



SERVING THE SALISH REGION

KITSAP, JEFFERSON, AND CLALLAM COUNTIES

Christmas Toys for Kids in Need

Holiday toys will be given to children and families in need through several charities around the Salish region. Three of the biggest toy give-aways in our area are Toys for Tots, Salvation Army, and Kitsap Fishline. All three have separate requirements and processes for receiving gifts for children. Most require picture ID, proof of current address, and documentation from DSHS or Medicaid proving children's dependence on state assistance. Most of these charities have deadlines of mid-November.

The Salvation Army has Corps in Port Angeles and Bremerton. The Port Angeles location is at 123 S. Peabody St. and is accepting applications through November 26th. Contact Major Barbra at (360)-452-7679 for more information. The Bremerton location is at 832 6th St. and can be reached at (360)-373-5550.

In order to receive presents from Fishline, your family must already be an in-area Fishline client with children eighteen or under. Register in person at 19705 Viking Ave NW in Poulsbo by November 15th. Call (360) 779-5190 for more information.

The Toys for Tots program has locations in all three counties in our region. For Jefferson residents, contact Don Olsen at workingolsen@gmail.com or (360)-379-6700 to be a part of the program. There are several agencies helping Toys for Tots in Clallam that you may contact, including The Crossing Church in Port Angeles at (360)-452-9936, Concerned Citizens in Forks at (360)-640-2500, Clallam Bay Church of Christ in Sekiu at (360)-640-0884, and Greywolf Elementary in Sequim at (360)-582-3303. In Kitsap, pre-registration is not necessary. Instead, the give-away will take place on December 14th at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds President's Hall. Documentation must be brought with you and children must be present in order to receive gifts.

Two-Spirit

Last month saw the 18th Annual Saying It Out Loud

Conference, which was held in Spokane. Amongst the many great speakers, workshops, and panels relating to improving behavioral health services for LGBTQ+ individuals, was an intriguing introduction to the Native American Two-Spirit Identity. Presented by Jackie Malstrom, director of the Portland Two-Spirit Society, the

Upcoming Events

- The Communities Project Training in Port Angeles – Nov. 9, 9-5
- Kitsap County Parent Coalition Monthly Support Meeting in Bremerton – Nov. 14, 11-1
- Resilience Screening in Sequim – Nov. 18, 10-12
- Statewide FYSPRT Meeting in Lacey – Nov. 19, 10-3
- DDA Information & Application Night in Poulsbo – Nov. 19, 5:30-7:30
- Salish FYSPRT Monthly Meeting in Sequim – Nov. 25, 3-5
- Clallam Integrated Managed Care Forum in Port Angeles – Dec. 4, 1-4
- Kitsap County Human Rights Conference in Bremerton – Dec. 6, 8-4
- Salish FYSPRT Meeting in Bremerton – Dec. 16

For details and more events visit www.salishfysprt.org/calendar

workshop explained how many Native Americans and First Nation Peoples use the term “Two-Spirit” to denote a gender-variant that is different from any of the European-based LGBTQ+ identities.

The Two-Spirit movement combines the modern concerns of those who do not conform to cis-gender heterosexual norms while reflecting the ceremonial and social position traditionally held in many Ameri-Indian cultures by such individuals. The term is one that applies only to those of First Nations/Native American descent who identifies as both man and woman. It is a fluid identity, moreso than is commonly associated with identities such as transgender. It is very consciously decolonizing the language of gender and sexuality, harkening back to a time when many indigenous cultures had special roles for those who were Two-Spirit.

Despite this cultural resurgence amount the Two-Spirited, there are still serious issues with discrimination of LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit individuals within most tribes. Very few of the over 550 recognized tribes within the USA have allowed for same sex marriage and violence against LGBTQ+ individuals is rampant. A 2014 study from University of Washington found that 85% of America Indian/Alaska Native women who identify as bisexual, lesbian, or two spirit have experienced sexual violence. Furthermore, Malestrom stated that there is a “Two-Spirited youth suicide epidemic.” This is on top of the report by Well Being Trust that American Indian/Alaskan Native teens experience the highest rates of suicide among any race and ethnicity in the United States.

Being, as Malestrom put it, “a minority in a minority in a minority,” Two-Spirited Native Americans have a tough road till they are treated with respect and equality. Yet help is available through groups such as the Northwest 2-Spirit Society and Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS). They have grown over the last decade, educating communities, supporting Two-Spirited individuals, and fighting for the rights of this overlooked, yet remarkable, group.

Family Recipe: Roasted Cranberry Pear Relish

A great twist on a holiday favorite; it not only goes well with turkey but vanilla ice cream as well.

- 2½ cups diced form-ripe peeled Bosc Pears
- 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup water
- 1 cinnamon stick (if desired)
- Preheat oven to 350°

Mix together ingredients in a medium bowl

Transfer mixture to a rimmed baking sheet

Cook mixture, stirring occasionally, until the juice has thickened and the cranberries have popped – around 40 minutes.



Artwork courtesy of Grayson Hicks