



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 26 No 8

August, 2026

Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio

Next work day at San Antonio Mission, on Indian cemetery Adobe walls is Saturday, **August 22nd**, 8 am. To 11 am. Each month our tribe has a work day on the cemetery Adobe wall at San Antonio mission. After one and a half years of Saturdays progress is noticeable on the south wall. See you there

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



Horse tail clouds



Donnie Pierce Jr. Placed the Adobe blocks on the right side of the gate. The gate was built by Matthew Briggs.



This is a bedrock mortar grind hole in the middle of the road. Fort Hunter Liggett.

Jolon, North, and East Region: Elder Meet & Greet

Hosted by Edward Pierce – Elders Council Representative

On Wednesday, July 8, 2026, I had the honor of hosting our first Jolon, North, and East Region Elder Meet & Greet. Seven Elders gathered together to spend the day reconnecting, sharing a meal, and beginning what I hope will become an ongoing tradition of listening to and learning from one another.

Continued on next page:

From 10:00 a.m. to noon, we sat together and talked about what matters most to our people. The purpose of the gathering was simple: to give our Elders the opportunity to use their voices, share their wisdom, and offer ideas about cultural collaboration and the future of our Tribe. It was also a chance to build trust, strengthen relationships, and open the lines of communication among our families, whether they live nearby or far away.

Those who joined us included Susan Latta, Gail Latour, Elvira "Vera" Powers, Suzanne "Dee Dee" Perry, Joe Pierce, and Rene Mansfield West. Rene's grandchildren, Daisy and Jade, spent the afternoon playing in the pool while the Elders visited together. Two Elders-in-training, Barbara Tavena & Jennifer Freeman, were present.

One of the most meaningful parts of our conversation was hearing everyone introduce themselves and share their family connections. Each Elder shared who they are and expressed a willingness to represent their family line, bringing forward the voices, histories, and traditions of those who came before them. By recognizing and honoring each family, we continue strengthening the relationships that unite us as one people.

As your Elder Representative, I shared how important it is for us to reconnect with our people and take pride in who we are, where we come from, and the ancestors who walked before us. Knowing your family, your history, and your roots is something no one can ever take away from you. That knowledge lives within you. It is the strength of our ancestors, the resilience of our people, and the pride we carry in our Native hearts that continues to guide us today.

When we honor every Elder's voice, we honor the stories, experiences, and wisdom carried by each family line. By listening to one another and sharing our knowledge with the next generation, we help ensure that our culture, our identity, and our people continue to grow stronger for generations to come.

Throughout the discussion, Elders shared that it felt good to be recognized and respected and expressed a desire to become more involved in Tribal activities and emphasized the importance of creating more cultural opportunities for our youth so that our traditions and teachings continue to be passed on to future generations.

After our morning discussion, we shared lunch together and simply enjoyed one another's company. There was plenty of laughter, storytelling, and conversation. It reminded me that some of our strongest relationships are built not only during meetings, but around the table as we share food and spend time together.

This was just the beginning. I look forward to more Elder gatherings where every voice is welcomed, respected, and heard. If you were unable to attend—whether you live in our region or farther away—please know that your voice is important. I encourage you to reach out to me so we can continue building these connections together. Every Elder has knowledge to share, and together we can help carry our culture forward for the generations yet to come.

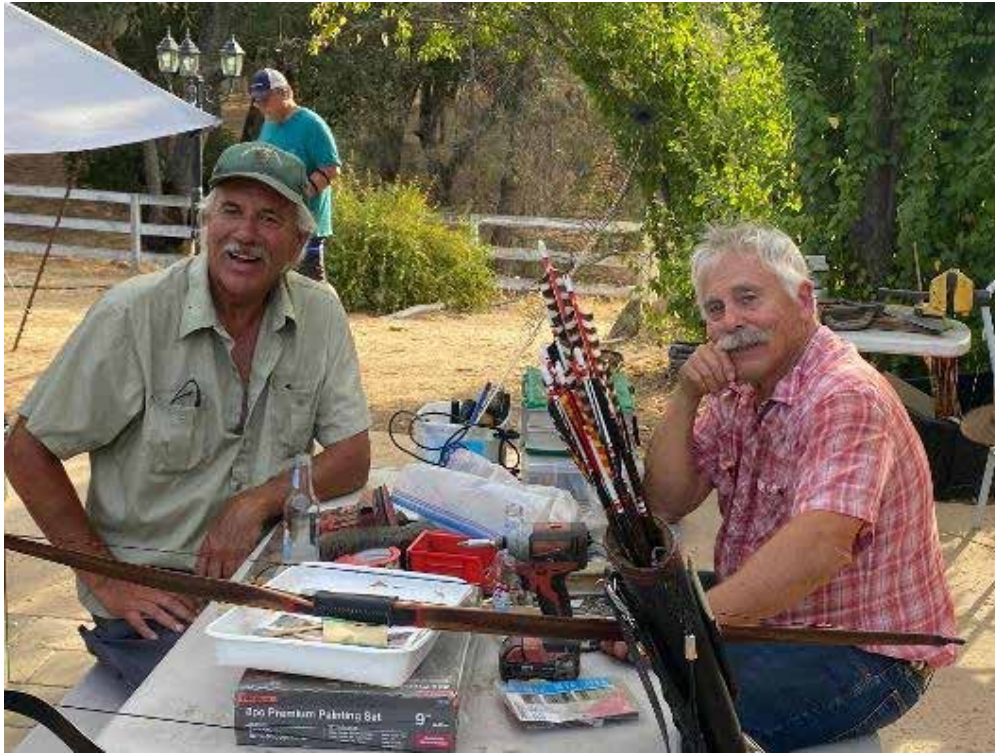
Thank You, Edward Pierce 907-394-0877

Left to Right:

Front Row: Elvira "Vera" Powers, Susan Latta
Back Row: Gail Latour, Joe Pierce, Suzanne "Dee Dee" Perry, Edward Pierce, Rene Mansfield-West



Continued on next page:



Elder Representatives

Left- Les Montgomery Right – Edward Pierce

Explorers

A summer program at the Maritime Museum

We had a great turn out today with the children and parents equally excited to learn and hear about our Salinan tribe and culture. I shared some of our history and how the Salinan Garden was founded by Don Pierce Sr and Don Pierce Jr, all work was done by tribal members. We made dream catchers, and learned about the garden plants. Each child went home with their dream catcher and an abalone shell and sand dollar I have collected.

The adult participants had questions about learning more about our Salinan Tribe. Some ask about having more workshops in the future. I shared that it is our hope to have a small area/building near the garden as an information center in the future. I would like to thank Samantha Carmean for volunteering to help with this project.

Submitted By: Melanie (Pierce) Ritcheson



Tribal Elders

The Corner-Stone of our Tribal Families

Supporting Elder Council Building Structure
Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Cultural Education Department

There might be some confusion from General Council (all members within our tribe) what the above titled department is about? **No, it is not a Tribal Council elected position.**

Departments within Tribal Nations are a way General Members who want to be involved inside our tribal community, who have ideas, wants, needs, or would like to offer their assistance can help move SUGGESTIONS into ACTION.

Department: (other names might be committees, task force, advisory...)

In my case, at the age of 71 I am honored to be part of our Tribe's Elder group. I have studied, have taught over 40 years within Public Schools & Social Services. I have served 3 years in the late 90's on our Tribal Council. In addition, through a wonderful surprise of becoming a Grandmother, for the past 20 years living in Alaska, I worked with 23 Tribes helping them create Cultural Education Department Teams. Knowing both of my grandchildren become adults this year; I will return to my birth-land living in our Jolon heartland. Thus, offering to our General Members through Elder Representation my support. Thru drafting of General Member (or in this case Elder input) policy/procedures via Elders voices give their expertise to draft a plan that can be reviewed, input given by General Council; Elder Council and Tribal Council that can be put into practice by all members the various ways and the people who support them; as they grow in their Salinan Cultural, Social, Emotional, Leadership, each individual's Native Pride grows.

Salinan Cultural wisdom is my first focus, And who better than to gather the Elders so they can voice their input, volunteer their Wisdom, teach their cultural expressions with guidance outward to all our people.

Our Salinan Cultural Education Department can expand SALINAN cultural history, customs, traditions as the base resource to share with "Our Salinan Cousins". Ken Pierce is the Elder Representative I partner with currently; he is a liaisons for our Elders with our Tribal Council-attending their monthly business meetings. We will be calling Elders to gather with their Elder Reps (Ken Pierce, Les Montgomery, Ed Pierce) November 2026.

The Elder C.C project I shared with Elder Reps & Tribal Council help draft a structure for our Elder Council. The goal= increase the expression paths within our culture beyond what is more commonly termed 'Traditional'; to correct or add what Native Indians know but isn't taught under USA History. What are the worries expressed as Two-eye Seeing? Walking in 2 Worlds? How do Native communities thrive?

Our Greatest Asset is our living Elders stories heard from them. Native Principals are the 'Cornerstone' of our Salinan Culture. You can recognize them in our Salinan Tribe's Vision.

Ask an Elder what is happening within this project? If they say "I don't know?"-it most likely means I do not have a current mailing address (& correct phone number or emails are outdated or not answered. So, help your family Elder by ensuring their contact information is correct. All other General Council-please give me a call if you have a talent or idea, you are willing to volunteer to move forward.

Elder Bonnie Pierce; 907-394-1362; skinnerstories@yahoo.com



Salinan Tribe
OF MONTEREY & SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES



Culture Education Department Report
"Elders in Training"
(shorten to EITs)



This is #2 Education project: I am seeking input from our member age group that will lead our tribe in the future. If you are 40ish-65 years old, I see you as an EIT. I hope you are beginning to feel more free time from Adult Duties expected of working family units and/or citizen of the United States of America the USA Dominate World (D/W). Being a part of a family based, Native World view (N/W) is an opportunity to find and/or practice having one foot in two world and learning hoe NOT TO LOSE your Salinan culture/heritage.

If you are interested, after reading, please call me direct? Or you can send an email of what you might be interested in gathering with other EIT 'cousins', together for a mind-share of your ideas how to move forward as EIT's? I am looking at November 2026 to start up an **Elders In Training EIT group** with those who say YES to lead this sub-group under Culture Education department, and partnering with Elders for support & guidance.

There is no set age in Native world on age-based groups. Our tribe set Elder age at 65 or older. Indigenous society choose varying criteria to determine age group positions. Given that 30, year olds can apply through an Election process to become Tribal Council Seats, I think starting with the 40ish age group will work for now- Tribal communities seem to gather using a span of twenty years to connect.

As the Elders build their Council structure creating processes to teach outward, there will be many opportunities to pair up with an Elder who can guide you in the area you believe you can contribute as you practice EIT areas of interest. You might have an area of expertise you can teach others? An area you want to share with 'same like minds?' Or one special area you have always wanted to explore more? This is the time where Elders and leaders inside our tribe can learn and grow together= expanded family or Sacred (Spirit). Connecting thru Emotions/expressions **(Heart)**-the arts; history, traditional tools, food gathering, gender-based topics, songs, language, nature, dance **(Physical & Mind)**.

A steady path of leadership begins at birth until you go back to Ancestors- Native World leadership paths and style make tribal leadership and their leaders stronger. Understanding the difference between "2 Worlds" creates better partnerships, where one is comfortable participating in their Native Community, as well as a citizen in the USA. Strong Native Leadership skills gives you 'the edge' if you lead in the D/W community/or people.

It has been my pleasure to be part of proving within public school systems, having dual world cultures creates diverse leaders who are comfortable in both worlds; at a much higher rate than only using Mono D/W thinking. I hope some of you, 'Youngers' will want to create a group of EIT Leaders and Trainers?

Cultural Education Dept lead: Bonnie Pierce; 907-394-1362; skinnersstories@yahoo.com

Dear Salinan Tribal Members,

My name is Kimberly Cones, and I am honored to introduce myself as I seek the opportunity to become more involved in serving our Tribe as a Tribal Council member.

I am the daughter of Don Timmerman, and my grandmother was June Pierce Timmerman, both proud members of the Salinan Tribe. My family's connection to our Tribe is something I deeply value, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue honoring that heritage.

I have been happily married to my husband, John Cones, and together we have been blessed with four wonderful children: Sabrina, Johnny, Chase, and Kinsley. We are also the proud grandparents to six grandchildren. Family has always been at the center of my life, and I believe the same values of respect, compassion, and service that guide my family are equally important within our tribal community.

I am retired after 27 years as a Correctional Officer, where I was fortunate to serve in several leadership and specialized assignments. During my career, I worked in Investigations as a Crime Scene Investigator, conducting crime scene investigations, evidence collection, and evidence processing. These responsibilities required integrity, attention to detail, sound judgment, and the ability to make fair and thorough decisions.

In addition to my investigative work, I served as an Equal Employment Opportunity Assistant Coordinator and as our facility's Peer Support Team Leader. In these roles, I coordinated and organized teams that provided confidential support to staff during difficult and challenging times. These experiences strengthened my leadership, communication, organization, and problem-solving skills while teaching me the importance of listening to others with compassion and respect.

Service to others has always been important to me. For eight years, I volunteered with the Paso Robles Toy Drive, where I also served on the organization's Board as the Purchasing Coordinator. In that role, I was responsible for purchasing toys needed for the annual holiday program and worked alongside fellow volunteers during our day of giving to help provide holiday gifts to families in need. That experience reinforced my passion for serving others, organizing community efforts, and helping bring people together to make a positive difference.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our Salinan family members at tribal gatherings. Every gathering has reinforced my appreciation for our culture, traditions, and the relationships that connect us. I would truly enjoy getting to know each of you better and becoming more actively involved in preserving and strengthening our Tribe for future generations.

One of my greatest strengths is organization and event planning. I genuinely enjoy coordinating activities, bringing people together, and creating opportunities that encourage participation, connection, and community. I would welcome the opportunity to help organize tribal events, cultural gatherings, educational activities, fundraisers, and programs that celebrate our heritage while strengthening the bonds within our Tribe.

Given the opportunity to serve on the Tribal Council, I will bring dedication, honesty, accountability, and a sincere desire to work collaboratively for the benefit of all Salinan people. I believe every member deserves to be heard, respected, and included, and I would strive to represent our Tribe with integrity while honoring our ancestors and preserving our traditions for our children and future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know me. I look forward to continuing to build relationships within our Salinan family and to serving our Tribe with commitment, respect, and pride.

With Respect,

Kimberly Cones

"Our ancestors entrusted us with a rich history, resilient spirit, and enduring connection to this land. My hope is that together we can honor their legacy by building a future rooted in unity, respect, cultural preservation, and opportunities for every Salinan family. I believe our greatest strength lies not in our differences, but in our willingness to come together as one Tribe."

Mark your Calendars for coming Events

More information will be included in future newsletters.

Gathering 2026

Will be October 10th at San Miguel

Maritime Family Fun Day October 25th 2026

Social Services

At this time the Salinan Tribe has no Social Service program, if you are in need of help regarding health, Food, or any other issues related to social service needs you can access California Dept of Social Services (CSSD); housing, Elder/Parent /Child Abuse/ Neglect and/or family law?

There is a link to the Food Bank and all other TANF opportunities and events are on the Tribal website.

Exciting News! Our exhibition 'We are Still Here' opens today at San Francisco Main Library July 10 2026-July 2027, these posters were originally created for SF Market Street Poster Series for the bus shelters 2024 and part of our traveling exhibition 'Contemporary Indigenous Voices of California's South Coast Range'. Many gratitude's and respect for all the participants from 10 tribal groups who brought this work to life and bringing their voice and perspective on Indigenous culture, way of living on the land and history.

Submitted By: Mary Rodgers

Check out the display link at:

<https://kirtibassendine.com/gallery/contemporary-indigenous-voices>



Contemporary Indigenous Voices of
California's South Coast Range



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)

a father
e get
l beat.
o hope
u due

ay pie
ow mow
oy toy

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

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

Ta'Imui

Worm

Santen

Black Ant

Quotes from Native Elders

Free yourself from negative influence. Negative
though are the old habits that gnaw at the roots of
the soul.

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.

Moses Shongo
Seneca

Legendary Dwarf Chief,
Crow

Notice !!!

Remember the Newsletter is online, if you would like to have one emailed to you, you
can contact Kenneth Pierce at editor@salinantribe.com. If you would rather receive
one by mail please confirm your current mailing address with Patti or Yvonne at the
tribal office.

Also, if you have a story or a quote handed down by our Salinan elders, please feel free
to contact us. It would be a great addition to our newsletter.

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

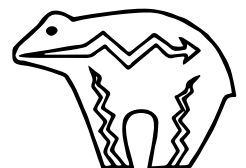
Men's – Sm, Med Lg, xLg, xxLg, xxxLg

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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August 2026

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

Tribal business meeting is on the 1st 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 ←

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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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