

N+KWA N+M

SPRING 2026



COMMUNITY CENTER
56900 Kunugib Way

FAMILY WELLNESS
56901 Kunugib Way



NIKWA NIM



YouTube

NORTHFORKRANCHERIA-NSN.GOV

@NORTHFORKRANCHERIA



Words from our Chairperson

2026

Mun A Hoo e Nuem!

So many good things happening! This is a busy, busy time for tribal council but it has its rewards and those rewards will be satisfying for all.

The day to day tasks continue and cannot be ignored but with our fine NFR staff we still accomplish much and are happy to do so.

My message at this time is that we all stay healthy.

We are all caregivers. We take care of our families, our children, our grandchildren, our elders, our partners, our neighbors, and the list goes on and on but if we don't take care of ourselves we can't care for others. It may sound selfish but think about it..... your own health is important, mental as well as physical. If you aren't healthy you surely won't be able to care for others. If you don't take care of yourselves you are putting yourself in a position of maybe another person having to care for you instead and no one wants to have to depend on someone else for any or all of their needs.

The world we live in is hectic and can be stressful at times. Mental, as well as behavioral health is a real issue today, sometimes so severe it requires professional help. It's understandable.

There is no shame in asking for help for any of this.

If you need help, reach out to others. There are plenty of family and friends who would help in any way they can. Remember, you are not alone in this.

Being with friends and family is so important especially for the association, happiness, and contentment it brings. As an added thought, enjoy the company of others now as the opportunities for doing so come up.....Do not wait to visit or it could be too late.

Please, take care of yourselves. Be and stay healthy.

Mano Toh Gee A kut ta tig

Elaine Bethel Fink



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Words from our Vice-Chairman



Hi everybody,

Almost through winter, spring is coming! I think we survived the tough part!



We continue to network with tribal leaders at the Tribal Chair's Association meetings and Local Tribal Leaders and other agencies to improve the future of the tribe on topics like NAGPRA, MMIP, Sports Betting and On-Line Gaming and other legislation.



We've continued to support the local MMIP efforts by hosting and attending the Task Force information meetings.



North Fork hosted MMIP



Chuckchansi hosted



Table Mountain hosted

Fred L. Beihn

Tribal Vice Chairman
fbei hn@nfr-nsn.gov
559-760-2485



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Tribal Secretary News

Munahoo Neum

Nüü Christina naniyadü. (My name is Christina)



The Constitution, adopted in May 1996, provides the framework of our sovereignty. Over 30 years ago this document was drafted by the grandchildren of Susan Hicks Johnson. As a newly restored tribe, and new to organized government, the lineal descendants began working to establish a tribal government, which was immediately followed with electing tribal officials from those descendants, opening enrollment to lineal descendants of North Fork Mono descent and establishing a 20 year plan focused on self-sufficiency, housing, wildfire protection and general welfare of the Tribal Citizens. These early beginnings are sometimes forgotten or not known, especially to our youth or even our adults. It's important to recognize one's history and to see how the tribe grew from the 1980's to current. For more information on the restoration process you can look up Tillie Hardwick vs. the United States. It is truly remarkable how we have come from humble beginnings to where we are today. Tribal leadership throughout the 30 plus years has established long term relationships, created jobs, established programs, protected our lands and people, and so much more. Our Information Technology team has been working on some historical videos to archive some of the history of our tribal government and we look forward to seeing and hearing this tribal history.



Julia Capp & Susan Johnson 1964

So, back to the Constitution. The Tribal Council has re-established the Constitution Workgroup. All citizens are welcome to attend the meetings. To date, the workgroup has met several times this year in person and by zoom and have drafted a survey to get feedback on what type of changes our citizenship would like to see. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the evening in person and by zoom. For more information on the meetings please email any of the Tribal Council members for the meeting dates and times.

Take care and until next time.

Christina McDonald



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Tribal Treasurer
Maryann McGovran



Trump Account

A "Trump Account" (officially known as a 530A account) is a new, tax-advantaged investment account designed for U.S. Children under the age of 18, set to launch on July 4, 2026. Created under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," these accounts are to encourage long-term savings for Children's future expenses, such as education, homeownership, or starting a business.

Here are some of the key details regarding the Trump Account:

- **Pilot Program (\$1,000 Seed Money):** The Federal Government will deposit \$1,000 into the account for each U.S. Citizen Child born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028.
- **Other Potential Contributions:** Beyond the initial pilot program, private donations such as a \$250.00 contribution from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation may be available for children under 10 born before 2025 who live in specific income-qualified zip codes.
- **Contribution Limits:** Parents, grandparents, and employers can contribute up to \$5,000 per child per year, which increases tax deferred.
- **How it Works:** The account is held in the Child's name, with a Parent or Guardian acting as custodian until the Child turns 18. Contributions are invested in low-cost, broad U.S. Equity Index Funds. A broad U.S. Equity Index Fund is a type of Mutual Fund or Exchange-Traded Fund designed to mimic the performance of a wide-ranging stock market benchmark, providing instant diversification across hundreds or thousands of U.S. Companies. These funds offer low fees and passive, long-term exposure to the entire U.S. Stock Market, covering large, medium, and small-capitalization companies. A small-capitalization company is a publicly traded business with a market value typically between \$300 million and \$2 billion.
- **Withdrawal Rules:** Generally, funds cannot be withdrawn before the year the child turns 18. Upon turning 18, the account becomes a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
- **How to Open:** Parents can file IRS Form 4547 with their 2025 tax return or register through the official trumpaccounts.gov website starting in July 2026.

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- State Tax Treatment:

1. Not Taxed: Virginia and Idaho.

2. Considering Exemptions: Georgia, Maine, Vermont, and Indiana.

3. Taxed (per current state law): California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Several states are working to supplement the "Trump Account" with Texas, Connecticut, and Oklahoma leading in proposed additional funding.

1. Texas: State leaders announced plans to add an additional \$1,000 for children born in the state, potentially doubling the federal seed contribution.

2. Connecticut: Philanthropist Ray and Barbara Dalio are \$250.00 to approximately 300,000 qualifying children in specific ZIP codes.

3. Indiana: Philanthropist Brad Gerstner committed \$250.00 for children under the age of five in the state.

4. Oklahoma: Governor Kevin Stitt proposed reappropriating \$12 million in funds to add \$250 to every Oklahoma child's account.

In conclusion if you have not filed your taxes yet fill out IRS Form 4547 if you have a qualified Child in your home or register through the official trumpaccounts.gov.



Tribal Treasurer Maryann McGovran and Tribal Secretary Christina McDonald in conversation with Mark Ward, Vice President of Native American Operations at Station Casinos.



NIKWA NIM



Words from our Member at Large

Munahoo,

AI in Indian Country

AI in Indian Country centers on advancing tribal sovereignty, improving government services, and enhancing health equity, while addressing critical risks regarding data privacy and cultural bias. Tribal nations are exploring AI for language preservation, justice systems, and economic development. Key initiatives include building digital sovereignty and training Indigenous youth for tech careers, often through partnerships with tribal colleges. Nations occupy a unique position to thoughtfully explore, shape, and lead the use of AI in ways that can advance Tribal sovereignty and strengthen governance. AI presents several opportunities for Tribal Nations for improving government functions, but the technology also introduces concerns around data privacy, bias, misrepresentation, and unauthorized use of sensitive cultural information. Grounding AI implementation and adoption plans with Tribal sovereignty at the forefront ensures that technological innovation advances in harmony with, rather than at the expense of, core Tribal community values. A Tribal Nation can create an internal acceptable use policy that clearly defines when AI used in government processes is allowed and when it is prohibited. The substance of the policies adopted will largely vary depending on a Tribal community's unique cultural values. The policy can formally reference those values and include relevant definitions of technical terms used, authorized and prohibited use, and user responsibilities. It can also identify educational resources for employees seeking to improve their understanding of AI generally.

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AI And Tribal Sovereignty

While the U.S. recognizes Tribal Nations as sovereign today, the relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations is informed by a complex and often difficult historical relationship spanning centuries that included harmful eras of federal policy when Tribal Nations were subject to enduring efforts to strip them of their land, their possessions, and even their identities. Tribal sovereignty is a duty to protect what is most valuable and precious to the Tribal Nation. In the digital era, that means protecting Tribal data, such as sensitive Tribal citizen information, financial records, or recordings featuring sacred cultural practices and traditions. Data provides the currency for AI models' utility. AI programs are trained in data, referred to as a data corpus, consisting of publicly available and proprietary information. Among a Tribal Nation's most valuable resources are its people, and when data represents people, the consequences of data-dependent technology like AI permeating a Tribal communities' values. AI, and any emerging technology dependent on information, necessarily implicates the Tribal Nation's survival. The historic and nonconsensual use of Tribal Nation resources and data demonstrates the need for intentional data stewardship by Tribal Nations in the age of AI, and the adoption of robust governance systems that reflect the Tribal Nation's values.

AI Risks and Rewards

There is an inherent tension between AI's powerful potential as a tool for efficiency and the threat of unintended consequences resulting from its use. That is why the objective for Tribal Nations is to make a value judgment on how to delicately balance the opportunities with the risks, and craft an AI strategy that reflects its values while proactively mitigating vulnerabilities deemed unacceptable. AI remains a highly technical, complex, and abstract technology due to a lack of both transparency and insight into its exact internal decision making process. Among the most concerning weaknesses of generative AI is the possibility that a

model may generate an output based on incomplete information, or produce answers that lack a factual basis pose risks for all users because they are born out of a generative AI system's design mandate. These systems are programmed to provide a definitive answer to a prompt, even when the internal confidence level on the answer's accuracy is low. Tribal communities focus on self-governance planning; Tribal Nations will benefit from an upfront investment in AI literacy and capacity building. A greater understanding of the subject matter will support a more targeted and intentional governance strategy, helping Tribal Nations better understand AI's potential to help community-led systems improve their operations. By viewing AI as one part of a greater digital ecosystem, Tribal Nations can integrate AI into existing policies involving broadband, cybersecurity, and data stewardship, forming one overarching digital sovereignty framework.



Organize and Protect Data

With a general understanding of both the benefits and risks of AI use, Tribal Nations seeking to establish an AI adoption strategy should begin with a foundational concept in mind: Tribal Nations can begin by taking inventory of existing internal data and new data as part of both model prep and general data prep and classification. Standardizing or digitizing existing datasets may also be helpful. When creating or adapting AI models to Tribal Nation needs, integrating privacy-by-design early in the planning process is equally important, especially when dealing with sensitive or historically protected information. Tribal Nations should consider how much people know about AI and its individual and community implications. Tribal leaders can take action to acquire a basic level of understanding and technical knowledge, or general literacy, on AI. It requires developing a level of proficiency in the subject matter before regulating it. Tribal citizen awareness of AI technology improves transparency in governance by helping community members understand the ways in which the Tribal Nation is using AI

to perform government functions. Armed with an understanding of AI, Tribal Nations can create governance structures to guide AI policy formation. This may begin with establishing a group of AI leaders to form an advisory board, steering committee. The goal is to form a visionary group that is representative of the community, multigenerational, and inclusive of expertise in diverse policies such as financials, cultural preservation, education, health care, and public safety.

AhWeahnoh,

Bobby E. Hale

(559) 760-2249 cell

(559) 877-2484 Ext 2506

bhale@nfr-nsn.gov



Bobby Hale and Juanita Williams at the North Fork Mono Casino Job Fair



Dear Tribal Citizen,

The NFR IT Team is currently developing a series of videos to be displayed at the North Fork Mono Casino. We found a great resource of materials from the Madera County Library & plan to incorporate some of these images into the final productions.

You may preview these images under consideration here:



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (559)877-2461 or techcenter@nfr-nsn.gov by 05/18/2026.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**Best regards,
-NFR IT Team**



To: All Tribal Citizens
You are cordially invited to attend
all constitutional workgroup
meetings

Register to vote
(don't forget
absentee voting
is an option)

Every
voice
matters

When: The 1st and 3rd
Thursday of every month,
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Zoom - (Link will be
posted on the Citizen portal)
In person - at the EPD office
57906 Old Mill Site
North Fork, CA 93643

Sign up for
the Citizen
portal
today

Get
involved in
your Tribe

NATIVE PRIDE

Please join us and help analyze and
make recommendations to update our
Constitution. Your input is not only
appreciated but also needed!!!



**Ashley Pomona, TAH Specialist**

Want to make a difference in the lives of our tribal children?

I'm Ashley Pomona, your Tribally Approved Home (TAH) Specialist. If you are interested in becoming a provider, feel free to contact me and I'll guide you through the approval process. Placement looks different for every child, long-term, temporary, emergency and guardianship are some of the placement options. If you are already TAH care provider please reach out so we can connect and get you updated. For any questions contact: (559)760-4302 or (559) 877-5555.

**Ressie, ICWA Representative**

Munahoo and greetings! My name is Ressie Gonzalez and I am the ICWA Representative for the Tribe's Department of Children and Family Services.

My role is provide support within child welfare proceedings including, but not limited to transportation, court advocacy, visitation support, guardianship process, enrollment, collaboration with county social services and cultural engagement.

I aim to provide cultural connectedness through cultural workshops to support the preservation of tradition and outreach for recruitment

of Tribally Approved Homes. Our TAH specialist, Ashley and I

work toward providing cultural presentations, information

about TAHs, youth outreach, and reconnecting youth to the

culture. Keep a lookout for an announcement for our upcoming

beading workshop happening in 2026, limited spots and

supplies will be available. I advocate for our tribal families

near and far so please don't hesitate to give me a call

anytime if you have any questions or are in need of support

contact:(559) 760-5032 or (559) 877-5555.



NORTH FORK'S 6TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

North Fork Rancheria Host their 6th Annual Women's Conference at Fresno State University.



- *Tribal Chairwoman, Elaine Fink, sitting with Tribal Secretary, Christina McDonald, listening to the "Acorn Makers" panel .*

Empowering Native Women

On March 14th, 2026, women from across the community came together for a celebration of strength, resilience, and culture at the 6th Annual North Fork Rancheria Women's Conference. The event featured engaging panels on heritage and cultural traditions, while talented basket weavers, acorn makers, and other culture bearers shared their skills and knowledge. Tribal Chairwoman Elaine Fink and Tribal Secretary Christina McDonald were on hand to support the event and highlight the contributions of women who continue to preserve and uplift the community's traditions.

[Flip to see more photos](#) ➔



North Fork Rancheria's
6th Annual
Women's
Conference



NORTH FORK RANCHERIA INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY (NFRIHA)



Street/Mailing Address: 57907 E. Old Mill Site Ct.,
North Fork, CA 93643

Main Telephone: (559) 877-7360

Fax: (559) 877-4193 / (559) 500-5141

Email: swhite@nfriha-nsn.gov

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm, closed for lunch from 12:00pm - 1:00pm.

For further information, or eligibility guidelines on any housing program, please contact the NFRIHA.

NFRIHA PROJECT UPDATES



- **Wah-Up-Weh-Tu Housing Project:** The NFRIHA was recently awarded a 2024 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive award in the amount of \$3 million for the construction of a single-family home, as well as grading and infrastructure for seven future housing sites. This is a multiphase project, and additional funding is still needed to complete the proposed housing and infrastructure. Environmental release and procurement for architecture and engineering is finished. The engineers are finished with the 90% plans, but they are still working on the finalization of design.
- **Technology Center:** The Tribe was recently awarded a 2024 HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) in the amount

of \$2 million to construct a Technology Center. The proposed facility is 4,266 square feet and will house the Tribe's IT Department. The proposed facility and the programs it will support are designed to address the tribal digital divide. The facility and its services aim to address digital equity, digital inclusion, and digital literacy. Architecture and engineering is still in process and the design is proposed to include a computer lab, multi-purpose training room, help desk and public workspace, private workspaces, and open office.

- **Wi-Fi Pavilion:** The NFRIHA has finished all construction on a Wi-Fi Pavilion on behalf of the Tribe. This project was funded through a Treasury Capital Projects Fund grant. The Pavilion is located adjacent to the Tribe's Community Center, and its primary purpose is to provide broadband internet to tribal citizens, which has also been completed. The next step will be to add tables with attached outdoor seating.



- **Wellness Center:** The NFRIHA has started construction on a new 4,400 square foot Wellness Center as part of a HUD ICDBG awarded to the Tribe. The building will serve the Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) Family Wellness Program. The building will be located at the North Fork Mill Site adjacent to the Gaylen Lee Heritage Center. Plumbing and foundation work has been completed. Roof sheeting is completed. Sealing of the building (i.e. windows, exterior doors, trim, siding, metal roof), electrical and HVAC installation are both now currently in progress.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (IHBG) PROGRAM:

The Service Area for the following programs is Nationwide:

Down Payment Assistance Program:

- The NFRIHA will provide one-time down payment assistance toward the purchase of a home.
- The maximum amount of assistance available is 20% of the purchase price, not to exceed \$40,000.
- Properties must meet HUD/FHA Minimum Property Standards.
- Assistance will be secured by a second deed of trust.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program:

- The NFRIHA will provide assistance, once within a 24-month period. If eligible, assistance will be provided as follows:
 - o First month's rent, security deposit, and moving expenses up to \$300 upon receipt of a reimbursement claim for a new rental.
 - o One month's rent for existing rentals.

Foreclosure & Debt Relief Program:

- The NFRIHA has established a Foreclosure & Debt Relief Program to provide assistance for homeowners to remain in their homes when foreclosure actions are imminent. The NFRIHA will
- provide one-time assistance, not to exceed \$10,000.

The Service Area for the following programs is Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa counties:

**OUR WAITLIST IS OPEN!!!
PLEASE APPLY!!**

Low Income Rental Units:

The NFRIHA currently has 66 low-income rental units. Tribal Citizens must apply to be placed on the waiting list for North Fork, Fresno/Clovis, and/or Madera.

- Applicants must meet the eligibility conditions stated in the Admissions and Occupancy Policy.

Housing Rehabilitation Program:

- The purpose of this program is to assist homeowners with repairs for conditions that pose an imminent threat to the health and safety of the household members, and to bring their property up to minimum housing standards.
- Basic maintenance services will not be undertaken by the NFRIHA.

Real Estate Services Program:

- The Real Estate Services Program may assist eligible applicants in obtaining Residential Leases on allotment/trust lands with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Homeownership Assistance Program:

- Funding for this program is currently limited, applicants will be placed on a waiting list pending the availability of funds. All applicants will be placed on a waiting list and served on a first come, first serve basis. The total cost of development and/or the
- purchase price will be contingent on the NFRIHA's ability to record a Useful Life/Use Restriction on the property, and on the availability of funds.

Emergency Potable Water Program:

- The Emergency Potable Water Program has been established to provide eligible homeowners with an emergency potable water supply due to periodic droughts.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E):

Apply for a monthly discount through CARE or

FERA:

CARE and FERA are PG&E discount programs that help eligible customers pay their energy bills.

Apply online at www.pge.com or contact 1-877-660-6789.

Please contact our office for assistance with completing billing assistance program applications through PG&E.



**CALIFORNIA AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
SANITATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION
PROGRAM**



The California Area Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) coordinates with the Tribe regarding assistance for sanitation deficiencies.

Please report any sanitation deficiencies to the NFRIHA.

NFR SMS SMART MESSAGING SYSTEM

Opt-in to receive SMS text messages by texting the keywords below this number:

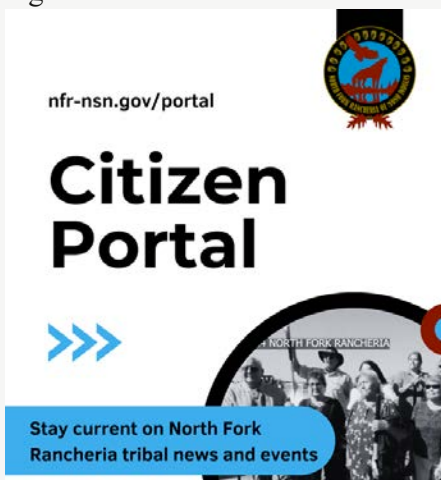
[559-236-6663](tel:559-236-6663)

NFR offers three ways to receive text updates:

- NFRALERT – Critical alerts during emergencies like fires or snowstorms
- NFRSMS – General, non-emergency updates from the Tribe
- ELDERS – Updates specifically for Tribal Elders

Physical Newsletter Update

In an effort to reduce costs, the quarterly newsletter will be mailed to Tribal Elders ONLY starting with the summer 2025 edition. The newsletter will be available on the Citizen Portal. We encourage everyone to sign up on the Citizen Portal if you haven't done so already. This is the best way to receive news from the Tribe on a regular basis.



Temporary Work Force



NFR is introducing a Temporary Work Force Program. Temporary Workers are skilled and/or non-skilled workers who help the North Fork Rancheria organization by performing tasks and duties that are needed to support the daily work, programs, and projects of the organization. Temporary Workers are required to provide general clerical, janitorial, or labor support to all departments while performing a variety of job assignments. Job assignments may be for a few hours, a few days or few weeks or months, depending on the need of the organization. The Temporary Worker may be paid on a per-diem (per day) basis, per week depending on the assignment or placed on payroll cycle for longer assignments.

If this interests you, please contact HR at 559-877-2461.

NEED A RIDE?



Anona Bethel in Lee Sherman's new car circa 1930.

The purpose of North Fork Rancheria Tribal Transit Program (NFRTP) is to plan, administer, acquire, operate, and maintain a system associated with the public movement of people in the North Fork Rancheria Community.

Individuals interested in using the NFRTP service should refer to the following policies and procedures. Guidelines may change as necessary and based on the availability of funding, but all registered riders will be informed of changes in policies and procedures prior to them taking effect.

**Call for your transportation needs:
(559)760-1981**

Please Note:

There is no service on Saturday or Sunday unless approved by the Transportation Services Manager.

There is no service on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Native American/California Indian Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving and Christmas, and any holiday designated by Tribal Council.

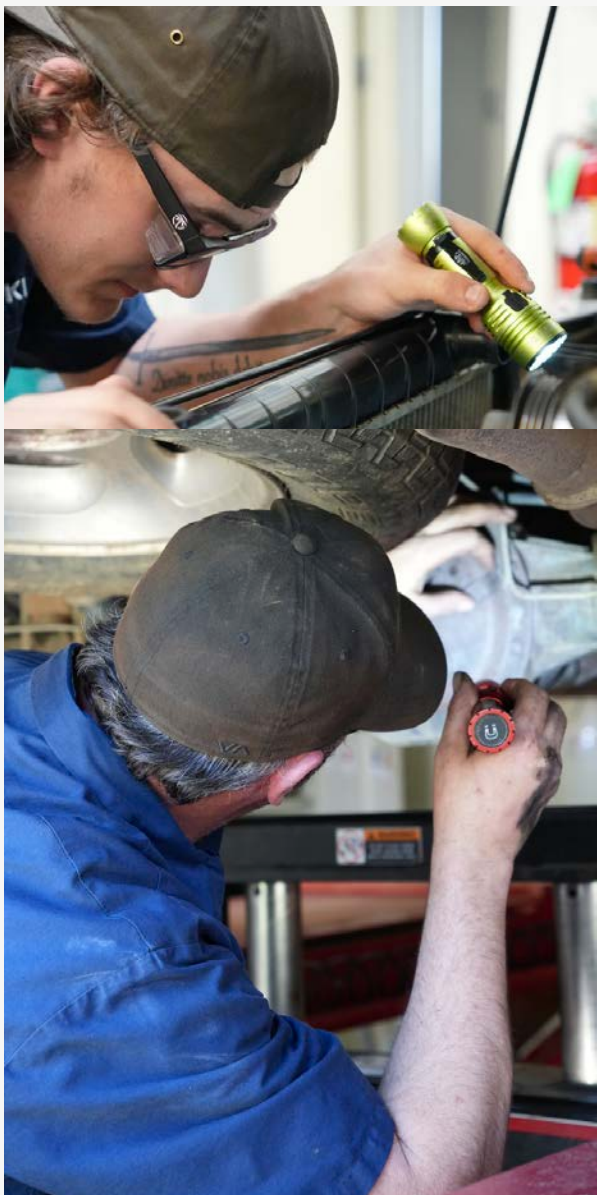


North Fork's Automotive Repair's Got You Covered!



As a special thank you, North Fork Rancheria Tribal Citizens receive 15% off, and NFR employees receive 10% off regularly priced services and parts. Just another way we show our appreciation for our community!

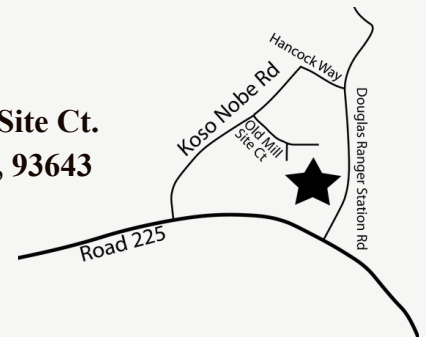
For more information contact us:
559-877-5505



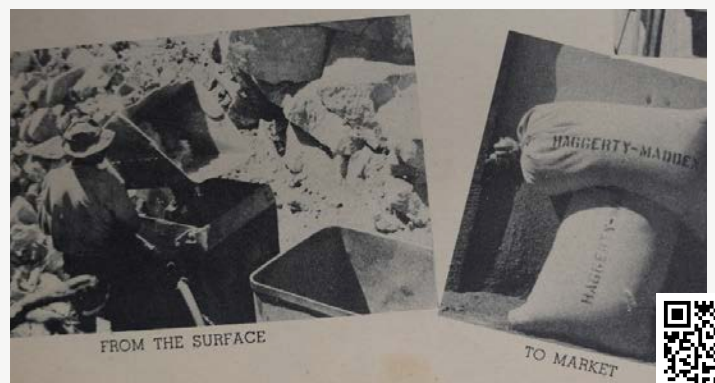
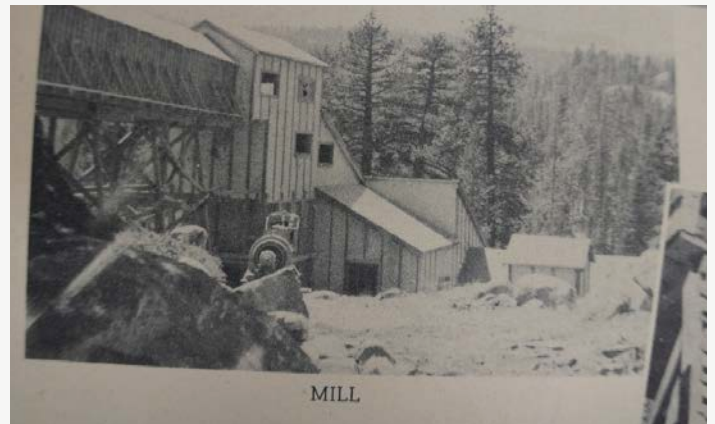
Old Mill Site Now



(559)877-5505
57901 Old Mill Site Ct.
North Fork CA, 93643



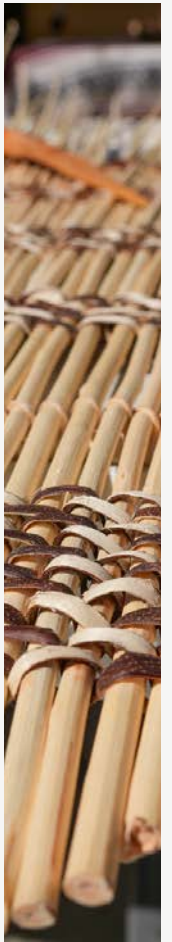
Old Mill Site Back Then



North Fork Rancheria

March, 2026

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



On March 11th, 2026, women from the community gathered at the Sierra Mono Museum to create traditional baskets and celebrate the strength of Native culture. The gathering brought together multiple generations of women who shared knowledge, stories, and weaving techniques passed down through their families. The collaborative environment

allowed both experienced and new weavers to connect through culture and creativity. Throughout the event, participants worked side by side, sharing knowledge, stories, and encouragement while carefully shaping their baskets.



April 18th 2026 Earth Day in North Fork brought the community together in a meaningful way. When I first arrived, I saw children cracking acorns and natural basketry materials laid out in the open for relatives to observe and learn from.

Mary Chepo was sharing Mary Cruz's homemade elderberry syrup and acorn, offering samples for everyone to try. It was delicious.

The North Fork TANF team had a booth sharing upcoming events with the community. On the side of the booth is where Logan Ramirez and Brianna Taylor were actively cracking acorns and preparing them for traditional processing.

Families gathered not only to enjoy Indian tacos prepared by the Sierra Mono Museum, but also to take part in keeping our traditions alive in a shared public space. Events like this help transform North Fork from a small community into a more connected and united one, bringing people together through culture, food, and tradition. Thank you EPD for hosting this event. follow us on social media to see upcoming events!

North Fork Mono Casino Job Fair Photos 04/29/2026

