

# Muckleshoot MESSENGER





February 14, 2023

# Election 2022: Incredible year for Indigenous candidates!

By Dianna Hunt & Joaqlin Estus, Indian Country Today

More than 85 Indigenous candidates won election on Nov. 8 to political offices up and down the ballot in 22 states, adding Indigenous representation to Congress, statehouses, courtrooms and local governments across a wide swath of the nation.

The election will bring the first Native person back to the U.S. Senate in nearly two decades, put a record number of Indigenous women judges on the bench in Arizona and place more than 65 Indigenous politicians in state legislatures across the country, according to an analysis of election results by ICT.

"We were saying it was going to be a nailbiter election, but in Indian Country, we were always certain we were going to have an incredible year," said Jordan James Harvill, Cherokee and Choctaw, the national program director for Advance Native Political Leadership, which also tracked the election.

Twelve Indigenous candidates ran for Congress, and five will take their seats in the nation's capital next

Three are from Oklahoma. Markwayne Mullin, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation who had served in the U.S. House of Representatives, won easily in Oklahoma to become the first Indigenous person to serve in the U.S. Senate since Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell left in early 2005.

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, an Oklahoma Republican, Chickasaw, easily won re-election, and will be joined in the U.S. House by Republican Josh Brecheen, Choctaw, a state senator who won election to Oklahoma's 2nd Congressional District.

Two other Indigenous congressional leaders also won re-election – Reps. Sharice Davids, a Kansas Democrat, Ho-Chunk, and Mary Peltola, Yup'ik, an Alaska Democrat, who was elected to a full, two-year term after serving out the final months of the late Don Young's term of office.

A sweep by Indigenous candidates of their races in Arizona will mean a record seven Native women will be holding court there as judges.

And Indigenous politicians held onto top seats in two states – Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, Cherokee Nation, and Minnesota Democratic Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, White Earth Band of Ojibwe, were both re-elected.

In another first for Indigenous candidates, Lisa Finley-DeVille, Mandan, Arikara, Hidatsa, drew nearly 70 percent of the vote to represent North Dakota's newly created State House District 4A, which includes a majority of Native voters.

In all, more than 150 Indigenous candidates filed to run for federal, state or local office this year, and 120 of them advanced to the general election.

Of those, 89 – nearly 75 percent – won their elections. Thirty Indigenous candidates lost their races, though many were facing well-entrenched incumbents. Indigenous candidates did well in the 2020 elections, but far surpassed those numbers this year.

Here are the Indigenous candidates identified by ICT and Advance Native Political Leadership who ran for federal, state or local office across the U.S., and the results of the Nov. 8 election:

### **U.S. CONGRESS**

Won: Mary Peltola, Yup'ik, Alaska, was re-elected to a full two-year term in Alaska's At-Large Congressional District after serving out the final months of the late Don Young's term of office. Peltola won with nearly 55 percent of the vote against former Gov. Sarah Palin after ranked-choice ballots were tallied. Lost: John Mark Porter, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone, California, Republican, Congressional District 33, was defeated by incumbent Democratic Rep. Pete Aguilar, who was re-elected with nearly 58 percent of the vote. Lost: Joe Akana, Native Hawaiian, Hawaii, Republican, Congressional District 2, fell to Democrat Jill Tokuda, who drew 59 percent of the vote.

**Won:** Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk, Democrat, Kansas, Congressional District 3, drew 55 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Amanda Adkins and Libertarian Steve Hole.

Lost: Elizabeth Mercedes Krause, Oglala Lakota, Nevada, Democrat, Congressional District 2, lost to Republican incumbent Mark Amodei, who had nearly 60 percent of the vote.

Lost: Rep. Yvette Herrell, Cherokee Nation descent, New Mexico, Republican, narrowly lost her bid for re-election to Democrat Gabriel Vasquez, who drew just 50 more votes to represent Congressional District

Lost: Charles Graham, Lumbee, North Carolina, Democrat, Congressional District 7, was defeated by Republican David Rouzer, who drew 57 percent of the

Won: Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma, Republican, U.S. Senate, drew nearly 62



SHARICE'S BIG VOICE. Congresswoman Sharice Davids of Kansas is seen here gifting a copy of her childrens book "Sharice's Big Voice" to Skuya Elkins during a visit to Muckleshoot last summer.

percent of the vote in a field of four to fill out the unexpired term of outgoing Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe. Won: Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma, Republican, Congressional District 4, drew nearly 67 percent of the vote to defeat Democratic challenger Mary Brannon.

Won: Josh Brecheen, Choctaw, Oklahoma, U.S. House of Representatives District 2, Republican, drew 72 percent of the vote to defeat Democrat Naomi An-

Lost: Tasha DeVaughan, Comanche Nation, Virginia, Democrat, Congressional District 9, fell to incumbent Republican H. Morgan Griffith, who took 73 percent of the vote.

Lost: Lynnette Grey Bull, Northern Arapaho and Hunkpapa Lakota, Wyoming, fell to Republican Harriet Hageman, who took 68 percent of the vote for Wyoming's only congressional seat.

### **STATE & LOCAL RACES**

Won/lost: Two Indigenous candidates faced off for the State House District 39 seat. Neal Foster, Inupiaq, Democrat, drew 51 percent of the vote to narrowly defeat Tyler Ivanoff, Yup'ik, with the Alaska Indepen-

Won: Bryce Edgmon, Yup'ik, State House 37, Independent, was unopposed.

Won: Lyman Hoffman, Yup'ik, Democrat, took nearly 65 percent of the vote to defeat Willy Keppel with the Veterans Party of Alaska, for State Senate S.

Won: Josiah Patkotak, Inupiaq, State House 40, Independent, was unopposed

Won: Maxine Dibert, Koyukon Athabascan, State House 31, Democrat, garnered more than 49 percent of the vote to defeat Republicans Barton LeBon, with 29 percent, and Kelly Nash, with nearly 21 percent.

Won: Victoria Steele, Seneca and Mingo, Pima County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Democrat, unop-

Won: Jennifer Jermaine, White Earth Ojibwe, Maricopa County Justice of the Peace San Marcos District, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Susie Nelson, Diné, Navajo County Justice of the Peace Precinct 4, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Sara Mae Williams, Tohono O'odham, Pima County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Theresa Hatathlie, Diné, State Senate 6, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Democrat Mae Peshlakai, Diné, won one of two seats representing State House 6, unopposed.

Won: Democrat Myron Tsosie, Diné, won one of two seats representing State House 6, unopposed. Won: Sally Ann Gonzalez, Pascua Yaqui, State Senate

20, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Ceyshe Napa, Navajo, Democrat, Phoenix Union High School District Ward 4, unopposed

### California

Won: James Ramos, Serrano and Cahuilla, California State Assembly District 45, Democrat, took more than 60 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Joseph W.

Lost: Mitch O'Farrell, Wyandotte, Los Angeles City Council 13th district, Democrat, was defeated by Hugo

### Recognizing History-Making Indigenous Representation in Washington Legislature



Sen. Claudia Kauffman



Rep. Deborah Lekinoff



Rep. Chris Stearns

OLYMPIA – The 2023 Washington State legislative session started on January 9 and for the first time in state history, three Native Americans hold elected positions in the legislature. Native people nationwide are being elected to public office in record numbers.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, a sprawling department the oversees the BIA, National Parks, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and much more, is now headed up by a Deb Haaland, an Indigenous woman. This is something that couldn't have been dreamed of only a few years ago.

The number of Natives in the U.S. Congress has tripled in just the last few years. It's gone from just two to six, but the pathway is open as never before. The rising tide of Native American representation in elected bodies at all levels – cities, counties, school boards, state legislatures and the U.S. Congress – serves as an inspiration to the youth of the generation now coming of age. In the Washington State Legislature, the following individuals are providing that inspiration:

Senator Claudia Kauffman, of the Nez Pierce Tribe, is again representing the 47th Legislative District (South King County). Kauffman served as

Washington State Senator of the 47th Legislative District from 2007-2011 and co-founded Native Action Network to strengthen Native communities through organizing, leadership, development and civic engagement. She has also served as the Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

**Representative Debra Lekanoff** represents the State's 40th Legislative District (Position 1), which includes parts of Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan counties. Lekanoff is a member of the Tlingit Tribe. She served as Government Affairs Director for the Swinomish Tribe and has decades of government relations experience. Representative Lekanoff is Vice Chair of the House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee. She also sits on the Appropriations Committee and the Rural Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Representative Chris Stearns, of the Navajo Nation, represents the 47th Legislative District (South King County), Position 2. Stearns served on the Auburn City Council for three years and has had an extensive career as an attorney, government leader and public policy advocate.

Soto-Martinez, who drew 55 percent of the vote.

### Hawai'i

Won: Lynn Pualani DeCoite, Native Hawaiian, State Senate 7, Democrat, drew more than 70 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Tamara McKay.

Won: Jarrett K. Keohokalole, Native Hawaiian, State Senate 24, Democrat, garnered nearly 67 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Antionette Fernandez. Won: Michelle Kidani, Native Hawaiian, State Senate 18, Democrat, took nearly 64 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Mary Smart.

Lost: Leilani Soon, Native Hawaiian, State Senate 10, Republican, lost to Democrat Les Ihara Jr., who had 63 percent of the vote.

Won: Brenton Awa, Native Hawaiian, State Senate 23, Republican, drew 49.7 percent of the vote to narrowly defeat incumbent Democrat Gil Riviere, who had 47.3 percent.

Won: Dru Mamo Kanuha, Native Hawaiian, State Senate 3, Democrat, won the seat outright in the August 2022 primary election.

Won: Jeanné Kapela, Native Hawaiian, State House 5, Democrat, took nearly 66 percent of the vote to sail past Republican Lohi Goodwin.

Won: Daniel Holt, Native Hawaiian, State House 28, Democrat, drew 64 percent of the vote to defeat Ernest

Won: James Tokioka, Native Hawaiian, State House 16, Democrat, had 67 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Steve Yoder.

Lost: James "Duke" Aiona, Native Hawaiian, Governor, Republican, lost to Democrat Josh Green, who had nearly 64 percent of the vote.

Won: Adrian Tam, Native Hawaiian, Democrat, State House District 24, took nearly 65 percent of the vote to defeat Republica Jillian Anderson.

Won: Justin Woodson, Native Hawaiian, Democrat, State House District 9, unopposed

Won: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Native Hawaiian, Honolulu City Council District VI, drew 49 percent of the vote to defeat Traci Toguchi

### Kansas

Won: Christina Haswood, Navajo Nation, State House 10, Democrat, unopposed

Lost: Jaelynn Abegg, Cherokee, State House District 105, Democrat, fell to Republican Brenda Landwehr, who drew 58 percent of the vote.

### Maine

Won: Aaron Dana, Passamaquoddy Tribe, State House, non-voting Passamaquoddy tribal representative; began his term Oct. 1

### Michigan

Won: Jeff Irwin, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Democrat, State Senate District 15, garnered 76 percent of the vote to defeat Scott Price.

### Minnesota

Won: Peggy Flanagan, White Earth Nation, Lieutenant Governor, Democrat. Flanagan and the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Tim Walz, garnered nearly 57 percent of the vote to defeat the Republican slate, Scott Jensen and Matt Birk.

Won/Lost: Two White Earth Nation citizens faced off in the bid for State Senate 2. Republican Steve Green took 60 percent of the vote to defeat Democrat Alan

Won: Mary Kunesh-Podein, Standing Rock Sioux, State Senate 39, Democrat, took 67 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Pam Wold.

Lost: Erika Bailey-Johnson, Red Lake Nation, State House 2B, Democrat, fell to Republican Matt Bliss, who took 63 percent of the vote.

Won: Alicia Kozlowski, Grand Portage Ojibwe/Mexican, State House 8B, Democrat, garnered 71 percent

of the vote to defeat Republican Becky Hall. Won: Jamie Becker-Finn, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe descent, State House 40B, Democrat, bested Republican opponent Allen Shen with more than 67 percent of

Won: Heather Keeler, Yankton Sioux and Eastern Shoshone, State House 4A, Democrat, beat Republican Lynn Halmrast with nearly 59 percent of the vote. Won: Tim Sumner, Red Lake Nation, Beltrami County Commissioner District 4, drew 58 percent of the

vote to defeat Joseph E. Neft. Won: Audrey Thayer, White Earth Nation, Bemidji City Council At-large, Democrat, narrowly defeated opponent Ron Johnson with just more than 50 percent of the vote.

Won: Sheila Lamb, Anishinaabe/Cherokee, Cloquet City Council Ward 2, nonpartisan, unopposed Lost: Charles Black Lance, White Earth Ojibwe/Rosebud Lakota, Brainerd School Board, nonpartisan, drew about 13 percent of the votes in a crowded field.

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**Muckleshoot Messenger B2** February 14, 2023

# 022 Muckleshoot Holiday Legislative Reception











The Muckleshoot Canoe Family











Sen. Sharon Tomiko-Santos and John Daniels Jr.



Muckleshoot Kayeh Princess Lori Molina



Sean Daniels, principal organizer of the event







Tribal Chairman Jaison Elkins



Emcee Tonia Jo Hall, **Auntie Beachress** 

# Election 2022

Continued from B1

Won: Donavon Hawk, Crow, State House 76, Democrat, won 63 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Suzzann Nordwick.

Won: Rhonda Knudsen, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, State House 34, Republican, unopposed

Won: Marvin Weatherwax Jr., Blackfeet, State House 15, Democrat, eked out a win with 50 percent of the vote over Republican Ralph Foster.

Won: Tyson Running Wolf, Blackfeet, State House 16, Democrat, unopposed Won: Frank Smith, Assiniboine Sioux, State House

31, Democrat, drew 54 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Arlie W. Gordon.

Won: Sharon Stewart-Peregoy, Crow, State House 42, Democrat, drew 53 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Virginia McDonald.

Lost: Rynalea Whiteman-Pena, Northern Cheyenne, State House 41, Democrat, lost to Republican Paul Green, who took 57 percent of the vote.

Won: Jonathan Windy Boy, Chippewa Cree, State House 32, Democrat, unopposed

### Nevada

Won: Shea Backus, Cherokee Nation, State Assembly District 37, Democrat, drew 55 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Jacob Deaville.

### **New Mexico**

Won: Patricia Roybal Caballero, Piro Manso Tiwa, State House 13, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Anthony Allison, Navajo Nation, State House 4,

Democrat, unopposed Won: Doreen Wonda Johnson, Navajo Nation, State

House 5, Democrat, unopposed Won: Derrick Lente, Sandia and Isleta Pueblo, State

House 65, Democrat, unopposed Won: Brent Detsoi, Navajo Nation, Magistrate Judge McKinley Division 1, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Virginia Yazzie, Navajo Nation, Magistrate Judge McKinley Division 2, Democrat, unopposed Won: Edward Becenti Jr., Navajo Nation, County Assessor McKinley, Democrat, unopposed Lost: Elreno Henio, Navajo Nation, County Sheriff McKinley, Republican, was defeated by Democrat James Maiorano III, who had 67 percent of the vote. Won: Danielle Notah, Navajo Nation, County Com-

missioner McKinley 1, Democrat, unopposed Won: Sharon Clahchischilliage, Navajo Nation, Public Education Commissioner San Juan 5, Republican,

Won: GloJean Todacheene, Navajo, County Commissioner San Juan 1, Democrat, unopposed

Lost: Zachariah George, Navajo Nation, County Commissioner San Juan 2, Democrat, lost to Republican Gary M. McDaniel, who had 64 percent of the vote. Lost: Henry Silentman, Navajo Nation, County Assessor San Juan, Democrat, lost to Republican Jimmy Voita, who had 65 percent of the vote.

Lost: Songtree L. Pioche, Taos Pueblo and Oglala Lakota, Magistrate Judge San Juan Division 1, lost to

Republican Russell L. Bradford, who drew 80 percent of the vote. Lost: Gertrude Lee, Navajo Nation, New Mexico Court of Appeals Position 2, Republican, lost to Democratic incumbent Katherine Anne Wray, who drew 51 percent of the vote. Lost: Karen Bedonie, Navajo

Nation, Governor, Libertarian, drew 2 percent of the vote. Won: Christine Lowery, Laguna Pueblo/Hopi, Cibola County

Commissioner District 1, Democrat, took 81 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Richard S. Coop.

### North Carolina

Won: Chenoa Davis, Haliwa Saponi, Democrat, won one of three seats on the Halifax County Board of Commissioners in a field of four candidates.

### North Dakota

Lost: Ruth Buffalo, Mandan, Hidatsa and Chiricahua Apache, State House 27, Democrat, failed to finish among the top two vote-getters with all votes unofficially counted, losing to two Republicans.

Won: Lisa Finley-DeVille, Mandan, Arikara, Hidatsa, State House 4A, Democrat, finished with more than 69 percent of the vote to beat Republican Terry Burton

Lost: Lillian Jones, Mandan, Arikara, Hidatsa, State House 41, Democrat, finished behind three other candidates. Won: Jayme Davis, Turtle Mountain Band of Chip-

pewa, State House 9A, Democrat, beat her challenger with more than 68 percent of the vote. Lost: Richard Marcellais, Turtle Mountain Band of

Chippewa, State Senate 9, Democrat, was beaten by Republican Kent Weston, who drew 53 percent of the

Lost: Collette Brown, Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe, State Senate 15, Democrat, lost to Republican Judy Estenson, who took more than 65 percent of the vote.

### Oklahoma

Won: Gov. Kevin Stitt, Cherokee Nation, Republican, defeated Democratic challenger Joy Hofmeister. Stitt drew nearly 56 percent of the vote to Hofmeister's 42 percent.

> Won: Ajay Pittman, Seminole, State House District 99, Democrat, unopposed

Won: Brad Boles, Cherokee, State House District 51, Republican, unopposed

Won: David Hardin, Cherokee, State House District 86, Republican, unopposed

Won: Hurchel "Trey" Caldwell, Choctaw, State House District 63, Republican, drew more than 80 percent of the vote to defeat

Democrat Shykira Smith.

Won: John Pfieffer, Cherokee, State House District 38, Republican, unopposed

Won: Mark Vancuren, Cherokee, State House District 74, Republican, unopposed

Won: Mark McBride, Citizen Potawatomi, State House District 53, Republican, unopposed Won: Mike Osburn, Cherokee, State House District 81, Republican, unopposed

Won: Scott Fetgatter, Choctaw, State House District 1 Republican, unopposed

### Oregon

Won: Tawna Sanchez, Shoshone-Bannock, Ute & Carrizo, State House 43, Democrat, garnered more than 90 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Tim LeMaster.

Won: Annessa Hartman, Cayuga, State House 40, Democrat/Independent, took just more than more than 50 percent of the vote to win over Republican/Libertarian Adam Baker.

### **South Dakota**

Won: Shawn Bordeaux, Rosebud Sioux, State Senate 26, Democrat, drew 58 percent of the vote to defeat

Republican Joel Koskan.

Won: Peri Pourier, Oglala Lakota, State House 27, Democrat, won one of two seats to represent District

Won: Tamara St. John, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, State House 1, Republican, won one of two seats to represent District 1.

Won: Red Dawn Foster, Oglala Lakota, State Senate 27, Democrat, won 51 percent of the vote for a close win over Republican David Jones.

Tennessee

Won: Bryan Terry, Choctaw, State House 48, Republican, took 67 percent of the vote to defeat Democrat Matt Ferry.

### Utah

Lost: Davina Smith, Diné, State House 69, Democrat, fell to Republican Phil Lyman, who drew more than 60 percent of the vote.

Won: Angela Romero, Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes, State House 25, Democrat, took nearly 65 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Rebecca I. Ipson.

### Washington

Lost: Laurene Contreras, Yakama, State House 14, with no party preference listed, lost to candidate Chris Corry, described as preferring the Republican Party, for one of two seats representing District 14.

Won: Chris Stearns, Diné, Democrat, won one of two seats representing State House 47, taking 71 percent of the vote to defeat Shukri Olow, also listed as preferring the Democratic Party.

Won: Claudia Kauffman, Nez Perce, State Senate 47, Democrat, garnered nearly 53 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Bill Boyce.

Won: Debra Lekanoff, Tlingit/Aleut, State House District 40 Position 1, Democrat, took 69 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Shannon Perkes. Won: Jennifer White, Makah, Clallam County Trea-

### Wyoming

surer, Democrat, unopposed

Lost: Incumbent Democrat Andi LeBeau, Northern Arapaho, State House 33, lost to Republican challenger Sarah Penn, who drew 55 percent of the vote

Muckleshoot Messenger February 14, 2023 B3



# Muckleshoot 1910 Indian Shaker Church 2022 Christmas Dinner



















































### Welcome the New Faces of Mindcare and BHP

### **April Brown-Marter**

Mindcare - Receptionist

Hello for those who have not met me yet; my name is April by the time you read this I will be a married woman, with a new last name. I am the receptionist for the MindCare Clinic. Im a Muckleshoot Tribal member, my mother is Connie James of Muckleshoot and my father passed away, his name was Doug Brown from Yakima. I am also a mother of 4 wonderful kids. I was a student for a time and I received my Associates degree from NWIC, then transferred to UWT, but quickly



found out day classes are not an "Adult Learning Environment" so school is on hold for now. Environmental concerns are still a passion that I cannot put out; wanting to find ways to be more resourceful with what we consume is something I worry about. I also do not participate in any holidays, there is not a spiritual reason, but a shameful one. Shame on me for knowing more about how the holidays are honored, but do not know my own language and culture. Now I read more about Indigenous teaching methods and ways of thinking. I am still working on the shame of having to be taught my own language at my age, but Im sure the language program will be around to help

I use to be a client of the MindCare clinic and I believe it is a safe calming place where people like me can develop new neuropathways to help improve the nervous system, bring down the anxieties that build up, and become better equipped to handle life. I owe my new way of thinking and feeling to my mental health therapist, Tina, and the MindCare Clinic.



### **Ashleigh Kilgore**

Mindcare - Mindcare Technician

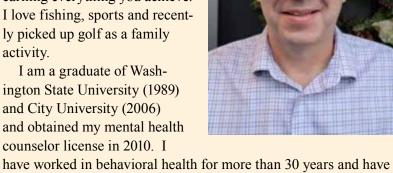
My name is Ashleigh Kilgore and I'm the new Mindcare Specialist at the Mindcare clinic/Health and wellness center. I attended college at Cal Poly Humboldt and graduated with degrees in botany and cellular molecular biology. Previously, I worked as a neurophysiologist in the San Francisco/bay area and this past year I have been teaching/coaching at the Muckleshoot tribal school. I am excited to continue working with the community and to expand my knowledge of the Muckleshoot tribe as well as learning from tribal members and my peers. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to getting to know the people in the community.

### Jeffrey A. Plancich, MA, LMHC

**BHP-Mental Health Therapist** 

I was born and raised in Tacoma as the middle of five children. Croatian (originally Yugoslavia) upbringing on my father's side and I was taught the values of working hard and earning everything you achieve. I love fishing, sports and recently picked up golf as a family activity.

I am a graduate of Washington State University (1989) and City University (2006) and obtained my mental health



worked in both King and Pierce County over my career. I am excited and honored to join the adult behavioral health team here.

My counseling approach is focused on helping individuals reach their potential through a collaborative process. We accomplish this together through the belief that people have the skills and abilities to change and overcome life's challenges. We will work together to identify your strengths and resources.

Counseling, in my opinion, is about finding what is working and deepening your skills to increase your health, well-being, happiness, and recovery. My approach is person-centered which means recovery and wellness is defined by your unique goals and your definition of success.

# Tribal medical teams recognized for COVID-19 efforts

On Friday, November 4, 2022, the members of the Muckleshoot medical team and Covid-19 contact tracing team were recognized for their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. The ceremony was held at the Holiday Inn Portland - Columbia Riverfront. Director of the Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS), Captain Marcus Martinez handed out the awards to each recipient. After the awards were given, a reception was held. There were about 200 people in attendance.

For the Muckleshoot Tribe, awards were given to the MIT Contact Tracers, MIT COVID-19 Hotline, MIT Medical Staff and the MIT Testing and Triage Team. Jeremy Pangelinan, Patient Services Director, was recognized individually for his efforts for 2020 and 2021.

The Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS) event honors and recognizes individuals and/or groups whose innovation, exceptional performance or exemplary actions, within the context of the Agency's priorities, have ensured quality service to our patients, stakeholders, and partners. The MIT staff were recognized for their exemplary efforts to elevate the health status of our American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Not all of the staff were able to make it to the awards ceremony below is a list of the individuals who were nominated for the awards:

- Kenny Jones
- Jenna Eyle
- Pelita Brack
- Kathlyn Filipo
- Greg Lezard
- Emilie Price
- Melissa Satiacum
- Corey Chambers
- Kelly Blake
- Jarrett Bruno
- Cathy Sanderson
- Gayle Basaraba
- Laura Starr
- Janelle Hite
- Elizabeth Snapinn
- Amber Postma
- Mary Ann Ortiz
- Kristy Kenyon
- Colet Bennett
- Adrian Markantonatos
- Yvonne Oberly • Jeremy Pangelinan



**Contact Tracers** 



Covid19 Hotline



**Testing Triage Tent Staff** 



**Medical Staff** 

### A first-in-the-nation 988 line for Native people goes live in WA

By Esmy Jimenez

Seattle Times staff reporter

The first mental and behavioral health 988 crisis line in the nation tailored for Native and Indigenous people, run by an all-Native team has gone live for Washington residents.

A group of 16 people run the Native and Strong Crisis Lifeline, which folds into the existing 988 hotline that debuted this summer. Now, 988 callers will have the option of pressing 4 to connect to a counselor who is familiar with "historical, intergenerational trauma, self care [and] more traditional elements," according to program manager Rochelle Williams, an enrolled member of the Ehattesaht First Nation and a Tulalip descen-

Native people have endured decades of suffering from the effects of Western colonization and displacement from their traditional land, language and cultures, Williams said. It's led to higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance use and suicide.

Current data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found American Indian and Alaska Native people have the highest rate of suicide compared to their non-Native counterparts with 23.9 deaths by suicide per 100,000 people compared to 16.9 deaths for white people, 7.8 for Black people, and 7.5 for Hispanic people.

That's why specialized counselors are so vital, Williams says.

On top of the regular training all crisis counselors receive, the staff are trained to be mindful of language. For example, many tribal communities have slang or allude to abuse rather than outright stating it, Williams said.

"One of the things that we talk about is the word 'bothering," she said. "Outside, [if] someone's 'bothering' you, maybe they're picking on you ... bullying you. In a lot of Native communities that might more likely indicate a sexual assault."

Because they expect a smaller number of callers on the tribal line, counselors will be able to take their time, not worrying about how long a call is taking, unlike other 988 counselors who may have to hurry when calls start stacking up.

When making a self-care plan, counselors also will be able to offer callers ideas about traditional medicine, cultural activities like dance or prayer, eating their traditional foods, or engaging with an elder.

"Whatever your cultural traditions are, they're encouraged and welcomed," Williams said.

That's also true for the counselors themselves, said Mia Klick, the lifeline coordinator and a Tulalip Tribes and First Nations Nuu-Chah-Nulth descendant. Klick will encourage counselors to smudge between calls, and will also debrief with them after especially difficult calls and will ask them to look inward.



Rochelle Williams, in Everett, is the tribal program manager at Volunteers of America Western Washington and helps run the 988 tribal line. (Kevin Clark / The Seattle Times)

"It's up to them to kind of reflect on their own biases and really unpack their own history with the trauma," Klick said. "So getting through their training takes a little bit longer because there's a lot of emotions."

To fully staff the team, Klick and Williams looked outside Washington state. Some counselors will be working remotely from the Navajo Nation, others will be closer and affiliated with the Quileute Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and Yakama Nation, among others.

This is doubly useful: First, some tribes are small enough that calling a local mental health service can mean running into neighbors or relatives. Having counselors from across the United States will mean callers have a greater guarantee of privacy.

Secondly, it created a larger hiring pool. Hiring for mental health staff is notoriously difficult as counselors and social workers leave the field for higher paying jobs in private practice or move to other industries altogeth-

"I am so proud that we were able to pull together an entire team of very strong Native voices that are going to advocate for people calling in," Klick said. "They know the pain, they know the trauma, they know what the caller is going through ... And that's going to make a huge differholding two degrees, but I felt I could do more. I want to help others

has it in them to find peace and to heal.

me so much support and love.

going through the same struggles I once faced. I believe that everyone

I'm currently working towards my degree in Substance Use Disor-

**Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Program** 

& Family and Youth Services

ders so I can give back even more to this community that has shown

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# **Muckleshoot Adult Recovery House**

### Meet the new members of our team!

Hello My name is Sarah Cain, I am Blackfeet & Chippewa, Turtle Mountain Band. I am a proud mother of a Muckleshoot son and a community member most of my life until I moved away about 12 years ago.

I have focused the last 6 years of my life working in healthcare, with a behavioral health focus. I was a team coordinator for Providence Health BHI. That was there I found my passion for working with people struggling with mental health and recovery. My father was also well-known speaker at area AA meetings my entire life, and this year he celebrates 40 years clean and sober.



Sarah Cain

I feel that working with behavioral health has always been part of my journey. I always knew I'd be called back home and am proud to bring my son back to his community, and equally proud to be working here at the recovery house as a Resident Aid and Peer support specialist. I am enrolled in Spring quarter to continue my education even further. I hope to become an SUDP counselor here soon, and in the future become a therapist.

I am honored to be working back in our community and thankful for all of you who have welcomed us home and given us your love and support.

~ Sarah

Hi! My name is Jenni Tipton and I've been a Muckleshoot community member since 1994. I have three wonderful kids that are Muckleshoot tribal members, Gracia, Rebekah and Brenden. I proudly have 6 years clean and sober and was recently hired at the Adult Recovery House.

I look forward to being a positive person in the community and a support to those in need. I have many years in the culinary arts field



Jenni Tipton

# Poetry with Ponies Find your voice, share your story and let the horse's help you heal! When: Every Wednesday at 4-5pm Where: Muckleshoot Barn (behind Butterfly House) 38407 180th Ave SE Auburn,

For more info contact: Kelly at Equine Services at (253)281-3964 Or

WA 98092

Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Program (253) 804-8752 Family and Youth Services (253) 333-3605

### While our activies return to normal, Behavioral Health keeps advancing Narcan distribution and training

We have all been eagerly awaiting the opening up of public events again; Pow Wows, Healing Dinners, trainings, sober support groups, and even committee meetings. While we have spent the last 2+ years of our lives in suspended animation and even the Covid pandemic has decreased, while the opioid epidemic and ensuing overdoses in King County have increased 39% between 2020 and 2021 and continued to rise in 2022 as well as into 2023. A majority of those overdose deaths have been attributed to the influx of fentanyl, which has been involved in 70% of all confirmed overdose deaths in 2022. King County Emergency Medical Services treated 5, 835 overdoses in 2022, while a total of 1,019 people passed as the result of overdose. While we distributed over 1,500 Narcan kits and held trainings for over 1,000 community members in 2022 through our SAMHSA First Responders grant, it doesn't feel like we are doing enough. Overdose deaths in the Muckleshoot community feel very personal to each of us at Behavioral Health Program and those have also been climbing.

We will be pushing harder in 2023 to get Narcan kits into every household and business place in this community. We already have received training requests at some of the Tribal Government entities and enterprises and will be holding a Healing Dinner to recognize the losses in our community from overdose deaths, increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and distribute Narcan kits. There should never be a time when someone passes from overdose as the result of not having a Narcan kit handy. We will also have informational tables providing education for parents on what to look for, healthy relationships, Medication Assisted Treatment and incentives for completing a brief survey. Please come join us for dinner prepared by the Culture Department and an opportunity to recognize those we have lost and be a part of the solution to "How do we prevent any further loss?"



NOW YOU CAN ACCESS MUCKLESHOOT
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF 24/7 WITH
ANY CONCERNS. WHEN YOU CALL THIS
NUMBER AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS
HOURS, YOU WILL BE CONNECTED TO A
CLINICAL STAFF MEMBER AND ASSISTED
WITH YOUR CONCERNS.
JUST CALL (253) 290-2824

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE: (800)273-8255 AVAILABLE 24 HOURS.

CRISIS TEXT LINE: TEXT "HELLO" TO 741741 FOR FREE, 24/7 IN THE UNITED STATES.

CRISIS CONNECTION HOTLINE (866) 427-4747 24 HOUR CRISIS RESPONSE.





**Open to Join Anytime!** 

**Every Thursday** 

1:30pm-3:00pm
Facilitated by: Dr. Sarlak



For more information, contact: Argelia Chavez Sanchez at the Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Program at (253) 804-8752

### Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Presents Fentanyl Overdose Prevention Informational Session



These trainings can be brought to your office and presented by a Tribal member. We are able to schedule trainings to meet all shifts.

Any Questions or to Sign Up

Contact Julia Joyce at
Behavioral Health
(253)804-8752 x3207
julia.joyce@muckleshoot-health.com



# Taking Heart Disease Personal

By Laura Starr, Muckleshoot Public Health Nurse

I lost my father prematurely to a heart attack on New Year's Eve of 1990 so I take Heart Disease very personal. He was born on Christmas day and died on New Year's Eve. Winter Holidays have lost their magic for my family and me. He did not get a chance to watch his children excel in life or meet many of his grandchildren. So yes, I take Heart Disease personal. I know that I am not alone in my grief; chances are



No Beauty Shines Brighter Than a Healthy Heart

many of you reading this have lost a loved one to Heart Disease. When my dad passed, I had no idea what heart disease even meant let alone that this disease is what caused his fatal heart attack. Does heart

disease always end in death?

**First, what is Heart Disease?** There are several types of heart disease but the most common type is Coronary Artery Disease (CAD). CAD is a Cholesterol build up in the arteries causing plaque to obstruct the flow of oxygen rich blood to the heart. Plaque builds up over time and eventually leads to Atherosclerosis, a partial or total block of the blood flow in the heart. (CDC, 2022)

What are CAD symptoms? Sadly, for many people the first sign of CAD is heart attack. When the flow of blood that carries oxygen to a part of your heart muscle becomes blocked the heart cannot get adequate oxygen. It is critical to restore blood flow to the heart or the heart muscle will start to die. (National Heart, 2022) Act fast by calling 9-1-1. Do not drive yourself to the Emergency room.

Heart attack symptoms: (National Heart, 2022)

- Chest pain, pressure, squeezing, or feels like an elephant is sitting your my chest
- Indigestion or heartburn
- Arm, back, shoulders, neck, jaw, or upper stomach pain (above the belly button)
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling light-headed
- Break out in a cold sweat
- Sick to your stomach
- Fatigued

Women do not always have the classic symptoms and are more likely to experience indigestion, shortness of breath and back pain. (Barouch, 2023)

Long-standing diabetics may not feel intense chest pain because the disease causes damage to the nerves. Diabetics who experience dull chest pain should seek immediate medical attention, (Lisa Rapaport, 2017)

What are risk factors for heart disease? (National Heart, 2022)

- Overweight
- Unhealthy diet
- Smoking
- Lack of physical activity
   Family history
- Family historyDiabetes
- Diabetes
   Heart disease

Heart disease is not a death sentence. Factors that can determine how long one lives with heart disease include chronic health issues, genetics, and lifestyle choices (Premier Heart and Vein Care, 2018). You can lower your risk for heart disease by choosing heart healthy habits such as:

- Controlling high blood pressure
- Eating foods high in fiber and low in saturated fats and cholesterol
- Limiting salt and sugar in your diet
- Refrain from excessive alcohol consumption
   Maintain a healthy weight
- Maintain a healthy weight
   Physical activity 2.5 hours
- Physical activity, 2.5 hours of moderate intensity exercise (brisk walk, bicycle) every week. That is 21 minutes a day. Please Call Muckleshoot Health and Wellness manager Caryn Avila to discuss an exercise plan that will accommodate you 253-293-4121
- Do not smoke. Muckleshoot Health and Wellness can assist anyone who wishes to stop.
- Monitor cholesterol.
- Control Diabetes by taking your medications as prescribed.
- Work with your health care team. Bring your list of questions or concerns. Ask to review any medications you are on so you fully understand what they are for (National Heart, 2022)

If you have any questions or concerns about heart disease please call the MHWC and schedule an appointment with your primary provider.



# **Muckleshoot Needle Exchange Program**

Health

Muckleshoot Behavioral

### **New Service Requirements**

COVID-19 precautions must be adhered to (temperature taken, checklist questions, masks must be worn) Mobile unit available by request with 24 hour prior notice Call/Text (253)350-5021

Needle Exchanges at MIT Behavior Health Hours: Monday thru Friday- ( 9 AM-12 PM, 1:00 PM-4:30 PM) This is a non-judgmental service for Injection Drug Users.

Any Questions? Contact Carol VanConett at Muckleshoot Behavioral Health: 253-804-8752

### **FENTANYL WARNING**

Fentanyl is causing an increasing number of deaths in King County.

Most drugs can be cut with fentanyl.

Fentanyl has been found locally in fake oxycodone pills & in white and blue powders.











Drugs pictured here were found at overdose death scenes in King County and tested positive for fentanyl.



### TRIBAL DISABILITY PROGRAM

Starting April 4th any enrolled Muckleshoot tribal member who is currently receiving SSDI or SSI as a disabled or blind person can apply for the Tribal Disability Benefit. Members need to provide the following information:

- · Verification of tribal membership
- · Current verification letter(dated within the last 30 days) from Social Security

Starting April 11th any enrolled Muckleshoot tribal member who has applied for SSDI or SSI but was denied and is within their timeframe for appeal can have their case reviewed by the Tribal Disability Program attorney. Members who have applied for benefits but have not received a determination can also have their applications reviewed. Members need to provide the following information:

- Verification of tribal membership
- Any correspondence to or from Social Security, including your application for SSDI or SSI

Starting April 18th any enrolled Muckleshoot tribal member who would like assistance applying for SSDI or SSI can receive assistance. Members need to provide the following information:

- · Verification of tribal membership
- · Information on medical conditions, providers seen, medications, employment history, education history, and information on military service. Additional information may be necessary to complete your application.

Contact Sara Moore, Disability Benefit Navigator at 253-939-6648 x 3438 to schedule your appointment

# 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

360 MONTHS• 1,565 WEEKS • 10,958 DAYS • 262,992 HOURS • 15,779,520 MINUTES





KEEP CALM AND COUNTING **HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY** 





Today we celebrate you and all your achievements. Your dedication and hard work are an inspiration to us all. Keep up all the good work.

Thank you for being a valuable member of our team.

**HAPPY 30TH WORK ANNIVERSARY** JOY OLES JANUARY 28, 1993

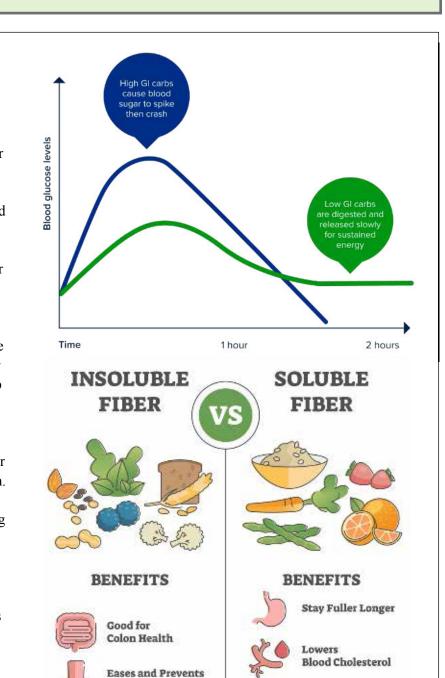
# Fiber? ... Fiber.

Diabetes management can be difficult however, it's not impossible. One of the many ways diabetes can be managed nutritionally is from our sources of fiber. We always hear about fiber and how we need more of it and see commercial promoting the next power bar or beverage supplement designed to increase fiber consumption. Control of after meal blood sugars is an everyday subject of concern for our diabetic population; so how does fiber help with diabetes and blood glucose control? Well, it comes down to digestion. How foods digest plays a large part in how our blood sugar levels are controlled. The fiber we eat and find in our food is called dietary fiber. Dietary fiber comes from plant based foods that are found in our diet such as whole grains, fruits, vegetables, beans and legumes. Dietary fiber can be categorized into two types of fiber: soluble and insoluble fiber. Insoluble fiber is fiber that does not dissolve in water and promotes food movement through our digestive system and can help keep blood sugars under control. While soluble fiber lowers cholesterol and, you guessed it can also lower blood sugar levels leading to better controlled diabetes. The main function of fiber for blood sugar management is the fact that fiber helps the food you eat digest slowly. The slower the digestion, the slower the sugars from the food enter our blood stream. So maintaining a diet that includes both types of fiber is a major way to keep blood sugars under control. Some examples of high fiber containing foods are whole grain bread, sweet potato, beans of any kind, oatmeal, and most fruits and vegetables. Incorporating some of these foods in your daily diet can make a huge impact on blood sugar control and help you on the path of long term blood sugar and diabetes management.

If there is anyone in the community who has questions about diabetes management through food and nutrition please contact the Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center's medical department to set up an appointment with the Registered Dietitian. (253) 939 -6648.

Connor Smith MS, RD

Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Center

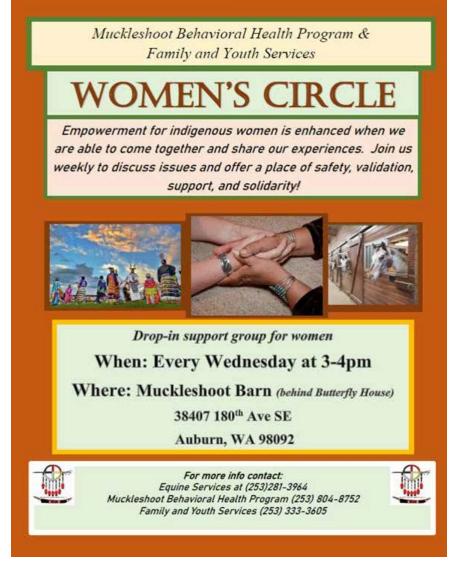


**Improves** 

MUCKLESHOOT

**Blood Sugars** 

Constipation

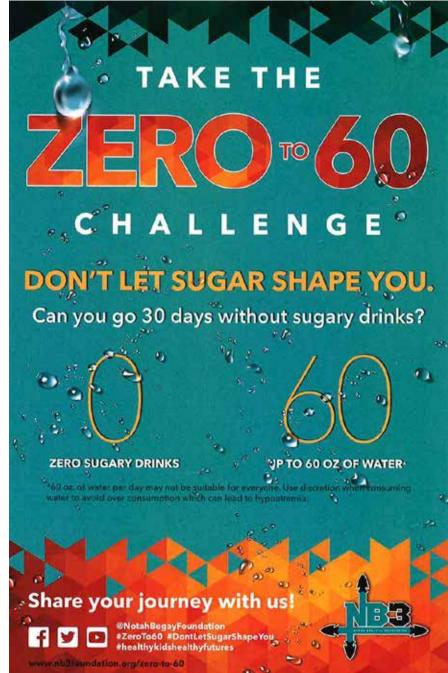




The Lap pool, Spa and Wader pool Closing for maintenance

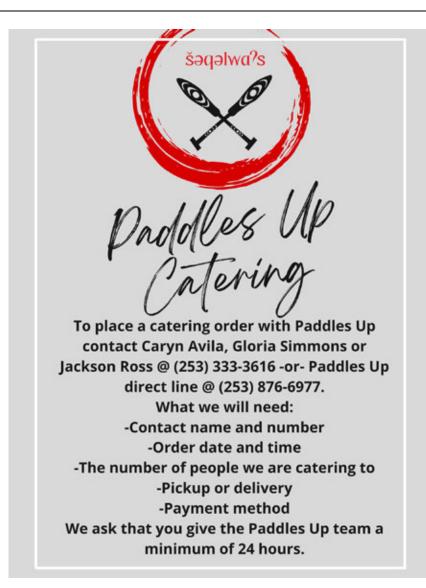


Will be closing for a resurfacing project. We thank you for your patience during our project. Exact dates soon.



















B8 February 14, 2023 Muckleshoot Messenger

# 2022 Muckleshoot Thanksgiving Dinner































































