



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 25 No 9

September, 2025

Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio



Adobe mud was added to the south wall of the Indian cemetery at mission San Antonio de padua. Volunteers Ben Flood, Thad Nodine, Shelby Graham, and myself shared the morning with coyote, rabbit, squirrels, and a bald eagle. Homemade chocolate chip cookies were shared a great treat, ending the short work day, thanks Shelby.

Our next work day is Saturday, **September 6th**. 8 am. To 11 am. (If there is a date change it will be announced).

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

Submitted By: Council Member Bruce Flood



General Meeting

September 13th 11am - 3pm

At the Del Mar Park



We will be having Potluck, bring your favorite dish and come and enjoy the informational and fun day gathering as a tribal family (HOPE to See You there).

Tribal Gathering At San Miguel Mission

October 18, 2025

San Miguel Mission BBQ area has been reserved, We would like to encourage members to set up a booth if you have items to sell or would like to share tribal traditions. If you would like to donate items for the Raffle it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the tribal office with your intent to be involved in a booth setup.

@ 805-464-2650

Notice!!!

This is an Election Year

From Michael Erin Woody to our Tribal Members and Family

It has been an honor of a lifetime to serve all of you on our Tribal Council. As I reflect on our collective journey, I am filled with pride for what we have accomplished together and grateful for the trust you have placed in me to represent our people.

Our Council's Shared Achievements

Working alongside my fellow council members, I have been part of significant breakthroughs that will benefit our tribe for generations to come. After more than 20 years of frustration and setbacks, Ken Pierce, I, and this council fixed the problems of the past, and we now have a tribal application ready for active consideration for federal acknowledgement with the U.S. Department of the Interior. This milestone represents not just paperwork, but recognition of who we are and have always been as a people.

When the COVID crisis threatened our financial stability, I worked with the council to address and resolve the budget issues that could have devastated our community. Additionally, I contributed to modernizing our payroll system for our employees, ensuring we meet all state and federal requirements for filing – a crucial step in professionalizing our tribal operations.

My Service as Your Representative

Beyond our council work, I have served as our tribal liaison to numerous federal, state, and local organizations, carrying your voices into important conversations about our land, our heritage, and our future. These roles have included:

- The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary under the U.S. Department of Commerce
- The U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration under the U.S. Department of Commerce
- The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs under the U.S. Department of the Interior
- The State of California Native American Heritage Commission
- The State of California Division of State Parks
- The Morro Bay Maritime Museum Board of Directors
- The Carrizo Plains Native American Advisory Council for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

In each of these positions, I have worked to ensure our tribal perspective is heard and our interests are protected.

Sharing Our Story

One of my greatest joys has been sharing our culture and history with the broader community. I have made numerous cultural presentations throughout our region, speaking at the Paso Robles Historical Museum, the Templeton Historical Museum, Morro Bay High School, King City Elementary School, Shandon High School, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Cuesta College. Each presentation is an opportunity to educate others about who we are and to foster understanding and respect for our people.

Preserving Our Heritage

The research Ken and I conducted for our federal acknowledgement package has yielded an incredible treasure trove of historical information. This work has become a valuable resource that members of our entire tribe have used in presentations throughout California. Knowing that my research efforts have helped strengthen our collective voice and preserve our history for future generations fills me with deep satisfaction.

Moving Forward Together

As I continue to serve our community, I remain committed to the values and principles that have guided our people for generations. Every decision I make, every meeting I attend, and every conversation I have is with our tribal family in mind. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your voice in these important spaces. Together, we are not just preserving our past – we are building our future. I would be honored to continue to work for all of you.

With respect and gratitude,



Continued on next page:

Dear Salinan General Members, Tribal Council and Elder Council.

Please let this serve as my request to apply for a seat on our Salinan Tribe's Elder Council. This August 2025 I will turn 69 years old. Many say I am part of the "Senior Citizens Baby-Boomer Era." I define myself as a Proud Native and citizen of the United States of America.

I live and breathe Native America. My Ancient line of Elders, were trained and come from the strongest- best Hunting Warriors today. I define myself through my Salinan Native culture and community. I believe I have earned Salinan Elderhood status.

I am Edward Franklin Pierce. My birth last name has no native blood tie. However, they did pass on their hunting, gathering, mining & farming skills. Grandpa Pierce married my Grandma Kate McCormack. Both her parents passed down native blood & culture.

Grandma Kate's father was Frank Blas McCormack of native blood/culture. His wife, Maria Govers was of Salinan blood/culture. Their lineal ties go back to Ancient Origins.

My native Base of Education was the HUNTER/ Warrior Ways. Before I entered Academic Education, my first teachers were McCormack Hunter/Gatherers. This traditional education is the base of my Culture; strengths; ceremony, rituals; traditional stories. I continue to live this way of life. I would like to share "Hands on" learning practices with our next generations. On Jolon trails; Hunter Liggett sacred sites; Mountain Ranges; Coastal Ocean waters, Heartland Territory is my spirit, heart, mind, physical classroom.

1999-2003 I served on our Tribal Council. I continue to support cultural practices as a climbing guide at our Morro Rock Solstice Celebrations; protecting Ancestor sites, teaching field dressing -processing game meats & survival skills. I am pretty good on a Bar-B-Q pit. I remember our stories. I follow my year's calendar by the hunting/gathering seasons.

If I am not on my Twin-Fawns Farm learning dry-farming practices or welding in Bryson, and I don't answer my cell-phone, know I am out hiking, tracking, scouting Salinan territory. I have studied our Territorial land, ocean, trails, animals, and sites all my life.

There are many Quiet Wisdom-Keepers within our tribe. Men/Women who have served our USA Military, Tribal Leaders that Speak Up/Speak Out for Culture/Traditions. My Spiritual connection links to Mother-Earth and the gifts she shares with us. We shouldn't forget our First mother. As a cultural Educator I have worked safely with Native Youth. All children are sacred. All youth need hands-on-Expressions to grow their VALUE BASE.

"You don't need to carry a weapon to become a Hunter-Just need a Hunter's Spirit"

Sincerely, Edward Pierce-June 2025



My name is Bruce Flood, I am running for the council of the Salinan tribe. I ask for your vote to continue tribal togetherness, family bonds, tribal activities, and general good times.

Thank you
Bruce Flood.



Continued on next page:

Salinan Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Kenneth Pierce Sr. I Am the youngest in the family of Walter (Duke) and Marion Pierce, and the grandson of Katherine (McCormack) Pierce.

I seek to continue my seat on the Elder Council. I have been the newsletter editor and publisher as well as managing the Tribal Website since 2008. I helped prepare the Federal Recognition package which is in the review process at this time.

I believe my attendance and continued participation in the council will allow me to better serve our tribe and also to be more informed in tribal matters.

Thank you,
Kenneth J. Pierce Sr

I am interested in renewing my seat on the elder Tribal council. My mother was Gertrude (Beech) Pierce. I am interested in this position because I feel i can bring fresh insight without bias or prejudice.

I am interested in learning more about the challenges and accomplishments of the Tribe and know this will give me the opportunity to do so. I am easy-going and get along with everyone and have an open mind to listen to different points of view.

Since I am retired I feel I have the time needed to focus on this position.

Thank you for your consideration,
Leslie Ernest Montgomery



My name is Dayna Sciocchetti. I am the daughter of Gary and Tarry Pierce and the granddaughter of Charlie and Gwen Pierce. I have been on the Salinan Tribal Council as Secretary for several years.

Most of you know me from events like the Gathering or the Trap Shoot. But I have been there through it all. It is my hope and goal for the tribe to become federally recognized. Recently, I was at the Summer Solstice. I met a couple of ladies who have tracked their ancestry to ours. They were thrilled to be part of a larger community and felt welcomed by our family and friends. This welcoming embrace is what I have come to know our tribe, and our family to be. I believe our story does not end here. I believe that we, "the Salinan People," have many things to offer this modern and fast-paced world.

I would like to continue to be a part of that and help to govern and lead on the Salinan Tribal Council. If you, too, feel that our future is moving towards federal recognition, spreading education about our culture and creating a harmonious relationship with other native groups, please consider voting for me.

The tribal councils have spent years working on federal recognition. As you have seen, we are so close to achieving this goal, this dream that many of us share. I would love to see this boat sail into the harbor. Thank you for your time and your vote.

Continued on next page:

My name is Gary Pierce, son of Charlie Pierce. I have been on the Salinan Tribal Council for several years. Throughout my time on the council I have served in various capacities, including but not limited to Contemporary Lead.

In that capacity I have worked closely with the Office of Federal Acknowledgment and the head of that organization. The tribe is entering a very exciting time right now, awaiting federal recognition. All of you know me to be actively involved in this tribe and this family and I take my role on the council very seriously. I would like to see this process through completely. Please consider voting for me.



I am writing to formally announce my intent to run for another term on the Tribal Council. It has been an honor to serve our people for many years as a Traditional Lead and council member, and I remain committed to protecting our cultural heritage, our sacred lands, and the integrity of our tribe.

Throughout my time on Council, I have prioritized collaborative relationships with fellow tribal members, neighboring Indigenous nations such as the Chumash, Esselen, and Amah Mutsun, and with government partners including Los Padres National Forest, NAGPRA officials and museums. I believe that by building bridges and standing firm in our traditions, we strengthen our collective voice and secure meaningful opportunities for our people.

As a council member, I will continue to:

Represent our cultural values and traditional knowledge with integrity and care;

Support ongoing repatriation efforts and uphold the spirit of NAGPRA in honoring our ancestors;

Ensure that our tribe is consulted and respected in decisions affecting our sacred sites and ancestral lands;

Encourage intertribal cooperation and continue fostering respectful alliances;

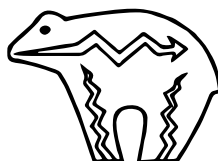
Advocate for the preservation of our language, stories, and ceremonial practices.

I am proud to walk in the footsteps of our elders and help guide the next generation with strength, humility, and responsibility. I believe in working together to care for our people, our culture, and our lands. I respectfully ask for your continued support and trust in this election.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts, questions or concerns.

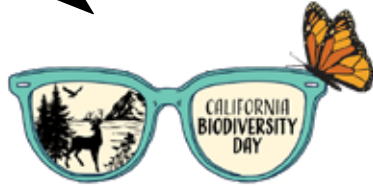
I am always here to listen and work alongside you.

In respect and service,
Mary Rodgers



ATTENTION: Calling Salinan Tribal Members

We are actively planning and participating in various aspects of our informal partnership with the Willow Creek Conservancy (see their website for more general information). We currently have two or three slots for a seed-gathering team to initialize this effort, starting almost immediately. Interested? Please TEXT Council Member Robert Piatti at 949-677-0549 with your name and potential availability. There will be many opportunities to share in making this Conservatory a location that will become special to our tribe and the general public. Volunteer now!



Discover the Nature of California

California Biodiversity Day Celebratory events throughout September 6-14, 2025

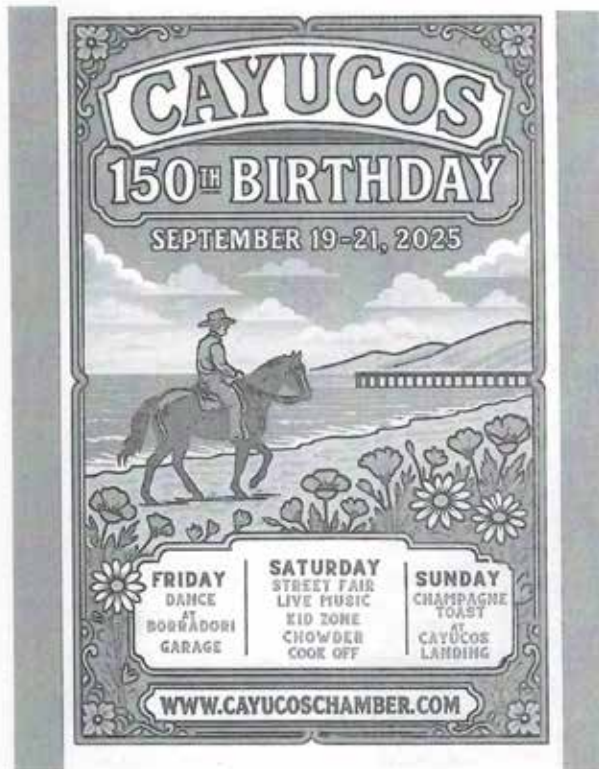
Contact Person:
Council Member
Mary Rodgers

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")



CAYUCOS **150th BIRTHDAY** **CELEBRATION** September 19th - 21st 2025

We have been invited to participate in the 150th Cayucos Birthday with an informational booth at this three-day event. If anyone would like to be involved or have any ideas please contact the tribal office at 805-464-2650.

Salinan Words of the Month

Guide to sounds

SUN
NA'

Moon
TAT SOPE

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

I do not want to settle down in the houses you would build for us. I love to roam over the wild prairies. There I am free and happy. When we sit down, we grow pale and die.



Satanta (White Bear),
Kiowa, 1830-1878

In you, as in all men, are natural powers. You have a will. Learn to use it. Make it work for you. Sharpen your senses as you sharpen your knife... We can give you nothing. You already possess everything necessary to become great.

Legendary Dwarf Chief,
Crow

The Indian believes profoundly in silence ---the sign of a perfect equilibrium. Silence is the absolute poise or balance of body, mind and spirit. The man who preserves his selfhood is ever calm and unshaken by the storms of existence... What are the fruits of silence? They are self-control, true courage or endurance, patience, dignity, and reverence. Silence is the cornerstone of character.



Ohiyesa (Charles Eastman),
Santee Sioux, 1858-1939



Notice !!!

Remember the Newsletter will be ONLINE ONLY.

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



**NEW
ADDITIONS**

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.

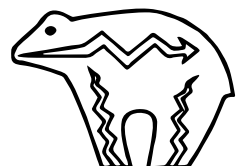
The following sizes are available,

Women's – Sm, to 3xl

sweatshirts size sm to 4xl

Men's – Sm, Med Lg, xLg, xxLg, xxxLg

We also have hooded sweatshirts



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

Salinan Tribe
8270 Morro Road
Atascadero, CA 93422

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



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September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 Cemetery WorkDay at Mission San Antonio 8 am - 11 am
7	8	9	10 Tribal Business meeting 6:00pm	11	12	13 General Meeting Del Mar Park Morro Bay 11 am - 3 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
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](mailto:info@salinatribe.com) TO EMAIL THE OFFICE**

➡ TRIBAL COUNCIL ⬅

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