



*The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Winter 2025*

## *People Who Lived Here*



On Sunday, November 2, at the Santa Cruz Mission SHP, State Parks, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, and Native American community members, launched a new multimedia tour of the mission adobe. This afternoon event was well-attended, especially by members of local and nearby Native American tribes.

Five members of this community recorded the experiences, derived from historical records, of the lives of five members of the Santa Cruz Mission. By downloading an app on one's smartphone (Apple or Android), one can listen to the recordings as one moves from room to room. Interpretive signs in each room have been updated.

There was a presentation and panel discussion of the making of the exhibit at 2 pm. Amah Mutsun tribal elder Catherine Luna, welcomed us and led us in a traditional prayer. Also speaking were Theresa Lopez seventh-generation descendant of the Mission, Kanyon Sayers-Rood, Chairwoman of the Indian Canyon Nation, Armando Quintero, Director of California State Parks, Julie Sidel, State Parks, and Martin Rizzo-Martinez Ph.D., local Associate Professor, UCSC, author, and moderator for the panel.

The panelists message was that they found some of the work hard, because life for the person they were representing was hard, and painful at times. However, they felt that narrating these stories was very important because they are the truth which isn't often told. We tend to protect our children from all unpleasantness, but children can handle the truth, and unpleasantness can be found in everyday life, and it's important to learn when young how to be compassionate.



## Small, Smokey Rooms

Does a small, crowded room bother you?

Imagine how it felt for an entire family to live in one room of these row houses. One window provided dim light and a small fire pit meagerly warmed the mud plaster walls.


The sun-dried adobe bricks used in these walls were molded out of clay, sand, straw and animal manure. Redwood beams, felled from forests nearby, supported the clay tile roof.

Indians labored for two years to build this original 17-room row house. Rooms with a loft and adobe floors were assigned to families as living quarters. Some rooms stored Mission grains and supplies. Other families lived in a traditional brush house located within the mission grounds.

It is also important from the Native American point of view, that children, especially fourth graders, learn that Native Americans are not “arts and craft projects”. Most of what they see is learned at events where ancient lifestyles are showcased. How to make acorn mush, how to live off the land, as though Native Americans are primitive people. They want children to learn we are still here; we honor truth and history in all places. We are teachers, professors, archaeologists, astrophysicists, psychiatrists and your neighbors.

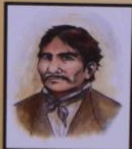

Better to learn the truth now than to have to unlearn, or never get the chance to unlearn it all as adults. When she was age 16, Kanyon Sayers-Rood thought history was boring. She said, “I am happy to be something [now] that I needed when I was young.”



### Steven Pratt

Steven Pratt is an Amah Mutsun descendant and has worked for his tribe since 2018. Through his work with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, he has contributed to plant restoration efforts, archaeological survey and monitoring, and property stewardship. During the time of this project, Steven studied Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He plans to integrate his education into the ongoing projects and future direction of the Land Trust.

Steven developed and recorded the narrative of Isidro Sauset's life.

### Weshoyot Alvitre

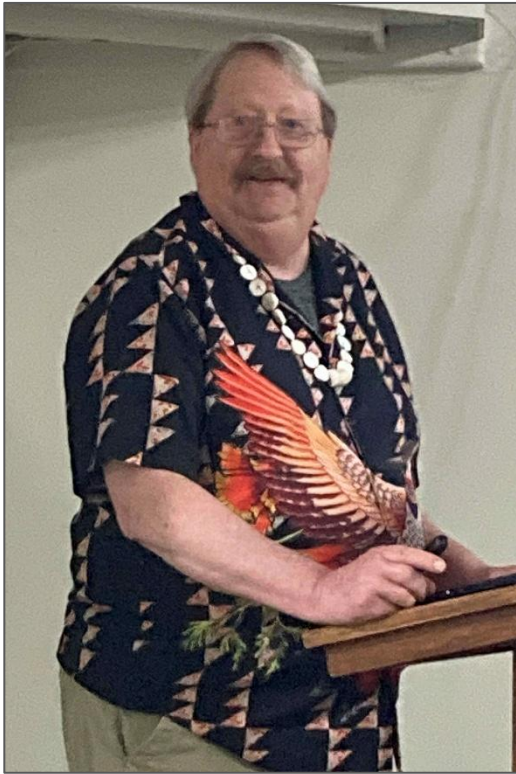
Weshoyot Alvitre is a Tongva and Scottish comic book artist, writer, and illustrator. Born in the Santa Monica Mountains on the property of Satwiwa—a cultural center founded by her father, Art Alvitre—she was raised close to the land and grounded in traditional knowledge that continues to inform her work. For over 20 years, Alvitre has focused on the comics medium, using her art and writing to visualize historical material through an Indigenous lens. Her work often blends pop culture, science fiction, and archival research to spark conversations and reframe colonial narratives. Her illustrations have appeared in **Moonshot Volumes 2 and 3**, **Deer Woman: An Anthology**, **Imminent Cuisine** zine, and **Marvel's Voices: Indigenous Voices**. Her most recent book, **Brave** (2025), is her author/illustrator debut children's book. She is also recognized for her award-winning work on **At the Mountain's Base** (Kokila, 2019) and **Living Ghosts & Mischievous Monsters** (Scholastic, 2021). Current projects include **Toypurina: Our Lady of Sorrows** and **Lone**, which retell stories from her Tongva community using historical accounts and traditional knowledge to convey a fuller representation of Indigenous history. Alvitre prioritizes working with Native-owned publishers and educational institutions to support self-determined narratives of Native life, past and present.”

## SCAS at the Cabrillo Farmers Market

On Saturday, November 15, SCAS members participated in our outreach event at the Cabrillo Farmers Market. We set up tables under easy-ups, and spoke with marketgoers as they passed by. Despite the on-and-off showers and the late growing season, the market was well attended. We sold t-shirts and gave away pens and past copies of the SCAN. (Photos by Amanda Trujillo and Mary Gerbic.)



## *New Speaker Venue - the Elks Lodge*



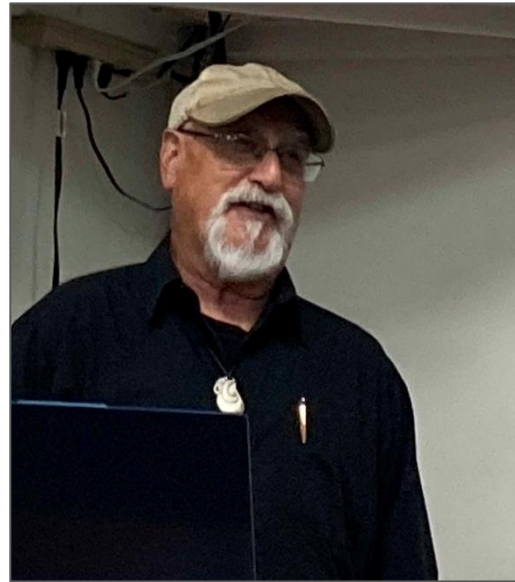
November 6, 2025 – Dr. John Prior presented “Papa Quail Pomo Basket Project”



We are happy to announce that our General Meetings will be held in-person at the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge. Most meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month, with a few exceptions.

We will continue to provide a Zoom option.

Thank you to the Santa Cruz Elks for hosting our events!



December 4, 2025 – Alan Leventhal spoke about “8,000 Years at the Murphy Springs Site, Morgan Hill”

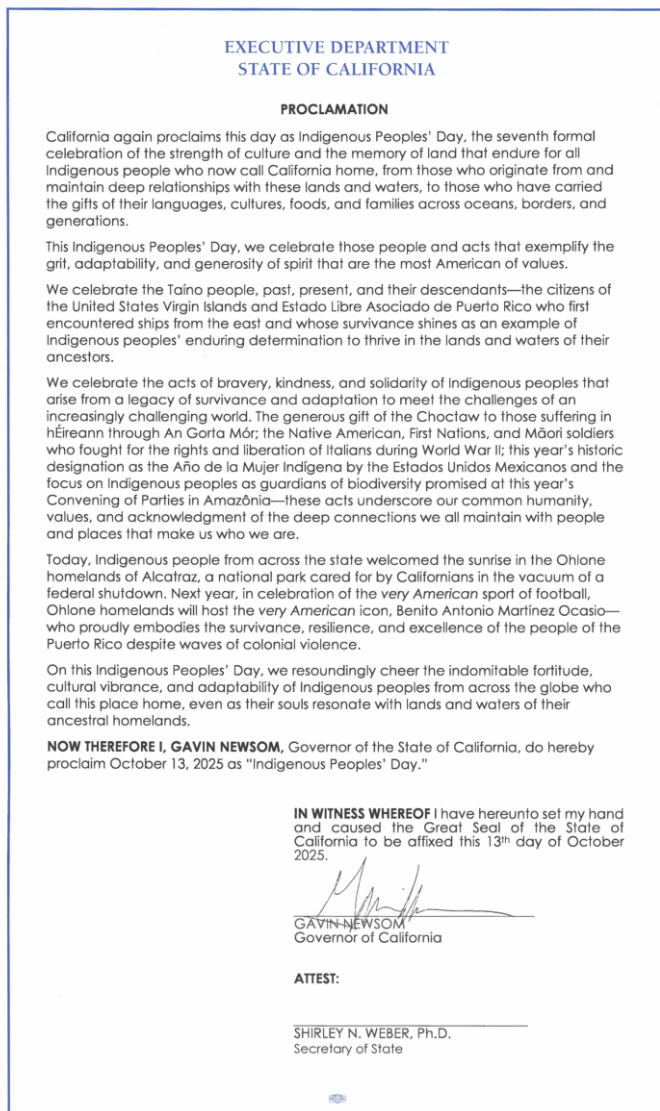


December 4, 2025 – Julie Edwards and Charlene Duval share a happy greeting as our new Professional Advisor, Dr. Ben Curry looks on.

# Recent Archaeological News

## Governor Newsom Proclaims Indigenous People Day

October 13, 2025



## Statue Commemorating the Rock Springs Massacre unveiled.

Excerpt from the ROCKET MINER by Trina Dennis Brittain tbrittain@rocketminer.com

Sep 3, 2025 Updated Sep 24, 2025

**ROCK SPRINGS** — A new 7-foot statue was unveiled on the historic location of the Chinese Massacre in Rock Springs, near the old Washington School facing Bridger Avenue.

Descendants returned to the “Home of the 56 Nationalities” to host the 140th anniversary commemoration of the 1885 Rock Springs Chinese Massacre on Tuesday, Sept. 2. About 200 people, including community members, officials from the city of Rock Springs and Sweetwater County School District No. 1 attended the memorial dedication ceremony.

The “Requiem,” designed by sculptor David Alan Clark of Lander, is a high-scale bronze statue of a Chinese miner standing among the ruins of the destroyed Chinatown. The figure is holding pieces of a ceremonial dragon flag.

**For Students:** As compiled by Alexis Boutin, Department of Archaeology, Sonoma State University....

Reputable archaeological field schools in Northern California and Southern Oregon:

[Foothill College summer archaeological field school](#)

[Clear Lake archaeology project](#)

[Indigenous Archaeology Field Methods, U of Oregon \(in California\)](#)

[Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project \(public archaeology\)](#)

[Berkeley ARF field school \(not offered in 2025\)](#)

**Report:  
SCAS Board Meeting Minutes Summary –  
October - December, 2025  
By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary**

**October 2025**

Financial Reports: Kevin Hildreth and Cathy Phipps

- Cathy Phipps, our newly elected Treasurer is beginning to take over from Kevin, who will be coaching her for a few months.
- Our bank accounts remain stable, although we had another deficit of less than \$300.00 this month.
- We paid for our Business Insurance and renewed our Zoom Account.
- There were no new transactions for the Scotts Valley Display Project.

Membership Report: Branden Melendez

- We had no new members or renewals this month. Our membership stands at 83.

Professional Advisor: Ryan Brady

- This is Ryan's last meeting as our Professional Advisor. We have several candidates in mind to replace him. We wish Ryan all the best and thank him for his help.
- Do we need a Professional Advisor? According to our by-laws, one is not necessary. However, we agree that having a Professional Advisor is a good idea.

Speakers: Pat Paramoure

- Pat reported that she, Mary and Kevin toured the Elks Lodge in Santa Cruz and decided that the Lodge is our best option for a new venue. We agreed to begin holding our meetings there in person on November 6. We will continue to meet on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month instead of the second Thursday, as this day of the week is unavailable.
- We considered meeting the third Thursday, as that option was still open, but then we will have a conflict with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the usual Thursday-Sunday period in March when the Society for California meets. We noted that we will have a conflict New Years's Day in January 2026 and we are discussing what to do about that. Unfortunately, the SCA has decided to hold their annual conference in Southern California the first weekend in March 2026.

SCAN: Mary Gerbic

- Mary is happy that the fall issue has been distributed.
- The winter issue will have a variety of reports. She hopes we will have more information about the Scotts Valley Display Project before her deadline.
- Mary is also trying to find a replacement publishing tool for the SCAN. As of mid-October, she has to upgrade her computer and that will leave her without Microsoft Publisher, which she has been using for close to ten years. One is not allowed to run multiple Microsoft Office packages on the same computer. She is trying out several free or inexpensive replacements with mixed results.

Branden, Robbie: Website Committee:

- Branden reported that they have set up a meeting with a website designer who was recommended by Julie Edwards.

Outreach:

- We have reserved a space at the Cabrillo Farmers Market on November 15.
- Pat listed the items that we will need to bring. Mary, Pat, Kevin and Amanda will be assisting.

Scotts Valley Display Project Committee: Mary Pat and Kevin

- We have had difficulties arranging a meeting with Scotts Valley.
- Mary has been in touch with Gary Patton, Attorney, who has agreed to advise us. We have not retained any legal counsel.
- Mary proposed that we finish the Scotts Valley Display Project as intended, or so far as tribal consultation will allow. She is willing to speak with anyone involved and she will not rush the process. She will be contacting Val Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun, next. The board agreed with Mary's proposal, and she will continue to reach out to Scotts Valley and others.
- Mary hopes to have more to report before December. Julie Edwards has offered (and we accepted) to write an update to our donors. We have not sent them an update since summer.

New and Continued Business:

- We are arranging a visit to the Elks Lodge to test our equipment to make sure we have a working setup before the first in-person meeting.
- We will contact Charlene Duval to see how to get on the Elks Calendar of Events.
- Pat may know someone who would be willing to be a student liaison at UCSC and hand out flyers and encourage students to attend our meetings.

**November 2025**

Financial Reports: Kevin Hildreth and Cathy Phipps

- Welcome to Cathy Phipps, our new Treasurer.
- Cathy said that she and Kevin met on October 26, to transfer duties. Kevin gave her a backup of the financial records. She discovered that Intuit no longer supports the version of Quicken that Kevin has (desktop) and she had to buy a subscription for a year, which was 50% off. She offered to cover that first year license. We will decide what to do next year. There is no import/export tool from Kevin's copy to hers, so she is entering this year's transactions by hand. There aren't that many. On the plus side, she can look up our financial data from anywhere. Also, on the minus side she said that Intuit didn't seem to understand that non-profits keep books and there are no options specifically for them. She had to choose "sole proprietor" as the closest fit. Also, as it is subscription-based, you have to pay for a license every year. Pat suggested calling tech support. Cathy had checked online but will try that.
- Cathy wanted to take care of becoming an "authorized signer" on our accounts this week, before Pat went out of town. She will be the other signer. Kären and Kevin will be removed. Mary specifically addressed the change in the minutes for November, which Bay Federal needed in order to make the change.

Membership Report: Branden Melendez

- There was one new member and three renewals this month. We have 84 members.

Professional Advisor: Ben Curry

- Welcome to our new professional advisor.
- Welcome to our new UCSC Student Liaison Phoenix Rumbaugh.
- We will change the password for the professional advisor.
- Ben's PhD dissertation was on a site in Wilder Ranch SP.

Speakers: Pat Paramoure

- Pat reported, and Branden agreed that our first in-person meeting at the Elks Lodge was mostly smooth. Mike Boyd, Pat and Branden visited the Lodge a week before the meeting to test equipment. Having a second computer in another room for the Zoomers worked out well.
- The meeting room at the Elks Lodge was comfortable, had running water, and people seemed to enjoy sitting around tables with their beverages instead of in rows of folding chairs.
- Pat is working on speakers for the rest of the year. Kim Wooten of Caltrans will speak on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Alan Leventhal will be our speaker in December. Pat wanted to have a January meeting, but the first Thursday is New Years Day. She will check with the Elks to see if we can have the room on the 3d Thursday of January. There is also a conflict in March because the Society for California Archaeology moved their conference (in Palm Springs this year) to the first weekend of March. Because SCAS won't have a presence at that conference, we will go ahead with our planned March date.

SCAN: Mary Gerbic

- Mary thinks she will have plenty of material for the winter SCAN, but if anyone wants to contribute, let her know before Dec 16.
- Mary is also having trouble with the two products that she thinks could replace Microsoft Publisher. She has been using Publisher for the SCAN since spring 2016. The Winter issue will be produced in Microsoft Word as she did in 2015 before adopting Publisher. She apologizes ahead of time that the issue will not look the same as before.

Website Committee: Branden Melendez and Robbie Gleaton

- Branden said he had a good talk with Sall White, the designer recommended by Julie Edwards.
- Sall charges \$200/hr. She thinks what we want can be completed in 5-10 hours so about \$1000. If we change our minds during the process or want anything complex, of course, it will cost more.
- Do we want an on-line store? We'd love to have one but we don't want to set one up right now, because it's not just the cost of creating the on-line store, but we need someone to manage inventory, package things and take them to the Post Office/UPS. We do not have that person. We think it's a good idea to design the new website so we can add one later.
- Most of us are not tech-savvy enough to evaluate her proposal. We wondered if Peter Von der Porten would agree to look at the proposal for us.

Outreach: Everyone

- We will have a table at the Cabrillo Farmers Market on November 15. Rain is expected, so we will bring easy-ups and some towels. Early shift will start at 7:45, when we will learn where we can set up. Pat, Kevin, Amanda, Mary, Cathy and others will take shifts. We will go to the Warehouse to collect material on November 14.

Scotts Valley Display Project: Mary, Pat, Kevin

- On November 6, Mary and Pat went to Scotts Valley City Hall, where Mary took pictures of the display case, and we asked if Mali LaGoe would speak with us. She was in a meeting but promised to get back to us if we emailed.
- As of November 7, we have not heard from her or the Amah Mutsun.
- Ben said that Val Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun, is retiring. Contact Alec Apodaca and Ally Arganbright.
- Mary sent a letter to them.
- Mary received permission from the Board to contact Amanda Boesen to work on an interim Scotts Valley Display – approved unanimously.
- We must send our donors an update. Julie Edwards offered to write the letter.
- Mary thinks (and Board agreed) to set up a meeting with Gary Patton. We are getting nowhere with the Amah Mutsun and Scotts Valley City Hall.

New Business: All

- Tribute to Charr Simpson-Smith. Robbie contacted Pat about writing one and putting it on our website. Pat contacted Mary who sent all the information she had on Charr, with photos. Annamarie Leon Guerrero said we could use her “Golden Shovel” speech. Robbie will help put this together and Mary suggested she print it in the next SCAN and also send it to the SCA’s Newsletter for them to publish.
- Kevin told us that we had received a grant through the DAFgiving360 and he looked online to see if they were a legitimate organization. It is a spinoff of Schwab. We will accept the \$500 grant which is to go to “wherever most needed” and apply it towards the cost of a new website.

**December 2025**

Financial Reports: Kevin Hildreth and Cathy Phipps

- Cathy reported that there were still some “hiccups” with the new Quicken but she produced a clear and readable report anyway.
- Financially, our Farmers Market Outreach event was a success. We made \$405 in sales and donations. We also had \$101 in sales and donations at the December Meeting.

Membership Report: Branden Melendez

- Branden reported that we had one renewal this month.

Professional Advisor: Ben Curry

- Ben is going through the professional advisor email account. He noticed that 80% of the allotted space is used. Instead of adding more space, he and Branden will clean out all the junk mail and notifications over a year old.

Speakers: Pat Paramoure

- Pat now has speakers for early 2026 except for March 5 and June 4. (see Speaker Lineup Page)

SCAN: Mary Gerbic

- Mary has enough material for the Winter SCAN, but if anyone has anything to contribute, please pass it on.
- Mary is also scanning old SCANS dating back to the beginning in 1972. She hopes she will be able to create an archive page for them on our website next year.

SVDP: Mary Gerbic, Pat Paramoure and Kevin Hildreth

- Julie Edwards is creating a letter to our donors.
- Mary has not heard anything from Scotts Valley or the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in reply to her letters, except Mali LaGoe of Scotts Valley says that the city is still looking into the issue.
- Mary will go ahead and set up a meeting with Gary Patton to discuss our options.
- Mary has contacted Amanda Boesen who is happy to work with us on an “interim” display.
- Julie notified us that Linda Yamane has been working on the design for our new mural.

New, Past and Continued Business: All

- The SCAS Board wants to create a tribute to Charr Simpson-Smith for our website and newsletter.
- Board Members want to set up a meeting with Dusty McKenzie of Cabrillo College to discuss the use of the secure warehouse room for Cabrillo’s tribal consultation. We have no details on when this is expected to take place, or for how long.
- Mary hopes to extract the Cartier Monograph on the Scotts Valley Site (1993) from a pair of 3 ½” floppies she found in a binder with a paper copy. The paper copy is not pristine, so if the floppies can be read somehow, she can transfer the document to newer storage media. If not, she will try to clean up the paper copy and scan it.

## *2025 Speaker Lineup*

We meet on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month, at 7:30, “hybrid”, with in-person and Zoom attendance possible. For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

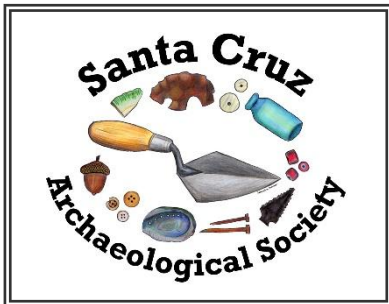
- December 4, 2025 - Alan Leventhal “8,000 years at the Murphy Springs Site”
- **January 15, 2026** – Jennifer Lucido, CSUMB
- February 5, 2026 – Marco Meniketti - SJSU
- March 5, 2025 – TBD
- April 2, 2026 – Kim Wooten - Caltrans
- May 7, 2026 – Cameron Garcia – Amah Mutsun Land Trust
- June 4, 2026 - TBD

## *Archaeological Society Business*

### *SCAS Officers and Contact Info*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<b>President</b>	<b>Vacant Position</b>		
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Pat Paramoure</b>	<b>patsunicorn@sbcglobal.net</b>	<b>831-465-9809</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Cathy Phipps</b>	<b>archecat2@gmail.com</b>	
<b>Outreach Coordinator</b>	<b>Kären Johansson</b>	<b>johansson.outreach@gmail.com</b>	<b>831-247-3063</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Gerbic</b>	<b>mgerbic@yahoo.com</b>	<b>831-331-7173</b>
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	<b>Branden Melendez</b>	<b>brandenmelendez1@gmail.com</b>	
<b>Professional Advisor</b>	<b>Ben Curry</b>	<b>SCASproadvisor@gmail.com</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Mary Gerbic</b>	<b>editorscan@gmail.com</b>	<b>831-331-7173</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Robert Gleaton</b>		

Santa Cruz Archaeological Society  
P. O. Box 85  
Soquel, CA 95073



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Please share any archaeological interests or experience:

College or University Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed application with dues to: SCAS Membership, P.O. Box 85, Soquel, CA 95073, or visit our website: <http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/join>