



Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

June 2025 - Volume 28 Issue 6

For Fourth Consecutive Year, SCTCA Honors More Than 200 Students at High School Graduation Ceremony

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF





The Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) 25th Annual High School Graduation Ceremony has done something it has never done before.

For the fourth consecutive year, more than 200 graduates were honored. And for the second year in a row, it was the exact same number: 207.

The milestone ceremony on May 8 drew more than 750 people at the Events Center at the Pala Resort Casino. The celebratory crowd included family, friends, tribal leaders and educators. The event honored the graduates from 23 tribes in San Diego County and throughout the Southern California region.



Bo Mazzetti

Bo Mazzetti, Tribal Leader and Longtime Chairman of Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, Dies at 77

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

Frederick 'Bo' Quinton Mazzetti, who was Chairman of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians for 16 years and one of California's most influential tribal leaders, died on May 2. He was 77.

Mazzetti – a fierce advocate for tribal sovereignty spanning several decades – died in his home surrounded by family. In a statement issued immediately after his death, the Rincon tribe said "It is with deep sadness that we inform you Chairman Bo Mazzetti has passed away after a courageous battle with cancer."

In its statement, the tribe also declared, "Under Mazzetti's dynamic leadership, the Rincon tribe grew in stature and influence throughout the state, while providing for the care and protection of all tribal members. Serving as Chairman of the Rincon

(Continued on page 2)





































The Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) publishes the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Newsletter throughout the year at:

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The newsletter is designed and printed by Tribal Print Source, a division of SCTCA.

The purpose of the Tribal TANF Newsletter is to provide the tribal communities with information about services provided by the TANF Programs and other important issues concerning our rural/urban communities and families.

SCTCA provides services to San Diego, Orange and Santa Barbara counties and the following reservations:

Agua Caliente Los Coyotes Santa Rosa Santa Ysabel Barona Manzanita Cahuilla Mesa Grande Santa Ynez Campo Morongo Soboba Ewiiaapaayp Pala Svcuan Inaja/Cosmit Pauma Torres Martinez Jamul Rincon Viejas La Iolla San Manuel La Posta San Pasqual

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Publisher: SCTCA Editor: Gary P. Taylor

Contributor: Colleen Turner, Editor and Contributor, 1998-2018

Printers: Tribal Print Source Copyright ©2025

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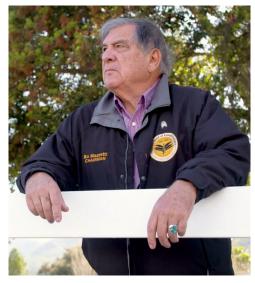
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(Continued from page 1)



Tribal Council for an unprecedented 16 consecutive years, he was a dedicated advocate of tribal sovereignty. While prioritizing the needs of tribal members, he also championed the Rincon tribe's generous support of community organizations and causes throughout the region."

Mazzetti was a founder and active member of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) and worked with chairpersons in Northern and Central California to recreate a revitalized California Tribal Chairman's Association.

Hundreds of people attended Mazzetti's funeral May 17 at the Valley Center

Community Church. Tribal leaders from throughout the region and state were at the service, as were dozens of family members and relatives. Dignitaries including Congressman Darrel Issa attended, as did San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez, San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan and San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria. A passage from the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh was included in a small pamphlet given to those in attendance (see Dispatches, page 3).

Following the service, a long procession of cars drove to the Rincon Indian Cemetery, at one point passing under a huge American flag flying from the top of a firetruck at the Rincon Fire Station. A Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, Mazzetti was given full military honors at his burial, which included a 21-gun salute and the presentation of an American flag to his wife Mary. The flag had draped the coffin, and was folded and presented by officials from the United States Navy.

In a long piece posted on the *Escondido Times Advocate* web site, the publication called Mazzetti "a giant in the world of California tribal affairs and tribal gaming."

According to the *Times-Advocate*:

"He trod the halls of both the California legislature and of the U.S. Congress. He had dignity and gravitas and when he spoke—people, often powerful people, listened. In dealing with people, Mazzetti had a philosophy that he said served him well: "It's really talking to people instead of talking at people. That's really what it's about. When you get people that will do that, relationships develop."

The *Times-Advocate* emphasized Mazzetti made it a point to involve himself and the Rincon tribe in state politics: "It was an effort I made when I became chairman — we didn't have the money like other tribes to go hire lobbyists— to get our name around up there," he said. "I made it my one of my primary objectives to go get to know the senators and assembly people and governors on a one-on-one basis. So that's what we did. We got to know the main players. Really about twenty percent of everybody up there really get things done. That was kind of my goal; to get to know all those folks."

Decades ago, Mazzetti was the first Indian Community Affairs and Citizen Assistance Officer for San Diego County. A businessperson, he owned and operated Mazzetti and Company, a reservation—based general building, engineering and well drilling company since 1979. Over the years, he received numerous awards including the California Indian Chamber of Commerce "Warrior Award" and the "Anna Sandoval Leadership Award" from the California Nations Indian Gaming Association.

As the *Times-Advocate* noted, Mazzetti attended Laverne College on a football scholarship as a graduate of Orange Glen High School in Escondido. He graduated from California Polytechnic University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science. Prior to that, Mazzetti served in the United States Navy, aboard an aircraft carrier during the Vietnam War. He was married to his wife Mary for 52 years.

Mazzetti is survived by Mary and their two children, Emily and Joe; brother Ed; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Western Association of Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Honors Susie Linton

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF



Susie Linton, at Viejas

Susie Linton, who worked for Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) Food Distribution for 41 years, was honored for her service in late April.

The Western Association of Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (WAFDPIR) presented Linton with a traditional Native American blanket at its conference at the Viejas Resort and Casino. Linton — who retired last year — was given the blanket as a gift recognizing her years of working in Food Distribution.

"It's so beautiful," she said, wrapping it around her shoulders outside the conference room.

Linton said retirement has been "very good" to her, noting she can travel whenever she wants and can relax when she wants to. "Isn't that what retirement is supposed to be about?" she laughed. "And having a little fun, too."

Mark Gomez-Aho, who succeeded as Director of Food Distribution in Rincon, was happy WAFDPIR honored Linton.

"We would like to (also) extend our gratitude to Susie Linton for her 41 years of dedicated service," he said. "The staff she left behind continues to look up to her daily, and we are all thankful for the invaluable lessons she taught us about this program."

For her part, Linton said she has heard Gomez-Aho "is doing a wonderful job" as Director.

WAFDPIR's conference was hosted this year by the SCTCA Food Distribution program. The organization includes over 30 warehouses located in various western states, such as California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska, Gomez-Aho noted.

"We collaborate with the USDA to provide food to Indian Reservations," he said. "As a tailgate site, we primarily travel to reservations and distribute food from our refrigerated box truck. Our most popular USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) product is the block cheese, which many people affectionately refer to as 'liquid gold.'"

– DISPATCHES ——



A painting of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh

Chief Tecumseh was a Shawnee Indian, renowned for his courage and bravery in battle.

He led the years-long resistance to the incursion of the white man in what is now the Ohio River valley. Tecumseh died in the War of 1812, one year after he joined British forces in the capture of Detroit. He was 45.

Tecumseh was also a great orator, and he wrote poetry. Some of his words are now regarded as not only historic in their significance, but also inspirational and comforting, especially at times of death. The following passage was included in a pamphlet at the funeral of Bo Mazzetti, who was Chairman of the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians for 16 years. He died May 2, and was buried on May 17.

The passage, as written by the warrior chief:

"So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.

"Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none.

"When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision.

"When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home."

Tecumseh, leading his warriors, died in battle in Canada in 1813. No one knows where he is buried.

At CSUSM, Fourteen Students Honored at 2025 American Indian Graduate Ceremony

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

Under the clear blue sky of a mid-May afternoon, 14 students were honored at the 2025 American Indian Graduate Ceremony at California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM).

The event just outside the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC) drew more than 100 parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles and other family members of the graduates. Several tribal leaders from throughout the Southern California region also attended. The students were all dressed in black robes, with splashes of bright colors on their shawls and sashes.

Dr. Joely Proudfit, Chair of the American Indian Studies Department, presented the students to the crowd, calling out their names and their degrees. Dr. Ellen J. Neufeldt, CSUSM President, was at the event and congratulated the graduates.

"We are happy for each one of you on this day," she said. "I believe each one of you will accomplish many great things when you leave here."

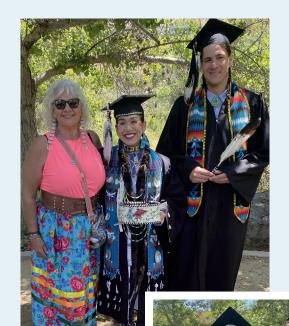
can Indian Resources

Johnny Hernandez, Vice-Chair of the Yuhaaviatam of the San Manuel Nation, presented a check for \$3 million dollars to CICSC. The donation was made to assist in funding the center's activities and academic studies, Hernandez said.

In return, Eric Tippeconnic, Comanche, presented Hernandez with the gift a large painting, which was unveiled near the end of the graduation ceremony to loud applause.

"I will be happy to take this to our tribe," he said, smiling and gesturing towards the brightly-colored painting that featured Native Americans.

When the official ceremony was over, the graduates assembled to the grass behind the CICSC to take individual and group photos. They smiled, sometimes over and over, as family members took their pictures in the bright sunshine of their graduation day.





CSUSM American Indian Graduates, following the ceremony honoring them

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS 2025 AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATES

Mason Anderson, Navajo

B.S. in Management Information Services

"I am currently working on Camp Pendleton as an IT contractor."

Martina Calac, Yurok

B.A. in Human Development

"I plan to work towards a Master's Degree and become a counselor for youth."

Angela Chantaca, Chiricahua Apache

B.A. in Psychology

"I plan on getting a Master of Arts in Clinical Psycholgy or Marriage and Family Therapy."

Joshua Diabo, Mohawk

M.A. in Literature and Writing Studies

"I plan to obtain an MFA and teach in the future."

Kjara Love Flores, 'Kuupangaxwichem and Northern Ute

B.A. in American Indian Studies

"I plan on applying to the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at UC San Diego/CSU San Marcos."

Catherine Huber, Cupeno, Pala Band of Mission Indians

B.A. in American Indian Studies and Literature and Writing Studies "I plan on working with my tribe and make language revitalization art."

Kalathan 'Buffalo' Laiwa-McKay, Pomo

B.S. in Kinesiology

CSUSM Track and Field Shotput School Record of 18.25 meters.

"My future plan is to attend medical school."

Pawiiy Linton, lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

B.S. in Business Administration, Entrepreneurship Option "I plan to get into a PhD program in business with plans of being a professor."

Justin Littledeer, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

B.A. in American Indian Studies

"I plan to continue on to law school."

Nialea Ortega-Guachena, Hia-Ced O'odham and Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

B.S. in Speech Language Pathology

"I plan to pursue a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy."

Hunter Rojas, Tiwa/Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

B.A. in Art Media and Design

"I plan to work in marketing and advertising."

Ronald Trujillo, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians

B.S. in Biological Sciences

"My goal is to become a physician in Emergency Care or Radiology."

Walker Yorba, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation

B.A. in Communication

"I plan to obtain a Master's in Social Counseling to work in the educational system."

2025 American Indian Ally Graduate:

Avalon SchultzB.A. in Sociology

"I have been accepted into the Master of the Arts in Sociological Practice with the Fall 2025 cohort." Silvia Leon, from the Campo Band of Mission Indians, was the 2025 Valedictorian with a 4.38 grade point average (GPA). Ava Ciccone-Cozart, from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, was Salutatorian with a 4.23 GPA.

The La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians had the most graduates, with 24. And - for the third consecutive year - the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians had the second highest number of graduates with 20. The Pala Band of Mission Indians had the same number of graduates it had last year: 18. The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians had 15 graduates, while the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians had 14. Four tribes had one graduate – the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians; the Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians; the Jamul Indian Village A Kumeyaay Nation; and the La Posta Band of Luiseno Indians.

The rest of the tribes had graduating classes ranging from two to 14.

At the beginning of the evening, Chris Devers, from the Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians, blessed the Eagle feathers that were to be given to the graduates in honor of their accomplishment (see About the Eagle Feathers sidebar, page 7).

"The Eagle is a symbol of power and courage, and it should be respected as such by each one of you," he told the graduates.

Robert Smith, Chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, wrote in the graduation program that "today is an exciting day for celebration."













SCTCA American Indian Education Award Winners

The following students received the SCTCA American Indian Education Award during the High School Graduation Ceremony:

Kailyn Culpeper, San Pasqual
Soraya Mendoza, Rincon
Ezabel Castallano, Los Coyotes
Aulliana Edwards, La Jolla
\$unla Ortiz, Los Coyotes
Adriel Kolb, Rincon
Mary Pojas, La Jolla
Caitlyn Griffith, Pala
Nusun Pojas, La Jolla
Cha'ish Majel, Pauma
Delaney Houser, Barona
Jayleem Walsh, La Jolla
Nashayla Chaipos, La Jolla





About the Eagle Feathers

Each student at the High School Graduation Ceremony received an Eagle feather in recognition of their accomplishment. The following is from the SCTCA High School Graduation Ceremony program:

"Eagles hold a sacred place in Native American culture. The Eagle represents Strength, Courage, Honor and a spiritual connection to the Creator. Eagle feathers are particularly important, representing Honor and Power. These feathers are being gifted to you to acknowledge your accomplishment of being a high school graduate. The Eagle feather should be used in a good way. It can be used during times of struggle, seeking strength to accomplish your dreams by fanning your prayers to the Creator. This gift should be respected,

not hung from your rear view mirror. It should be kept in a place where it can't be damaged. When you wear your feather, wear it with pride.

"Use your Eagle feather to provide you strength and guidance through good times and bad times and most importantly use your feather to help you achieve your dreams whatever those may be."







"Graduating high school is a major life milestone, opening a new chapter in your lives," he wrote. "Graduating will provide you with the power to pursue many opportunities – education, enrichment, employment and adventure. I encourage you to chase your dreams, never stop trying, never stop learning and live life to the fullest."

Smith added that "Whether the journey was smooth or challenging, your determination, perseverance and resilience are proof of your enduring commitment to yourselves and your community."

In brief remarks during the ceremony, Leon, the Valedictorian, said that "graduation is not the end – it is the beginning."

Leon, a graduate of Mountain Empire High, said she will be attending Grand Canyon University in the fall. She would like to become a Registered Nurse so "I can make people's days better by helping them on their worst days." Leon also thanked her family "for all your support, all you've done for me."

Ciccone-Cozart, the Salutatorian and a graduate of Hemet High School, will be attending the College of Charleston in the fall. Like Leon, she expressed her gratitude to her family in her remarks and said she has "taken a great interest in history because of the vast ancestral history of my Native American heritage."

Many graduates received awards and honors during the celebration, including several who received multiple awards. SCTCA American Education Award winners were Kailyn Culpeper, San Pasqual; Soraya Mendoza, Rincon; Ezabel Castallano, Los Coyotes; Aulliana Edwards, La Jolla; \$unla Ortiz, Los Coyotes; Adriel Kolb, Rincon; Mary Pojas,

La Jolla; Caitlyn Griffith, Pala; Nusun Pojas, La Jolla; Cha'ish Majel, Pauma; Delaney Houser, Barona; Jayleem Walsh, La Jolla; and Nashayla Chaipos, La Jolla.

Walking Shield presented six scholarships to Leon, Houser, Castellano, Nusun Pojas, Mary Pojas, and Juan Cervantes. Intertribal Sports presented awards to Mary and Nusun Pojas, Maniya Zwicker, Antonio Amado and \$unla Ortiz. The Native Youth Foundation presented three scholarships to Zwicker, Nusun Pojas and Nashaya Chaipos.

After the awards were presented, each graduate from the Class of 2025 was called onto the brightly-lit stage to receive their Eagle feathers and certificates. With each name called, there were loud shouts and whoops from family and friends in the audience.

As in previous years, the graduates were also honored by Bird Singers, who took the stage and sang traditional songs after all the students from each tribe had their names announced. The graduates then had their class photo taken by a professional photographer at the far end of the ballroom.

And - throughout the evening - graduates took their own pictures with each other, family and friends at photo booths located on the far side of the Events Center. Some of the photos were serious, but most were playful and informal, reflecting the night of celebration.

Cody Martinez, Chairman of the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation and evening's Master of Ceremony, concluded the event with one simple phrase: "Congratulations Class of 2025!"

The crowd – as it had all night – erupted in cheers.



Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association's High School Graduation Ceremony Class of 2025

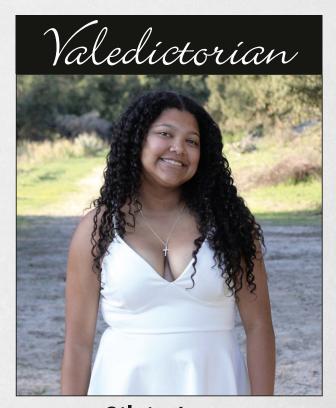


Ava Ciccone-Cozart

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Graduating from Hemet High School Attending College of Charleston, Fall 2025

As you grow up, you consistently go through different phases of life which come with varying points of interest you love. The one constant love I have had in school has been the subject of history. I have taken a great interest in history because of the vast ancestral history of my Native American heritage. This inspires me to work harder in my chosen field as it is a reminder to keep fighting and excelling the sharing of my cultural heritage. An accomplishment I am proud of is making Daisy Chain my junior year. Daisy Chain consist of the top twenty students academically out of over five hundred students. I also volunteered for the Soroptimist Girl Power Confernece which allowed me to help younger girls from my tribe get on the right path by offering them my support.

Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association's High School Graduation Ceremony Class of 2025



Silvia Leon

Campo Band of Misson Indians

Graduated from Mountain Empire High

Attending Grand Canyon University, Fall 2025

Throught my four years of High School I have maintained over a 4.0 GPA. I have taken all honors classes along with being a volleyball player and captain for 2 of the 4 years. I also like to read, bake and photography, these hobbies help me ease my mind when I am feeling overwhelmed. I have given back to my community by volunteering at the Campo Reservation Fire Department, Mountain Empire Little League and helping the freshman boys volleyball team for my high school.

One of my goals is to become a Registered Nurse (RN). I want to be a nurse to make people's days better by helping them on their worst days. Once I become a nurse, I plan on becoming a travel nurse to help various communities through the United States. I would like to impact the native communities in becoming a nurse by informing them of the medical dangers that hinder reservations everywhere. I hope by helping the native communities that we can keep the native population alive and thriving, that there will be more elders to tell our stories and keep our traditions that have been established forever.

2025 Graduates

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Bianca Torres

Barona Band of Mission Indians

Ayden Banegas

Mikella Cappasola

Delaney Houser

Ty Leonard

Amber Mair

Clara Milligan

Tarah Parada-Donohue

Mia Rodriguez

Justine Van Wanseele

Jada Vicaldo

Hamuk Vigil

Chance Ward

Evin Padilla

Cahuilla Band of Indians

Nolee Alvarado Leila Lopez
Rebekah Chavez Gabriella Salgado
Rosalina Hamilton Menil Salgado
Tukwet Holguin Faith Salgado
Titus Lewis Andrew Salgado

Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Silvia Leon Kaiya Schultz Arianna Salgado William Shipp

lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

Antonio Amado Skylar Jeffers
Mexewut Calac-Osuna Trindad Juarez
Joshua Carrisoza-Durbin Rena Linton
Amaris Coultress Caden Paipa
Rozelynn Espana Amber Perez
Sophia Estrada Treston Price

Taavish Hernandez

Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians

Layla Garcia

Jamul Indian Village A Kumeyaay Nation

Jonathan Tellow

La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

Ransom Bojorquez Leeland Nelson Nataylynn Nelson Nashayla Chaipos Jasmyn Chavez Kaitlin Nelson Amara Doolittle Leonard Nelson Jr. Elena Harvey Austin Payne Cadance Howard Mary Pojas Adelia Ibenez Nusun Pojas Kekai Kaai-Subish Jenaveve Rios Douglas Kaiser Jr Shelby Ruise Giselle Minjares Christian Vargas Dylan Minjares Jayleen Walsh Lilith Morales Savina Werner

La Posta Band of Mission Indians

Savannah Mercado

Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians

Ezabel Castellano Gianna Norte Sage Chapparosa \$unla Ortiz Daigan Cyhan Naveah Parada

Monica Meza

Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Austin Cargill Janae Robinson Jayna De Los Santos Jake Robledo

Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians

Nashay Alto Miakoda Murillo Albert Gumataotao Naliyah Stabler

Manuel LaChappa

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Jesse Jr Briones Joseph Necochea-Morsa

Gabriel Esparza Karma Norvell
Elijah Marcus Mikayla Ortega Rice

Angelina Martin Rebecca Rice Malmal Miranda Elka Waters-Jay



























2025 Graduates

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Klyn Alexander Phoenix Machado
Dustin Blanton Suvoowut Molina
Juan Cervantes Lainey Nejo
William Eagleton II Darrell Peralta
Caitlynn Griffith Kyla Perez
Olivia Guttirez Bubble-up Scott

Toni Hamm Alexander Standingwater
Tegan Johnson Layla Subish-Good
Tukwit Lavato Maniya Zwicker

Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians

Maurice BowCha'ish MajelDavid Littleman CalacMaximillano MajelOctavia CalacJessalyn RiosDavina MaganteSoyala RosalesDena MaganteDaniel Subish III

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

Isabella Castillo Desiree Mendoza
Amelia Cloninger Soraya Mendoza
Freddy John Godoy Deena Morrow
Matthew Herrera Evan Powell
Shania Jimenez Meish Sass

Adriel Kolb Penelope Verdugo

Jada Kolb Halypuusuut Villalpando Salgado

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians

Kailyn Culpeper Chehaar Martinez
Auliana Edwards Bear Morales
Arianna Garcia Aiden Murillo
Zuleica Greene Dean Plasterer
Uriah Hughes Dazzillah Ramirez
Kaleb Lavigne Yawaywish Renteria
Ariana Marquez Justice Xiong

Ariana Marquez Maddison Martinez

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Raven Fierro Alissa Sandoval

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

Damon Almanza Johnny Gutierrez Gracie Bass Ruby Lindsey **Huahnee Briones** Aimee Organ Babe Briones Jacob Pantoja Wayne Calderon Jacklyn Ramirez Angelina Chavez Ronald Ramirez Ava Ciccone-Cozart Joanna Reyes Maxeel Garcia Destiny Salgado Steven Jr Gonzalez Rhianna Salgado Zachary Guacheno Andrew Velazquez

Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Austin Gomez Pepisis Sandoval Ishpaa Paipa-Muse Natalie Smitherman Isaiah Rios Marcus Vickery Elijah Rios Melyscia Vickery

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Hunwe-t Bullchild-Mirelez
Elias Duro-Garcia
Douglas Franco-Ward
Hailey Garibay
Maelynn Lavergne
Jisella Martin
Janice Rose Perez
Nathaniel Rivas
Jonathan Sanchez
Arionna Ward

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Aswayo Alto
Daniel Gonzalez
Joanna Richardson
Sa:ji:sdo:de Grijalva
Emmy-Lou McLaughlin
Kyle Mills
Emaay Morales
Austin Real
Joanna Richardson
Amanda Shelton
Talayah Tellez
Angelina TeSam

Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

Jayden Casas Annabella Hernandez
Quoymee Chacon Julian Martinez

Malainia Duro





















In Memoriam: Brandie Summer Taylor, 1974-2025

By Gary P. Taylor, SCTCA TANF

Editor's note: My sister Brandie died on May 9. She was buried in the Santa Ysabel Indian Cemetery on May 24. The following are from my remarks at her graveside.

Three years ago, in the months before my mother Silvanna died, she suffered greatly, was in and out of the hospital, and grew weak and weary. Fifteen days ago, before my sister Brandie died, she suffered greatly, was in and out of the hospital, and grew weak and weary.

The difference is my mother was a tribal elder who lived a much longer life, and saw many things my sister never saw,

and now will never see. Brandie – the oldest of my four sisters - was only 51 when she died. She had one son, Hunter, who is 19.

Her final few months were filled with many physical ailments and numerous trips to hospitals. She had received a heart transplant 17 years ago, and she was becoming weaker. And then last June she was attacked and violently beaten in her own house by a man she did not know, and strangled to unconsciousness. She was tough enough to survive, but she never fully recovered. I am certain the violence done to her contributed directly to her death less than one year later.

...My sister can be described by many words — mother, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, confidante and friend. She was courageous, generous, determined, stubborn, funny, sarcastic, willful, competitive and compassionate. But I believe it is two words - joy and happiness - that best described her.

In life, my sister did not seek to be more than she was. Like all of us, she had her virtues and her vices. Brandie did not seek to be rich, or famous, nor was she envious of those who had more. Red Cloud, the great Oglala Lakota Chief, said, "We do not want riches but we do want to raise our children right. Riches would do us no good. We could not take them with us to the other world. We do not want riches. We want peace and love." I think that is what my sister believed. She was interested in what she could do to help others, or make others happy, or encourage others. She wanted joy and happiness, and she wanted it for others as much as for herself.

Brandie was a leader, a former Chairwoman of the lipay Nation, who did what she could for her tribe and all its people. She especially wanted to know about the children, and if they knew about the lipay culture and traditions she held close to her heart.

...When my mother was alive, she used to tell Brandie, you need to slow down, you need to rest, you're going to make yourself tired, it won't be good for you. And you have Hunter, you need to care of yourself so you can take care of him. Brandie would listen – but really only to that last part.

I believe it was because she wanted so much to be with Hunter that she lived as long as she did. She did not slow

down, would not slow down. With Hunter, she found the true meaning of love and of joy and of happiness. He grew up with her, and she grew with him. They stayed together, traveled together, played together – they both loved Peon, and were champions. They also laughed together, learned together – and were as close as a mother and son could be.

In my last visit with Brandie in the hospital, the day before she died, my sister said she just wanted to go home.

Why, I asked her, was it so important now? She said, "I want to be home for Mother's Day. I want to be home, just me and Hunter." She did go home, and she died peacefully in her sleep, in her bedroom in her house, two mornings before Mother's Day.

My sister often told me over the years she would be content to live just long enough to see Hunter graduate from high school and turn 18. He has graduated, he's

African ican raymon

Brandie with her son Hunter, nearly six years ago

19, and now his mother is gone. My sister always knew it would be this way. Her determination to live not for herself but for Hunter and so many others showed not only her great love but that her heart, after all, was not her weakest part, but her strongest.

St. Gertrude once said, "For I trust, in whatever manner I die, that I shall not be deprived of the mercy of my God, without which my eternal ruin would be inevitable, whether I die an unprepared death, or whether I have long anticipated my end."

I will miss you, Brandie, in all things, in all ways. And I hope it brings some comfort to those of us who loved her in this life to know she has now returned to the One who created her, in joy and happiness, for eternity.



What is Mindfulness?

Mindfulness has been described as being present in the moment and focusing on the here and now. It means paying attention to the current moment, without judging or trying to change it. This involves observing your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without getting caught up in them. You can do this through breathing, guided imagery and other techniques to relax your body.

How do you practice mindfulness?

You pay attention to your current thoughts, feelings, and body sensations around you without holding judgement.

What are the benefits?

It is a great for self-care. It helps bring your awareness away from negative thinking and more engaging in the world around you. It can help calm stressful and anxious feelings.

5 Steps to take to practice Mindfulness

- 1. Find a quiet place to sit or lay comfortably.
- 2. Use your 5 senses (sight, sound, touch. taste, smell) to notice your environment around you.
- 3. Try to stay present and focus on what you are experiencing in that moment.
- 4. Focus on your breathing. If your thoughts run away, bring them back by focusing on your breathing.
- 5. Accept yourself in that moment and show kindness to yourself.

Mindfulness in your daily life

- Drink plenty of water.
- Make your bed every day.
- Be kind to yourself.
- Take time to enjoy the food you eat.
- Organize your things and your space.
- Stretch/Exercise whenever you can.
- Turn off all your devices for a while.
- Pay attention to your 5 senses as often as you can.

Mindful Breathing

- **Belly Breathing** put one hand on your belly and the other on your chest. Breath in through your nose and out through your mouth trying to get the hand on your belly to rise and the one on your chest to remain still.
- <u>4-7-8 Breathing</u>- inhale through your nose to count of 4 hold your breath for 7 seconds and exhale for 8 seconds.
- <u>Coherent Breathing</u>- inhale in your nose to the count of 6 and exhale through your mouth to the count of 6.

Other Helpful Options

- Daily Positive Affirmations repeat positive statements to yourself such as, I love and accept myself or I am worthy just the way I am.
- <u>Guided Meditation</u>- helps you to deal with stress/anxiety. You can find may different guided meditations on YouTube or meditation apps.
- **Journaling**-helps you to organize your thoughts and track your personal growth.
- <u>Body Scan</u>- lie down on your back and stretch out. Start with your toes and mentally move up your body to your head. Pay attention to each part. Become aware of any sensations thoughts or emotions and breath into them.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please contact Cyndie Gilliam LMFT TANF Therapist @ 760-330-3913 or cgilliam@sctca.net



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Honoring the past . . . Preparing for the Future.

CAREGIVING COURSE

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- Companionship and Social Engagement
- Meal Planning and Preparation

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For More Information staff@twodirections.com



Class Calendars

Two Directions, Inc.

June 1st—June 30th, 2025

2 0 2	5 C L A	s s s	HEDU	L E			
Monday 8:00am-4:30pm	Tuesday 8:00am-4:30pm	Wednesday 8:00am-4:30pm	Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm	Friday 8:00am-4:30pm			
In Person / Virtual / Distance Learning classes offered daily							
Computer Training offered but not limited to: Word, Excel, PPoint, QuickBooks, Job Search, Office Skills, Keyboarding (In Person 9:00am-12pm) ABE / Diploma / HiSet / GED Second Language Life Skills offered but not limited to: Financial Literacy, Parenting, Soft Skills, Social Skills and more Culture and Beading Career Training offered but not limited to: Resume Building, Career Exploration, Classes per specific career goals like small business, or web design, and more	Computer Training offered but not limited to: Word, Excel, PPoint, QuickBooks, Job Search, Office Skills, Keyboarding ABE / Diploma / HiSet / GED Second Language Life Skills offered but not limited to: Financial Literacy, Parenting, Soft Skills, Social Skills and more (In Person 9:00am-11:00am) Culture (In Person 11:15 am-1:15pm) Drivers Education / Behind the Wheel Training (In Person 11:15 am-1:15pm)	Computer Training offered but not limited to: Word, Excel, PPoint, QuickBooks, Job Search, Office Skills, Keyboarding (In Person 9:00am-12pm) ABE / Diploma / HiSet / GED Second Language Life Skills offered but not limited to: Financial Literacy, Parenting, Soft Skills, Social Skills and more Culture and Beading Career Training offered but not limited to: Resume Building, Career Exploration, Classes per specific career goals like small business, or web design, and more	Computer Training offered but not limited to: Word, Excel, PPoint, QuickBooks, Job Search, Office Skills, Keyboarding ABE / Diploma / HiSet / GED Second Language Life Skills offered but not limited to: Financial Literacy, Parenting, Soft Skills, Social Skills and more (In Person 9:00am-11:00am) Beading (In Person 11:15 am-1:15pm) Career Training offered but not limited to: Resume Building, Career Exploration, Classes per specific career goals like small business, or web design, and more	Computer Training offered but not limited to: Word, Excel, PPoint, QuickBooks, Job Search, Office Skills, Keyboarding (In Person 9:00am-1:15pm) ABE / Diploma / HiSet / GED - Assessment Testing (In Person 9:00am-1:15pm) Second Language (In Person 9:00am-1:15pm) Life Skills offered but not limited to: Financial Literacy, Parenting, Soft Skills, Social Skills and more Beading (In Person 9:00am-1:100am Career Training offered but not limited to: Resume Building, Career Exploration, Classes per specific career goals like small business, or web design, and more			
Two Directions, Inc. offers classes based on Assessment Testing, Educational, and Career Goals.							
*Additional Tutorial Assistance Available by appointment 7041 West Tribal Road, CA Sp# 8 and #39 Phone (760) 749-1196 Fax(760) 749-9152 Email: staff@twodirections.com							

Manzanita Tribal Training Program June 2						
un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
I	2 Closed– No Classes Manzanita Graveyard Cleaning Day	3 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Language Arts 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Relation- ship Skills 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	4 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am GED Prep: Language Arts 10 to 11:30 am Life Skills: Gardening for Self-Sustainability 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	5 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Resilien- cy/Team Building 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	6 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Job Prep: Project Management 101 11:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	7
8	9 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 1:00 pm Life Skills: Cultural Entrepreneurship 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Communication/Emotional Skills 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	10 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Language Arts 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Relation- ship Skills 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	11 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am GED Prep: Language Arts 10 to 11:30 am Life Skills: Gardening for Self-Sustainability 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	12 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Resilien- cy/Team Building 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	13 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Job Prep: Project Management 101 11:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	14
15	16 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 1:00 pm Life Skills: Cultural Entrepreneurship 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Communication/Emotional Skills 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	17 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Language Arts 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Relation- ship Skills 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	18 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am GED Prep: Language Arts 10 to 11:30 am Life Skills: Gardening for Self-Sustainability 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	19 Closed- No Classes Juneteenth Holiday	20 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Job Prep: Project Management 101 11:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	21
22	23 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 1:00 pm Life Skills: Cultural Entrepreneurship 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Communication/Emotional Skills 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	24 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Language Arts 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Relation- ship Skills 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	25 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am GED Prep: Language Arts 10 to 11:30 am Life Skills: Gardening for Self-Sustainability 11:20 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	26 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Computer/ Technology Literacy: Word MO 100 11:30 to 1 pm GED Prep: Math 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Resilien- cy/Team Building 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	27 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 11:30 am Job Prep: Project Management 101 11:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study	28
29	30 8 to 10 am Work Study 10 to 1:00 pm Life Skills: Cultural Entrepreneurship 1 to 2:30 pm Life Skills: Communication/Emotional Skills 1 to 2:30 pm Job Prep: Applying for a Job 2:30 to 4:30 pm Work Study					

OFFICE CLOSURES:

Thursday, June 19, 2025 for Juneteenth.

JUNE 2025 CALENDAR

BG ASSOCIATES INC. 210 S. JUNIPER ST., SUITE 212 ESCONDIDO, CA 92025

FX: (760) 737-0581

WWW.BGASSOCIATESINC.COM

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-4:00PM

BG ASSOCIATES INC. PROVIDES INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING TO **ACCOMMODATE THE SCHEDULE & NEEDS OF PARTICIPANTS.**

CLASSES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



FOR CLASS INFORMATION, CONTACT KAYLEIGH at KGUACHENA@BGASSOCIATESINC.COM.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

IN PERSON CLASSES

*OPEN LAB / JOB SEARCH / APPLIED SKILLS / DRIVER'S PREP 8:30AM-4PM (VARIES BY CLIENT)

VIRTUAL CLASSES

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

ABE/GED 9AM-11AM (via Zoom, Google Meet, neeting)

SPANISH

9AM-11AM (available online/app &

PHILLIP ROY: HEALTH CARE

9AM-11AM (lessons can be emailed)

KEYBOARDING

APPLIED SKILL PRACTICE (GED) 11:30AM-1:30PM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

*TUTORING ASSISTANCE

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

IN PERSON CLASSES

*OPEN LAB / JOB SEARCH / APPLIED SKILLS / DRIVER'S PREP 8:30AM-4PM (VARIES BY CLIENT)

VIRTUAL CLASSES

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

9AM-11AM (via Zoom, Google Moor other form of virtual face to face neeting)

SPANISH

9AM-11AM (available online/app &

KEYBOARDING

9AM-12PM (available online & can be tracked by instructor)

APPLIED SKILL PRACTICE (GED)

11:30AM-1:30PM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

*TUTORING ASSISTANCE

IN PERSON CLASSES

*OPEN LAB / JOB SEARCH / APPLIED SKILLS / DRIVER'S PREP 8:30AM-4PM (VARIES BY CLIENT)

VIRTUAL CLASSES

ED2GO.COM/ COURSES IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

(via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

WHAT COLOR IS MY PARACHUTE

9-11AM PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS 11:30AM-1:30PM

SPANISH
9AM-11AM (available online/app & can be tracked by instructor)

COMPUTER SKILLS (GENERAL) 11:30AM-1:30PM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

KEYBOARDING

*TUTORING ASSISTANCE

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THURSDAY

IN PERSON CLASSES *OPEN LAB / JOB SEARCH / APPLIED SKILLS / DRIVER'S PREP

8:30AM-4PM (VARIES BY CLIENT)

VIRTUAL CLASSES

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

COMPUTER SKILLS (GENERAL) 9AM-12PM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

9AM-11AM (available online/app & can be tracked by instructor)

PHILLIP ROY: HEALTH CARE

9AM-11AM (lessons can be emailed)

SELF-SUFFICIENCY:

12:30PM-2:30PM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtua face to face meeting)

KEYBOARDING

9AM-12PM (available online & can be tracked by instructor)

*TUTORING ASSISTANCE

(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

IN PERSON CLASSES

OPEN LAB / JOB SEARCH / APPLIED SKILLS / DRIVER'S PREP 8:30AM-4PM (VARIES BY CLIENT)

VIRTUAL CLASSES

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IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

9AM-11AM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

9AM-11AM (available online/app &

can be tracked by instructor PHILLIP ROY: HEALTH CARE

9AM-11AM (lessons can be emailed)

KEYBOARDING 9AM-12PM (available online & can

APPLIED SKILL PRACTICE (GED)

11:30AM-1:30PM (via Zoom, Google Meet, or other form of virtual face to face meeting)

*TUTORING ASSISTANCE

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SCAIR, Inc.

239 E Main St. • El Cajon, CA 92020 Monday-Friday • 8:00am-4:30pm 888.21.SCAIR • 619.328.0676 www.SCAIRInc.org



Southern California American Indian Resource Center. Inc.

JUNE 2025

Serving the Native American **Community Since 1997**

MONDAY

8:00am-4:30pm

TUESDAY 8:00am-4:30pm

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 8:00am-4:30pm

Daily services:

Available 8:30-4:00

Career Training

Typing Practice

Microsoft Training

Computer Training

Academic Tutorial

Life Skills Training

Youth Services

College Preparation

Daily services:

Available 8:30-4:00

Career Training

Typing Practice

Microsoft Training

Computer Training

Academic Tutorial

Life Skills Training

Youth Services

College Preparation

Coffee with the Director

6/3: 10:00am

TUPE at SCAIR

6/17, 3:30-5:30pm

8:00am-4:30pm

Daily services:

Available 8:30-4:00 Career Training **Typing Practice** Microsoft Training Computer Training

Academic Tutorial Life Skills Training Youth Services

College Preparation

Daily services: Available 8:30-4:00

Career Training **Typing Practice** Microsoft Training Computer Training Academic Tutorial Life Skills Training Youth Services

TUPE at SDAIYC

College Preparation

6/12, 4:00-5:30pm **Community Night** 6/26, 5:00-7:00pm **FRIDAY**

8:00am-4:30pm **Daily services:**

Available 8:30-4:00

Career Training **Typing Practice** Microsoft Training Computer Training Academic Tutorial Life Skills Training

Youth Services College Preparation

By appointment only:

Counseling Services Youth Academic Tutorial Services **County Approved Typing Tests**

*After hour tutoring and counseling requests available based on availability of instructors and clinicians Please visit www.SCAIRInc.org for more information about SCAIR's programs or scan the QR code here:



JUNE 2025

Santa Ynez

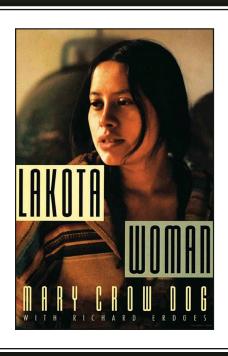
Santa Ynez – SCTCA TANF • 185 W. Highway 246, Suite 102, Buellton, CA. 93427 Phone: (805) 688-1756 • Fax: (805) 688-6827

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		Career Development 10am - 1pm*	Parenting 1pm - 3pm*	Career Development 10am - 1pm*	
J	IOB SEARCH**				Job Search**
		Job Search**	Job Search**	JOB SEARCH**	

^{*} By Appointment Only

^{**} Must be Pre-Approved





Coming in July:

- Five Decades Later, Remembering *Lakota Woman*
- Keeping Students Sharp in the Summer
- A Schedule of Powwows and Gatherings

