Sean Daniels · Muckleshoot Indian Tribe employees took to the field on Sept.28 for a softball game. The GS-Cemetery department came away with the win. This tournament is designed as an opportunity for Muckleshoot Tribal departments to come together, build relationships, encourage teamwork, and have fun.





































Jakobe Elkins: Yakama Nation's Warrior

Submitted By: Rowan Elkins - My son, Jakobe Elkins, has run for Muckleshoot Skopabsh royalty for the past three years. Skopabsh means a lot to our family because his great-grandma Jeannette started that powwow, and Jakobe has always wanted to represent it. Although he hasn't been selected over the last 3 years, he kept dancing and decided to run for Yakama Nation Warrior. Now he is Yakama Nation's Warrior!

Jakobe is 9 years old and a proud Fancy Dancer. He is Muckleshoot, Yakama, and Nooksack, and proudly calls himself Yakashoot. He goes to school at Muckleshoot Tribal School. He loves to draw, play all kinds of sports, and dance for his grandparents. His parents are Rowan and Nick Elkins. His siblings are Darius and Zuri Elkins.

Jakobe is the proud grandson of the late Jeannette Morrison-Miller, Dale Miller, and Betrina "Geronimo" Johnny. He is also the proud grandson of Della Morrison, Jonathan Sampson, Larry Tecumseh Sr., Marcie Elkins, Mitzi Cross, Ramona Elkins, Brook Boone, Nick Johnny, and John Elkins Sr.

Jakobe is excited to represent Yakama Nation as Warrior and will carry the title proudly while honoring all of his family and his Muckleshoot, Yakama, and Nooksack roots. He worked so hard in these pageants and he is honored to represent Yakama Nation. His day is finally here where he was chosen to represent Yakama Nation as Warrior for NID pow-wow. Mom is so proud of you Jakobe, your grandma Jeannette Morrison-Miller who created and started the Muckleshoot powwows would've been so proud of you, too!



BHP Family and Youth Services

FAMILY CAMP

PRESENTED BY MUCKLESHOOT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



SPOTS ARE LMITED PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Black Diamond Camp Cabin Style Accomodations

Outdoor fun, family bonding, cultural activities and more

Overnight fun!

All food provided

REGISTER NOW VIA QR CODE

Questions please call BHP 253-804-8752

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

SAUNA & STEAM ROOM CLOSURE NOTICE

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE



SAUNA & STEAM ROOMS CLOSED

Equipment Replacement & Facility Improvements

CLOSED BEGINNING	ANTICIPATED OPENING
11/04/2026	02/08/2027

WHY THE SAUNA & STEAM ROOMS ARE CLOSING

The sauna and steam rooms are more than 20 years old and have reached the end of their serviceable life. This project will:

- Remove and replace the existing sauna and steam room equipment
- Add a family restroom to the pool deck

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

CONTACT

Ryan.Anderson@muckleshoot.nsn.us
253-285-4067

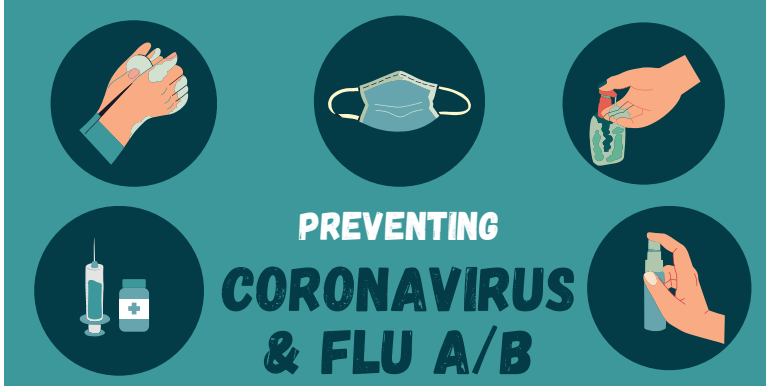
Closure Notice | Health & Wellness Center

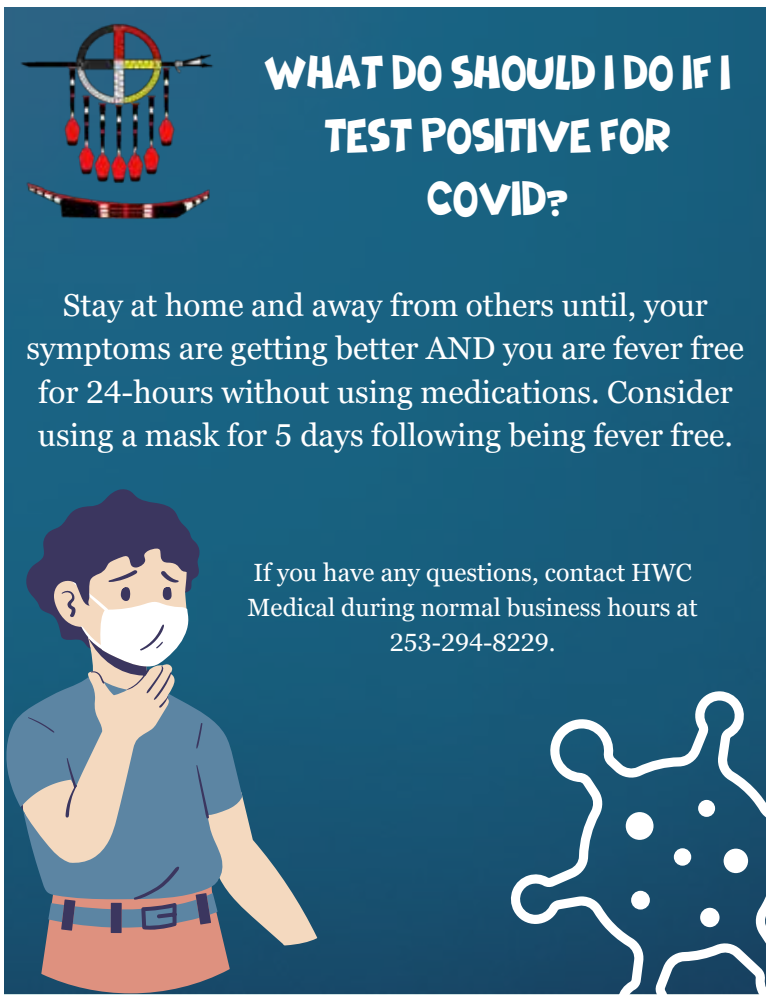
MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE & RESCUE

FIRE PREVENTION

- Ensure you have working smoke alarms.
- Practice home escape plan.
- Keep heaters 3 feet from combustibles.
- Stay in kitchen while cooking.
- Use battery operated candles.
- Have chimneys and fireplaces cleaned.
- Charge batteries safely.








INTRODUCING OUR MUCKLESHOOT LANGUAGE
BINGO App
Enjoy bəqəlšułucid Animal Bingo with Friends & Family.
You Can Pick a Bingo Card or be the Bingo Caller.
Muckleshoot Bingo
Download
Available on Apple and Andriod Devices


MAC WWL
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


Are you registered to vote?
vote
REGISTER TO VOTE OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TODAY ONLINE, BY MAIL, OR IN PERSON.
TO REGISTER, VISIT → VOTEWA.GOV


Muckleshoot Athletic Club Presents
WWL 101
Learn how to play
Pitching + Hitting + General WWL 101
MAC WWL
WEDNESDAYS
October 7 - December 2
5PM-6PM
702 M St. SE Auburn, WA 98002
PITCHING
- Throw a Wiffle ball
- Learn different pitches
- Throw strikes
- Pitch against hitters
HITTING
- Hit moving pitches
- Learn when to swing
- Practice different pitches
- Build confidence
WWL 101
- How games work
- Basic rules
- Strike zone + pitching rules
- Ask questions + experiment


Introducing our
bəqəlšułucid
Coloring Book App
Muckleshoot Coloring Book
Download
Available on Apple and Andriod Devices

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





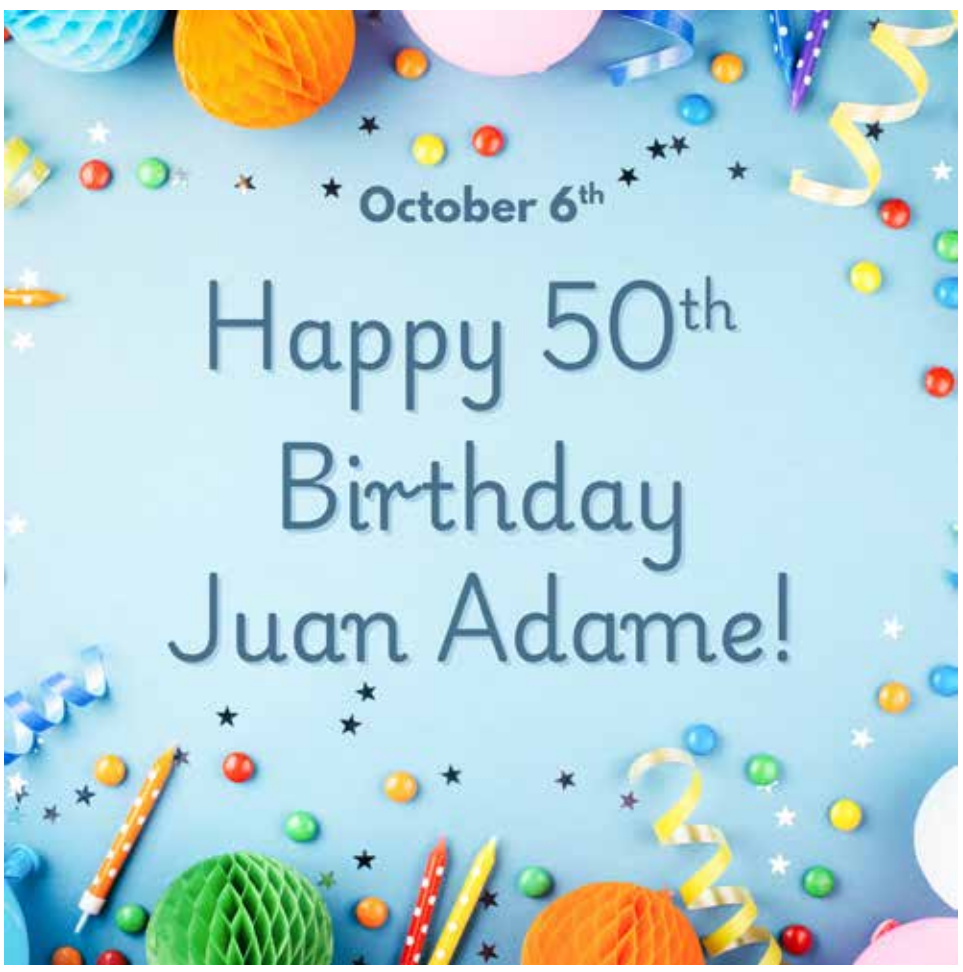




Muckleshoot Community Birthday Shout Outs & Birth Announcements

(continued)





Happy Birthday to Zuri, Kobe & Darius!
Three siblings, one special birthday! Because you all share the same birthday, Mom will forever jokingly call you her "triplets." ❤️

We are so thankful and blessed to celebrate another year of your lives. Each of you has grown, overcome challenges, and shown so much strength in your own way. Watching you grow into the amazing young people you are becoming is one of our greatest blessings.

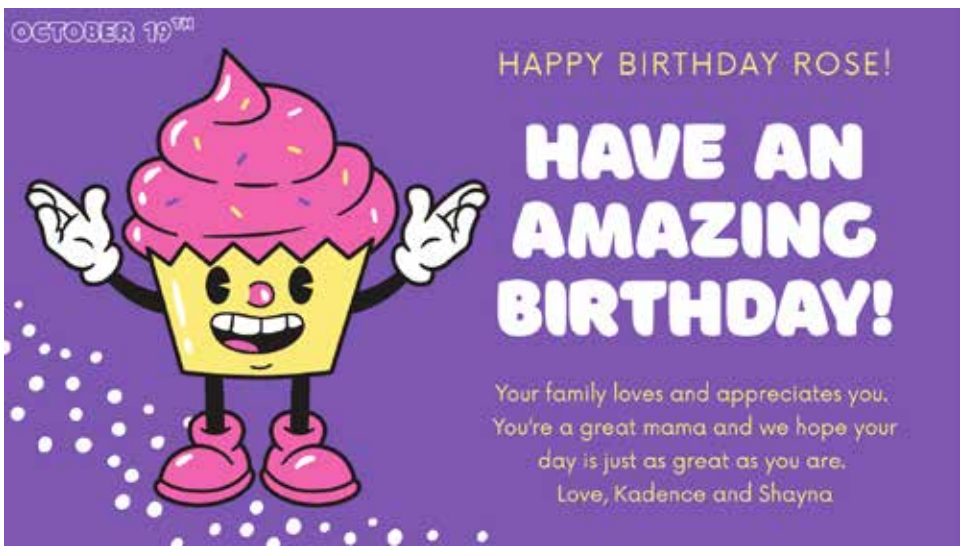
May this next year bring you happiness, good health, new adventures, lots of laughter, and many more wonderful memories together.

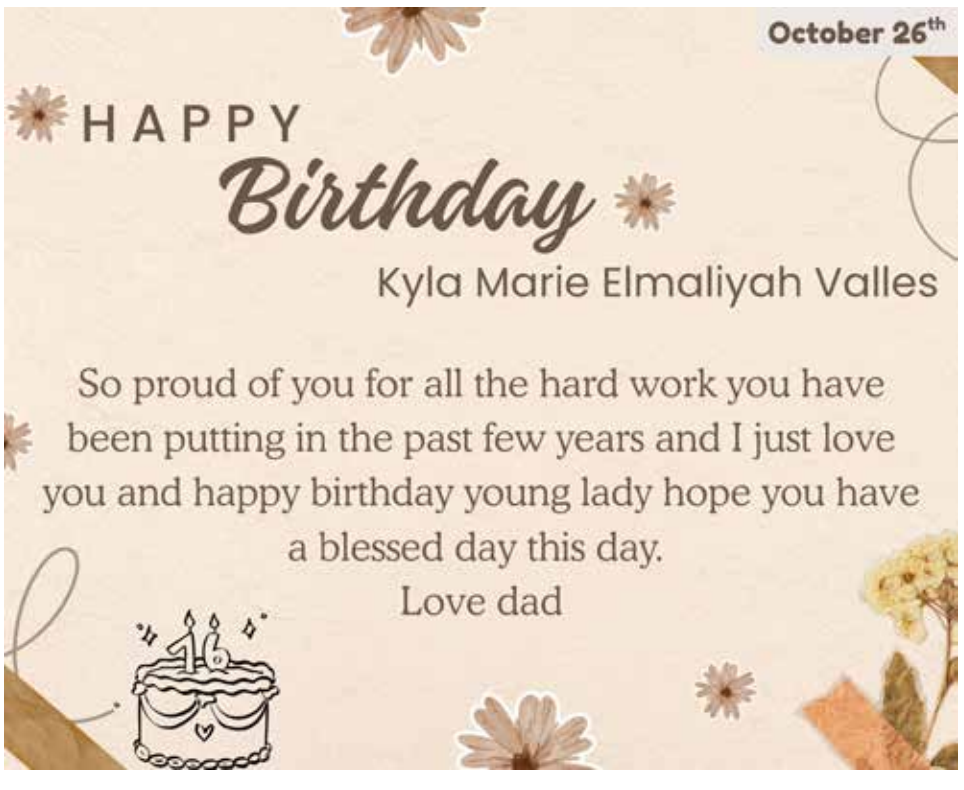
Always remember how loved, valued, and special each of you are.

Happy Birthday, Zuri, Kobe & Darius!
We love you more than words can say and are so grateful to celebrate another beautiful year of life with you!

Love, Mom & Dad ❤️

HAPPY BIRTHDAY







Walking On...

Remembering and honoring our community members.



