

# NISQUALLY ABSCH News



Nisqually Tribal News

4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. SE Olympia, WA 98513

Phone # 360-456-5221

Volume 16, Issue 4

www.nisqually-nsn.gov

April 2026

## Billy Frank Jr. Day at North Thurston, River Ridge High School

### Nisqually Tribe Communications and Media Services

The annual Community Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Billy Frank Jr., the fruition of a formal partnership between the North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) and the Nisqually Tribal Council, was attended by an estimated 600 people at River Ridge High School March 4.

The Nisqually Tribe has worked with NTPS to provide opportunities for 4th and 7th grade students the experience of visiting the Nisqually Culture Center as

well as learning about tribal government and other programs at the tribe.

The Since Time Immemorial Committee - a partnership between the Nisqually Tribe and NTPS staff - meets throughout the year to plan the annual event and ensure that grade-level lessons on tribal history, experiences and perspectives are integrated throughout the district - located within Nisqually traditional lands.



# Volunteers Needed

We are currently looking for volunteers and fry bread cooks for the week of canoe journey! If you are interested in volunteering, please use the QR code to apply, or share with anyone else that may be interested. If you are interested in helping with fry bread please reach out to Leighanna Scott, Sommer Sanchez or Betty Pacheco.



suhali?ilalq'ušitubutčat ?ə tiit ʔashik'cab ?ə k'wi ya?yalabčət  
 "Healing Through Our Waters by Honoring Our Ancestors"  
 2026  
 © Nisqually Indian Tribe 2026

## How to Contact Us

Tribal Center 360-456-5221  
 Health Clinic 360-459-5312  
 Law Enforcement 360-413-3019  
 Youth Center 360-455-5213  
 Natural Resources 360-438-8687

## Nisqually Tribal News

4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. SE  
 Olympia, WA 98513  
 360-456-5221

Leslee Youckton  
 youckton.leslee@nisqually-nsn.gov  
 ext. 1252

The deadline for the newsletter is the second Monday of every month.

## Nisqually Tribal Council

Chair, Ken Choke  
 Vice Chair, Cheebo Frazier  
 Secretary, Jackie Whittington  
 Treasurer, Norine Wells  
 5<sup>th</sup> Council, Chris Olin  
 6<sup>th</sup> Council, Guido Levy Jr.  
 7<sup>th</sup> Council, Leighanna Scott

Where to Find Information:

### Squalli Absch Newsletter

- Mailed, on website

### Street Buzz

- Mailout, on She Nah Num

Facebook and website

### Nisqually Indian Tribe Facebook

- geared toward educating the public

### She Nah Num

- Private Facebook page

Website - [www.nisqually-nsn.gov](http://www.nisqually-nsn.gov)

# Nisqually Tribal Office Holiday Closures

Please mark them on your calendars!

**Monday May 25, 2026**

*Memorial Day*

**Friday June 19, 2026**

*Junetheenth*

**Friday July 3, 2026**

*Independence Day Observed*

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# CANOE JOURNEY GIFT MAKING



suhəl'ílalq'ušitubutčət 'ə tiit 'xashik'cəb 'ə k'í yəlyəlabčət  
"Healing Through Our Waters by Honoring Our Ancestors"

2026

## @ THE BILLY FRANK JR. GYM

**MONDAY** 10am-3pm & 5pm-7pm

**TUESDAY** 10am-3pm & 5pm-7pm

**WEDNESDAY** 10am-3pm & 5pm-7pm



**THURSDAY** 10am-3pm & 4pm-6pm Song & Dance @ Youth Center

**FRIDAY** 4pm-6pm Drum Circle @ Youth Center

All staff, tribal members, community members, and volunteers are welcome to help make gifts for Nisqually Canoe Journey 2026.

**PLEASE SIGN IN AS YOU ARRIVE.  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE CULTURE PROGRAM STAFF.  
THANKS!**



# Nisqually Canoe Journey Updates

1. We still need tribal members/community members to help with gift making.
2. We will be buying from tribal members -gifts for the potlatch/gifts for canoe families
3. The buying event will be held in June, please look at the weekly mail/newsletter for more information, dates and time.
4. Landing site will be Sequelitchew Creek Trail head – beach on July 31, 2026.
5. We will be hosting a skipper’s meeting/journey update in April 2026 and again in May
6. Swinomish Tribe will be hosting a skippers meeting April 11, 2026, from 1-5 p.m. and a coastal jam to follow.
7. We need volunteers. Our volunteer registration form is available online at Nisqually Tribe website – under canoe journey – forms.
8. We can also use tribal members/community members on our many task forces.
9. We will be having a Salmon Bake and Silent Auction – Sunday, May 24, 2026. We are looking for donations for the silent auction. This is a fundraising event for the canoe journey.

## Canoe Journey Staff

Betty Pacheco MLS, MSW, Canoe Journey Program Planner  
 pacheco.betty@nisqually-nsn.gov  
 Office: 360-456-5221 ext 1208

Sommer Sanchez, Canoe Journey Program Planner  
 sanchez.sommer@nisqually-nsn.gov  
 Office: 360-456-5221 ext. 2122

Hailey Faleagafulu, Administrative Assistant  
 faleagagafula.hayley@nisqually-nsn.gov  
 Office: 360-456-5221 ext. 1211



suhəliʔiləiqʷuʂitubutʕət ʔə tliʔ ʔashikʷcəb ʔə kʷi yəʔyələbʕət  
 "Healing Through Our Waters by Honoring Our Ancestors"  
 2026

# Economic Development Association Conference

By Debbie Preston, Nisqually Tribe Communication and Media Services Director

## ***Vice Chair welcomes Washington Economic Development Association conference attendees at St. Martin's.***

Nisqually Vice Chair Cheebo Frazier addressed The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) to welcome them to the territory and emphasize the importance of the theme of the conference, Build Strong. Stay Strong, Building Economic Resilience and Preparedness in Washington's Communities, Wednesday, Feb. 25.

The two-day conference, held at St. Martin's University, assembles economic development professionals in Washington for their winter conference.



WEDA's mission is to promote sound economic development policy and provide networking and training opportunities for its members. Their membership consists of members from Economic Development Councils, tribes, cities, counties, state, federal, council of governments, banks and tourism among others.

The group also has a strong legislative agenda for each state legislative session.

Frazier talked about the challenges of the last several years of maintaining economic resilience and consistency in uncertain times. She underscored the importance of providing equal capacity in the cooperative planning for the state to better equip tribes, agencies and cities to weather economic storms.



# Second Year of Aerial Elk Surveys Conducted on JBLM and Surrounding Area by Nisqually Wildlife Program

By Steven Borrego

This year from Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Nisqually Wildlife Program in DNR initiated a second year of helicopter elk surveys on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and surrounding areas. Through weeks of planning and coordination with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologists, and JBLM staff, the Nisqually Tribe's Wildlife Program once again took the lead in carrying out the survey.

The purpose of aerial elk surveys is to gather herd composition counts (bulls, cows and calves) in the area. A composition survey not only counts the number of elk and their sex but also gather basic information about where they are seen at that moment (for example, laying in the middle of a 200-acre field with cattle grazing nearby, or grazing along the edge of a patch of forest or agricultural crop field). Before the Nisqually Tribe's Wildlife Program initiated the survey in 2025, and continued this year, there were no aerial survey data available from WDFW.

The aerial surveys were conducted in the early morning for four days in a helicopter, where the survey crew flew low-level, back and forth transects. The entire area is pre-drawn on a digital map weeks before the survey, and there are back and forth discussions amongst the biologists as to ensuring the safety of flight crew, and best use of the limited time to fly on JBLM's restricted airspace. The team typically begin pre-flight safety preparations and route planning at 5 a.m. and fly through several refueling stops until 3-4 p.m. The team and pilot watch the detailed weather forecasts up until the minute they board the helicopter, and Olympia fog, wind and rain can all stymie the survey. Once in the air, the surveys are flown in a pre-planned zig-zag transect pattern at low elevations.



*Elk herd in typical winter habitat area. Getting ready at dawn*

Unfortunately, the survey was postponed after 4 days due to poor weather; however, we expect the entire survey will be completed by mid-March once the weather settles down. The data from the count is regardless of the final numbers because, as the survey continues over many years, it tells us much about the elk herd that our tribal hunters rely on. These two initial surveys were a big lift, and any future surveys should be much easier now that the Nisqually Tribe and its Wildlife Program has led the way.



# Steelhead Surveys Start this Month

Our Nisqually native steelhead has its spawning season each year from March through June, and every year our Natural Resources crew is out on the river documenting their effort. As the females turn over the gravel they create a visible spawning nest, called a redd. The redd is immediately visible because the turned over gravel is not covered with algae – it's cleaner. Each new redd stays visible for 1-2 weeks until the algae regrow on the gravel.

Documenting actual spawning is important because, in contrast to the other salmon that die after spawning, steelhead do not 'guard' their spawning sites. They travel on and may return to the ocean and return to spawn in future years. If the field crew



encounters a dead steelhead, we take biological data but finding a carcass is rare. Redd count is the most important indication of the run's spawning abundance.

When floating the river we try to have three rafts, two on the sides and one in the middle. When we spot a redd, we toss in a large washer with flagging, so we don't count that redd again, and digitize its location on handheld device recording depth and comments. We also count live fish on the device and upload the data at the end of the survey including start and end points.

Steelhead also spawn in tributaries and side channels. Since we cannot float them, we survey them by walking their banks. Again, we digitize the results using a very cool interactive "Dashboard" created for us by the Tribe's GIS team. Thus, we can compare the spawning data and locations year-to-year.

Documenting steelhead spawning is very labor-intensive with two to three hundred miles of floating and about 100 miles of walking per season. Our field crew is out on the river 4-5 days each week during spawning season, and we only cover the part of the river from McKenna downstream to the landing downstream of the Mounts Road bridge. Spawning counts of the river above McKenna and the Mashel River are done by field crews from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to ensure complete system-wide coverage.





# NPS Update:

By Chief Jasper Bruner

During the first two weeks of February, the Nisqually Police Department completed the WACJTC-mandated Patrol Tactics In-Service Training at Nisqually Public Safety. The sessions were taught by our in-house instructors, Officer Gary Ortivez and Fish and Wildlife Officer Kalela Reuben. The training was conducted in two sessions, totaling 24 hours of instruction, and covered legal updates, use-of-force policy, and practical exercises. We also opened the training to a visiting officer from another tribal agency who needed to meet the required training hours. We are tentatively scheduled to host an additional Patrol Tactics In-Service Training in April so that our Fish and Wildlife officers can complete the requirement, along with several officers from surrounding city and tribal agencies.

Nisqually Fish and Wildlife Officers Masun Slape and Trey Birdtail (Nisqually tribal members) successfully completed and graduated from the three-week Marine Law Enforcement Training Program. Fish and Wildlife Officer Kalela Reuben reported to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) on March 1, 2026.

The Nisqually Fish and Wildlife Program, along with members of the Nisqually Police Department, will also participate in the Swiftwater Rescue Training Program (Levels 1 and 2), which is scheduled to take place in May and June. Nisqually Public Safety will host the training, with practical exercises conducted on the Nisqually River. Hosting the training on our river is especially valuable, given our areas of responsibility and the importance of developing in-depth familiarity with the local environment. We are currently recruiting additional tribal agencies to attend the training to strengthen partnerships and foster relationships with neighboring tribal public safety agencies.

The Nisqually Corrections Division is preparing to kick off its annual sustainment In-Service Training for its current staff members. This is a 40 hour block that all shifts will attend to be brought up to date on current first aid, legal issues, policy changes and new guideline in the correctional industry.

The Nisqually Corrections Division is currently recruiting staff members. So, if you know of anyone interested in a career in corrections, please send them to the Nisqually HR department or website to apply.

## Community Information:

### 911 & Non-Emergency Notification 360-704-2740

When reporting crimes or concerning events within the community, please utilize the services of TCOMM (Thurston 911 Communications). There are two standard ways to report an incident: by calling 911 or by using the non-emergency number. If you do not know the non-emergency number for our community, please call 911. Trained emergency dispatchers will route your call to the appropriate dispatcher for distribution to Police, Fish and Wildlife, Fire Department, or Emergency Medical Services. TCOMM is a service that the Nisqually Tribe pays for annually to ensure efficient and coordinated emergency response.

There are still many instances of community members reporting incidents directly to officers through their personal cell phones or through instant messages sent to personal accounts. Additionally, the Nisqually Public Safety Jail Control Center frequently receives calls from citizens, community members, and visitors reporting incidents.

Both of these methods bypass the dispatch system and can consume critical time that should be used for coordinating and responding to calls for service. It also creates gaps in information that would otherwise be officially documented through dispatch. Proper documentation through TCOMM helps identify trends, problem areas, and recurring issues that may need to be addressed in the future.

## Animal Control:

Community Services Officer Kahelelani Kalama serves as the Nisqually Public Safety point of contact for Animal Control issues or concerns. CSO Kalama successfully attended and completed the WACJTC Animal Control Academy in March 2025. She also works in coordination with Joint Animal Services of Thurston County to address animal-related issues on the Nisqually Reservation.

*Continued on page 8 -NPD*



# Nisqually Transit

The Nisqually Transit department offers FREE rides Monday through Friday, currently as far as a 15-mile radius from the Nisqually Administration Building, in Thurston County. The earliest pickup time is 6:15 a.m., and the latest pickup time is 5:30 p.m. There are no services provided when all tribal offices are closed.

## Transportation for Children

Children who are under the age of 12 will require adult supervision. Children aged 13-15 can be unaccompanied by an adult if there has been a complete consent form turned into the Transit office. If the child is over age 15, they should carry an ID just in case there are any questions regarding age.

## Policy

Completed consent forms can be turned in at the Transit office. Policies and Procedures are also available in the Transit office. The minor ages 13-15 yrs old will be getting out of the vehicle by themselves. Children under 12 MUST be accompanied by an adult. Nisqually Transit does not assume any other responsibility for the unaccompanied minor passengers after providing pick-up and drop-off services.



## Seatac Shuttle Services

Available to Nisqually Tribal Members and Tribal employees living in Thurston county. Tribal members will receive priority, and tribal employees will need approved personal travel. SEATAC shuttle services are offered 4:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., 7 days a week. For scheduling purposes, 3 weeks' notice will be required for all airport shuttles.

## Contact Us

Address: 11940 Billy Frank Jr. Blvd SE  
Olympia, WA 98513  
Phone: **360-456-5236**

Fleet Manager: Billy Henry  
Assistant Fleet Manager: Adrian Scott  
Motor Pool Coordinator & Dispatch: Cecile Hemphill



*Continued from page 7-NPD*

CSO Kalama is working diligently to address community concerns and complaints while also developing procedural documents and assisting the NPS team with updates to Title 4 of the Nisqually Tribal Code. There is significant work underway in these areas in addition to her regularly assigned duties.

Nisqually Public Safety is currently working on a new contract with Joint Animal Services to ensure the needs of the community are met and that proper services continue to be provided. If there are any animal-related incidents or concerns to report, please contact dispatch so that the

information can be properly documented and disseminated.

Please join me in extending our sincere gratitude to all uniformed officers and professional staff of Nisqually Public Safety for their continued dedication and outstanding service to the community. I look forward to sharing the continued growth and improvements across all Public Safety Services as we work together to better serve the Nisqually Tribe and the Nisqually Community.

Mvto,  
Chief Jasper Bruner



# FIRE Summit

By Debbie Preston, Nisqually Tribe Communication and Media Services Director

The Nisqually Tribe was the host for the FIRE Summit this year, held at the Nisqually Youth Center on Thursday, March 12.

The FIRE Summit is a daylong experience designed to spark inspiration and possibility for students exploring their future academic and career paths. It offers middle and high school students a chance to connect with college staff, faculty, and peers in a supportive environment that celebrates culture, and community.

The FIRE Summit started as an annual event ten years ago. It has grown into a partnership between South Puget Sound Community College and the four surrounding tribes:

- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Skokomish Tribe





## Little Lending Libraries!

### How does it work?

A little lending Library is a **free** book sharing box where anyone may take a book and share a book. They are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and freely accessible to all, removing barriers to book access. Please encourage others to read and share.

#### Goals:

- Building Community
- Inspiring Readers
- Improving literacy
- Expand Book Access

### Can you find us?



Scan the QR code if you need help finding the little lending libraries



Questions? Please contact Nisqually Tribal Library: (360) 456-5221 x1125



## Registration is Now Open!

### 2026 SPIPA Intertribal Survivorship & Caregiver Wellness Conference

- Native Crafts & Activities
- Healing Circle
- Special Guest Speakers
- Nutrition & Traditional Healing
- Survivor & Caregiver Resources
- Food & Lodging Included

[Learn. Connect. Heal.](#)

Join SPIPA for Our Annual Conference Honoring Cancer Survivors and Their Caregivers.

**Attention:**  
Limit of 2 adults per room,  
an additional \$25 will be  
charged per guest.

Please bring any of your own  
recipes to share that have  
helped you on your personal  
journey.

**May 12-13, 2026**  
Quinalt Beach Resort & Casino



Quinalt Beach  
RESORT AND CASINO  
WWW.QUINALTBACH.COM

Register by **April 10, 2026!**  
To register, visit [surveyMonkey.com/r/V836J68](https://surveyMonkey.com/r/V836J68), scan the QR code, or call Cher Castello at (360) 550-6224.



# Cracking the 'QR' Code

## Tips from the IT-WebDev Department

QR codes are everywhere these days with rising needs for contactless information delivery and rapid updates. Although their popularity found a resurgence during the COVID lockdown era, these versatile codes have been around since 1994.



Despite their surprising age, there is still a learning curve on how to properly use them. Back

in 2021, our newsletter reviewed their basic usage with a phone camera, which is the most common way to access the embedded links. But what happens when the QR code is received as an image directly on a phone?

Worry not! There are techniques to access QR codes without using a camera as well. Below are tips for Android and Apple iOS devices:

### Android:

- Press and hold the QR code. The link will appear as a button to open in your web browser. **OR**  
Take a screenshot of the QR code. Press and hold on the code in your photos application until the link button appears. **OR**
- Open the screenshot of the QR code in Google Lens or other QR reading application, the url will appear when scanned.

### Apple iOS:

- Press and hold the QR code. A menu will appear with the link and an option to open the url in Safari. **OR**
- Take a screenshot of the QR code. Press and hold on the code in your photos application until the link menu appears.

**Disclaimer:** Nisqually Indian Tribe does not endorse, promote, review, or warrant the accuracy of the services, products or links provided.



# Training

By Debbie Preston, Communication and Media Services Director

Leaders from across the Nisqually Tribal community recently gathered at the Red Wind Casino for an engaging training, *Inclusive Leader's Guide to Difficult Conversations*. Participants represented a wide range of departments, including NGHC, Family Services, the Language Department, and the Health Center reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening leadership across the Tribe.

The session focused on building practical skills to navigate challenging conversations with confidence, clarity, and cultural awareness. Through real-world scenarios, role play, and group discussion, leaders explored how to approach conflict constructively, adapt to different communication styles, and build trust within their teams. At its core, the training reinforced that connection is central to effective leadership. Participants left with tools to support performance conversations, address conflict early, and foster respectful, accountable workplaces.

Investing in leadership across departments strengthens not only individual leaders, but the Tribe's collective ability to serve the community with integrity and care.

The next course is running on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, reach out to Elizabeth at [morris.elizabeth@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:morris.elizabeth@nisqually-nsn.gov)



# Billy Frank Jr. Statue

By Debbie Preston, Communications and Media Services Director

The Billy Frank Jr. statue project is moving along with the welding of the pieces on the first figure moving at the expected pace. The pieces will all be welded together and then the recreation of the art by smoothing the welds and connecting the lines again. The artist, Haiying Wu, stops by frequently at Classic Foundry in south Seattle to confer with foundry as the project moves along.

The foundry has a contract to finish both statues by the end of May. One statue will go to Washington, D.C., the other to Olympia in the state Capitol.





# Welcome to **Greenfoot** *Cannabis*

It is our mission at Greenfoot to offer top quality products at competitive prices while also providing excellent customer service. Our staff is composed of fifteen cannabis professionals, eight of which belong to a variety of tribes.

Greenfoot offers a variety of discounts daily. Most notably, Nisqually Tribe members receive 20% off all their orders every day. All other tribes receive 12% off their entire order.

<b>Greenfoot Cannabis</b>	
<b>Manic Monday</b>	20% off Paraphernalia / Apparel 30% off Plaid Jacket. 30% off Green Haven
<b>Turnt Up Tuesday</b>	20% off Prerolls 30% off Seattle Private Reserve 30% off Mfused/Twisted
<b>Weedy Wednesday</b>	20% Off Solid Edibles 30% off Micro Bars 30% off Agro/Slab Mechanix
<b>Throwdown Thursday</b>	20% Off Liquid Edibles 30% off Momma Chans 30% off Ooowee
<b>Phat Friday</b>	20% off all Halves and Full Ounces 30% off Grind House 30% off Phat Panda
<b>Saucy Saturday</b>	20% off Dabbable Concentrates 30% off Western Cultured 30% off Flawless Extracts!
<b>Stock up Sunday!!</b>	25% Off Vapes 25% Off Flower
Buy 7 Individual 1g Concentrates, Get 20% Off Daily! <i>(Multipacks do not apply)</i>	

**Greenfoot Cannabis**

## Daily Group Discounts:

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Nisqually Discount - 20% off Order

Tribal Discount - 12% off Order

Industry Discount - 15% off Order

Military Discount - 10% off Order

Senior Discount - 10% off Order

Online Discount - 10% off Order

Birthday Discount - 20% off Order  
(Only Applicable on Actual Birthday)

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**Group discounts cannot be combined with any other offers.**

## Support you Local Tribal Artists

Greenfoot sells local tribal artist's beadwork on consignment. Our hand carved canoe table features beautifully hand-crafted beadwork from a variety of local artists. 100% of the proceeds goes back to the artists. Greenfoot simply offers the space to display the work for sale. Space is limited. If you are interested, please inquiry inside the store.



## Greenfoot is excited to announce that 2025 was our best year yet!

We look forward to continuing to serve the community for years to come!



# SCHEDULE TODAY!



## Coast Salish Medium Sessions with **Nikki Blair**

Nikki is an Indigenous medium, enrolled member of Lummi Nation with deep ancestral roots in Nooksack and Leq'á:mel Nations.

Since 2020, she has worked professionally as a spiritual medium, offering compassionate one-on-one readings for individuals seeking connection with departed loved ones.

Her work is grounded in cultural respect, spiritual integrity, and a sincere calling to support others on their healing path.

Messages shared during readings may offer:

- Comfort and Healing through grief
- Personal Clarity and Guidance
- Spiritual Validation and Peace

Nikki honors the diversity of beliefs within Indigenous communities. Her work is offered with humility and is not intended to replace or challenge traditional teachings, only to provide an additional path of spiritual support.



Traditional Healing  
**360-459-5312**  
**OPTION 5**

**SCHEDULING AVAILABLE FOR REGISTERED NTM & PRC PATIENTS**

*Introducing the New ...*

### NISQUALLY FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT!

ʔaciǰǰut  
"Center of Family Origins"



*Please Join Us!*

We Are Excited to Announce That the Family Service Department is Hosting a Community Dinner to Introduce Our Team and Services!

**Community Dinner, Thursday, April 9th**  
**Elders Dinning Area, 5:30-7:30PM**

Bring Your Appetite, Your Questions, & Your Suggestions!

Nisqually Tribal Members, Community, & Employees Will Have the Opportunity to Complete a Survey for a \$25 Gift Card. Must be 18 or Older to Participate. For Questions, Please Contact Tina at 360-456-5221 ext. 1392 or [deasis-samaniego.tina@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:deasis-samaniego.tina@nisqually-nsn.gov)

### SERVICE PROGRAMS

Family Network Services  
suʔidtid

"Weaving & Connecting Resources"

Adult Protective Services  
sutiǰbixw'ali

"Place of Taking Care of People"

Children's Services  
səsǰaʔǰaʔ ʔə k'wi wiw'su

"Our Children are Sacred"

Victims of Crime / DV  
laʔacutali

"Place of Resilience"

KAYA Cultural Healing  
kayaʔ sǰaʔǰaʔ ǰǰǰəsəda

"Grandma's Sacred Way of Life"

## Suicide Awareness Wild Horse Race Clinic

Sign up at the front desk in the Nisqually Administration Building for the Suicide Awareness Wild Horse Race Clinic, April 25 and 26 in White Swan, WA. There are two categories, 6-12 and 13-19 years old. The Medicine River Horse Ranch has received a grant to take tribal and resident kids and will pay for hotels. Meals mostly on your own.



Questions? Check in with Medicine River Ranch [keoni.kalama@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:keoni.kalama@nisqually-nsn.gov)



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR EVENT

APRIL | WED | 2026  
15

5:30-7:00PM

NISQUALLY YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER

Dinner , Nisqually Language Activity, Obstacle Course, Games, Information, and Raffle Prizes

— APRIL IS NATIONAL —  
**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**



Nisqually Indian Tribe



South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

**Diaper Distribution**



**Nisqually Tribe**  
**04/10/26**

At the SPIPA Warehouse  
10:00am-1:30pm

**Pull-ups | Diapers | Wipes | More**



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

Call SPIPA at 360.426.3990



**Nisqually WIC**

**Women, Infants, and Children**

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

For appointments and questions, contact:  
**Debbie Gardipee**  
360.426.4439  
dgardipee@spipa.org

SPIPA main number: 360.426.3990



**This Institution Is an equal opportunity provider.**  
Washington WIC doesn't discriminate.



Next WIC date:  
**Wednesday, April 9th**

SPIPA IPC, phone appts.

**Phone and in person appointments. Date subject to change.**



South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

**USDA Foods Program Delivery Date**

**Nisqually Tribe**  
**04/10/26**

At the Warehouse  
10:00am-1:30pm



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

For USDA Food, call SPIPA at 360.426.3990.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





# Announcements

April 7,  
Happy Birthday Samira,  
Love Dad, Mom, Keisha, Jasmine,  
Nevaeh, and Rodney

April 7,  
Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Juanito,  
Love the McDonald Family

April 11,  
Happy Birthday Kylee,  
Love the McDonald Family

April 26,  
Happy Birthday Dalia,  
Love the McDonald

March 17,  
Happy Birthday Ryker,  
Love the McDonald Family

March 23,  
Happy Birthday Bear,  
Love the McDonald Family

## Tribal Estate and Will Planning

Tribal Estate Planning Services provided by Emily Penoyar-Rambo

Services offered:

- Last will and testament
- Durable power of attorney
- Healthcare directive
- Tangible personal property bequest
- Funeral/burial instructions

Appointments will be set up for the first and third Thursday of each month. Available appointment times are 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Please call Lori Lehman at 360-456-5221 to set up an appointment.



**FREE Rides**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**Transit available**  
**6:00 a.m. to 6 :00 p.m.**  
**Open to all tribal, community**  
**and tribal employees. We offer**  
**rides from 6:15 a.m. to last off**  
**rez ride at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Contact Cecile Hemphill,**  
**Motor Pool Coordinator/Dispatch**  
**At 360-456-5236**

Nisqually Indian Tribe  
4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. SE  
Olympia, WA 98513

