



General Body Discusses Enrollment, Other Issues at January General Body Meeting

Tribal members discussed enrollment and other important issues at the General Body meeting on January 10th.

The meeting began with an invocation by Shaker Ministers Rose Cooper and Mike Davis and a song by Joe Seymour, Russell Harper, Will Penn, Vicki Kruger and Marjorie Penn. Tribal Executive Director Ray Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed away during the year.

Tribal Enrollment Officer Tammy Ford, then gave a presentation on the process of tribal enrollment, including a history of enrollment growth alongside per capita distributions and the reasons, guidelines and process of the 5-year (fisheries participation) and 2-year (education funding) wait for benefits. This waiting period applies only to those new enrollees who relinquish from another tribe to enroll in the Squaxin Island Tribe. It was adopted to reduce the demand of resources and services, caused by the increase in enrollment.

According to Tammy, the average enrollment growth rate was a steady 2 percent per year prior to the Tribe's success in gaming operations. In the years following the opening of Little Creek Casino - and prior to adoption of the five-year and two-year wait - enrollment ballooned to 7 percent per year. After the waiting period was initiated, growth was reduced to the average 2 percent per year. In 1997 there were just over 600 members. In the past ten years that number has nearly doubled. Current enrollment today, is 998.

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Squaxin Island Tribe Presents the 2nd Annual
SA'HEH'WA'MISH DAYS
Contest Pow Wow
 Little Creek Casino Resort • Shelton, WA • Feb 21 & 22, 2009
 Grand Entry Times • Saturday at 1pm & Sunday at Noon

OVER \$28,000 IN PRIZES

- Drum Contest (1st \$4,000 • 2nd \$3,000 • 3rd \$2,000)
- Dance Competitions • Prize Money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places
 - Golden Age (1st \$500 • 2nd \$400 • 3rd \$300)
 - Adult 18-49 (1st \$500 • 2nd \$400 • 3rd \$300)
 - Women Fancy, Women Jingle & Women Traditional
 - Men Fancy, Men Grass & Men Traditional
 - Teens 13-17 (1st \$250 • 2nd \$200 • 3rd \$100)
 - Girl Fancy, Girl Jingle & Girl Traditional
 - Boy Fancy, Boy Grass & Boy Traditional
 - Children 7-12 (1st \$125 • 2nd \$100 • 3rd \$75)
 - Girl Fancy, Girl Jingle & Girl Traditional
 - Boy Fancy, Boy Grass & Boy Traditional
 - Tiny Tots (paid for each session)

Master of Ceremony - Ray Fryberg (Tulalip)
 Arena Director - Sonny Eaglespeaker (Blood)

SKOOKUM CREEK TOBACCO | LITTLE CREEK CASINO • RESORT | Squaxin Island Tribe | Squaxin Island TOURISM

Limited vendor space available (\$150/space) Contact Darlene Krise: 360-427-3027

Pow Wow Hotel Rates (tax applies): Fri & Sat \$82 • Sun \$67 • Call: 1-800-667-7711 or 360-427-7711
 Drug and alcohol-free event. Not liable for theft, accident, loss, injury or damage to personal property.
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Articles and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of this publication or the Tribal Council.

The Klah-Che-Min encourages Tribal Members to submit letters, articles, photographs and drawings to be considered for publication, but are subject to editing.

Contributing writers and artists include Squaxin Island community members and staff.

Submissions Deadline:
15th of each month

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL:

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Tribal Council Resolutions

08-106: Enacts loan documents for the Linder Estate

08-107: Enrolls Ahree Allen

08-108: Enrolls Latiesha and Jacey Gonzales

08-109: Approves the Human Services Public Transportation Coordination Plan top priorities to sustain services and replace a bus

08-110: Designates the Director of Health & Human Services, Ed Fox, as an alternate delegate to the Indian Policy Advisory Committee

08-111: Enrolls Kameron Weythman and William Weythman

08-112: Enrolls Treyson Spezza

08-113: Enrolls Nathan Armas

08-114: Agrees to the purchase and sale of property belonging to Taylor Family Partnership

Congratulations Michael Peters



Squaxin Island tribal member Michael Peters was named to the Dean's List for Fall 2008 at Southern Oregon University (Ashland, Oregon). Michael is a 2008 graduate of Capital High School and the son of Mike and Linda Peters. He reached this accomplishment while maintaining a tough regiment as part of the SOU Raider football team!!!

Little Creek Casino Resort Collects Toys and Coats for Families in Need

In demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the community and charitable support services, Little Creek Casino Resort launched its Winter Wonderland Fund-raiser. Mason and Thurston County residents rallied to collect toys and warm winter coats for needy families. Cameron Goodwin, General Manager of Little Creek Casino Resort stated " It was so amazing to see how many different kinds of toys came through, and how many jackets were brought. I'm happy to see that we are able to help families that are in need of these items."

With overwhelming community support, Little Creek Casino Resort was able to provide thousands of toys and hundreds of winter coats to families in the surrounding counties. Little Creek packed company vehicles full of toys and winter coats. When Mason County Fire District # 4 came to pick up these appreciated gifts, their ambulance was stuffed full too. Little Creek was able to share the generosity with other organizations such as Mason County Homeless Shelter, Mason General Hospital, Anchor Bank Foster Care, Squaxin Island Tribe Foster Care and the United States Marines Toys for Tots.

Kim Burrow, Director of Hotel Operations, said, "In these tough economic times, I am overwhelmed by the sheer generosity and would like to thank the many community members, employees and hotel guests who participated in the fundraiser this holiday season".

The Winter Wonderland fundraiser hotel package includes a one-night stay, dinner for two and a free espresso. This package was available Sunday through Thursday until January 15, 2009.



L-R: Director of Non-Gaming Michael Peters, Director of Hotel Operations Kim Burrow, Mason County Fire District #4 Assistant Fire Chief Greg Seals, General Manager Cameron Goodwin and Director of Gaming Operations Mark West

Island Enterprises Continues to Develop Programs and Services for Tribal Entrepreneurs

Over the past few months Island Enterprises has been steadily working on creating a business development center that exists to help tribal and community members go into to business for themselves. The center office should be open in February and look for an open house in March.

One of the first offerings from the center is the upcoming business plan class (see advertisement below). This class is offered in conjunction with Enterprise for Equity. We are really excited to be creating a partnership with Enterprise for Equity because they bring experience and expertise to helping people really work through their idea and help it come into fruition. If you are interested in starting a business please attend an orientation. Anyone who completes the class is eligible to apply to Enterprise for Equity's micro-loan fund.

The center will have variety of services and programs to help anyone who is interested in a new business, acquiring an existing business or if you are already in business and need some assistance in a specific area.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your idea please don't hesitate to call: Jennifer Ulrich at (360) 870-6246 or email at jwulrich@ieinc.org.

Native Business Knowledge and Skill

Jim Stanley - A nice part of my job is being able to see through the eyes of business people and learn their stories. Ester, an architect in Seattle, taught me a lesson about how she found a business niche that affords her control of her time and enough money to do whatever she wants. The lesson is about how education builds knowledge and training builds skill and by combining knowledge and skill comes the ability to acquire and control resources to achieve whatever result you want. Ester wanted to retire and was talking to me because she needed a commercial loan to purchase a rundown Seattle coffee shop so she could sell it to a builder that also happened to be a client. 60 days after we closed she sold the property for a \$150,000 profit –not bad.



Ester operated her architectural firm selling plans to single family home builders and searching for land suitable for housing. She explained that she sells plans to keep the lights on and searches for land to pay for retirement. I asked her how she started her company and if her business has always been so successful. Ester admitted that she finally figured things out after about fifteen years of being an architect. I then asked her if she would have done things differently. She responded by saying, "Maybe, but it still would have taken some time to get to where I am today." I asked what she meant. Ester explained, "Well you have to get the education first. That way you know the basics. Then you have to do the job to be any good. It takes hard work and time but then you start to see how processes work and things connect. That is what happened to me. I finally figured it out."

Cousin, I am hopeful that you remember this story as you make plans for your future. Know that education, training, and applying yourself daily are all important ingredients to achieving your goals. I wish you the best of luck.

Jim Stanley is a private banker located in Bellevue, WA. He partners with your tribal newspaper to share his knowledge in hopes of providing useful information to you. He is a member of the Quinault Indian Nation and can be reached at sovereign.developments@gmail.com for your comments.

Want to Turn Your Skill or Idea Into a Viable Business?

Training

We offer a Business Training Program to Help People with Limited Incomes Start and Sustain Businesses!

Learn to:

- Explore Your Business Idea
- Write Your Own Business Plan
- Learn Financial Planning & Marketing Skills

FREE Orientation - Call for information!

The **Orientation** is a free, one-hour meeting which provides information about our Business Training Program, entrepreneurial support services and our organizations. It is also a time to gain some knowledge about prospective participants, answer questions and provide introductory materials.

Business Readiness Workshop

This six-hour workshop provides to those who are interested in starting or enhancing a small business the information they will need to decide whether they want to participate in our classes. We will look at what is required to launch a new business—risks, costs and rewards—and the commitment and hard work necessary to succeed in the Business Training Program and eventually in business.

Learn More/Register Online!

www.enterpriseforequity.org

Or call:

Enterprise for Equity

Phone: (360) 704-3375

Email:

janice@enterpriseforequity.org

In Shelton, WA

Orientation Dates are:

Monday, February 2 at Noon

Monday, February 9 at 5:30

Wed, February 18 at 5:30PM

Business Readiness Workshop

will be held on February 27th.

A **Full Training** will begin in March.

A microloan fund is available for successful graduates of the training.

This program is brought to you by Enterprise for Equity and Island Enterprises. Island Enterprises staff will be on location to provide information specific to our programs. For questions regarding IEI please contact Jennifer Ulrich at (360) 870-6246 or jwulrich@ieinc.org



Enterprise for Equity is a community supported nonprofit serving people with limited incomes who want to start a business.



EDUCATION



Important Dates for Shelton High School Seniors

February 3 Senior essay Due
 February 11 Portfolio Due
 February 12 Scholarship Notebook due
 March 24 Senior Presentations
(you have to present on this day in order to be eligible to walk for graduation)

Way to Go Jackson Cruz!
 Keep up the Good Work!
 - Love Ness
 and the Whole TLC Staff



**Mark Your Calendars -
 Shelton School District
 Awards Banquet**

Friday, May 15th
 6:00 PM
 Shelton High School Sub

Squaxin Youth Cultural, Educational and Activities Calendar

February 2009

Co-Sponsored by DASA

All activities are Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Free!!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Any Questions Call: Bill Kallappa 463-6361 Or Wes Whitener 485-8572</i>	2 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii 3:30-6pm Basketball</i>	3 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 5pm Youth Council</i>	4 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii B-Ball 4:30-6pm</i>	5 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 3pm Snack</i>	6 <i>3pm Snack 4pm Movie/Wii 3pm Board games</i>	<i>Computer Lab is open Mon-Thur 3:30-6pm and on Friday 3:30-5pm</i>
8	9 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii 3:30-6pm Basketball</i>	10 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 5pm Youth Council</i>	11 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii B-Ball 4:30-6pm</i>	12 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 3pm Snack</i>	13 <i>Skok Youth Basketball Tourney Mid Winter Break</i>	14 <i>Skok Youth Basketball Tourney</i>
15 <i>Skok Youth Basketball Tourney</i>	16 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii 3:30-6pm Basketball Mid Winter Break Watch for Flyer</i>	17 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 5pm Youth Council Mid Winter Break Watch for Flyer</i>	18 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii B-Ball 4:30-6pm</i>	19 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 3pm Snack</i>	20 <i>3pm Snack 4pm Movie/Wii 3pm Board games</i>	21
22	23 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii 3:30-6pm Basketball</i>	24 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 5pm Youth Council</i>	25 <i>3pm Board Games 3pm Snack/Wii B-Ball 4:30-6pm</i>	26 <i>B-Ball 3:30-6pm 3pm Ping Pong 3pm Snack</i>	27 <i>3pm Snack 4pm Movie/Wii 3pm Board games Early release</i>	28 <i>Homework Help is avail- able Mon-Thur From 3:30-5:00!!</i>



Blood Quantum

A complicated system that threatens the future of American Indians

Andrea Appleton, High Country News - LeRoy Comes Last and his family live on a hump of benchland in northeastern Montana, on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. In all directions the land is flat and treeless, with just a few soft ridges here and there, as if someone lay sleeping beneath the topsoil. To the south, U.S. Highway 2 cuts toward the town of Poplar in one direction and Wolf Point in the other. Just beyond lie the tracks of the Great Northern Railway, where passenger trains with names like Empire Builder once ran. And farther still, yellow cottonwoods mark the course of the Missouri River, the reservation's southern boundary.

Inside the Comes Last mobile home, toddlers -- the charges of a daughter-in-law who runs an ad hoc daycare center -- careen around the living room under streamers of black and orange Halloween crepe. Seated at his kitchen table, his rough hands resting on a plastic tablecloth decorated with cartoon spiders, Comes Last looks as if he might have wandered into the wrong home. A tall man in his 60s, he has a warm weathered face and a purple neckerchief, and wears his hair in long braids under a black cowboy hat. His young round-cheeked Northern Cheyenne wife, Sabrina, sits next to him, holding a child.

"I always say I stole her," Comes Last chuckles. "I still owe her dad seven pinto horses." Comes Last is a full-blooded Lakota Sioux of the Hunkpapa Band. His ancestors arrived at Fort Peck more than a century ago. His business card proclaims him a "Holy Dog Consultant," spiritual leader and firestarter, and he is one of the few remaining Lakota speakers on the reservation.

The acrid scent of a smudge stick wafts into the kitchen as a sleepy 3-year-old boy with gravity-defying black hair wanders through. "Ice cream," the boy says plaintively. "Ice cream."

"It's the man of the hour!" cries Comes Last, patting his grandson on the shoulder. Ryan Padraza Comes Last is a full-blooded Indian, Sioux and Cheyenne on his father's side and Assiniboine on his mother's. He will soon receive his Lakota name: "A Rope." (Comes Last raises rodeo horses and always has a rope in his right hand. He likes to call Ryan his "right-hand man.") But despite his traditional roots and his Native heritage, Ryan may be one of the last of the Comes Last line allowed to enroll as a member of the Fort Peck Tribe.

According to the tribal Constitution, enrolled members must be at least one-quarter Assiniboine or Sioux, or a combination of the two. (Fort Peck is home to both groups, who share one government.) This method of measuring Native American ethnicity by percentage is known as the "blood quantum," and most Indian tribes use it to determine who can be admitted. A few use a different method, called "lineal descent," under which applicants need only prove they have an ancestor on the early tribal rolls. Before 1960, Fort Peck used lineal descent as well.

In general, Native Americans cannot enroll in more than one tribe at a time, and for those tribes that require a particular percentage of Native blood, the parameters vary. For instance, by Fort Peck's rules, Ryan Padraza's blood quantum is only three-quarters. This is because his Cheyenne blood does not count at Fort Peck.

As an adult, Ryan will face a dilemma that is increasingly common in Indian Country. If he marries outside of his tribe -- whether with a non-Native or, say, a full-blooded Chippewa -- his children will have a blood quantum of only three-eighths at Fort Peck. And depending on his children's marital choices, Ryan's grandchildren may not be enrolled at all. The only way Ryan can avoid watering down his Fort Peck blood is to marry within the tribe. But that will not be easy: He's related to many of his fellow members.

Thousands of Native Americans are not enrolled in their tribes because their bloodlines have become diluted over the years, as is happening with the Comes Last

family. Even some full-blooded Native Americans lack enough of any one tribe's heritage to qualify for enrollment. And there are many mixed marriages: Studies show that about 60 percent of Native Americans marry outside of their ethnicity, a higher rate than any other group. Demographers predict that by 2080, 92 percent of Native Americans will be more than half non-Native. Already, a new generation is finding it is not "Indian" enough to enroll. Though its members may live on the reservation, participate in tribal ceremonies and even study their ancestral language, they are not eligible for a range of federal and tribal benefits, from subsidized health care and tribal voting rights to job preference and the right to gather eagle feathers. And, on a more intangible note, many simply feel they do not belong.

As more and more children are born with blood that doesn't measure up, tribes across the West are taking a look at their enrollment requirements. In the process, deeper questions -- about culture, about identity, about the future of the tribes -- are coming to the surface. Underlying them all is one with no easy answer: What exactly does it mean to be an Indian?

*I cut myself into sixteen equal pieces
kept thirteen
and fed the other three to the dogs*

Excerpt from "13/16," a poem by Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian Sherman Alexie

In a basement office at Fort Peck Community College, financial aid director Lanette Clark clasps her hands on her desk and composes her thoughts. She has long dark hair and high cheekbones that disappear behind big round cheeks when she smiles. Clark has three grandchildren, none of whom are enrolled at Fort Peck. They're just under one-eighth Assiniboine, shy of the tribe's requirements.

Next fall, Fort Peck's voters may weigh in on a proposed change to those requirements. It would allow applicants who are at least one-eighth Fort Peck Assiniboine or Sioux and at least one-eighth of any other federally recognized tribe to be accepted as members. Even if the initiative were to pass, it probably wouldn't help Clark's grandkids, because their father is not currently enrolled anywhere. Clark plans to vote for it anyway, but she is against any further lowering of the requirements, even for the sake of her grandkids. She says that loosening the standards even more, as some tribal members advocate, would be irresponsible.

"I kinda get mixed feelings," she says. "For my own selfish reasons, I could say, 'Yeah, let's lower the blood quantum.' But I think looking at it for the whole tribe right now. ..." She shakes her head. "Financially, we can't even manage what we have."

Though Clark is one of the few willing to argue against her family's immediate interests, many at Fort Peck fear the financial impacts of easing the enrollment requirements. The tribe's resources are already stretched thin, the argument goes: The more members, the less each will have to show for it.

Fort Peck has always been poor, even by reservation standards. By 1881, early in the reservation's history, the buffalo of the region were gone. Federal rations weren't enough to make up for the loss. In desperation, the starving tribe took up farming, but northeastern Montana's dry climate and short growing season led to crop failures and more hunger.

Some tribal members still scrape a living out of the soil. But non-Natives now own more than half of Fort Peck's 3,200 square-mile land base, a legacy of the federal government's early attempts at forced assimilation. The 1887 Dawes Act allowed the government to break tribal lands up into individual tracts. The law was one of the first to use blood percentage as a measure of Indian ethnicity, though the purpose was quite

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Blood Quantum

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different than it is today: Natives with a larger proportion of "civilizing" white blood could sell their allotments without restriction, while those with more Indian ancestry faced heavier constraints. Once each tribal member had received an allotment, much of what remained was available for white homesteaders.

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 turned the management of Indian lands over to the tribes and made them largely self-governing. But it also led most to require that their members have a particular percentage of Native blood. The Bureau of Indian Affairs handed out boilerplate constitutions that barred anyone who had less than a one-quarter heritage. And for the most part, the tribes -- having no background in constitutional government -- adopted these documents without complaint. (Fort Peck's citizens voted against doing so, but by 1960, the tribe was also requiring its members be at least one-quarter Assiniboine and/or Sioux.) Indian Country had internalized the concept of blood quantum.

Some believe that the fractional breakdown of Native blood over generations was factored into the federal government's plan from the beginning, a sort of statistical extermination. "The one-quarter blood quantum was a criteria that federal officials devised in the early 1900s to reduce the number of Indians and save themselves some money," says University of Minnesota professor David Wilkins, an expert in federal Indian policy. "And by then, most tribes had been so brow-beaten they weren't in a position to challenge those criteria."

If the blood-percentage system was indeed part of an insidious plan to eradicate the Native American, it is slowly having the desired effect. Based on current requirements, most tribes will have no new eligible members in 50 years, and many will cease to exist within a century. In an effort to combat this inevitable breakdown, many tribes are considering loosening their enrollment requirements. If the initiative at Fort Peck passes, for instance, some people of mixed Native American ancestry, like young Ryan Padraza Comes Last, would suddenly be considered full bloods. And hundreds would be able to enroll in the tribe who now cannot, including some of Fort Peck's 1,600 "associate members." (They're at least one-eighth Assiniboine and/or Sioux but less than one-quarter.)

Fort Peck currently has just over 12,000 enrolled full members: 4,405 Assiniboine and 7,691 Sioux. Nearly half of them live off the reservation; most of the rest live either in Wolf Point, a former fur-trading post of about 2,500 near the reservation's southern border, or in Poplar, 22 miles east, with about 900. The remainder are scattered across the 2 million acres of arid farmland that stretch north towards Canada, or in hamlets of dilapidated houses that look as if they might at any moment pitch headlong into the shortgrass prairie.

The seat of tribal government, a modern complex topped by a pagoda-like glass tower, sits on the edge of Poplar, northeast of the other well-kept structure in town, the community college. The rest of Poplar looks as though it had been conquered some time ago and left for dead, which isn't far from the truth. Many houses, especially on the edge of town, are boarded up. Stray dogs wander the wide empty streets. Here and there, the hand-painted signs illustrate the faces of meth addicts, before and after. The empty A & S Industries warehouse on the southern edge of town once employed 500 people who made camouflage netting for the Army and other products. The business crashed in the 1990s, after the Persian Gulf War ended and its minority preference status expired. Now the chief employment opportunities on the reservation are with the tribal government or the college, unless you happen to be well-versed in dry farming.

The perks of tribal membership are meager as well. Because of Montana's restrictive gaming laws and Fort Peck's remote location, big casinos aren't an option. The tribe's business endeavors, like the Tribal Express, a gas station and mini-mart just east of

Poplar, aren't making anybody rich. Each full member gets "Christmas money" from the tribe, usually around \$75 per year. Money for burial, a free pass on state income tax for those who live on the reservation and first dibs on jobs at Fort Peck are among the other benefits. Both full and associate members supposedly receive comprehensive health-care benefits, but last summer the Fort Peck Executive Board declared that the tribe's health-care system was in a state of emergency due to lack of funds.

Some fear that if the tribe eases up on enrollment requirements, it will mean even skimpier benefits for each person. They may be right. The federal government allocates money to individual tribes using a formula based on need, not membership. "Of course, if you have a larger population, you would probably have more need," says Bureau of Indian Affairs spokesman Gary Garrison. "But how that would play out in this age of limited budgets is a big question mark."

Those who favor opening up the rolls, however, find the economic argument unconvincing. "We'll never have enough resources to go around," shrugs Robert McAnally, co-founder of the community college and a proponent of expanding Fort Peck's membership. "For example, you see the bigotry and hatred that's going on with big gaming tribes."

Under various pretexts, wealthy gaming tribes have removed thousands of people from their rolls in the last decade, particularly in California. Last summer, the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians kicked out 50 people because, according to the tribe, they had an adopted ancestor. The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians has cast out nearly a quarter of their membership, claiming illegitimate bloodlines. And the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians has banished hundreds of members in recent years, with little explanation. Each of these tribes runs a multimillion-dollar casino, and the fewer the enrolled members, the bigger the cut for those who remain.

McAnally sees the same dynamic at work at Fort Peck, though the stakes are much lower. At a recent meeting on amending the tribe's Constitution, he supported switching to the lineal descent framework. But delegates voted down that proposal, along with others, including one that would have made associate members full members. The plan that passed was perhaps the most conservative -- the one suggesting that the blood of other federally recognized tribes be included in Fort Peck's calculations.

McAnally, a big man with the imperious air of an aging Marlon Brando, sees no nuance in the desire to restrict tribal membership. "It's all based on greed," he says.

*You're standing in the blood quantum line
With a pitcher in your hand
Poured from your heart into your veins
You said I am
I am
I am*

*Now measure me
Measure me
Tell me where I stand
Allocate my very soul
Like you have my land*

*Excerpt from "Blood Quantum,"
a song by The Indigo Girls*

Continued in the March Klah-Che-Min



Walking On Ida Jean Cooper

Beloved Squaxin Island tribal elder Ida Jean Cooper died on Monday, December 29, at Mason General Hospital in Shelton. She was 59 and had lived in Shelton for 30 years. Mrs. Cooper was born on March 9, 1949 to Delwin Francis and Eliza Velma (Tobin) Johns in Olympia.



Ida and Malachi

Mrs. Cooper married James Allen Braese. That marriage ended in divorce. She married Francis Arnold Cooper Jr. on June 10, 1983 in Shelton.

Mrs. Cooper was a homemaker and more. She worked very hard at being a loving and devoted wife for 27 years.

She enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Time on Squaxin Island was always a welcomed idea over the last couple of years. She went hunting a few times and would get very excited when the kill was made.

Mrs. Cooper was preceded in death by her father Delwin F. Johns; mother Eliza V. Johns; brothers Lloyd P. Johns and Harry J. Johns; and sister Mary E. Johns.

She is survived by husband Francis Arnold Cooper of Shelton; daughters Lisa M. James and husband Tony of Shelton, Tonya V. Henry and husband Leo of Shelton; brothers Herbert B. Johns of Shelton; Richard J. Johns of Shelton and Delwin C. Johns of Olympia; grandchildren Patrick A Braese, Beau M. Henry, Lisa F. Frodert, Davina M. Braese, Tiana E.L.F. Henry, Terence J. Henry and Malachi R.J. Johns; and great-grandchildren Tanalee A.F.M. Mendoza and Ariana V. Mendoza.

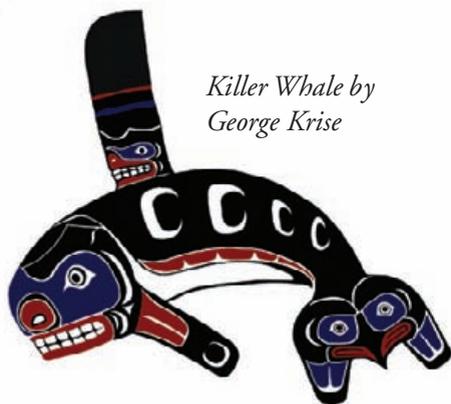
Ida's funeral service was held January 5th at the Squaxin Island Tribal Center.



Special Thanks

To the Squaxin Island Tribal Council, Squaxin Health Clinic, Kamilche Trading Post and all community members, thank you for all your help and compassion. I deeply appreciate everyone's efforts in assisting my family in our time of great sorrow and you all will never know how it touched my heart to see my Mom treated with such high honor and respect. I see her as a queen and she was treated as such. With deepest appreciation, THANK YOU!!!

- Sincerely,
Francis "Mike" Cooper,
Lisa James,
Tonya Henry
and all Ida's Grand children
and Great Grandchildren



Killer Whale by
George Krise

Walking On Bert Wilbur

Bert Wilbur died of cancer on Sunday, January 4 at Mason General Hospital in Shelton. He was 83 and had lived his entire life on the Skokomish Reservation.

Mr. Wilbur was born on the Skokomish Reservation on January 20, 1925 to Lawrence Wilbur and Ann Frank.

Mr. Wilbur married Arline Peterson on May 11, 1964 at the Skokomish Assembly of God.

Mr. Wilbur was a Private First Class in the Army. He served from August 7, 1943 to August 14, 1946.

Mr. Wilbur was a logger for Simpson Timber Company's Camp Govey, a fisherman and a carver.

He was a deacon and a member of Skokomish Indian Assembly of God for 43 years. He enjoyed walking, hunting, carving and fishing.

Mr. Wilbur was preceded in death by his brothers Cyrus Wilbur and Harold Wilbur and sister Anna May Archer.

He is survived by wife Arline Ardel Peterson Wilbur of the Skokomish Reservation; daughters Darlyn Warren and Ruth Peterson both of the Skokomish Reservation; sons Andy Peterson, Calvin Peterson and Mark Warren all of the Skokomish Reservation; brothers John Strong and Nick Wilbur both of the Skokomish Reservation and Chuck Conklin of Shelton; grandchildren Matthew Warren and Tame-la Warren both of the Skokomish Reservation, Andrea Sigo of Shelton, Bernice Blue Bird of the Skokomish Reservation, Maylynn Foster of Shelton, Trudi Williams of Skagit, Larry Lee Williams of Skagit, Amber Sutterliect of Olympia, Soaring Hawk Peterson of the Skokomish Reservation, Trever Peterson of the Skokomish Reservation; numerous nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.

A viewing was held at the Skokom-



ish Indian Assembly of God on Thursday, January 8 and followed by a dinner at the Skokomish Tribal Center.

A funeral service was held at the Skokomish Assembly of God on Friday, January 9. Bill Kallappa and Nick Wilbur officiated.





NATURAL RESOURCES

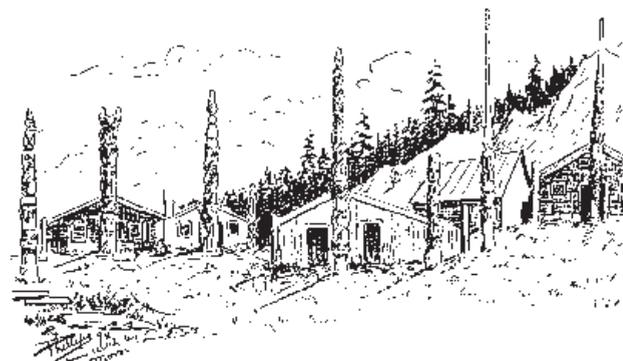


'08 Fishery in The Books, '09 Fishery Planning Begins

January 9th, 2009 by Joe Peters - The Squaxin net fishery had its ups and downs in 2008. Preseason forecast projected average Chinook returns, below average Coho returns and a above average Chum run. Chinook returns to deep South Sound ended up being higher than projected with 10,777 adult Fall Chinook returning to Tumwater Falls Hatchery and Squaxin catch of 10,400 Deschutes origin fish. '08 Forecast for Deschutes Fall Chinook was 13,400. Squaxin Coho fishery resulted in a respectable 35,800 catch (excluding Carr Inlet), and the projected Squaxin netpen forecast was 29K. Chum catches, although seeing lower returns and closing the fishery to reach escapement for Totten, resulted in a 56K chum catch for 2008. Escapement goals appear to be met in Eld, Totten and Skookum Inlet watersheds.

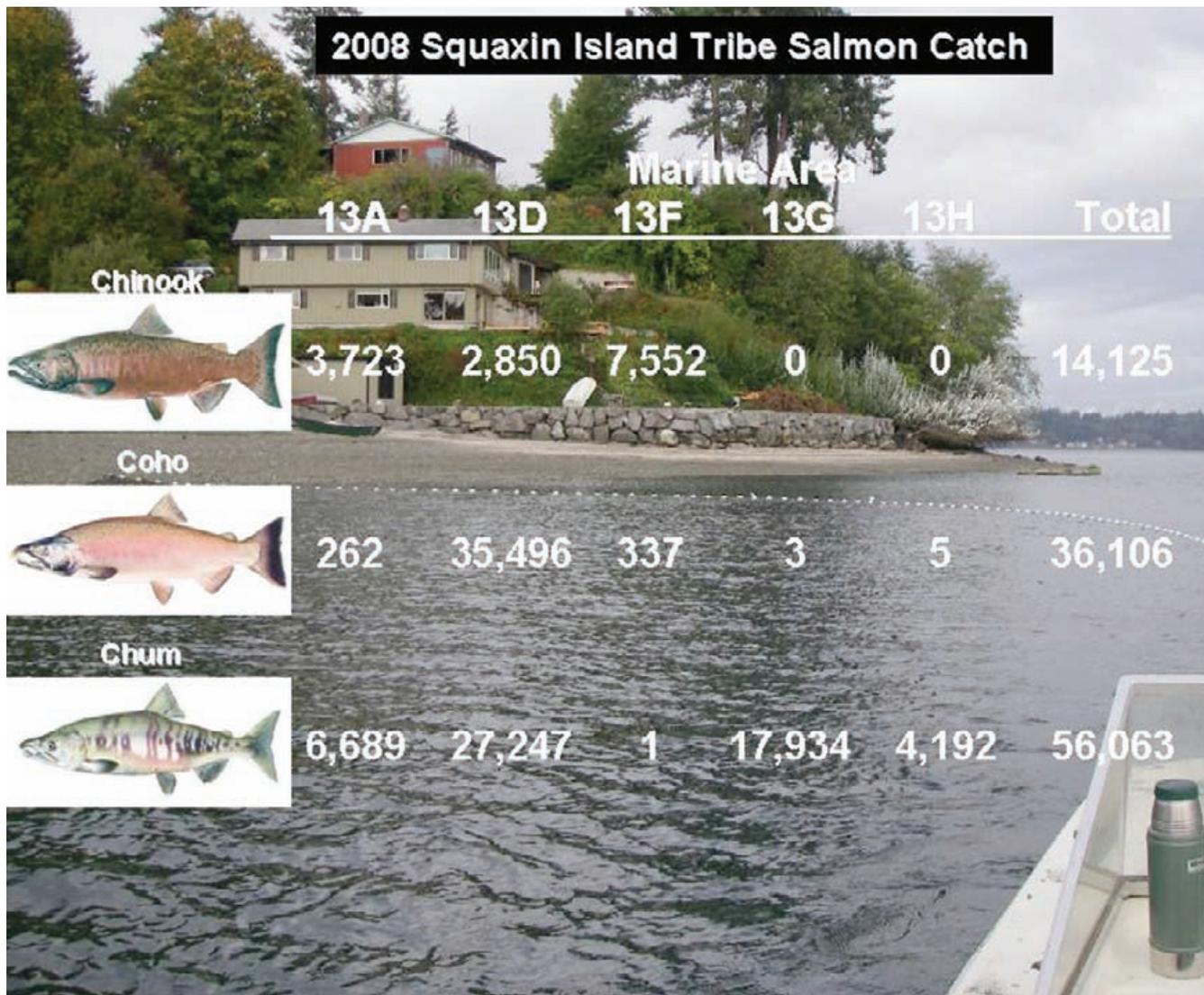
The 2008 salmon market was favorable with peak prices for Chinook reaching \$4 per pound, \$1.80 for Coho and \$0.75 for Chum. The total number of licensed Squaxin Fishermen was 112.

With the '08 season behind us, the 2009 Preseason Fisheries planning begins. Forecasts begin to be shared by the end of January, with the North of Falcon process, salmon fishery negotiations between Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tribes, taking place in the following months. At the end of April all of the 2009 Washington State Treaty and Non-Treaty fisheries will be set.



Squaxin Island Geoduck Test-Plot Progress

Rana Brown - Geoduck tubes were removed from small test-plots on Squaxin Island in early January. These tubes were put in prior to planting to help protect the baby geoduck from predation. Generally tubes are removed after approximately 1 year as the clams have dug deep enough to avoid most predators. Many individuals from Squaxin Island Natural Resources were present and helped make this night of beach work go smoothly. Thanks for all the help!





Squaxin Island Tribal Harvesting on Private Tidelands



Figure 1. Oakland Bay. Hammersley Inlet Private Tidelands Area Shown By Red Arrow

Rana Brown, Natural Resources, Shellfish Dept. - During the summer of 2008 Squaxin Island Natural Resources Shellfish employees conducted shellfish population surveys on several privately owned tidelands in Hammersley Inlet (Figure 1). This area had previously been closed to harvesting due to some form of pollution (see <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/default.htm> for more information on area closures). The recently upgraded approved status allowed us to identify the area and determine if a commercial density of clams occurred in this area.



Figure 2. Shaded Areas Indicate Closure Areas For Oakland Bay and Hammersley Inlet

(www.doh.wa.gov)

Other private Tidelands fall within a pollution closure area and are not safe for commercial harvest and subsequent consumption (Figure 2). This is why we can harvest clams from some beaches and not from others in this particular area.

Harvesting from private tidelands is different than harvesting from areas like Squaxin Island or state held beaches like “The Dikes” or “The Westside.” While a lot of planning must go into all commercial clam harvests, planning a private tideland dig takes extra work. In some cases we communicate and coordinate with growers that the tideland owner has hired to “manage” their beach. Sometimes we coordinate the digs with the owner. Either way, a lot of planning must go into the event to ensure that all parties are informed. Squaxin Island Tribe has rights to half of all naturally occurring shellfish on these particular tidelands. Our goal is to ensure that we harvest our treaty share, while maintaining good relations with homeowners and hired growers. Private tideland digs are also different because we must treat each private tideland as a separate beach (Figure 3). Each beach has defined boundaries (property lines), and each tideland has a different available biomass (amount of clams we can harvest).



Figure 3. Individual Tidelands Depicted By Yellow Shading.

This is why it is so important that we only dig in certain areas (within marked boundaries) and only dig the predetermined amount of clams on each separate tideland. Harvesting outside of these boundaries is something we do not want to do, as that action could lead to legal problems for the Tribe and ultimately less revenue for the Tribe and tribal members.

Conducting treaty harvests on private tidelands has the potential to be a valuable asset to Squaxin Island Tribe. As shellfish growing areas become approved within our Usual and Accustom area, we could potentially harvest our treaty share in those areas. More clam resources equal more revenue for tribal members and that is something we are promoting through these clam digging opportunities.



CHRISTMAS '08



*Photos by Walt Archer,
Ralph Munro, Dale Croes and Terri Conway*



Deer!





CHRISTMAS '08





A Very, Very Happy Birthday
to My Best Friend, Ramona!
I Hope Your Kids Get You
Strawberry Cheesecake!
Loads of Love!
Your Friend Barb
(Hope You Like the Picture!)

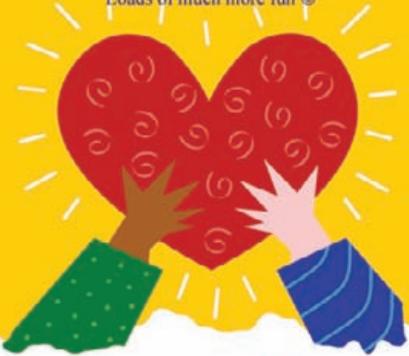


VA -VA- VA VOOM
Valentines Day
Make over!

Saturday, February 14th
Starting at 12:00-3:00 P.M.

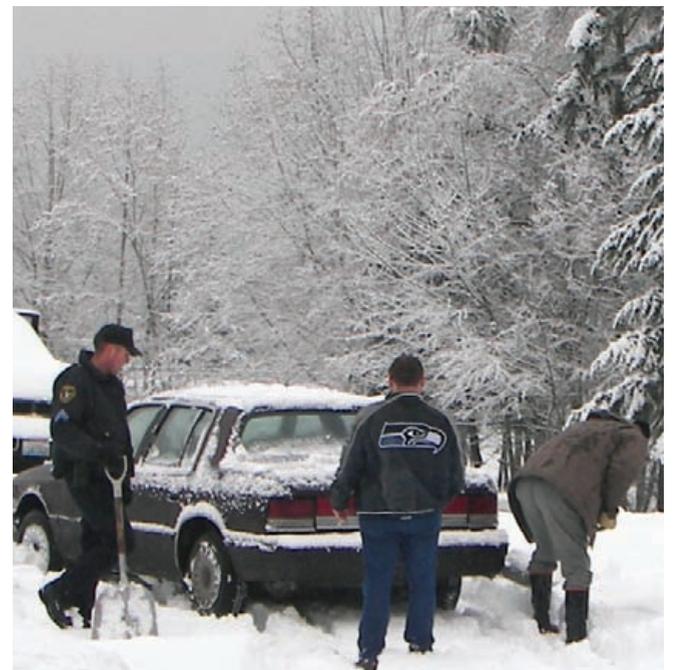
Place: MLRC

Beautify yourself for Valentines Day!
What to expect: Mitzi's back with MASSAGES
Door Prizes from AVON
MaryKay makeover!
Bring a "White Elephant" for the dice game!
Loads of much more fun ☺



Sponsored by:
Squaxin Island Tourism
&
Squaxin Island Museum,
Library & Research Center

Happy
2009!!!



Missing Dog
Last Seen Friday, January 23, 2009 at 5:15pm, in our front
yard.
Sol-La-Tah Loop on the Squaxin Island Reservation



She comes to the name Kamora if you have any
information please call 360-870-5818
If you have her or know where she is we will come get her
no questions asked
Please help us get our Dog Back
Cleveland & Janita Johnson
360-870-5818





CHRISTMAS '08



Photos by Walt Archer and Terri Conway





GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S INAUGURAL BALL





GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S INAUGURAL BALL





1st Annual Squaxin Island Polar Bear Swim

The 1st Annual Squaxin Island Polar Bear Swim was held Thursday, January 1st, 2009. Council Member Charlene Krise and Joe Peters put the event together a few days prior. Joe Peters and his family are long time participants of the Olympia Polar Bear Plunge. They decided to move away from the traditional, larger gathering over in Olympia and do something new. At approximately 2:00 p.m. on January 1st, with Bob Marley blaring in the back ground, Joe thanked everyone for arriving.

“Welcome to our first annual polar bear swim. We hope to join us to jump again in 2010 and years following,” Joe said. Nine eager swimmers, ages ranging from 5 to 60 years, gathered to jump in Pickering Passage in 43 degree water. Air temperature was 47 degrees. We had as many non-swimmers supporting our craziness. Mark your Calendars: The 2nd Annual Squaxin Island Polar Bear Swim will be January 1st, 2010 at the Arcadia Boat Ramp, dressing up in costumes is encouraged.

Polar Bear Statistics

WHERE
Arcadia Boat Ramp

WHEN
2:00 p.m., Jan. 1, 2009

AIR TEMP
47 F

WATER TEMP
43 F

DUUU!





ELDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY AT LCCR





Short local hikes a great way to be more active Here are two short hikes worth fitting into your busy schedule:

By Chester Allen | The Olympian
(Modified by Patty Suskin)

Watershed Park

WHERE

Watershed Park in Olympia offers trails, mature forest and pristine sections of Moxlie Creek right in the middle of town. The main trailhead parking lot is on Henderson Boulevard, south of Interstate 5. There are other trailheads at Eastside Street and 22nd Avenue.

TO DO

Watershed Park is perfect for a quick hike during a rain break — or during a rainstorm. There is a 1.4-mile loop trail, and spur trails let hikers get in and out of the park — and to different neighborhoods — in an hour or so.

The trails have some steep climbs, boardwalks and stairs, so this is a great spot to keep your hiking muscles in shape — and stay strong this winter. The city of Olympia has installed excellent trail markers and signs. This trail is not suitable for those who use wheelchairs. Benches are at some scenic spots. The Loop Trail is 1.4 miles. The hike from the main park trailhead on Henderson Boulevard to the 22nd Avenue trailhead is about 0.7 miles. The hike from the mail trailhead to Eastside Street is about 0.6 miles.

EQUIPMENT

Good hiking shoes, sunglasses, cameras, binoculars, warm clothes and rain gear.

PARKING

There is parking at the Henderson Boulevard trailhead.

DIRECTIONS:

Take 101 South toward Olympia, then I-5 North Exit at the City Center (Exit 105), taking the Port of Olympia split. Get in the left lane at the split. Take the roundabout as if you are making a left turn (away from town). You can see the small parking lot (almost a large shoulder) immediately on the left only one-tenth of a mile from the roundabout at the off ramp. There also are entrances on Eastside Street and 22nd Avenue.

MORE INFORMATION

Call Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department at 360-753-8380 or check www.ci.olympia.wa.us.

Capitol Lake waterfowl walk

WHAT

A nice loop walk around Capitol Lake begins and ends at Heritage Park. Heritage Park is at the intersection of Water Street and Fifth Avenue in downtown Olympia. The 1.6-mile loop trail around the north basin of Capitol Lake is probably the easiest way to see thousands of migrating waterfowl in South Sound. If you're lucky, you'll see a bald eagle make a diving run on a flock of ducks. This trail is flat and well-drained, and it's close to downtown, parking and the Capitol Campus. You don't have to hike the entire 1.6-mile loop, but if you do, know it travels from Heritage Park, passes near the bluff leading up to the Capitol Campus, crosses the lake on the bridge to Marathon Park and follows Deschutes Parkway to Fifth Avenue and back to Heritage Park. The bridge has displays on lake wildlife and ecology, with an emphasis on salmon, cutthroat trout and steelhead, which all use the lake.

How to get to Capitol Lake:

Several ways - here is one:

- Take Hwy 101 South to Olympia and exit at SPSCC (Cooper Point / Automall Drive / Crosby Exit).
- Take a LEFT off the ramp onto Cooper Point Road and go over the overpass.
- Take the first RIGHT at the light (Evergreen Park Drive).
- Take a LEFT onto Lakeridge Drive (toward the Thurston County Courthouse. Drive past the Courthouse and down the hill to the lake.
- Turn LEFT onto Deschutes Parkway.

There are plenty of parking spaces along Deschutes Parkway surrounding the lake and near Heritage Park.



The Community is invited to

Diabetes Bingo

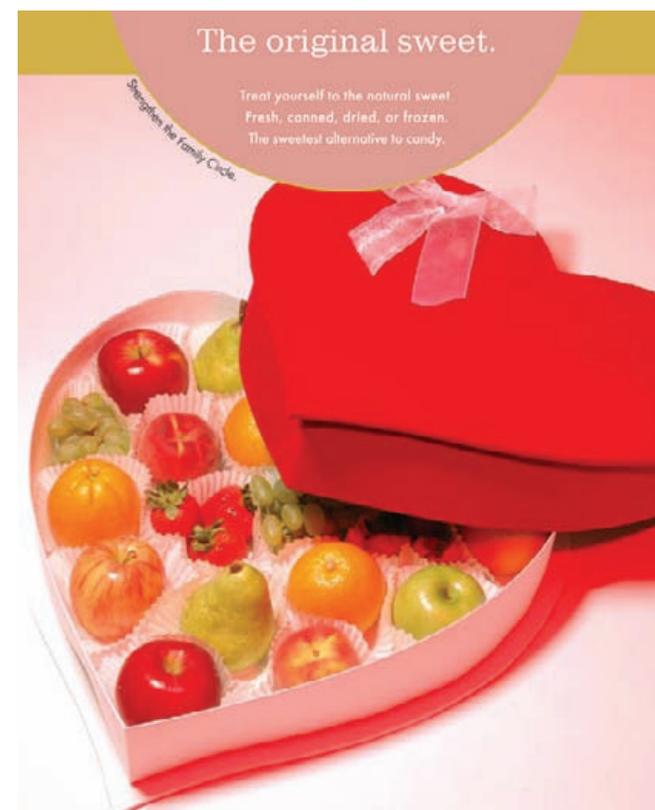
Wed, February 18th, 2009

Starts between 6:30 pm & 7 pm
(After Elder's Meal)
Elders Meal \$3 at 6 pm

At Elder's Building

For more info,
contact Patty Suskin, Diabetes Coordinator
at (360)432-3929 or psuskin@squaxin.nsn.us

or Colleen Woodard, Elder's Coordinator at
(360)432-3936 or cwoodard@squaxin.nsn.us





Thursday Clinic Hours 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Good News!

Dr. Keith Doyle DDS (Dentist) has joined the health clinic staff. He is an employee of the Tribe working 16 hours a week. Please call the office for your appointment 432-3881.

How many 57 year old women do you know that can outrun women more than twenty years younger?

"I can. But the real surprise is that just last year I weighed 210 pounds. That was when my days seemed to revolve around candy and desserts.

My life dramatically changed last year with a visit to my local health clinic. The doctor told me I was on the verge of developing diabetes and recommended diabetes medications. I told the doctor I was a strong person who could make changes—and I did.

I told the doctor I was a strong person who could make changes—and I did.

The first change I made was to stop eating five kinds of food: candy, ice cream, cookies, cakes, and potato chips. It was easier than I thought and I dropped 17 pounds in the first two months. So what did I eat? For starters I discovered oranges, bananas and apples. I still pack a bag every morning and have learned to like them even more than candy.

My next change was to start walking. I went to the Colville Tribe community center every night. Gradually my stroll turned into a brisk walk and then a slow jog. Soon I was running on the open roads—my pony tail blowing in the wind, I was like a horse. I repeated the same thing over and over as I ran: "Run Indian run." I'm proud to be an Indian and my pride is greatest when I run.

I've now dropped over 45 pounds and I feel great, free—like the way an Eagle must feel in flight. But my biggest moment has been placing second in the Bloom Day Race, running over seven miles in just over an hour.

My six grandchildren have watched my transformation with a mixture of surprise and pride. I tell them I want to live long enough to see them graduate. Who knows—maybe I'll even outrun them someday."



Shirley's tips:

- Keep candy out of the house and out of your desk at work.
- Replace candy, ice-cream, cookies, cakes, etc. with a variety of fruits.
- Replace chips with a variety of whole grains and vegetables.
- Start moving and keep moving.
- Set small goals for yourself and keep track of each achievement.



Prescriptions, Pain and Crime

Dave Caulfield, ARNP - What do I love about being a Nurse Practitioner? Believe it or not . . . it's certainly not about the money. It's about helping people . . . using my knowledge and skills to help people to be healthy. One of the toughest parts is pain. We all deal with pain; it's part of life. Sometimes the pain gets to be too much and people need medicine. When we prescribe these medications, many of them are very powerful . . . and very addictive. In order for us to be able to prescribe the medicines, we must maintain a high level of knowledge. We are also monitored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). We use these medicines for one reason . . . to help people. Pain doesn't kill. I've never saved a life by prescribing a pain pill. Sometimes these pain medicines kill. People take too much or become addicted.

We all know stories about pain medications and crime. Some people sell their medicines. This is illegal. Yes, its illegal to sell prescriptions that were legally prescribed. It is illegal for the seller and the buyer. Some people commit crimes such as burglary and robbery to be able to buy these medications.

Recently we've learned that a local doctor has been seeing some of our patients and prescribing high doses of very powerful medicines. These are not people dying of cancer or who have had surgery. These are people who have conditions that do NOT require high doses of these medicines. We have several concerns about these excessive prescriptions. People are either taking too much medicine or they are illegally selling them. This could put others at risk for addiction and even, possibly, death.

These are people who I have seen in the clinic and who I care about. I do my very best to help them live well and be as healthy as possible. They will even ask for refills of pain medicines we prescribe. On a personal level, I must admit that we feel we are taken advantage of by our own patients when they go to another provider seeking what would otherwise be considered 'legal' drugs for illegal or simply ill advised purposes.

We are health care providers, not policemen. We don't want to be crime fighters. We don't report patients who we feel may be selling medications. However, we may have to decide we can't prescribe them. We have to protect our patients and our reputations in order to best serve this community. If you have any questions or concerns, please make an appointment to come talk to us.

Need Food? Check These Out . . .

WIC at SPIPA

- Monday, February 2nd, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 18th, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Contact Debbie Gardipee-Reyes at 462-3227

Commodities (at SPIPA during Squaxin Island Gym renovation)

- Monday, February 9th from 10:00 to noon
- Monday, March 9th from 10:00 to noon
- Contact Shirley or Bonita at 438-4216 or 438- 4235

Squaxin Island Tribe Food Bank

At Health Promotions Building

Regular Hours:

- Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- If you need access to the food bank at any time, just stop by!
- Contact Janita Johnson at 432-3972



Lunch Menu

Mon. 2 - Chili & Cornbread
Wed. 4 - Roast Pork
Thurs. 5 - Lasagna

Mon. 9 - Sloppy Joes
Wed. 11 - Pot Roast
Thurs. 12 - Beef Stew

Mon. 16 - Fajitas
Wed. 18 - Meatloaf
Thurs. 19 - Seafood as available

Mon. 23 - Build Your Own Sandwich & Soup
Wed. 25 - Pork chops
Thurs. 26 - Tuna Noodle Casserole



Emergency Room Guidelines

Because Contract Health Services has limited funding, you must use the Squaxin Island Health Clinic whenever possible. If the clinic is closed, both Shelton Family Medicine (426-2653) in Shelton and Group Health Urgent Care (923-5565) in Olympia have extended business hours. Shelton Family Medicine is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Fridays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Group Health Urgent Care is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Either of these offices can advise you on how to handle a medical problem. The care you receive at these clinics must fit the priority levels at which CHS is currently operating or you will be responsible for the bill.

An emergency may be defined as "a threat to the loss of life and/or limb." See partial listing under EMERGENCY ROOM listed below.

Contract Health Services will only pay for Priority Level I and Priority II procedures. Below are some situations in which you might need to go to a Clinic or Emergency Room. Please note that this is not a complete list, and is only meant to provide you with a few examples.

GO TO A CLINIC:

Earache
Cough
Ingrown Finger/Toenail
Bronchitis
Minor Cuts & Burns
Headache
Colds

EMERGENCY ROOM:

Amputation
Heart Attack
Profuse Bleeding
Coughing & Vomiting Blood
Sexual Assault
Acute Asthma Attack
Stroke

If you find yourself in an emergency situation, please use Mason General Hospital or St Peter's Hospital as the Tribe has a discount with these facilities. If you do not have prior authorization, please visit the hospital's financial assistance department to apply for assistance to satisfy our Contract Health Care requirements. Hospital Charity Care is available (up to 200% of the federal poverty level) – but only if you apply at the hospital.

Health Events

Brief Community Walk

Every Thursday at 12:40 p.m.
Meet at the Elder's Building
After Senior Lunch

Foot Exam Morning for People With Diabetes

Tuesday, February 3rd
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the clinic
Appointments may be available
for people without diabetes
Contact Patty Suskin

Community Health Walk

Thursday, February 19th
Meet at Elder's Building at 12:40 for
a 20 minute walk around the REZ
All SPIPA tribes will be taking a walk
in their area at the same time-
for diabetes prevention!
Help us win the Walking Stick!
The tribe with the most walkers each
month wins the walking stick
for that month.
We won it last July ...
Can we get it back this February?

Mammogram & Women's Health Exams

February 27th
Contact Rose Cooper (360)432-3930

Want a garden in your yard?

Are you low income?
Contact Patty Suskin to
get on the waiting list to have a garden
placed in your yard – for FREE
Ask Patty for more information

Free Pilates classes

Community members welcome
Mondays and Wednesdays
4 – 5 p.m. at SPIPA

Community-wide Diabetes Bingo

Wednesday, February 18th
Elder's Building
Have fun, win prizes and
learn more about diabetes
Check with Patty for details

Free Line Dancing

Wednesdays & Fridays at
noon in the gym

Smart Shopping/Food Label

Reading Workshops

Contact Patty to schedule a
family & friends session

Come Visit Our Health Promotions Programs

We have exercise videos
(Sit & Be Fit, Yoga, Walk Away the
Pounds & more)
you can come & use in building
across from clinic.
Work out alone, with us,
or schedule a time for a group

Interested in Lifestyle Balance Program?

If you are Native American & over 18, see
if you qualify to participate in this
16-week workshop to improve your health
by changing your nutrition & activity

Contact Patty Suskin(360)432-3929
or Janita Johnson (360)432-3972





General Body

Continued from Page 1

Recently The Tribal Council made changes to the 5-year and 2-year wait policy - effective February 1, 2009 - that is tribal members who are over 55 years of age shall be exempt from the 5-year and 2-year wait.

Also, effective now, Individuals that relinquished from Squaxin Island to join another tribe as minors that re-enroll at Squaxin Island within one year of becoming 18 years of age shall be exempt from the 5-year and 2-year wait.

According to Tammy, there are 18 people currently on the waiting list. Eight are under the age of 18 and 14 are between the ages of 18 and 55. There are 120 elders enrolled.

Tammy also informed the General Body that it was recommended by Tribal Council to adopt DNA testing for new enrollment application, on case by case basis. This, she said, will ensure that people don't falsify paternity/maternity documents.

Tribal Council recently passed a resolution which puts a moratorium on new enrollment except for children who are born to an enrolled tribal member. This means a freeze on enrollment while Tribal Council and the Enrollment Committee further define and adopt an Enrollment Ordinance.

After lengthy discussion of enrollment issues, the General Body then shared ideas regarding President Elect Barack Obama's economic stimulus package, hosting of the annual Canoe Journey in 2012, emergency management, employment training, alternative energy, success of the youth employment program and easier access to dumpsters and recycling bins for tribal elders.

LCCR General Manager Cameron Goodwin then invited everyone to the upcoming Sa-Heh-Wa-Mish Powwow in February and the Coast Salish Gathering the evening before. The casino, Cameron says, considers people age 50 and over to be seniors eligible for discounts.

The meeting concluded with a luncheon at noon.

Housing Waiting List Applicants...

REMINDER: If you are on the Squaxin Island Tribal Housing Waiting List, it is time to update your housing application. The updated application was mailed to the last known address that the Office of Housing has on file in January. If you are on the waiting list and did not receive the update application or you have recently moved or have a change of mailing address please call Juana (JC) Perry, Occupancy Specialist, at (360) 432-3863.

If you do not update your address to receive the update application and/or do not update your application by March 31, 2009 your name will be removed from the housing waiting list.

Housing Q & A

If I have a conveyed home can I rent it out?

A conveyed homeowner can rent their home to a Squaxin Island Tribal member according to their Residential Sublease; Section 10 Assignment; (1) Lessee(s) shall not sell or otherwise assign this Lease without the written consent of the Tribe.

What income sources are used to calculate annual income and is it required for all housing tenants?

The Eligibility, Admission and Occupancy Policy (EAOP):
A. Income Verification;

In order to determine program eligibility and rent amounts, the applicant shall provide the Office of Housing (OOH) verification of income. The verification of income shall be for applicant and all other income generating members in the household family. The OOH, at its sole discretion, shall determine whether a sufficient verification of income has been made, and in doing so shall consider the following documents:

- Copies of filed IRS income tax returns and/or W-2 statements.
- Letters or statements from employers and other pertinent sources.
- Copies of all financial records (bank/investment account statements, ledgers, quarterly reports, award letters, receipts, etc.) in the possession of the applicant shall also provide similar information on his or her business expenses.

By certified statement the applicant shall represent and warrant to the OOH the information given regarding household income is true and accurate. The applicant agrees to sign releases or consent forms that will entitle the OOH to verify and /or obtain income information from third-parties.

What is included in a Financial Counseling session?

Each session is different depending on what you are hoping to achieve in your financial future. Most sessions include one or more of the following:

- Discussion of your financial goals
- Review and discuss your credit report
- Create a household budget
- Design a plan to work toward your financial goals
- Follow-up sessions as needed

The OOH has a counselor from Consumer Counseling Northwest come in once a month to assist tribal members. If you would like to meet with a counselor, call Lisa Peters @ 432-3871 to set up an appointment.



Featuring:

Lewis Mehl-Madrona, MD, PhD, Healer

Author of Coyote Medicine: Lessons from Native American Healing; and, Narrative Medicine

With presentations by:

- **Kathryn Lyons, LMHC, CDP**
'The Work' of Byron Katie
- **Bill James, Lummi Indian**
Nation Storyteller

Sponsored by:

- Lummi Tribal Health Center
- Lummi Victims of Crime
- Brigid Collins Family Support Center
- Whatcom County Children's Advocacy Center
- Office of Crime Victim Advocacy

March 27, 2009

8:00 Opening Song - 4:30 Closing Prayer

Wex liem

Lummi Community Building
Lummi Indian Nation
2100 Lummi View Drive, Bellingham

LEARN – COMMIT – CHANGE

To help you get the most of your experience, we recommend you review the following materials:

- Coyote Medicine by Lewis Mehl-Madrona, MD, PhD.
- <http://www.healing-arts.org>
- www.thework.com (Byron Katie website)

CEU's Available

\$10 registration fee for lunch by Lummi caterer Ces Ballew

Registration form and directions available at <http://www.brigidcollins.org> or call 360-734-4616.



COMMUNITY



Happy Birthday

Harry Johns Jr.	01	Shaelynn Peterson	11	Robert Whitener, Jr.	19	Juana Nelson	27
Winter Perez	01	Hunter Merriman	11	Rachel Ford	19	Cameron Henry	27
Mistifawn Martinez	03	Alei Henderson	11	Katalina Lewis	19	Alex Salgado	27
Donald Briggs	03	Brent Snipper	11	Benjamin Parker	19	Katherine Ackerman	28
Lareciana Broussard-James	04	Che-Vonne Obi	12	Cheryl Monger-Sept	20		
Lydia Algea	04	Russ Addison	12	Timothy Linn	21		
Larry Bradley, Jr.	04	Ramona Mosier	13	Kristopher Peters	21		
James Cooper	04	Eugene Cooper	13	Annie Ruddell	21		
Ronald Dailey	04	Michael Furtado	14	Sallee Elam	21		
Kalea Johns	04	Sean Jones	15	Margaret Witcraft	21		
Dylan Hyder	05	Sonja Clementson	15	Steven Peters	21		
Shannon Cooper	05	Alicia Boyette	15	Jordan Sweitzer	21		
John Briggs	05	Justine Vandervort	16	Grace Pughe	22		
Anthony Pinon	05	Jennifer Kenyon	16	Kimberly Zachry	22		
Stephanie Gott	06	Jean Henry	16	Joshua Melton	23		
Ruth Lopeman	07	Crystal Mc Culloch	17	Lydia Parrott	23		
John Tobin	07	Antone Hidalgo-Hawks	17	Barbara Henry	23		
Sebastian Rivera	07	Clayton Bethea	17	Marvin Newell, Jr.	23		
Michael Mosier	07	Sophia Martin	17	Delwin Johns	24		
Fawn Tadios	08	Derrick Wily	17	Miriam Whitener	25		
Barbara Knudsen	08	Micheal Kenyon	17	Jonathon Fry	25		
Justin Lopeman-Dobson	08	Steven Peters	18	Zachariah Mirka	25		
Michael Henderson	09	Kimberli Burrow	18	Samuel Penn	26		
Stefanie Kenyon	09	Haley Peters	18	Katrina Beltran	26		

**Happy Birthday
Winter Raven and
Happy Birthday Michael!
Love, Dad**

**To Sis,
Happy Belated Birthday! I
Am So Proud to Say That
You're My Sister! You Are
Such a Wonderful Friend,
Sister and Auntie!
Have a Great 2009!
Love You!
- Ruth and the Kids**

**Happy Belated Birthday
Margaret!
Love, Mom**



Squaxin Indian Bible Church

Church services are held on Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.
At the Museum in the Simpson Room

Bible Study is held Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.
At the pastors home - 30-Ho-Mamish Court
Bible Study will start up again the first of the year (2009)

Every one is welcome! Come as you are! We are all family,
and our family would like to see your family in church.

Pastors Ron and Kathy Dailey

We perform weddings and funerals (for a free-will offering). Please call us any time you need help or prayer @ 432-3009

What's Happening

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Squaxin Indian Bible Church 11:00 a.m.			Family Court	AA Meeting 7:30		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Squaxin Indian Bible Church 11:00 a.m.		Criminal/Civil Court		Council Mtg. AA Meeting 7:30		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Squaxin Indian Bible Church 11:00 a.m.				AA Meeting 7:30		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bible Church 11:00 a.m.		Criminal/Civil Court		Council Mtg. AA Meeting 7:30		



**Basketry Classes
Every Wednesday
From 4:00 - 6:00 @ MLRC**



Tips to Help Reduce Your Household Expenses

With increasing gas and food prices many families are looking for ways to cut expenses. It seems like housing, utility, telephone and other bills are going up faster than income. There are some ways families can cut expenses and help to make ends meet. Here are a few tips to help you get started cutting expenses.

Utilities:

- Reduce wattage of bulbs in house lights. Change to compact fluorescent bulbs. Turn off lights where not in use.
- Change furnace filters every three to six months.
- Use weather stripping to seal door and window frames.
- Use fans rather than air conditioning. You might consider installing a whole house fan or ceiling fans.
- Wash clothes only when you have a full load or change the setting to fit the load size.
- Wash dishes in the dishwasher when you have full loads. Use "energy saver" cycles.

- Use an electric skillet, toaster oven or microwave whenever possible for food preparation. Stove burners use 3 1/2 times as much energy as an average electric skillet.
- Turn your water heater down to a lower setting (120 degrees F). Check hot water usage.
- Set your air conditioner at a higher temperature in the summer time and lower in the winter.
- Don't let water faucets drip.
- Limit the amount of water used for outside watering, washing cars, etc.
- Shut off appliances and equipment when not in use. Turn computer off at the main switch.

Housing:

- Maintain your house. Make minor repairs so they don't become major ones. Do repair work and other jobs around the house yourself or trade skills with someone else.
- If renting, work with your landlord, offer to do work in exchange for part of your rent payment when your budget is tight.
- Know your financial situation. Are you living beyond your means? Look at your total housing costs. Could you find a less costly place to live? If you have a budget crunch, contact your lender before you miss a payment to work out an alternative plan.

Home furnishings:

- Keep carpets and upholstered furniture vacuumed and clean to prevent wear of fibers by soil particles.
- Use a throw to cover furniture that appears worn but is still usable to give it a new look.
- Make do with what you already have. Purchase furniture inexpensively at auctions, discount stores, Goodwill, or yard sales, etc.

Telephone:

Do you need both a land line and a cell phone? Look at the plans for your phone - are you paying for unneeded or unused features?

Have a family discussion about how your money is being spent. Cutting expenses can be a challenge. If all family members do their part to reduce unnecessary spending and energy and water usage around the home fitting costs into the budget will be easier.

Upcoming Events Free Tax Preparation Site

(Basic Returns)
Administration Bldg. 2nd floor
February 10 - April 15
Tuesday and Thursday evenings
By appointment only
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

One-on-One Credit Counseling

Administration Bldg. 2nd Floor
January 26
February 23
March 30
By appointment only
6:00, 7:00, 8:00 p.m.

Tools For Success

Financial Skills for Families
(3-3 hour sessions)
Administration Bldg. 2nd Floor
January 26, February 2, February 9
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about the scheduled classes or would like to attend, please contact:
Lisa Peters @ 432-3871.

Greetings

If you haven't noticed lately there has been an additional patrol driving around the Reservation. The Housing Department has hired Officer Jim Reinhold as their new Housing Enforcement Officer. He comes to us with plenty of experience in regards to animals and vehicles. One of his first assignments is to identify unlicensed dogs running around the Reservation. He would like everyone to know he is willing to work with dog owners to assist them in training and identifying problem areas. The Housing Department is willing to waive the license fee, currently \$5.00 for all animal owners during the month of January and February 2009. It is the goal for the Housing Department to ensure all residence are safe from not only dog attacks but dogs running loose damaging others property. Jim's office is on the 2nd floor (Rm 201) of the Administrative Building and his phone number is 432-3953. Lets all work together to make Squaxin Island Reservation a fun and safe place to live.

WHY PAY FOR SOMETHING YOU CAN GET FOR FREE?



You don't have to pay high fees to commercial tax preparers for quick cash refunds. Find a free tax preparation site near you!

KEEP YOUR CASH!

Instant tax refunds are really high cost loans! Free tax sites have volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service who can help you maximize your tax refund and get it deposited electronically in your bank account. Access your funds in just a few days.

GET YOUR CREDITS!

Every year in Native communities, millions of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) dollars go unclaimed. If your family earned less than \$41,646 in 2008, you may qualify for the EITC when you file your return. You could get up to \$4,824 depending on your income and number of qualifying children.

PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK!

Use your tax refund to achieve your family's financial goals. Pay bills, improve your credit by reducing your debt, or save for a house, your education or a small business.

Oweesta Corporation www.oweesta.org/tlr 806-342-3771
Made possible by Annie E. Casey Foundation



Squaxin Island Free Tax Preparation Site

Administration Bldg. 2nd floor
Tuesday and Thursday evenings
February 10 - April 15
By appointment only
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Contact Lisa Peters to schedule an appointment 432-3871

Anti-Indian Graffiti Mars Bridge

Racism still a problem, says official from Nisqually tribe

By John Dodge | The Olympian • Published January 21, 2009 - A vulgar graffiti message scrawled on the upstream side of the Old Pacific Highway bridge across the Nisqually River is a sign that racism hasn't died out near the river, a Nisqually tribal official said Tuesday.

The message, scrawled on the upstream side of the bridge, read: "F--- the Indians fish killers," said David Troutt, the tribe's natural resource director. "Some people still seem to think it's OK to say whatever they want about Indians," he said.

Thurston County Roads crew chief Mike Macauley said he would check the bridge out today and remove the racist graffiti as soon as possible. "We get graffiti on our bridges, but it's usually gangs — not this type," Macauley said. "I'll look at it and get the sheriff's office involved, too."

Troutt said he was unaware of any escalating tension on the river, where tribal and nontribal fishers have coexisted, sometimes uneasily, for decades. It's not the first time

hostility has been directed at tribal fishers. In 1998, a tribal fisherman was shot in the side with a pellet gun by an unidentified assailant while fishing for chinook salmon on the lower river. And in the 1960s, the Nisqually River was the scene of fish-ins, protests, arrests and violent struggles between tribal members and state game wardens.

Today, the Nisqually and other Western Washington treaty tribes co-manage salmon resources with the state and are entitled to half of the harvestable salmon and steelhead under an 1850s treaties reaffirmed by U.S. District Court Judge George Boldt in 1974.

Nisqually River chinook are part of a larger Puget Sound population of chinook listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

In recent years, the tribe has cut its chinook fishing season in half, restricted tribal fishermen to a smaller section of the river and led community-based salmon habitat restoration projects in the watershed, Troutt said.



Our Entertainment Speaks For Itself

Entertainment Line-Up

Spike and the Impalers
January 17th • 8pm • Tickets: \$38/\$33/\$27

Cheech & Chong
February 27th • 8pm • Tickets: \$60/\$55/\$50

Jonny Lang
March 7th • 8pm • Tickets: \$45/\$40/\$35

Carnage at the Creek V
March 12th • 7pm • Tickets: \$150/\$75/\$50/\$35

Lonestar
April 18th • 8pm • Tickets: \$40/\$35/\$30

Visit our website for tickets and details!

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Must be 21 and over. For skyboxes call 432-7043. Minutes North of Olympia on Hwy 101



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Win big at our Quarterly Bingo!

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Saturday March 14th at 12:30pm & 3:30pm
Saturday, March 14th at 6:30pm

.....

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\$8.95 Food Specials
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Wear Tie-Dye & receive extra Level 1 with buy-in purchase

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*Valid for Bingo Participants, must show Players Club Membership