



T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 26 No 10

October, 2026

Tribal Gathering

Will be October 10th at San Miguel Mission 12:00 to 5:00pm

San Miguel Mission BBQ area has been reserved, If you would like to share tribal traditions or artifacts contact Pam Flood. Anthony of "The Prancing Chef" has donated his time and will be prepping the meat and cooking it to perfection, Lee Ritchensen is also donating the wood for the BBQ. Pot Luck Dishes Are Always Welcome. Please contact Pam Flood with your intent to be involved in any capacity. @ 805-234- 6854. We will have a children's craft booth and Acorn Display. Help make this a Great Event, Fun and Exciting for a wonderful Gathering. All donations are greatly appreciated. **Bring lounge chairs for your comfort, no chairs are provided.**



Thank you for the baskets and items we have recieved to make the raffle a success.

Maritime Family Fun Day

At the Maritime Museum October 25th 2026
10 am to 4 pm



Indian Cemetery Work Day

At Mission San Antonio

Next work day at San Antonio Mission, on Indian cemetery Adobe walls is Saturday, **October 3rd**, 9 am. To noon. 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. Roadrunner and whip tail lizard showed up for this warm dry morning to help refurbish the Indian cemetery Adobe wall. Two tribal brothers mixed Adobe mud, added Adobe mud to the south wall.

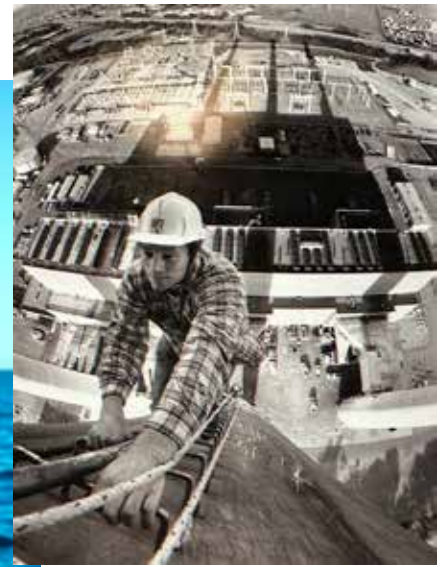
Adobe wall protecting about two thousand resting ancestors and our Salinan tribal community has the privilege to custodian the ongoing up keep. Thanks to all the volunteers.

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



Elder Passing



Our tribe has lost a very valued and loved member of our Salinan family. My brother, Jack Beech, has passed on. He was the youngest son of Gertrude Pierce Beech. He is descendant from Katherine McCormack's line of Salinans, Jack grew up in Morro Bay and Baywood. He attended school in Morro Bay. He moved to Bandon, Oregon to build boats with our brother Harold Montgomery. He moved back to California when his father became sick. He went to work for an offshore oil company flying back and forth to an oil platform offshore in Santa Barbara. He was then hired by PG&E in Morro Bay.

One of his first duties was to climb the smokestacks and replace the lights. He worked as a painter at Diablo Canyon until PG&E sent him to school to become an electrician. He showed much promise as a very smart fix it man and his coworkers called him MacGyver, which was very fitting. He was a very humble man with a great sense of humor. Jack loved to read and tinker with things in his garage. He kept his family and friends' vehicles running and was always up for an adventure with his brother Les and brother-in-law Billy or any of the many cousins and friends he made at PG&E.

Growing up with Jack was always an adventure. if one of the family had an electrical appliance, of any kind, that had stopped working, he would take it apart and "fix it." Then plug it into a receptacle to see if it would start. Every receptacle in our house had black burn marks from his experiments that didn't work. He was 9 or 10 years old at the time, but he would fool with it until he had it working.

Motorcycles, minibikes and dirt bikes were constantly needing to be fixed but we lived 4 miles out of town, so baling wire became an important part of his toolbox. Jack and Les got around the Canyon over hills and jumps on their only transportation between neighbor's ranches. Jack, Les and Billy were always jeeping, rock crawling, scavenging and hunting up and down the coast, out on the desert and in the river by his house. Jack's three boys grew up on the river with their dad in a Jeep showing them how to get stuck and get unstuck and exploring and fixing things.

Jack was a genius at fixing anything that was broken. In 1982 Jack, Billy Thomas, Mervyn Sherman and Donnie Truitt, took a trip over the Sierras from Bass Lake to Bishop through the National Forest. No motors were allowed and no guns were allowed so they took bicycles and bows and arrows. This trip was made less than a year after Jack had broken his back in a car accident. Mountain bikes were not a thing yet and the four young adults at that time, built their own bikes and adapted the things that they had to take to survive, to fit on their bikes. During a recent solstice celebration at Morro Rock, in Morro Bay, Jack and his granddaughter Aubree ascended Morro Rock. Jack was very interested in our native lineage and was teaching his granddaughter about our history. Jack was preceded in death by his parents Geoff and Girlie Beech and five brothers. Eugene, Floyd, Lonnie, Harold and Mike Montgomery.

Continued on next page:

Jack leaves behind his three boys, Geoffery Beech, Ryan and Brianna Beech and their children Hunter and Aubree, and his youngest son Tyler Beech and his daughter Tallulah. His wife Anja, and four stepchildren. One brother, Les and Carol Montgomery of Templeton, three sisters, Sharon and Billy Thomas of Morro Bay, Colleen Brown of Dixon, Katherine and Ernesto Cenicerros of Tehachapi, and many cousins, nephews and nieces that he was very close to. We will miss you Jack, you made this world a better place by being here. We all love you and cherish the memories we have made with you.

Your loving sister, Colleen



Tribal Elders

The Corner-Stone of our Tribal Families

In conjunction with our tribe's Cultural Education Department, we ask Tribal Elders to mark your calendar, November 8, 2026-for the official ELDER COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING.

Elders Council consist of all culturally affiliated 65+ old approved General Members in our tribe. Elder Council meeting location is on Jolon Road-at Lester Patterson's 'Cabin" property-For Elders Only. Those who have driver transportation Elders will meet separately-please RSVP to Organizers below. We ask those attending if possible, to bring a potluck dish to share? Drinks, paper goods provided.

Les Montgomery and Edward Pierce-your 2025-2027 Elder Council Representatives, in conjunction with Elder Bonnie Pierce - Dept. of Cultural Education hope to at least one Elder from each Family Line attend to give input? For Elders who live out of the area/or out of state, minute notes from the Elders Council meeting will follow in December available Tribal Newsletter.

Elders who were contacted via mail; phone; or returned their completed survey; offered ideas and input on what they are interested in (at this time) leading; or have volunteered one day or more if they personally feel it is important to them final report + the Elder Family Group charts from the presentation at the Tribal October Gathering will be shared. The goal is to build the Elder Council, one of three branches within Tribal Council (General Council and Business Council) by 2027 elections.

Contact via phone (or text) Elder Council Meeting Organizers to give input, and to RSVP your attendance. Meeting time will be 11am to 3pm, Sunday, November 8, 2026. Thank you,

*Edward Pierce 907-394-0877

*Les Montgomery 805-674-6006

*Bonnie Pierce 907-394-1362

Dept. of Cultural Education report -Ongoing MPA Plan affecting Salinan Coastal Territory:

I would like to thank the number of General Members who wrote letters to give voice from our tribe to the California Fish + Wildlife Commission concerning MPA (Marine Protection Areas) within the Salinan Territory. The outcome of two MPA's may change Salinan Territory Stewardship, in terms of having a voice on Land/Ocean protection affecting Native Cultural sensitive sites.

Elder Representatives offering an Elder Wisdom perspective have built and will submit an Alternative MPA plan. At the time of the October newsletter circulation Fish + Wildlife Commission decisions have not been made (will happen Oct 13-16, 2026). The honor of Territorial Stewardship affects Salinan Cultural Rights. We hope to be able to share a complete results report in November's newsletter. Using a collective Cultural based Voice is an important aspect of keeping Salinan Cultural alive. Win or lose each single voice matters.

Submitted by Bonnie Pierce-Elder volunteer



A Salinan Diver Reminiscing



My father would tell me about his experiences on the ocean. My father was a man of many talents and professions, one, being an abalone diver off the California coast. In his early years as a diver, he was the champion, taking the largest number of abalone in one day. Not to say anything less for my uncles who were divers also, five in all. All the brothers were daredevils, and all had great experiences and close calls.....

....."The boat is ready, the crews on board. The suit with the rope and air-line has been checked. We are off, the catch is waiting, I walk along the ocean floor among the rocks seeking abalone.

I see a great shadow, as he swims by, our eyes meet, but he does not see me.

My mind rushes to my lines, the air that supplies me life, and the rope that will carry me to safety. But I cannot move, to startle this great fish would mean sudden death, I will wait".....

I could sense how my father must have felt as he laid there on the bottom of the ocean waiting for that giant killer whale to pass by. My father said " it was so close that he could see its eyeball moving around".

Submitted By: Ken Pierce Council Member



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.



Salinan Tribe
OF MONTEREY & SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES



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	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

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

Quotes from Native Elders

The wildwood birds . . . sang in concert,
 without pride, without envy,
 without jealousy.

Simon Pokagon
 Potawatomi, 1830 - 1899

This brings rest to my heart.
 I feel like a leaf after a storm,
 When the wind is still.

Petalasharo,
 Pawnee

Be happy in order to live long.
 Worry makes you sick.

Hopi Teaching

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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October 2026

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

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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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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