



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 26 No 5

May, 2026



Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio



Next work day at San Antonio Mission, on Indian cemetery Adobe walls is Saturday, **May 9 th**, 9 am. To 3 pm. Adding mud to the Adobe cemetery wall at mission San Antonio that protects over two thousand native ancestors. Adobe wall restoration at mission San Antonio. Tribe call out for volunteers. Indian cemetery restoration at mission San Antonio. Adobe mud will be added to the cemetery wall that protects our native ancestors. Five Salinan children had fun with Adobe mud. Five adult Indians enjoyed watching. Spirit animal of the day was raven.

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



A Rainbow on the way to the Mission



Ben Flood



Elk, on the way to the Mission



The twins Maryn and Raya Davis keeping a close eye on the snacks



Ben and Bruce Flood, entertainment by the Kids mudding style



3 Tribal youth, teaching them young



Tribal Youth, Jaxon Davis, Waylon and Dakota Thomas



Scott McCormack got a lot of weed eating done today

Continued on next page:



Gate handmade by Matt Briggs



Yvonne Davis, Sharon Thomas and Dakota Thomas



Lupines and Poppies in the field

Beaver Festival

Our Beaver Festival booth, was decorated with flowers and other items thank you Shaunie Briggs and Jessica Rodgers for your creativity. John Piatti, Josh Cody and Mary Rogers shared information with all who where interested. It was beautiful day we were received very well and the participation was great. Shaunie and Jessica gave a presentation for the public of how our native ancestors kept land and wild life in a natural balance.

Submitted By: Council Member John Piatti



Adobe Springs Interpretive Program

I had another great time this year at the Adobe Springs Nature Preserve. I believe this is our 10th year sharing the history of the Salinan village that was at this location near the Adobe Springs in Atascadero. Once a year the Atascadero Land Preservation Society opens this usually off-limits special place to Local elementary school groups. We talk to the kids about the first people of Atascadero and the Salinan village site that was here near the spring. We talk about all the special plants that grow here and their uses and also the animals that would come to the springs and drink. How the Salinan people used all parts of the plants and animals that they gathered and killed here. We are only one of the stations that they visit, they also learn about the Estrada Adobe and the area's history and connection to Mission San Miguel. Also a member of the Atascadero Water Company comes and talks about how special the spring is and that it has been running for hundreds of years maybe thousands. Any tribal members that enjoy working with children and sharing the Salinan culture maybe this is something you might want to help with next April and at our other events. Let me know at the office.

Submitted By Patti Dunton



Continued on next page:

Everyone,

Jonalee and I would like to thank you all for making this year's 3rd Grade Field Trips a success!

We really appreciate all of you helping out to make it work so well, and fun!

Attached are a couple of pictures from Day 1.

If you have pictures, please email them to me so I can pass them along to everyone and use them for our web site.

Again, thank you very much for your support!

Mike and Jonalee



Mark your Calendars for coming Events

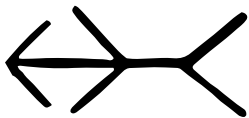
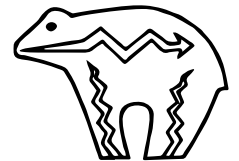
More information will be included in future newsletters.

Rio Caledonia Adobe

San Miguel

May 2nd 2026 at 11 am - 3pm

700 Mission Street, San Miguel, Ca



The Salinan Tribe of Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties will gather on May 2nd for a General Meeting at the site of the Rios-Caledonia Adobe Museum across from Mission San Miguel, just off the 101 North offramp. In addition to our meeting, we will be supporting the public unveiling of historic museum panels on the Salinan people and culture, created in partnership with our tribe.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

11am - informal greetings, with tours of the museum grounds and exhibits (until 3 pm)

Noon - Opening Remarks and Introductions

12:30 pm - General Meeting of the Salinan Tribe of Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties

It is important for tribal members to attend when possible, and have your questions and voices heard. **IMPORTANT** - Please bring your own chair! Some h'ordeuvres and refreshments will be provided for snacking. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the offerings, please contact Council Member Robert Piatti at monitoring@salinatribe.com or TEXT at 949-677-0549. Thank you.



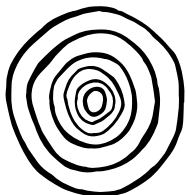
Summer Solstice is June 21st 2026

Maritime Explorers

A summer program for Kids Ages 8-12

June 15 through August 10 2026 Mondays 10am to 12pm & 1 to 3pm

Morro Bay Maritime Museum. More information will be posted in future newsletters.



Come out to Twin Fawn Farm to celebrate

Mothers Day

Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10
76725 Bryson Hesperia Rd. Bradley, CA 93426

Native & Family Event

Leave burdens & bad habits at the gate

Native youth archery
at 3-D target range

Catfish, bluegill & bass
fishing in back pond
(catch & release)

BBQ, Swimming, Frog Jumping

Rustic Camping
Call for accommodation

Flintknapping
Instruction

Ed Pierce (907) 394-0877

Volunteer Opportunity.

The Salinan Tribe of Monterey & San Luis Obispo Counties is looking for members with knowledge of indigenous plants and their traditional cultural uses, or willing to learn. Starting in February, we will be conducting flora surveys at the Willow Creek Conservancy in the Adelaide region of Paso Robles, and planning our reintroduction efforts. Interested?

Please contact Council Member Robert Piatti via email at monitoring@salinantribe.com Please do so even if you have previously volunteered. Thank you.



A 1,000-word essay discussing when you were faced with a serious life challenge and how you overcame that challenge. In your essay, you should explain what you have learned, and **especially what others can learn from your experience**. By Jennifer Freman, January 2026

From the lessons I chose for myself and those I observed in others, I learned early that wisdom is something you practice, not something that simply happens to you. Today, I live by more Indigenous Worldview practices, listening to my heart first and letting it guide my mind.

I am a 51-year-old Indigenous woman, born and raised within Salinan Tribal territory on California's Central Coast. In my tribal community, I became an "Elder in training" at 50. My goal is to earn recognition as an Elder by 70, not merely a Senior. Becoming an Elder is the highest achievement in our circle of life, earned through respect from the community, harmony in one's actions, shared knowledge, and guidance rooted in a relationship with the natural world.

Elders lead by example. They walk with deep principles, honor Earth as our first mother, and carry an unwavering responsibility to future generations. In an Indigenous worldview, education is not only about degrees or titles. It is about transformation, learning who you are, who you serve, and how you keep your life in balance with all your relations.

I did not have the language to describe this when I was thirteen, when my father chose to leave our family. That moment became one of many lessons of my real tribal education. From my mother's side, I carry my Native blood and spirit. From my father's side, I inherited the influence of the dominant worldview centered on individualism and competition. Growing up with both influences, I spent decades walking forward with one foot in each world, learning when to follow, when to let go, and how to navigate opposing cultural values.

That learning curve was long and at times painful. I excelled in school, earning high grades and participating in extracurricular activities, but my spirit was restless. I hated being indoors. I felt bored and trapped, and I rebelled. I ditched class, stirred a little chaos, and paid the price for those choices.

At home, my mother became the sole provider for my brothers and me. With no child support and limited income, expectations fell on me as the oldest daughter: "Your turn, Jennifer. Take over the house responsibilities. It's what daughters do." I was angry and resentful. I took my frustration out on my younger brothers because they still had the freedom and opportunities I felt I had lost. My dominant world mind wanted someone to blame, but my Native heart already knew the truth: responsibility is not a punishment; it is a form of love and support when your family needs you.

During my high school years, Agriculture Science opened a new door for me. Through 4-H, I already loved land, plants, animals, food systems, and environmental science. The high school courses followed settler-colonial agricultural models of large farms, cattle ranches, and primary crops, but it ignited something in me. It became my first step toward finding a path that fed my spirit and my interests in organic farming.

In my early thirties, I earned my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education with a concentration in forestry and natural resource management from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. It took more than 20 years to pay off my student loans, but that degree meant more than academics. It marked my commitment to independence and my responsibility to become someone younger relatives could learn from by watching me walk my path in both worlds.

My mother guided me not just to be someone's wife but to recognize that, as an independent Native woman, higher education would give me choices. She was the first in our family to graduate from college. I became the next. I eventually chose to move to Alaska to support my family. There, I worked with Native Alaskan youth, helping strengthen cultural pride and contributing to increased high school graduation rates. During that time, my father arrived unannounced, carrying the same Dominant World narrative of need: "I need..."

His four-year stay gave me clarity and humor. When he returned to Texas, I finally understood something important: not every return is a reunion, and not every goodbye is a loss.

Sometimes it is simply the moment you are free to grow. That was when I let go of resentment and found my way back to reciprocity. Giving back felt better than holding anger. That release became part of my Elder training.

Alaska faces significant challenges in agricultural science education due to its climate and geography. By age 40, I clearly saw that culturally grounded agricultural education could help Indigenous youth navigate both world-views. The key is teaching them to keep one foot in each world without losing themselves, while understanding that their choices shape their sense of responsibility.

I chose Oregon State University for two reasons: it is one of the top research institutions offering a PhD in Education with an Agriculture and Indigenous focus, and it allows me to remain rooted in my homeland, only a 12-hour drive south. I am working toward my PhD in agriculture, food, natural resource, and environmental education with an Indigenous focus while continuing to build culturally grounded curriculum for Native parents and youth in Salinan territory.

I offer this work back to my tribe, hoping that one day it will become the core curriculum in all schools, because the world thrives when Indigenous knowledge grows alongside modern education, not behind it.

My anger as a teenager shaped me, but it did not break me. I learned that reciprocity is real. The energy you put into the world returns stronger. My heart taught my mind to lead toward purpose, not pain. And my responsibility to land, culture, and youth continues to guide every step forward. Letting go was part of the learning, the process, and becoming an Elder.

By 70 rotations around the sun, I hope to carry enough wisdom, service, and harmony to earn the sacred honor of being an Elder, not by asking for it, but by living it.

General Council Members (*all members within our tribe*):

Education Department: **Elder, Bonnie Pierce** has volunteered to lead the creation of an Education department within our tribe. Education is NOT just about higher educational learning which is one way of learning academia and/or life skills, usually started in Pre-school-High School with the goal to become a productive United States citizen. General Members who are interested in offering their service to help those interested in various D/W education choices to support youth in our tribe, your talent is needed.

That is just half of what Native America people need-the other is Culturally based education:

As a state recognized culturally affiliated tribe Education also includes traditional native-based, cultural values and practices to be offered outward starting at birth for all our General Members (considered 'Youngers'). This education comes from within (known as "Inside") each tribal community. Until we become Ancestors, Native World (N/W) education is part of your everyday life. If you are interested in creating opportunities for 'littles 0-9 years old'; Teen leaders 10-20 years old; Adult Tribal Members 21-49 years old; "Elders in Training" 50-65 years old to learn N/W education:

contact Bonnie Pierce-907-394-1362

Salinan 'Elders Representatives: July 2025 Elder Representatives focus has been in developing a structural process for our Tribe's Culturally affiliated **General Members-age 65 years+ Elders.**

Elders Representatives goal: to unite General Council Family Line member voices in what (*at this time*) is titled 'Wisdom of the Elders.' We hope to increase Connection and Communication opportunities between Family Line "Cousins" led by **Tribal Elder** volunteers. The path being developed is for family lines to decide by their family elders, who they would like to choose as their Family Line's **Tribal Elder**. Each family line will have a Tribal Elder who can connect direct with Elder Representatives, to strengthen the direction INSIDE our tribal community, by native traditions/practices strengthens our Salinan native community's rights as a native sovereign governing community. Elders letters for input will go out in May 2026 seeking interest in volunteering Elder talent, time, and voice.

Elder Representatives: Ken Pierce, Les Montgomery, Edward Pierce



Colleen Brown & Leah Marlin



Chairman Anthony Roberts



Wade Crowfoot,
California's Natural Resources
Secretary.

I'm Tribal Elder, Colleen Brown. My daughter, Leah Marlin, and I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for CIHC. The California Indian Heritage Center is a collaborative project led by California State Parks in partnership with a Task Force of California Native American tribal and community leaders.

The project is 51 acres where the American and Sacramento rivers meet. The city of West Sacramento donated 41 of those acres to CIHC for this project. Phase 1 of the cultural center will be an outdoor welcome center area.

Speakers were First Partner, Jennifer Newsom, Tribal Affairs Secretary, Christina Snider-Ashtari, Chairman Anthony Roberts of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and Wade Crowfoot, California's Natural Resources Secretary.

The speakers told the many that attended, about the process that had taken place since 2018 when Governor Newsom allotted 1 million dollars, to start the planning and building of the CIHC, and put into place teams to work on fundraising to finish the first phase of the center by fall of 2026.

The ceremony was held on a beautiful spring evening with a reception afterward in the meadow where they will build. Follow the progress online and get involved if you can.

Submitted by Colleen Brown



Salinan Tribe
OF MONTEREY & SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES





Teta'pkol

Elderberry

Pat'a'k

Manaznita

Salinan Words of the Month

Guide to sounds

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

You must speak straight so that your words may go as sunlight to our hearts.

Cochise

Chiricahua Apache Tribal Leader, 1812-1874

My forefathers were warriors. Their son is a warrior. From my tribe I take nothing, I am the maker of my own fortune.

Tecumseh,

Shawnee, 1768-1813

That hand is not the color of your hand, but if I pierce it I shall feel pain. The blood that will follow from mine will be the same color as yours. The Great Spirit made us both.

Luther Standing Bear
Oglala Sioux, 1868-1937

Stand fast and remain united and all will soon be well.

Chief John Ross

Oglala-Brule Sioux, June 1876

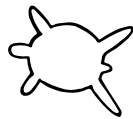
Convince the world by your character that Indians are not as they have been shown.

Chief John Ross,
Cherokee, 1790-1866

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.

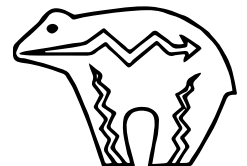
The following sizes are available,

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.**

Tribal Office 8270 Morro Road Atascadero, CA 93422
 Phone: 805-464-2650 Fax: 805-464-2651 Email: info@salinatribe.com
 www.salinatribe.com

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 Rio Caledonia Adobe San Miguel 11 am - 3 pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Cemetery WorkDay at Mission San Antonio 9 am - 3 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Tribal Business meeting 6:00pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Tribal business meeting is on the 3rd 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**

→ TRIBAL COUNCIL ←

Traditional Lead:

Mary Rodgers
 (805) 674.1525
 marytwohawks@gmail.com

Contemporary Lead:

Gary Pierce
 (805) 610.0037

Elder Council:

Leslie Montgomery
 (805) 674.6006
 yourkiddingme160@gmail.com

Kenneth Pierce
 (559) 392.1950
 pgi@sti.net

Sharon Thomas
 (805) 459.4935
 sheshopsharon@aol.com

Yvonne Davis
 (805) 391.3619
 palmtreezz@aol.com

Pamela Flood
 (805) 234.6854
 info@salinatribe.com

Josh Cody
 (805) 459.4638
 cody.josh@gmail.com

Michael Woody
 (805) 305.0660
 info@salinatribe.com

Dayna Sciocchetti
 (805) 801.4929
 dsciocchetti7601@gmail.com

Robert Piatti
 (949) 677.0549
 monitoring@salinatribe.com

Bruce Flood
 (805) 903.3089
 bruce@salinatribe.com

John Piatti Jr.
 (805) 703.0629
 boheathan@hotmail.com

Salinan Tribe
8270 Morro Road
Atascadero, CA 93422

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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.



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