



P.O. Box 902

Bakersfield, CA 93302

www.chalontribe.com

CHALON INDIAN NATION NEWSLETTER

We are descendants of the Chalon and Esselen survivors of Mission Soledad whose traditional homelands encompass significant portions of Monterey and San Benito counties, including all of present-day Pinnacles National Park. Some of our people reside on or near our tribal homelands, while many others found refuge and subsistence in the distance regions of the city of Bakersfield, Kings county and elsewhere in California.

September 2020

2020 CHALON INDIAN NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Arianne Garcia, Chairwoman
- Monique Simmer, Vice Chairwoman
- Antionette Sosa, Secretary
- Lawrence Lopez, Treasurer
- Audrey Alvarado, Member at Large
- Esther Hernandez, Sergeant at Arms
- Bridget Escalera Elders Rep.

ELDERS COUNCIL

- Gloria Medina Chairperson
- Irene Soto Chairperson
- Louise Appodaca, Secretary
- Yvonne Estrada, Purser
- Richard Suniga, Sergeant at Arms

TRIBAL STAFF

- Cameron Garcia, Youth Outreach Leader
- Monique Simmer, Newsletter
- Esther Hernandez, Web Designer, Facebook Admin
- Dr. Charles Ettner, Tribal Anthropologist
- Dr. Kenneth Hansen, Tribal Legal Consultant

Mission Statement: The mission of the Chalon Indian Council (Nation) of Bakersfield is to develop tribal resources, protect and preserve Native American heritage and cultural traditions, seek Federal recognition for our descendants, assist Native Americans in pursuing higher education assist with seeking their tribal affiliation and to promote and refer healthcare services to Native Americans.

Important Dates to Remember

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Californians are to follow public health directives including canceling large social gatherings have been postponed until further notice.

- **Sept. 8, 2020** Chalon Tribal Council Meeting via Zoom
- **Postponed** Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Elections
- **Postponed until 2021** Chalon Tribe Taco Sale postponed until further notice
- **Postponed until Fall 2021** Tribal Leadership Training with Ken Hansen

Attention Chalon Tribal Members

The Chalon Tribal Council will be issuing I.D. Cards for members who have completed an enrollment application.

Cost of a pictured I.D. Card is \$5. for each member.

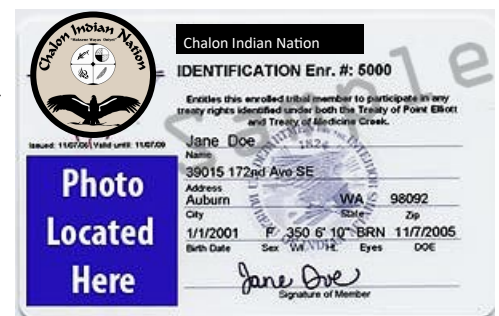
Free for Tribal Elders.

If you are interested in an enrollment application, or for more information please contact:

Yvonne Turner

661.369.6722

Text Message only



INDIGENOUS CLASS OF 2020

ANASTASIA
CHALON TRIBE



CURRAN
JUNIOR HIGH



KALANI
CHALON TRIBE



CATO
MIDDLE SCHOOL



INDIGENOUS CLASS OF 2020

ALYSSA
CHALON TRIBE



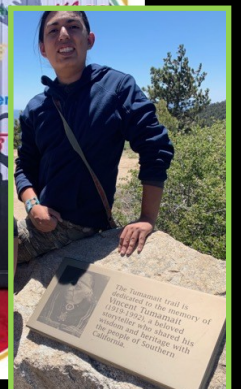
INDEPENDENCE
HIGH SCHOOL



CAMERON
CHALON TRIBE



STOCKDALE
HIGH SCHOOL



INDIGENOUS CLASS OF 2020

LANDON
CHALON TRIBE



EAST BAKERSFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL



Landon Ray Burrell

2020 Graduate of East Bakersfield High School

Landon enjoys and has played organized football since he was 7 years old. Last 4 years with the Blades. Landon made 2nd team All-Area and was asked to play in the US Army All Star Bowl. He also participated in track. He received 2nd place shot put thrower in the Santa Monica Invitational. Landon will be attending Santa Barbara College (online currently and transfer when school opens). He plans on majoring in Business and Marine Biology.

"I feel proud and honored to be Native American. I know that I have the blood of warriors".

Aho all my relations.



INDIGENOUS CLASS OF 2020

**SAMANTHA
CHALON TRIBE**



**BAKERSFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL**



CONGRATULATIONS SAMANTHA

In times of uncertainty, it's important to celebrate achievements.
Getting into Cal Poly is a HUGE Accomplishment that merits recognition and Pride!
The Chalón Indian Nation Council is proud of your Accomplishment!



**SAMANTHA
CHALON TRIBE**

INDIGENOUS CLASS OF 2020

ARIANNE
CHALON TRIBE



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE



Being Native!

For many years growing up, I felt different and never fit in anywhere. I had friends but they had different life concerns, ideas, and likes. I always knew I came from a racially diverse background being Chinese, Mexican, Spanish, German, and Native American. The problem was, I was never able to fit into the exact puzzle peg as others that were just one race, such as round, square, oblong, or triangle block.

I just thought it was me being an awkward female teenager going through puberty and peer challenges. Other classmates seemed standoffish and scared to ask me about my beliefs and cultures because I did not look like them. Many assumed I would get upset with the questions or get offended. I was excluded and not always accepted as part of their groups.

I also often remember hearing the false history of natives being savages and worshiping false gods of Mother Earth. Ugly comments that Native Americans need to "Get Over It" and stop using excuses for their problems for everything in their lives. So, I learned quickly how to put up a wall from others to try to prevent my feelings from getting hurt. The sad part is, I did not realize how that would only prevent me from teaching others my beliefs and cultural traditions. This I would not learn for many, many years which is something I deeply regret. I wish I could have been brave and not afraid to tell them the "real" truth that could not be found in American history books at the time and even now.

As the years continued, I learned to stay occupied with learning more about myself, my native traditions, and cultural ceremonies. The more I learned, the more things in my life seemed to have a purpose. The questions I had about life, spirit, soul, and nature began to make more sense. I reached out to Elder's, Spiritual Leaders of other tribes, educational conferences, Park Rangers, and others that wanted to leave a positive impact with native people. My heart began to warm with care, kindness, sharing of stories I faced in life.

We all know raising children does not come with an instruction book. I struggled with answering their questions of why people can be so mean and feel the need to bully others so they can feel powerful, which is completely wrong. It was at this point in my life, I realized my children also felt "different" as I did going through school. I felt my heart sink. Again, I felt shame fill my mind and heart for all of us. This is now several generations that had been impacted by the actions of others.

I just graduated in May of 2020 from Bakersfield College with honors in achieving my Associates of Art degree in Communication and a second degree in Anthropology. I was surprised with the emotions I felt after this accomplishment. I did not realize how proud I felt over a piece of paper I worked so hard over the last two years. I was happy that I did not let my ancestors down for the sacrifices they made for me. I had tears of joy and of struggles.

I was accepted to California State of Bakersfield to continue my education. My next goal is to get my Bachelor of Art in Public Relations with a minor in Anthropology. I am not done and am still striving to get better each day. Through this journey, I have learned to be polite to all, take care of Mother Earth, share our true history, carry on the tradition, and "Stand Proud." I know "Native People" are the future and a precious gift to the world around us. I know now it is ok, "Being Native!" in our society today.

Congratulations

Arianne

Getting your Associate's Degree is a HUGE Achievement that merits acknowledgment and Pride! The Chalon Indian Nation Council is proud of your accomplishment!



You did it!
Congratulations

CHALON SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONGRATULATIONS

Chalon Indian Nation Scholarship Winners

The Chalon Scholarship committee established a scholarship fund with the objective of helping members of the Chalon Tribe and the San Joaquin Valley's Indigenous youth achieve their academic goals through higher education. The Scholarships was awarded to the Graduates for August 2019 and August 2020 school year. The 2019-2020 scholarship recipients are:

(in alphabetical order)

Arianne Chow-Garcia,

Aubrey Garcia,

Cameron Garcia,

Landon Burrell and

Samantha Estrada.

Congratulations on your Achievement and good luck in your future endeavors.





Meet Our Elder

By Kalani Burrell

Haku my family,
My name is Ramona (Urrea) Alvarado. Everybody calls me "Mona". Born on October 29, 1932 in Bakersfield, California. I was born at home. My Nina was midwife to all my sisters also. I was the fourth daughter born to Rafael Urrea and Claudina Valenzuela. My grandparents were Rafael Urrea and Eleanor (Valenzuela) on my father's side and Guadalupe Valenzuela and Maria Ramona (Feliz) on my mother's side. I grew up in a loving family with my sisters Marian "Mongie" Bonilla, Adaline "Audrey" Urrea, Margie "Peta" Fernandez, Julia (Salcido) and Eleanor "Sevie" (Medina). Guess we all had nicknames. Mom and dad had two boys also. But they both died very young. Neither survived the past 3 months. I met the love of my life Robert Alvarado in 7th grade. We have been married for 69 years. We were blessed with 4 children. Bobby Jr., Audrey, Margaret (Peggy) Alvarez, and Sonya (Dorado). They gave us 11 grandchildren and 22 ½ great-grandchildren. I was told to make sure to include our newest baby on it's way. I know I got my Chalon Native American bloodline from both of my parents.

K: Can you share some childhood memories?

R: I enjoyed playing outside with my sisters and cousins. Games like hopscotch or red rover. My family survived the Great Depression. Didn't have everything we wished for, but growing up was still fun. My cousin Cat was my best friend and we did everything together. Her family's house was right behind ours. Before we moved into town, we lived on a farm. I remember my sister Margie and I would take a ride with our daddy to the fields, so he could water the alfalfa. We'd pack lunch and have a midnight picnic in the car with him. Coming home early in the morning. Sadly we lost our sister Adaline in a fire when she was young. Both her and I got burned, but she was worse than me. She never recovered and passed away after 7 months. On another occasion our wood stove caused our whole house to burn down. Remember mom yelling at us all to get out. Sevi was just a baby sitting in her high chair. Saw mom pick up the chair and her then threw it out the front door. Chair and my sister landed standing on its legs. I remember laughing so hard. It was funny to me. We lost everything in that fire. But dad rebuilt us a new one. With another small house separate for a rental. He was a smart man.

K: Growing up, did you know anything about Native Americans?

R: I had little knowledge, but I know I felt sorry for Native Americans because they got their land taken away and had to live on reservations. But now I am proud that

I can come out and say I am Native American and this is our land. Something my mother or father couldn't do. I do not need to be silent anymore.

K: When you first found out you were Native American, what did you think?

R: I was surprised. However, I remembered my mother would go to secretive meetings. I'd ask her what they were about, but she ignored me. Like she couldn't talk about it. Later I came to know she was afraid to tell me. Once I got older, my mother would take me and my sister Julie. The more I learned about my Native side also learned about other relatives. How we were joined by relations and blood. We also believed that we were Chumash for a long time. But research people have helped us, So I like that we know we are Chalon from a rancheria in Soledad Ca. I enjoyed our visits to the Pinnacles too.



K: How is knowing your Native truth changed your life?

R: Years ago I was able to help more. Rolling fry bread and making tacos. Making us all closer through talking and laughing in our tent. I also donate to a Native American school in South Dakota. Helping them with school supplies, food, and clothing. I receive dreamcatchers and pictures of the children that go to that school. Another is giving my time and money to my tribe's fry bread fundraisers. Now that I'm an older elder, I donate and visit with family. The youngsters got it now. Me and Robert attend the Elder's meeting when they have them. Still learning and listening to what's going on. Plus we have the best potlucks.

K: When you went to your first pow wow, what did you think?

R: I was shocked. I couldn't believe how many people were there and how joyful everyone was. Enjoying the outfits, drumming, and dancing.

K: How proud are you to see the involvement of your family in the advancement of our Chalon Tribe?

R: I am very proud to see my family being involved and asking questions. Our children are smart and kind. They have a lot to share and they make us very proud. My girls have been on the board and I know that they are good examples to their kids. Their spouses support them too. They are all hard workers.

K: Do you have any concerns with respect to our Chalon Tribal family?

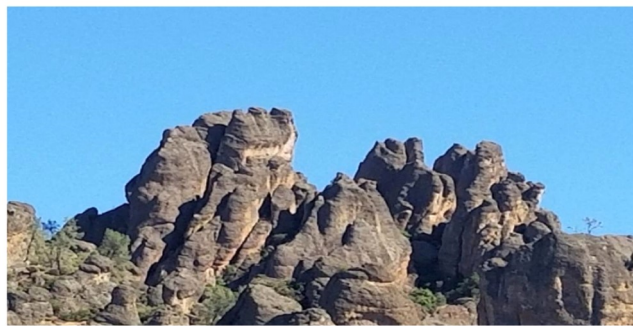
R: I don't have any concerns because you are all trying hard and to keep it going. I also hope all my grandchildren and great-grandchildren benefit from all this hard work.

So do we get our land back, or what?

By Kenneth N. Hansen, Ph.D., Chalon Tribal Legal Consultant

All of Indian Country has been abuzz since the announcement of the ruling in the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* (2020) case this summer. The main question being, do we as Native peoples get our lands back?

In writing the majority opinion, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch—the only member of the Supreme Court with any knowledge of American Indian Law—argued that Congress had never terminated the reservation of the Oklahoma Creek (Muskogee) Nation, nor those of any of the other tribal governments in Oklahoma that had signed treaties with the US government. Furthermore, if Congress intended to terminate those reservations, they needed to stand up and be on the record as having done so, rather than attempting a back-room termination via the Dawes Act or other corrupt deals for which non-Indigenous politicians have become infamous.



The overturning of Jimcy McGirt's conviction should not be celebrated. He's an accused child rapist. The real question here has to do with jurisdiction. Being that the Muskogean Creek's reservation was never terminated, the crime should have been prosecuted in either a tribal court, or in federal court, not by the state of Oklahoma.

This ruling has serious implications for both Native and non-Native peoples who have been convicted of crimes committed within traditional Indigenous jurisdictions, but prosecuted by states. Treaties are the highest form of law under the US Constitution. That being the case, the intent of the federal government (both the Congress and the Executive) in making the treaties outweighs the police powers of the state. In essence, Gorsuch is saying, "Honor the treaties" and respect the boundaries of the reservations. In this case, it means much of the territory between Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Land Ownership and Private Property Rights

So, do Native peoples get their land back as a result of the *McGirt* ruling? Well, yes and no. It depends on one's perspective. Traditional Native notions of land ownership are very different from Euro-American views of private (real) property rights. For most Indigenous societies prior to colonization, land was owned in common by the tribal population, and was managed equitably for the common good. For Euro-Americans, private property rights and privatization of land is protected by the 5th Amendment to the Constitution, and has generally benefitted the wealthy. Indeed, the selling of Indigenous land to predominately white settlers was the largest revenue stream for the federal government until the income tax was imposed just prior to World War I.

The *McGirt* ruling leaves intact individual private property/land ownership rights. But when Native people utter the phrase "land back," that isn't technically what we always mean. We typically mean the jurisdictional notion as articulated by Gorsuch. By reaffirming the jurisdictional integrity of the reservations, the tribes have indeed gotten their "land back," even if they have not gotten back private property rights over individual farms or allotments.

So do the Chalon get land back?

The Chalon and other California Native nations will not get land or jurisdiction back as a result of this ruling. This is mostly because they (we) do not have treaty relationships with the US government like that of the Oklahoma tribes. Though 110 California Native tribes do have federal recognition, only about 10 have actual reservations, which have a greater level of sovereignty than do Rancherias or pueblos. California tribes are also subjected to Public Law 280, which imposes state law enforcement jurisdiction over tribal lands. The traditional Chalon territory near and around the Pinnacles is presently considered federal land, and is managed by the National Park Service (NPS), an agency of the Department of the Interior (DOI), which also includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Based on the Chalon tribe's relationship with the NPS, I think we can be assured that Chalon land is relatively well managed for the time being.

If the Chalon Nation wants to get land back, it will have to be done in a way similar to that of the Amah Mutsun or the Esselen tribes—traditional neighbors of the Chalon people. They have attained grants to purchase parcels of land. Because they are non-federally recognized tribes, land acquisition has to take the form of a *fee simple* transaction. *Fee simple* (the way we own our homes or businesses, for instance) is actually a more secure form of ownership than having the land taken into trust by the federal government, which is the status for most reservation land. In other words, outright ownership is the most secure form of land ownership, because it comes with 5th Amendment private property protections that can only be violated through eminent domain. However, it does not necessarily come with political or criminal jurisdiction unless the sovereignty of the tribe is officially recognized.

CHALON NATION ELDER'S COUNCIL NEEDS HELP

Chalon Elders are anyone over the age of 50yrs.



Please help spread the word that we need more of our elders to come and help our elders council.

Alot of work is being done and we need to bring more people in!

For more information
contact our Elders Rep.
Bridget Escalera at
661.333.8903

Made with PosterMyWall.com

WWW.CHALONNATION.COM

CHALON INDIAN NATION TRIBAL ELECTIONS

Due to the COVID-19 Stay at home orders , the April 2020 Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Elections have been postponed until the COVID -19 Stay in Place orders are rescinded.

The following positions are open for re election: Vice Chair, Member at Large, Sargent of Arms, and Secretary If you are interested serving on the board, please submit your written nomination letter to:

The Election Committee,
council@chalontribe.com



The Chalon Indian Nation is looking for help with our Tribal Committees

- **Newsletter Editor :** This person or committee collects articles and images from Board and or community members. Publishing a Bi-Monthly newsletter requires an estimate of 8 to 10 hours of desktop publishing and a personal computer.
- **Citizenship:** This committee reviews all Tribal Citizenship applications submitted by members and presents to the Tribal Council.
- **Public Relations:** This committee is our outreach committee that helps get our information out to our citizens. Through the Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram (coming soon) and our Chalon Website.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to one of these committees, please contact:

Julian Behill @ 661. 348.3338

Or email: Behills5787@yahoo.com

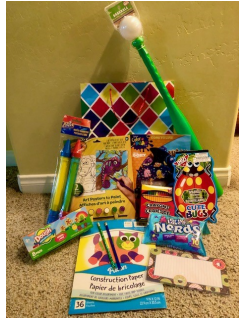
Thank You Bridget Escalera

Thank
You, Thank You,
Thank You!

For your donation of \$100.

Arianne Chow-Garcia
3207 Clappington Rd.
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Chalon Youth Outreach





Senior Food Program

The CAPK Senior Food Program is a USDA-funded program designed to provide low-income seniors with a 70-lb box of healthy food items such as milk, cereal, protein, fruits and vegetables each month. This will begin in a few weeks. (This used to be only 30 lbs.)

Please call 2-1-1 to sign up and to get more information.

<http://www.capk.org/programs/food-bank/program-services/>

KERN COUNTY COOLING CENTERS

Effective June 8, 2020 through September 22, 2020, Cooling Centers will be open to the public throughout Kern County when the temperatures are forecasted by the National Weather Service (NWS) to exceed certain highs. Centers will be open from 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Watch and listen for Announcements on your TV, Radio, and the Kern County Website (<https://www.kerncounty.com/>)

When temperatures forecast by the NWS to be 105 degrees or higher

- Arvin Community Center 800 Walnut Drive Arvin (661) 854-3134
- East Bakersfield Veterans Bldg. 2101 Ridge Road Bakersfield (661) 324-9392
- The Mission at Kern County 816 E. 21st Street Bakersfield (661) 325-0863
- Rasmussen Senior Center 115 E. Roberts Lane Bakersfield (661) 392-2030
- Kern River Valley Senior/Veterans Building 6405 Lake Isabella Blvd. Lake Isabella (760) 379-8435
- Gusher Hall 271 California Street Maricopa (661) 769-9898
- Walker Senior Center 505 Sunset Avenue Shafter (661) 746-3303
- McFarland Veterans Center 103 W. Sherwood Avenue McFarland (661) 792-3091
- Taft Veterans Building 218 Taylor Street Taft (661) 763-121

IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION TO A COOLING CENTER, CALL 2-1-1

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: KERN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES AT

Do I Need A Covid-19 Test?

**If you are experiencing the following symptoms,
please call your healthcare provider or 9-1-1.**

- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **Persistent pain or pressure in the chest**
- **New confusion or inability to arouse**
- **Bluish lips or face**

COVID-19 Testing Sites

Free COVID-19 testing is now widely available in Kern County through multiple sites.

Kern County Fairgrounds

- 1142 South P street, Gate 26, Bakersfield
- Drive-Thru only
- Appointments recommended but will accept drop-ins
- Self-swab
- Free (does not bill insurance)
- Available to all ages
- Hours: 7 AM - 7 PM (seven days a week)
- For more information and to sign up visit <https://doineedacovid19test.com/>
- Please print your appointment voucher with your reference number


Bakersfield American Indian Health Project

- 1617 30th street, Bakersfield
- Must call 1hr 30 min ahead to submit referral , 661.327.4030
- Testing available on site, at LOC Lab
- Free, must be registered, and have current status with BAIHP.
- Available to all ages; parents must be present and give consent for children
- Hours: 8am-12pm Monday—Friday

Rite Aid & CVS Stores in Kern County

- Various locations in Kern County
- Drive Thru only
- Free (but if you have insurance, will bill)
- Must fill out online questioner and call to make an appointment.
- Rite Aid: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing>
- CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Good Samaritan Hospital

- 901 Olive Drive, Bakersfield 
- For Registration call (661) 215-7725
- Drive-Thru Only
- Testing available for all ages; parents must be present and give consent for children
- Hours: Open 7 days a week from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm