



Partnership for Health Equity and Inclusion

California Tribal News

Wellness Innovations for Native Nations (WINN) Celebrates First Commercial Tobacco-Free Policy Adoption

The Partnership for Health Equity and Inclusion's (PHEI) Wellness Innovations for Native Nations (WINN) project is proud to recognize a significant milestone in advancing tribal commercial tobacco prevention efforts across California.

In partnership with the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation Tribal Council, Sycuan successfully adopted and implemented a 100% smoke-free campus policy at its newly opened community Health and Dental Center. The policy prohibits smoking, vaping, and the use of commercial tobacco products throughout the campus, helping to ensure that patients, employees, families, and visitors have access to a healthier environment free from secondhand smoke exposure.

This achievement marks the first completed policy adoption under one of WINN's primary grant objectives, which seeks to increase the number of tribal-serving entities implementing commercial tobacco-free protections.

National Tribal Tobacco Conference – Minnesota, June 22-24, 2026

WINN's Jay Macedo, serves as a member of the Reclaiming Sacred Tobacco Coalition Advisory Board. As a panelist, Jay shared PHEI's work and experiences with Tribal tobacco prevention initiatives, including our policy, systems, and environmental change efforts and engagement with Tribal Nations. This unique conference provides many opportunities to share experiences and learn from fellow tribal tobacco colleagues and their experiences nationwide





We hope you have a wonderful Summer!

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CNIGA Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Article, Summer 2026

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This spring, CNIGA is actively engaged in a wide array of issues and activities. These include two high-stakes issues confronting the tribal government gaming industry, as well as engaging in legislation and other events surrounding our state government and democratic processes.

Soboba Charity Lip Sync Contest brings out local talent

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The 18th annual Soboba Charity Lip Sync Contest was an entertaining example of what nonprofits will do to support and benefit their causes. Local organizations took the stage at the Soboba Casino Resort Event Center on June 19 and wowed the audience and impressed the judges with

showstopping performances that fit in with the 80s and 90s theme.

What the Coachella Valley was like in 1776

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In 1776, as colonists along the Atlantic declared independence from Britain, there were no European settlements in what we know as the Coachella Valley. California was then Alta California, under Spanish control. Missions were expanding along the coast, and Spanish military expeditions were beginning to map routes through Native homelands.

Oneida Nation's Ernie Stevens Jr. selected for National Native American Hall of Fame

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Ernie Stevens Jr., a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, will be inducted posthumously into the National Native American Hall of Fame as part of its 2026 class, the organization [announced](#), according to Native News Online.

Redding's Big Time festival keeps Native traditions alive

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Thousands gathered at Win-River Resort and Casino for the 7th annual Redding Rancheria Big Time, a 3-day celebration of Native culture and tradition.

Yocha Dehe awards \$1.5M to California Indian Legal Services

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The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, through its Doyuti T'uhkama grant program, has awarded 1.5 million over three years to California Indian Legal Services to support the expansion of its work advancing and defending Tribal sovereignty across California.

'Good Fire': Local Tribes Demonstrate Traditional Practices Amid Renaissance of Prescribed Burning

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Surrounded by people outfitted in flame resistant gear, Sebastian Castillo began to light a fire. He rubbed his hands around a stick, drilling into a cedar board. The specialist in fire and ethnobotany was using friction to make an ember.

State awards \$38.2 million to help tribes expand housing and homelessness solutions

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On Wednesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced awards totaling nearly \$38.2 million to support California Native American communities in funding housing and homelessness solutions that meet their communities' unique needs.

Author finds inspiration in a rich Native history

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Before her death in 1993, Mabel McKay — one of the last living dreamers of the Pomo Indian people — shared a prophecy while driving through the Sonoma hills. One day, this paradise would burn.

Klamath River monitoring buoy shares public data on waves, wind and water temperature

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The Yurok Marine Department and the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory announced they recently deployed a real-time ocean monitoring buoy near the mouth of the Klamath River.



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