



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 25 No 6

June, 2025

Summer Solstice

Summer Solstice Friday June 20th will be a Pot Luck. Josh Cody will be the guide. If there are any questions and if you would like to volunteer to help in any way contact Bruce Flood.

Summer Solstice Gates open at 10 am to 8 pm 12 noon Ascenders Gather Fire, Fun, Food, Potluck

Thank You Tribal Chair Bruce Flood @ 805-903-3089



Donald Pierce Jr, 54, son of Donald Walter Pierce Sr and Grandson of Walter Donald (Duke) Pierce, of Atascadero, passed away following some health issues. Monday May 12th 2025. During his life he served as a Musician and song writer, a U.S. Marine, a Gun Smith as well as a valued council member of the Salinan Tribe. He was an educator of Salinan history at Camp Ocean Pines Cambria Ca. He was a key advocate in regards to Climbing to the top of Morro Rock (Les'a'mo') during the Winter and Summer Solstice. He was also involved with the Maritime Museum and the Yacht Club, the San Salvador and Harvest Festival.

Don Jr, like his Father, was dedicated to the growth and advancement of the Salinan Tribe it was his desire for the tribe to excel and further the educational and history of the Salinan people. He helped his father in the building of the Tule Canoes for the reenactment of the event and the meeting of the San Salvador at Morro Bay harbor. His instruction and leadership, was a great asset to the Salinan Tribe. His dedication to the tribe was unending, and he will be greatly missed. A date and time for a memorial will be announced.

Submitted by, Tribal Elder, Editor and Publisher of the Salinan newsletter and website.

Kenneth Pierce





In Memoriam: Jared Everett Cooper

1971-2025

My younger brother, Jared, passed away on April 6, 2025 of liver cancer. He was a member of the Salinan Tribe, son of elder Janice Pierce Cooper, grandson of Charlie Pierce, great-grandson of Katharine McCormack, great-great grandson of Maria Alysius Govers. I'd like to share a bit about my brother with the tribe.

Jared grew up on our family ranch in the Carrizo Plain (San Luis Obispo County), living the carefree life that youngsters are so fortunate to enjoy on a ranch. Playing in the dirt, raising farm animals, learning to shoot a gun and saddle a horse. As a teenager, he played football for the Atascadero Greyhounds, and summers he worked hard on the ranch for our dad, operating equipment and helping with the harvest. When he

wasn't working, he was riding quads, hunting pigs and deer, and trout fishing, all passions he carried into adulthood.

After high school, Jared traveled throughout the U.S. on a work crew for our uncle's company installing fiber optics cables. Later, he moved to Tehachapi, California and went to work for Parks and Rec operating heavy equipment. It was during that time he married Tonya Montgomery Frey (also a tribal member), and the two of them raised her 3 daughters in Tehachapi. From the very beginning, McKenzie, Madison, and Montana called Jared their dad. Tonya's older son, Denver, lived with his dad but spent many family adventures with them and Jared treated him like a son.

Eventually Jared and Tonya moved to northern Idaho, where the fishing was great and the hunting even better. He loved spending his time off camping and boating on the river with friends and family, adventuring in the hills on his side-by-side, picking huckleberries and wild mushrooms, and hunting elk. Even the cold, snowy winters did not convince him to return to California. He loved Idaho and all it had to offer and would share that love with anyone who came to visit.

My brother was a generous, fun-loving, kid at heart who loved a good party almost as much as a good practical joke. If you ever found yourself at the other end of one of his pranks, count yourself lucky. He made it his mission in life to make people laugh and have a good time. His Salinan roots ran deep, and he wanted nothing more than to share his love of nature and the outdoors with his grandkids.

His life, sadly, was much too short lived. But I can picture him sitting around a campfire right now, a circle of ancestors at his side, filling them in on some hilarious prank he played on someone here on Earth. We will miss him.

— Leah Cooper

Jared is survived by his mother, Jan, his sister Leah, his wife Tonya, his step-children Denver, McKenzie, Maddison, and Montana, his grandchildren Charlee, Hank and Jaxon, and his bulldog Spike.

There is a Celebration of Life planned for California friends and family to attend on October 4, 2025. Further information will be announced.



Tribal Fundraiser Update

This year's Fundraiser will not have a trap shoot, due to both facilities being unavailable. We have not chosen a place to hold it yet, but we are open for any suggestions. We have to keep in mind that this is a Public Event! Where ever we choose to hold it, must have easy access for the general public. We will keep you informed when and where it will be held. You can contact John Piatti or any other council member. Submitted By: John Piatti



Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio



It was a beautiful spring day at Mission San Antonio. Fields of green grass have faded into dry tan. The weather was warm in the morning and hot in the afternoon. Coyote, lizard, hawk, rabbit, red snake and squirrel were the spirit animals of the day. Six people worked on the adobe wall. Special thanks to Caleb Catton, he has volunteered four months in a row and recently graduated with a degree in biology and has landed a job as a substitute teacher, teaching at an Atascadero elementary school. Another special thanks to Aubrey Claxton and her friend, Brittony Chavez. Aubrey brings her grandparents Marcia and Jack Bettrue who are always helpful! Thanks again to all the volunteers. Our next work day is Saturday, **June 7th**. 8am. To 11am.

Contact Bruce Flood @ 805-903-3089 If you have any questions or comments contact the Tribal Office and leave a message. @ 805-464-2650

Submitted By: Council Member Bruce Flood



California Biodiversity Day Celebratory

events throughout September 6-14, 2025

Contact Person:
Council Member
Mary Rodgers

Biodiversity is at the core of the remarkable nature in California and is essential to the survival and sustainability of the culture, language, and people who rely upon these lands and waters. September 7th is California Biodiversity Day, a time to inspire discovery and connection to the nature of California, while encouraging actions to steward and protect it.

We warmly and respectfully invite you and your tribe to participate in this year's events September 6-14, 2025. Learn more about California Biodiversity Day at bit.ly/CABiodiversityDay2025.

California Biodiversity Day is an opportunity for your tribe to host, 'collaborate, or participate in an event and share the great work your tribe is doing with the public. Here are some examples of the types of events that tribes have hosted for California Biodiversity Day in previous years:

1. Guided walks
2. Interactive art, scavenger hunts, games, etc.
3. Trainings on the importance of fire on the landscape
4. Demonstrations of basket weaving, processing plants, traditional food or stewardship practices, and sustainable hunting/fishing practices
5. Observing and recording the biodiversity in an area (known as a "bioblitz")

Central Coast Intertribal Fire Camp

The Esselen Tribe of Monterey recently hosted the first Central Coast Intertribal Fire Camp at the Rana Creek Preserve in Carmel Valley. Several members of the Salinan Tribe of Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties participated in the week-long educational training with the goal of participating with leading agencies in becoming better practitioners of prescribed burns and cultural fire efforts to clear and restore our native territories and plant resources.

Tribal members from more than eight groups were invited to pursue and earn certificates S-130 and S-190 toward becoming classified as Firefighter Type 2. Also additional cultural presentations were added to incorporate indigenous fire stewardship and knowledge sharing. Training content included cultural ecology, understanding of how fire can affect the ecosystem, fire weather, how to build hoselays, different ways of communicating, and much more.

The camp aimed to elevate indigenous voices regarding cultural land stewardship, cultural burning practices that promote ecological benefits, and to empower tribal communities to steward their Ancestral land.

This intensive training was made possible through the collaboration of many organizations, supported by The Wildlands Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA), Fire Forward, Cachagua Fire, the US Forest Service (USFS), and CAL FIRE. Their partnerships proved invaluable in supporting the vision of bringing more Indigenous-led positive fire practices to the Central Coast.

Hopefully, this will be a continuing effort, and we will look forward to making this education available to more tribal members in the future, and are extremely grateful to our northern Esselen neighbors for their leading effort in this endeavor.

Submitted By: Council Member Robert Piatti



Share your Photos

Apple Pie Greatness



Submitted By: Pam Flood

Inspirational Cooking Photos

Tribal Cooking



Acorn Sourdough Bread & Acorn Egg Noodles

Submitted By: Mary Ann Pierce

Salinan Words of the Month

Guide to sounds

WOOD

TA'KATA

LEAVES

CTAN'

ts – sound at the end of cats
tr – make a t but curl your tongue
 (almost sounds like a ch)
' – sound in the middle of uh-oh
 (glottal stop)

P't'k'ts'ch'
 consonants said at the same
 time as a glottal stop ('); they
 make a strong, emphasized pop!
x – guttural throaty h sound

a father	ay	pie
e get	ow	mow
l beat.	oy	toy
o hope		
u due		

double vowels (**aa**, **ae**) are
 the same sound but longer
 in length

Quotes from Native Elders

The Earth and myself are of one mind.



Chief Joseph
 (HIN-MAH-TOO-YAH-LAT-KEKT),
 Nez Perce, 1840-1904

*Convince the world by your character that
 Indians are not as they have been shown.*



Chief John Ross,
 Cherokee, 1790-1866



*In all your official acts, self-interest shall be cast aside.
 You shall look and listen to the welfare of the whole
 people and have always in view, not only the present but
 the coming generations—the unborn of the future.*



Dekawidah,
 Cherokee, 1720

*Listen or your tongue
 Will keep you deaf.*

Native American Proverb



Notice!!!

This is an Election Year

This year's election letters of intent must be received no later than August 15th 2025, to be included in the September and October Newsletters!

At the Tribal Office or editor@salinatribes.com

All letters must be typed out and signed for better readability!



Notice !!!

Remember the Newsletter will be ONLINE ONLY.

Contact Kenneth Pierce at editor@salinatribes.com with your email address to receive a Newsletter online or pick one up at the Tribal Office.



We have a new T-Shirt design and it will be available at the general meetings it will also be on the website soon for viewing.

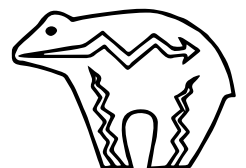
The following sizes are available,

Women's – Sm, to 3xl

sweatshirts size sm to 4xl

Men's – Sm, Med Lg, xLg, xxLg, xxxLg

We also have hooded sweatshirts



**NEW
ADDITIONS**

**In women's t-shirts we have size small to 3xl.
And we have have sweatshirts sizes small to 4xl.**

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June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	Cemetery WorkDay at Mission San Antonio 8am-11 noon 7
8	9	10	11 Tribal Business meeting 6:00pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 *Summer Solstice	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Tribal business meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month						

**THERE ARE NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED AT ANY TRIBAL EVENT.
 PLEASE USE INFO@SALINANTRIBE.COM TO EMAIL THE OFFICE**

*** SUMMER SOLSTICE JUNE 20TH 2025 SEE FRONT PAGE FOR DETAILS**

➡ TRIBAL COUNCIL ⬅

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T'epot'aha'l The People of the Salinan Tribe

REMEMBER TO PRAY TO kensha:nel (CREATOR) TO keeheak (PROTECT) ALL lu wa' (MEN) AND lets'e (WOMAN) WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY. AND BRING THEM Ta'ma (HOME) SAFE.

Vision of the Salinan Tribe

We, as the Salinan Tribe, follow the way of our ancestors as we walk the path of our heritage toward becoming complete individuals. We exercise our rights as a sovereign entity. We continue to reawaken our culture. Each and every tribal member has an equal voice.

We, as the Salinan Tribe, commit to honoring the rights of each and every tribal member to practice our spiritual, individual, or religious beliefs. We remember and honor our ancestors, elders, and children now and for all generations to come.

We as the Salinan Tribe, continue to gather as a tribal family.



salinatribe.com

