



# TRIBAL TALK

News from the Soboba Band  
of Luiseño Indians

December 2019

## Calendar!

Stay informed by checking out the latest news and bulletins: download the *Soboba* app from your **app** store today!

**Tribal Enrollment meets the first Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Bill Baumgarten from IE Drug Testing is here on the same days. All meetings are subject to change.**

### ***Soboba Elders***

Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Inc. Senior Nutrition Lunch served Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at Soboba Tribal Hall. Please call with any questions or concerns to 800-732-8805, especially regarding holiday schedule changes.  
Dec. 14 – Christmas Dinner at 5pm, Soboba Casino Resort Event Center  
Dec. 29 – New Year's Party at 5pm, Soboba Casino Resort Event Center  
Some events are subject to change. If you have any questions about Elders events, please contact Erica at 951-392-1900.

### ***Soboba Tribal Preschool***

Dec. 11 – Holiday performance and visit from Santa  
Dec. 12 – Parent Night Out, 5:30 to 8:30 so parents can enjoy a night or finish Christmas shopping while children enjoy games and crafts at the

preschool site

Dec. 20 – Classroom parties, 8:30 to 12 - all classes  
Dec. 23-Jan. 3 – Winter Break, school closed

### ***Soboba Parks & Recreation Department***

Dec. 7 – Tribal Christmas Party, 2 to 5 pm (with reservation)  
Dec. 13 – Tree Lighting Ceremony and Light Parade, starting at dusk  
Information, contact Jennifer Garcia at 951-654-5544, ext. 7605  
Through Dec. 12 – ITS Basketball sign-ups (space is limited)  
Information, contact Steve Lopez at 951-654-5544, ext. 7603

### ***Soboba Tribal TANF***

Dec. 2-5 and 9-12 only – Tutoring, 2:30 to 5 pm  
Dec. 10 – Bird Singing, 6 to 8 pm  
Dec. 12 – Teen Night at Soboba Preschool, 5:30 to 8:30 pm  
Dec. 12 and 26 – Fancy Shawl, 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
Dec. 13 – Teen Night Clay Pot Firing, TBD  
Dec. 21-23 – Teen Night Pali Retreat in Big Bear  
For more information, please call 951-487-9075.

## ***NEW POINT OF CONTACT FOR TRIBAL MEMBER BENEFITS***

For all questions regarding tribal member benefits or claims, please contact Laura Hernandez, Tribal Member Benefits Coordinator, 951-654-5544, ext. 4162 or lhernandez@soboba-nsn.gov



# TRIBAL COUNCIL MESSAGE

## December 2019

As we close 2019, let's look back at our significant achievements in this past year. We opened our beautiful casino resort and our new state-of-the-art fire station. We completed renovations to the park and sports facility, which has allowed for more community events and family get togethers. Other accomplishments include a 480-acre land purchase expanding our land base; approval to proceed with construction of a gas station, convenience store and a retail center on approximately 10 acres at Donna Way; completion of the new well construction to help accommodate the new casino facility and completion of the two-million gallon water tank to help with our domestic water supply.

We recognize that none of these projects would have happened without your support. We thank all voting tribal members that have attended general council meetings. We encourage you to continue attending meetings, voicing your opinions and recommendations. As our membership grows, we may face challenges, but our strength will be measured by your voice and vote. We need you and we welcome you to contact us with any concerns at any time. Here's hoping that 2020 will be just as productive and prosperous for all of us as 2019 has been.

Please enjoy your celebrations of all the upcoming holidays and please stay safe this holiday season! Many blessings to you all!

Sincerely,

**Your Tribal Council**

Scott Cozart, Chairman  
Isaiah Vivanco, Vice-Chair  
Monica Herrera, Secretary  
Kelli Hurtado, Treasurer  
Rose Salgado, Sergeant-at-Arms



# Fall Cultural Program Series

Soboba's Cultural Resource Department recently hosted a two-part Seed Beater making class. During the class, presented by Steven Estrada, Soboba's Environmental Department Manager and Chairman of the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, a dozen participants learned about the necessity of this unique tool.

Estrada's experience with making various cultural material items came from his grandmother Josephine Modesto and her aunt, Katherine Siva Saubel. They are also the ones who taught him about traditional plant uses.

"A lot of items used a long time ago didn't survive because they were made from lightweight materials and would get worn out," he said. "People would just throw them away and make a new one. It wasn't like the coil baskets that were made to be more durable."

Seed beaters used to remove chia, sage and other small seeds from plants were known in Cahuilla as pish yikawva'al, and larger ones used to beat acorns and pinecones out of trees were called pish vukiva'al. These tools were valuable to collect items needed for food. Seeds are often toasted or ground down before consumption for easier digestion and increased nutritional value. Acorns are cracked and ground before fresh water is poured through the acorn meal to wash out any bitterness of the tannins.

Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer with the Cultural Resource Department, said this project was a great example of how tribal people continue to adapt to survive.

"Tribal people have survived by utilizing what was on hand," he said. "Very often we overlook things that were necessary, like collecting traditional foods. This class teaches about a basic item used for that purpose."

The purpose of Soboba's Cultural Program Series is to offer classes that will continue to highlight the importance of learning and maintaining all aspects of culture within the Native American community. Hosting more material culture classes is one of the department's current goals and there are quite a few planned for the coming year.



# San Jacinto High School Tiger Academic Awards

The Tiger Academic Awards were presented to outstanding sophomore, junior and senior students at San Jacinto High School. The awards celebrated academic achievements from the previous school year. Students were awarded with a Bronze Medal and certificate for maintaining a 3.0 to 3.49 Grade Point Average, Silver Medal and certificate for 3.5 to 3.99 GPAs and Gold Medal and certificate for a 4.0+ GPA.

Soboba Tribal Members honored with bronze medals included Jasmine Basquez, Loovi Herrera and Shayna Silvas-Thomas. Jayden Basquez was awarded a silver medal. They were among the 785 returning students who were part of the ceremonies hosted by SJHS principal Courtney Hall on Oct. 24.

Hall remarked on the pride she has in the work that these students put in each day in order to achieve high academic marks. She asked the students to applaud their family members in the audience for all they put into their child's education, which is incredibly important.

"It can be difficult for our students to be able to maintain high academic achievement, especially if they also hold jobs, are athletes or are facing the difficulties that so many of our youth are challenged with every day," Hall said.



Jasmine Basquez



Jayden Basquez



Loovi Herrera



Shayna Silvas-Thomas

## *Noli Celebrates Homecoming*

It took weeks of designing and planning for the final display of floats to be ready for the Noli Indian School Homecoming Parade on Nov. 1. Grades six through 12 each made a float to match this year's fairytale theme. The Soboba Tribal Preschool joined in with their own interpretation of Little Red Riding Hood and the cheer team duplicated a scene from Alice in Wonderland.

Class floats depicted some classic characters such as Beauty and the Beast and Aladdin. First place prize for best float went to the Class of 2026 (sixth grade) for their retelling of Coco, a movie with a Day of the



Dead storyline. Second place was awarded to the eighth-grade class of 2024 for its fantastic duplication of the pirate ship from Peter Pan. The cheer team placed third.

Following the school safety staff and its depiction of characters from Maleficent were Grand Marshals Antonia Venegas and Louis Rivera as the parade made its way along Castile Canyon Road. After all the floats were parked at The Oaks, students began tearing them down.

"It's a tradition," senior Timothy Salgado said. "We take them all apart and those that put in a lot of work take some of the pieces home. The little kids get pumped that they get to take some things, too. It's very exciting for everyone."



The football game was dominated by the Noli Braves as they defeated the rival team from Indio's Riverside Education Academy Tigers. The final score was 58-16.

Halftime was all about royalty as the Homecoming Court was introduced and the King and Queen were chosen. Lowe took over the microphone from the play-by-play announcer to welcome the court to the 50-yard line.

Freshman Class Sweethearts were Sica Rivera and John Briones III, both Soboba tribal members. Sophomore Class Duchess was Caitlyn Briones (Cahuilla) and Duke was Edwin Muro (Soboba). Junior Class Princess was Shania House (Navajo) and Prince was Jerome Salgado III (Cahuilla).

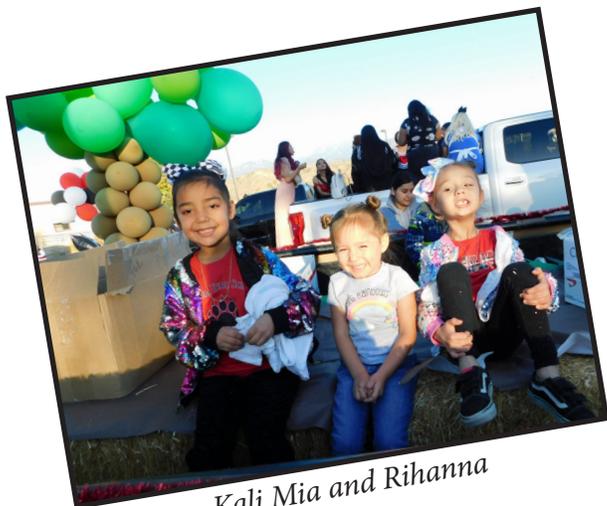
Senior Class Queen nominees were Bailee Lindsey (Soboba), Monique Arres (Soboba), Shalea Luna (Pala) and Tishmal Herrera (La Jolla). Tishmal, who is on the cheer squad, was crowned queen.

Senior Class King nominees were Jarred Briones (Soboba), Anthony Chapparosa (Los Coyotes) and Shaun Molina (Soboba). Jarred, who plays with jersey No. 15 on the Braves football team, was crowned king.

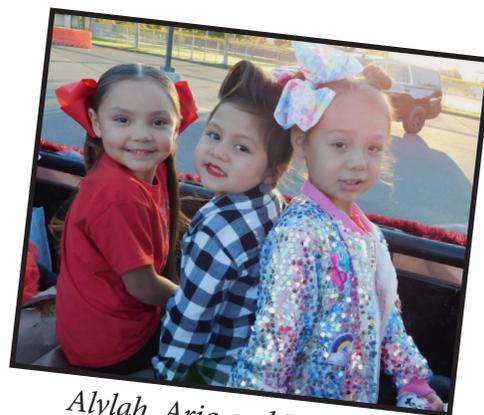
A dance afterwards at the Old Tribal Hall was a celebration of a great game, a coming together of the school's alumni and a chance to have fun with friends and family.



*Aaron Arenas*



*Kali Mia and Rihanna*



*Alylah, Aria and Rihanna*



*Max Avellaka Nola and Suvoowut*



*Homecoming's  
King Jarred  
Briones and  
Queen Tishmal  
Herrera*





# High School Senior is a Softball Standout



Yawaywish Briones, daughter of Faith and Jacob Briones, started playing softball at the age of eight as part of a recreational ball team and soon after in travel ball.

The 17-year-old attends Great Oak High School in Temecula and is currently part of the Semper Fi Bulldogs John Lucero 18u team in Murrieta. Semper Fi Sports is a nonprofit organization that supports military veterans who suffer from PTSD and find their therapy through coaching.

"Travel ball is year-round, excluding the time you play high school ball, that consists of practices weekly and tournaments and showcases on weekends," Jacob said.

Most tournaments are held within Southern California but based on the level of ranking and invitation to tournaments, Yawaywish has travelled to Colorado, Texas, Nevada and Arizona. Playing Tribal Ball, she had the opportunity to play in the 2017 Indigenous Games in Toronto, Canada where the team brought home gold medals.

Faith said the positive aspects of the sport are abundant: health, wellness, community tribal leadership, family, unity, academics and more are all improved through Yawaywish's involvement.

"The most difficult part – as a parent – is seeing disappointment in her face when she believed her performance was not perfection when in reality her father and I couldn't be prouder," Faith said.

Yawaywish is a utility, meaning she can play anywhere on the field but usually plays middle infield as shortstop, which is her favorite position.

"In this position you need mind and body to work together, think quick and move even quicker," she said. "The best part about softball is the adrenaline rush you get from making an amazing play or hitting a home run. Also, the opportunity to meet extraordinary people who are willing to work as hard as I am to reach their goals."

Yawaywish plans to continue playing softball at the college level.

"That is the ultimate goal of every girl in travel ball – to get to that D1 school," she said. "I have been fortunate enough to have that possibility in my glove."

During the next couple of months, she has games scheduled in Irvine, Palmdale, Chino Hills, West Covina and Las Vegas. During the week she practices batting and fielding and if there is no weekend tournament or showcase, there is team practice.

"On down time, I attend gym sessions for strength, speed and agility," she said. "Once the day's tasks are done, evenings are filled with homework sessions. Engineering has become a fascinating subject for me."

Although Yawaywish has found her passion with softball, she has played other sports, dabbling in volleyball and basketball in sixth grade. Faith coached soccer and Yawaywish started playing at the age of two where she excelled at the sport.

"Later, the decision had to be made between playing soccer or softball, and softball won," Jacob said.

"As a senior, she has the wiggle room to play rugby to see what all the hype is that her brother is talking about."

Her younger brother Posuunyot plays high school rugby and football and her younger sister Huahnee plays local recreational soccer.



The Briones family enjoys being sports-oriented and Faith and Jacob are very proud of their children. Both work in the medical field and understand the physical extremes of the sports but the advantages, too. Faith works part time for AMR Hemet and Jacob is a Fire Captain at the Soboba Fire Department.

Yawaywish said professional opportunities for female softball players include playing on international teams and as of 2020, the Olympics will be including the sport.



# Fall Fun at Soboba Tribal Preschool

During this year's annual Trunk or Treat at the preschool on Halloween day, the theme for the teachers' costumes was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Melissa Arviso was Snow White and Preschool Director Dianne King portrayed the Evil Queen. Antonia Venegas played the old witch, Anita Gutierrez was the Magic Mirror and the staff were all dressed as dwarfs.

The Lopez family won Most Creative Trunk or Treat booth with their Jurassic Park theme. Their little one, Shay, attends the preschool.

Eloyd Rodriguez and Nate Arviso created their own booth for the Soboba Canyon Crew. They both have had several children attend the preschool in the past. Although they don't have any children currently attending, they stay active with supporting the preschool throughout the year.

Steve Medina's child Alena Lugo attends our kindergarten program. She was very excited that her family had a trunk to display.

Maylene Briones was helping dad with the trunk while her sister Mayla gathered the candy. Mayla is in our preschool class. Kali Valenzuela shares her birthday on Halloween so she had a great birthday celebration with her friends during the big event.

Sukmal Herrera is the daughter of Tribal Council member Monica Herrera, who had a booth at the Trunk or Treat event.



Due to a power outage that closed the preschool on Oct. 25, a planned pumpkin patch pick was put on hold.

"Since we didn't want to waste the 100 pumpkins that were purchased for the event, we posted the pumpkin patch on our Soboba Preschool Facebook page and invited the kids to come over and choose a pumpkin," Dianne King said.



# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<b>POLICE / FIRE</b> .....	<b>911</b>
Public Safety (regular hours).....	951-654-6168
Access Gate.....	951-487-1548
Dispatch Mobile #.....	951-538-6794
Soboba Public Works.....	951-487-7445
Poison Control Center.....	800-222-1222
Domestic Violence Hotline.....	800-339-7233
National Suicide Lifeline.....	800-273-8255
Resort Security Dispatch.....	951-665-1398
<b>ANTHEM-medical, United Concordia-dental, Ameritas-vision</b>	
Pam, ext. 4160; Laura, ext. 4162.....	951-654-2765
All Mission Indian Housing (AMIHA).....	951-760-7390
BIA – Riverside.....	951-276-6624
Cahuilla TANF.....	951-487-7738
Cham-mix Poki.....	951-487-7445
Commodities – (459 Egan St., Beaumont).....	951-845-3955
First Credit Union.....	951-267-9951
Noli Indian School.....	951-654-5596
Riverside TANF.....	951-654-5964
RSBCIH.....	951-849-4761, ext. 246
Santa Rosa TANF.....	951-487-7737
Soboba Casino Resort.....	1-866-4-SOBOBA
Soboba Fire Department.....	951-654-1092
Soboba Foundation: please contact Andrew Vallejos.....	951-654-2765, ext. 4112
Soboba Health Clinic.....	951-654-0803
Soboba Housing Program/Julie Padilla.....	951-654-2765, ext. 4145
Soboba Sports Complex.....	951-654-1319
Soboba Tribal TANF.....	951-487-9075
Soboba Tribal Preschool.....	951-487-8732
Soboba Tribal Family Services.....	951-487-0283
St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.....	951-654-2086
Tribal Administration.....	951-654-2765
Tribal Member Benefits: please contact Laura Hernandez.....	951-654-5544, ext. 4162