



SUMMER 2022

"A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH FORK RANCHERIA OF MONO INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA"





Chairman's Corner



Fred Beihn
Tribal Chairman

Hi everybody,

Summer is here! Golf, Lake, Camping, Fishing....
Rattlesnakes! Yes, it's that time of year. Be careful out there, it's Fire season and snake season. Prepare for both, be aware of both. Don't let your guard down. With the Fire season here, there will be PSPS outages. Prepare yourself for power outages, stock up... supplies, water, flashlights, candles, storing water in containers for emergency use. Please enjoy the sun and fun.

NFR is supporting the 'NO INITIATIVE' to keep Out-of-State Corporate Gaming companies from entering into the California Gaming market with On Line gambling and Sports Betting. Advertisements are being shown on TV. The bottom line is, tribes want to keep the future of all California gaming inside our Native Casinos.



A few tribal leaders had the opportunity to meet with PG&E CEO, Patti Poppe, some topics I got to express to her were Jobs and Apprenticeship opportunities for tribal members. Power Line Undergrounding, the potential for damage to



cultural resources, improved tribal consultation and better tribal liaisons that actually have a true insight of tribal structure and culture, rather than just an employee filling a job and making sure that tribal monitors are on more projects when cultural resources are affected.

The Elder's lunches are going well, please pass the word to have our elders partake. We are gathering and socializing and playing bingo. We are also making lunches To Go if you can't stay and hang out. There are still many employment opportunities available at the tribe.

You are always welcome to attend ALL meetings, in all departments. These meetings are your opportunity to provide input and learn about the departments and programs. Get involved, stay involved. We are all in this together!

Please, if you haven't already, register for the Citizen's portal. We post many tribal activities on the Citizen's portal. We have also been conducting our Monthly council meetings by zoom for those registered through the Citizen's Portal.

Please continue to communicate with your Tribal Council. We want to hear from you! You are always welcome to contact me, 24/7. Email, call or text!
fbeihn@nfr-nsn.gov
559-760-2485

Have fun and be safe everybody!

Fred L. Beihn
Tribal Chairman



From the desk of the Vice-Chairperson

Christina McDonald
Tribal Vice Chairperson

Munahoo Neum

Nüü Christina naniyadü. (My name is Christina)

For over two years, I outran covid, but finally it got me...

In the middle of February this year, my daughter and I both got COVID. For over two years we did a lot of things to avoid getting COVID such as avoiding large type gatherings and kept our holiday gatherings to only immediate family, wearing our masks in public and hand wash/sanitizing and those things seemed to work. I took the plunge in 2021 and got fully vaccinated while my daughter was not. This decision, to me, was good because children are tough and resilient compared to us older ones. Later we would see how this would play out.

Some of the things during COVID were silly to me, like the toilet paper demand. Why? With the funding we received from the tribe I did stock up on household supplies and I saved as much as I could because you never know when the pandemic would enter your home. It took two years for COVID to come into our home and the only thing about preparedness is really groceries. Luckily I just went grocery shopping so we had what we needed for the 10 day isolation period.

With me being vaccinated my symptoms were not

that bad, sore throat, cough, runny nose, and stuffy nose. My daughter on the other hand had majority of symptoms, headache, fatigue, sore throat, fever, and stuffy nose. My daughter recovered much faster than I did. Lucky for zoom and other virtual meetings I was able to participate at meetings from home. Thanks to Bobby Hale for bringing me some more home tests that was much appreciated.

Then most recently, I was hit with a bad stomach virus, another community type illness and that was the worst I have ever felt, worse than COVID for sure. I have recovered from that and thank my family for getting me through that one. We all know COVID, and any other communicable disease is just part of the life we live in so there is no running from anything just hoping that your immune system is strong and able to fight off these things.

I wanted to share my personal story because it is important that we share things like this and to not be afraid of things you have no control over. I am not promoting any method or vaccination at all, just sharing my story with you and I thank the tribe for providing us with these funds to assist us in times of need.

If you have a covid story to tell please send to me and I will place in my article for the Fall newsletter, please e-mail me at cmcdonald@nfr-nsn.gov

Take care...its fire season...maintain situational awareness and be prepared to go at a moment's notice.

Christina McDonald



Tribal Secretary Briefing

Bobby Hale
Tribal Council Secretary

Munahoo Tribal Citizens,

AB 1862 Ramos bill initiative

Assembly Bill 1862 (Ramos), a bill that seeks to reduce county child welfare agencies' workload and costs while ensuring Indian children are placed in culturally appropriate and legally compliant placements by establishing the Tribally Approved Homes Compensation Program. This bill is an important step in making funding available to tribes to build internal capacity to approve their own homes and ease the burden on county child welfare agencies in the already difficult foster care and adoptive placement process. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families. The bill would require the State Department of Social Services to provide annual allocations of \$75,000 to eligible tribes and tribal organizations.

Dependent Indian children in the state child welfare system must be placed in homes in compliance with ICWA and various California state laws. However, between 2010 and 2020, on average only 44% of Indian children in California's foster care system were placed according to the required placement preferences. This means the majority of Indian children (56%) could be being placed in non-familial homes that are not tied to the child's tribal culture even though there is a large body of evidence that all children placed with extended family develop strong attachments and have better long-term outcomes.

LC4T – Legal Counsel for Tribes

While tribes are legally authorized to intervene in dependency cases governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), they are the only party in those cases who do not receive publicly funded legal representation. Meaning, each time a tribe

walks into a courtroom without highly trained legal representation to defend its rights under ICWA, that tribe's rights and citizens are at risk. The remedy for this inequity is to ensure access to existing funds for tribes to have a highly trained attorney in every ICWA case. This budget proposal would allow the LC4T project, by accessing federal and state funds, to provide an attorney at no cost to a tribe in state dependency cases. When tribes are involved in the dependency cases of their tribal Citizens/Member children, evidence shows Indian children and families have better outcomes and public dollars are saved. LC4T will produce long-term cost savings for the State of California because the project will improve ICWA compliance and ensure the remedial benefits intended by ICWA are fully realized. By bringing tribal legal representation into parity with other parties, tribes and their families can begin healing from those policies and reduce the disproportionate representation of Indian children in the child welfare system. LC4T will work with tribes to be certain that tribal rights are protected, that child welfare legal mandates related to Indian children are known in court proceedings, and that judges and counties are held accountable for ICWA compliance.

If Tribal Citizens have any questions, comments or concerns feel free to contact me and I will be happy to answer or give a resource to help. There is an open-door policy for my office, and I am there most days and often in the evening for you to come by even just to chat. Below is my contact information. Thank You for supporting your North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California.

Sincerely & Respectfully,

Bobby E. Hale

Bobby E. Hale
Tribal Council Secretary
Cell (559) 760-9863
Office (559) 877-2484 Ext 2501
Email- bhale@nfr-nsn.gov.



From the Desk of the Tribal Treasurer

Maryann McGovran
Tribal Council Treasurer

Congratulations Executive Housing Director Paul Irwin!

Tribal Council and NFR Indian Housing Authority Board of Commissioners congratulates Tribal Citizen and Executive Housing Authority Director Paul Irwin for receiving the prestigious Pillar Superhero Award from Travois. Director Irwin received this award for leading the Indian Housing Authority and Tribe in securing the Low- Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Project as mentioned in the last NFR Newsletter. His work as Director has brought millions of dollars to our Tribe to provide affordable housing to our Citizens and Travois recognizes him for his challenging work. Travois, a company that raises capital for housing and economic development in Indian Country, strives to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples by providing the tools and resources to create healthy, affordable, and sustainable communities.

Director Irwin started his career with NFR as the Transportation Planner/ Grant Manager in 2012 and then promoted to Executive Housing Director in 2013. Prior to being employed by the Tribe he served as Vice- Chair of the IHA BOC and was also a TANF Advisory Board Member.

Director Irwin is a graduate from The University of Michigan in Master Urban Planning which is dual concentration in Housing, Community, and Economic Development and Physical Planning and Design Graduate Certification in Real Estate Development. He is also a Graduate from UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design with a Bachelor of Arts Architecture and Minor in City & Regional Planning. Director Irwin is a great example of a Tribal Citizen using assistance from NFR Scholarship Program to provide for his education and then bring his knowledge back to the Tribe to help our Tribal Citizens have better, more adequate, and affordable housing. Congratulations Paul on a JOB WELL DONE! Thank you for all you do.



Member's Corner

Elaine Fink
Tribal Council Member



Mun A Hoo e'bose

Unreal! Half of the year gone, already.



Elaine F., Joni Drake, Sheila Sherman

Let's make the best out of the next six months for ourselves and the people. When you make yourself happy you will in turn make others happy.

North Fork Rancheria has hosted several events for our Tribal citizens and others with our programs.

The protocol for the host tribe is for the Tribal Council to welcome everyone and usually the Tribal Chairperson does the welcome. If the Chairperson isn't available, then one of Tribal Council will do the welcome. Then a prayer or blessing is offered for the event and the people. An elder of the tribe is often asked to do that part of the meeting. A part of this can also be burning of sage which is smudging. The opening remarks may then include some history or information about the tribe itself.

My point in telling you this is because of some comments we received about our elders and the activities of the event. These comments were from our own tribal citizens and from non-citizens within a tribal citizen household.

I know this is a "drop in the bucket" in comparison to our total tribal citizenship, but maybe this needs to be said due to the ignorance of tribal protocol across the nation, or because of just not having the knowledge that this is the usual format for a meeting. Either way, I hope this is a learning lesson as to how we conduct meetings and a tribe's behavior for welcoming guests.

Please read the first paragraph of this article once again.
"When you make yourself happy you will in turn make others happy."

This world is so sorrowful as it is, the chaos happening in countries around the world, the COVID pandemic, the mass shootings, and it goes on and on and on.....

Where are you in this? Let's be the best we can be for ourselves and for others!

A wee Ah Noh!

Toh Gee



NFR ALERT

Sign up on the NFR Alert System to receive alerts.

The system features:

- ✓ Mobile App
- ✓ Text and Email Alerts
- ✓ Two Way Messaging
- ✓ Voice Call Alerts
- ✓ Automated Updates
- ✓ Profile and Web Interface



ENVIRONMENTAL
HAZARDS



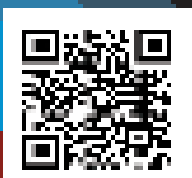
WILDFIRE



WEATHER



OUTBREAK



NORTHFORKRANCHERIA-NSN.GOV/NFRALERT



Sign up on the Citizen Portal today!

Stay connected and up to date on the latest North Fork Rancheria news and events. To register for access to the Citizen Portal...

1. In your web browser, navigate to **www.northforkrancheria-nsn.gov/citizen-portal** which brings you to Account Log In form.
2. Click the Register link just above the login form or visit: **www.northforkrancheria-nsn.gov/register**
3. Fill out the Account Registration form and click Register. You should see a confirmation page after submitting the form.

4. Go to your email account and click on the confirmation link provided. This step will complete your registration but will not grant you full access to the Citizen Portal.

North Fork Rancheria staff will confirm your enrollment with the tribe within 24-48 hours Monday-Friday. If the information you provided during registration matches your information on file, you will be granted full access to the Citizen Portal. If the information does not match our files, we will request additional information and possibly refer you to enrollment for you to update your file.

Once you receive a confirmation that you have full access to the Citizen Portal, navigate to **www.northforkrancheria-nsn.gov/citizen-portal** and login with the email and password you used during registration.

Thank you for your patience during this process. We go through a few extra steps to ensure that only Tribal Citizens have access to the Portal. Help your Tribal Elders if they need access to the Citizen Portal.

Thank you again,
North Fork Rancheria IT Department

Enrollment Department:



Amanda Martinez,
Enrollment Technician

Munahoo-

My name is Amanda Martinez, and I am the new Enrollment Technician and I'm also an enrolled Tribal citizen of the North Fork Rancheria. Just a little background on me, I was born and raised in North Fork and my parents are Theresa and Robert (Gene) Williams. My Grandparents on my dad's side were Sam and Mary Williams and, on my mom's, side were Dan and Doris Lewis.

I worked for the Internal Revenue Service for many years where I served as the Lead in my unit for 13 of those years and I was a Collections Representative in the customer service branch for one year. On August 31, 2021, after 25 1/5 years of service I accepted an early retirement from the IRS. I enjoyed my 7 months off work but then, I decided to get back into the work field and what better place to work for than for my own tribe. I still have a lot to learn, and I won't always know the answer to all the questions, but I will do my best to get the right answer.



North Fork Rancheria Tribal ID



This verifies that the Named Person on the face of this card is listed on the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California Census Roll, an Official Record of this Office, and is a Registered Citizen of North Fork Rancheria.

The bearer of this card is a member of a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe and should be accorded all the privileges and rights due them.

IF FOUND, PLEASE DROP IN ANY U.S. MAILBOX
Postmaster: Postage Guaranteed

PROPERTY OF:
NORTH FORK RANCHERIA OF MONO INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA
P.O. BOX 929 NORTH FORK, CALIFORNIA 93643
(559)877-2461

For more information contact the Tribal Government office

(559)877-2461



Children and Family Services Announces: Diaper Kits Sizes 1 -4

Each kit contains two packs of diapers and wipes

Please contact the DCFS/ICWA office or Government Office with your request, you must schedule your pick-up in advance.

Email: icwa@nfr-nsn.gov

Phone: 559.877.2461

Pick-up available at the NFR Government office or the DCFS Clovis Office



2022 North Fork Rancheria Gathering





On April 23, 2022, Tribal Council Woman- Elaine Bethel Fink conducted a traditional blessing for youth who have earned the title of "Peacekeeper." This respected title is for youth who have attended at least GONA camp and who gained skills in conflict resolution. Several of the youth in attendance were North Fork Rancheria Tribal Citizens who will be attending the upcoming GONA camp in June hosted by Fresno American Indian Health Project (FAIHP.)

Ms. Fink shared information about the Tribe's history and culture with attendees. In appreciation of her time and support Ms. Fink was honored with an eagle feather and abalone/pinenut necklace by the Youth and GONA facilitators. This well attended event helped youth develop leadership and communication skills. We are happy to share that the collaboration between North Fork Rancheria



and FAIHP during the Peace Keeping training has set the stage for future events such as our very own GONA camp that will take place in 2023. Community and staff who have not attended GONA were able to learn more about it during the Tribe's GONA training held May 4th – May

6th at Town Hall in North Fork. Those who were familiar with GONA were able to share their experiences and best practices. Ms. Fink also performed a traditional blessing at this event. Everyone participated in team development activities, deep discussions and most importantly laughter together. Organizers of the GONA initiative agreed having the support of Tribal Council welcomes creativity and implementation of successful events that help Tribal Citizen and all Native Families that we serve.



What is GONA? GONA is an acronym

for Gathering of Native Americans.

GONA is a culture-based planning process where community members gather to address community-identified issues. It uses an interactive approach that empowers and supports AI/AN tribes. The GONA approach



reflects AI/AN cultural values, traditions, and spiritual practices. The GONA focuses on the following four principles:

- Belonging—the GONA ensures that everyone feels welcomed in an inclusive, open, safe, and trusting environment.
- Mastery—the GONA allows participants to take stock of how historical trauma impacts their communities and what fosters their resilience and holds them together.
- Interdependence—the GONA initiates the planning process to assess resources and relationships, and to experience and strengthen interconnectedness.
- Generosity—the GONA exercise of creating gifts to share with other participants symbolizes each participant's larger gift to their families and communities in helping to address and prevent mental and substance use disorders, prevent suicide, and promote mental health.

Since it was developed in 1992, the GONA has been recognized as an effective culture-based intervention. The GONA starts the discussion on important issues identified by the community. In the time following the GONA, the real work begins—to develop, implement, and sustain strategic prevention activities and interventions that address the issues identified during the GONA. Look out for opportunities surrounded by GONA.





North Fork Rancheria Tribal TANF List of Summer Events

- ✓ Monthly Family Night
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ Young Feathers Enrichment Series
- ✓ Tribal Technology
- ✓ Summer Youth Work Experience
- ✓ Numu
- ✓ Seasonal Gatherings
- ✓ NFR Gathering
- ✓ Decolonize your Life

To sign up for any of our events, please visit www.nfrfamilies.org to fill out your forms to participate with us. You may also contact our office at (559) 298-5700 or (559) 877-5500. For any additional information.



North Fork Virtual Women's Spring Conference

Presented by
Indigenous Mothers Talking Circle
Co-Sponsored by: CSU Fresno, American Indian Studies

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF AWARENESS:
RECOGNIZING OUR INNER GIFTS OF PROTECTION**
April 30, 2022

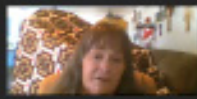


Invocation
Sandra Clark



Red Wind
Consulting, Inc.

Darlene Franco



Red Wind
Consulting, Inc.

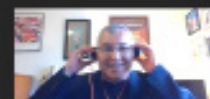
Suzanne
Moineau



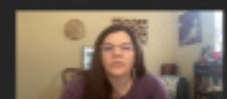
Red Lightning
Woman



Lenny Hayes
MA



Laura Wass



Dr. Leece Lee-
Oliver

Cyndi Alexander

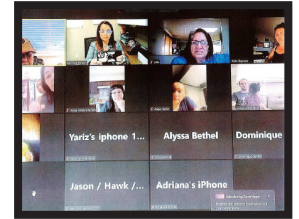
Agenda for the day

Welcome	Tribal Elder Sandra Clark opened up with prayer for our 50+ attendees on Saturday, April 30 th .
Red Wind Consulting Panel 1 pt I	Victoria Ybanez, Executive Director of Red Wind Consulting, Inc. addressed the importance of Creating a Sister Space and the impact that violence has on Native Women.
Healing Session	Darlene Franco opened up our healing session with a lesson on how "The land knows you, even when you are lost."
Red Wind Consulting Panel 1 pt II	Victoria Ybanez, Executive Director of Red Wind Consulting, Inc. discussed Indigenous Women's Leadership, "Our inherent right & the role of Native Women Leaders."
Healing Session	Suzanne Moineau honored us with a song and discussed her journey and the path that led her to working with women. She also invited her husband Ron Alec to offer a prayer song.
Red Lightning Women Power Singers	They began with discussion and songs of our connection to tobacco and sang additional songs of empowerment.
Tale Tapa Consulting LLC	Lenny Hayes presented on Native American Historical and Intergenerational Trauma and the impact on the Two-Spirit/Native LGBTQ community.
Healing Session	Laura Wass shared the healing that needs to be done in the valley and to educate our people on the 2-Spirit Community
Dr. Leece Lee-Oliver	Dr. Leece conducted a meditation session of Social Location and Family History and guided attendees in creating a line poem in order to process the information being discussed.
Healing Session and Closing Prayer	Cyndi Alexander closed out the healing session with prayer after our final raffle was completed.



Atascadero TANF Update:

Cari Stephenson held a Reviving Energy of Spring event via zoom on April 7th. She had 55 participants of all ages, all of whom joined in on the fun! As part of the event they planted sage and spoke about its medicinal properties. "It was a great turnout" said Cari S. about the event. The children received sandcastle buckets full of fun incentives, and are anticipating the next event!



Indian Housing Authority

Emergency Services Building

The North Fork Rancheria in coordination with Madera County held a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, May 4th for a new 4,156 square foot emergency services building. The new facility will include a fire station living quarters, a sheriff substation, and an EMS substation. The project is being funded by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) awarded to the Tribe, with in-kind services, furnishings, and equipment to be provided by Madera County and the agencies utilizing the facility. Madera County Sheriff Tyson Pogue stated "We have more deputies on patrol in the mountain communities of Madera County than ever before. These facility improvements, which include a satellite office for the Madera County Sheriff's Office, will compliment these staffing enhancements and enable Sheriff's Office to more effectively and efficiently serve the great residents in the North Fork area with shorter response times. The Tribe's commitment to improving public safety in the area will be felt for generations to come. We value our partnership with the Tribe and the opportunity to work together to improve public safety."

The project seeks to capitalize upon prior investment to improve the response times of emergency services to the community, including fire, sheriff, and ambulance. The project is a continuation of past efforts that allowed for the construction of the existing North Fork Volunteer Fire Station (Madera County Fire Station #11) that was completed in 2013. This was made possible through a three-party agreement between the North Fork Rancheria, Madera County, and North Fork Community Development Council. The North Fork Community Development Council provided a land contribution to the Tribe, and the Tribe was able to leverage federal

grant funds to help construct the station. Madera County shared in the cost of the station with additional contributions provided by the North Fork Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. Madera County Supervisor Tom Wheeler stated "I grew up North Fork and my family and friends live there so I take issues of public safety in the area very seriously. These improvements to Station 11 will enable better fire protection for an area that has been plagued by fires over the past several years. More than anything, I am just so thankful for all the amazing projects being put forth by the North Fork Rancheria that are helping to make improvements for the hardworking people of North Fork."

The North Fork Rancheria began taking steps to pursue this effort in 2019 by updating a Memorandum of Understanding with Madera County to extend ownership of the volunteer fire station with the goal of seeking additional grant funding for the facility. "The existing volunteer fire station was a significant accomplishment for the community but lacks a living quarters necessary for the station to be fully staffed. While the tribally provided grant sources do not provide for staffing, it will





enable Madera County Fire and Sheriff as well as Sierra Ambulance to plan and budget for future staffing with the goal of improving services and response times for the community," said Tribal Chairman Fred Beihn.

The HUD ICDBG grant program is a competitive grant program for use in developing viable Indian and Alaska Native Communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, primarily for low- and moderate-income persons. Eligible categories of assistance include housing, community facilities, and economic development. "HUD is committed to helping Native Americans thrive and the funding announced today will have a positive impact on building sustainable communities," said R. Hunter Kurtz, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing at the time this HUD ICDBG award was announced.

"The North Fork Rancheria's dedication to Public Safety within Madera County is outstanding. This new addition of living quarters to the current Madera County Fire Station 11 is bringing the community of North Fork much closer to having full-time fire protection for the area" said Madera County Fire Chief Matthew Watson. The Tribe's success over the years with various federal grant programs has helped to provide vital community facilities and infrastructure to support and sustain the small sierra community of North Fork, CA. According to Paul Irwin, the Tribe's Executive Housing Director who prepared the grant application and will oversee the construction project, "the new facility reflects a coordinated, assessed, and community-based effort to address facility needs that are critical to emergency response and public safety. Development of the proposed facility is consistent with strategic plans and policy goals for the Tribal Community and County and has support from a wide range of entities."

Aaron Sundstorm, General Manager for Sierra Ambulance, stated "Sierra Ambulance has served the area of Eastern Madera County, including North Fork, for over 50 years. Some of our own clinicians live in this part of the community. Having a dedicated station in the area of North Fork will help bring EMS services to this area quicker. Bringing EMS, Fire and Law Enforcement agencies under one roof will also help with inter-agency responses and bring a more cohesive service to this community. We are extremely grateful to the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and their support of local Emergency Services. We look forward to the enhanced services this will bring to this great community."

Architecture and engineering for the project was carried by PBK of Fresno. "PBK is proud to serve the North Fork Rancheria and coordinate with Madera County in further developing a cost-effective approach to meet agency needs and enhance services for the community," said Bryan Sassano Architect.

A grading permit for the site was previously issued and all earthwork is complete. The construction documents for the building are currently under review and construction on the facility will begin as soon as the building permit is issued. The project will be constructed and carried out by the North Fork Rancheria Indian Housing Authority.





22nd Annual Travois Indian Country Affordable Housing & Economic Development Conference

Representatives from the Tribe and NFRIHA attended Travois' affordable housing and economic development conference April 25-27th in San Diego, CA. This one-of-a-kind educational conference provides help for tribal entities interested in securing funds for affordable housing and economic developments in Native communities. Travois' experts provide in-depth instruction the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program and the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program and share innovative practices in planning, securing financing, architectural design, construction monitoring, asset management and compliance and more.

Travois honors industry professionals doing amazing work in their communities at their annual conference. Superhero Award categories include: Housing Professional of the Year, Economic Development Professional of the Year, Pillar of the Year, Haven of the Year, and Project Team of the Year. Paul Irwin, Executive Housing Director of the North Fork Rancheria Indian Housing Authority was awarded Pillar of the Year, nominees in this category are recognized as a construction or maintenance professional who has played a key role in building their community. The pillar honoree will know how to manage a project, stretch a dollar, and battle the elements to deliver a quality product on time.

In attendance were Bobby Hale, Tribal Council Secretary; Maryann McGovran, Tribal Council Treasurer; Richie Cline, BOC Chairperson; Debora Kerns-Barba, NFRIHA Finance Manager; and Paul Irwin, NFRIHA Executive Housing Director.



Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Project

The North Fork Rancheria Indian Housing Authority (NFRIHA) is currently under construction on a affordable housing development located on the Tribe's 61.5 acres of tribal trust land in North Fork. The project includes 19 structures, consisting of single-family homes and duplexes that will provide 26 new low-income rental housing units. The project includes 4 one-bedroom units, 10 two-bedroom units, 10 three-bedroom units, and 2 four-bedroom units, with a combination of accessible housing units.

This development is made possible through an award of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC), Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and contributions from Indian Health Service Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction.

The project is planned to be fully complete by December 2022. If interested, please contact NFRIHA to apply and be placed on the low-income rental housing waiting list.



NORTH FORK RANCHERIA INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY - HOUSING PROGRAMS

The Service Area for the following programs has been expanded Nationwide.

Down Payment Assistance Program:

- 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, and generally must be free of defective conditions.
- The applicant must be able to obtain a mortgage loan with an eligible lender.
- Assistance will be secured by a second deed of trust, amortized after 10 years of ownership, and forgiven after 20 years of ownership.
- All applicants must first apply with NFRIHA to determine eligibility and are to contact NFRIHA prior to submitting a purchase agreement and entering escrow to confirm the availability of funds. Funding is awarded on a first come first serve basis.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program:

- NFRIHA will provide one-time assistance, allowable once within a 24-month period, for tribal citizens who are displaced or served with an eviction notice for their current or most recent residence, live in unsafe or substandard living conditions, or live-in overcrowded conditions.
- NFRIHA may approve such assistance under other conditions such as: loss of income, medical expenses, natural or manmade disasters that are determined to be an imminent threat to the health or safety of household occupant's and require relocation.

- If eligible, assistance will be provided in the amount of the first month's rent, and deposit if required by a new lease agreement. For tenants seeking to remain in an existing rental unit, assistance will be provided in the amount of one month's rent.

Guidelines:

- o Monthly rental payments cannot exceed 30% of the household's gross monthly income.
- o Lease agreements must be provided stating the monthly rent and deposit.
- o All checks will be submitted directly to the landlord.
- o Reimbursement for eligible moving expenses will be allowed up to \$300.

Foreclosure & Debt Relief Program:

- NFRIHA has established a Foreclosure & Debt Relief Program to provide assistance for homeowners to remain in their homes when foreclosure actions are imminent, whether instituted by a lender for default on payments or by the county for delinquent property taxes.
- One-time assistance, not to exceed \$10,000.
- Applicants must have the ability to maintain monthly mortgage payments following NFRIHA assistance.
- Applicants must attempt a resolution with the mortgage holder including the utilization of mortgage relief options, when available.

The Service Area of the follow programs is Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa counties.

Low-Income Rental Units:

NFRIHA currently has 36 low-income rentals units. Tribal Citizens must apply to be placed on the waiting list for North Fork, Fresno/Clovis, or Madera.

- Applicants must be low-income to be placed on the waiting list and must be low-income at initial occupancy.
- Pre-determine rents have been established for each unit based on the number of bedrooms.
- Applicants must also meet the eligibility conditions stated in the Admissions and Occupancy Policy; factors negatively impacting eligibility include prior criminal record for any household members.

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 occupants, and to bring their property up to minimum housing standards.
- Applicants must have been a resident at the home



for the past 12 months.

- Basic maintenance services will not be undertaken by the NFRIHA.
- The level of assistance is also contingent on the NFRIHA's ability to record a Useful Life/Use Restriction on the property.
- Proof of ownership required.

Housing Services Program:

- The Housing Services Program has been established to assist tribal citizens with obtaining a residential lease on allotment land. Residential leases are recorded with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and are necessary for individuals residing on allotment land to provide proof of a leasehold interest in the property to become eligible for housing rehabilitation and the homeownership assistance program.
- This program will assist tribal citizens in requesting a residential lease and public version Title Status Report (TSR), obtaining consent requirements for leases, obtaining a land survey from a Certified Federal Surveyor (CFEDS), providing proof of ingress/egress access, and with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.
- This program may also be used to assist eligible property owners in researching land titles on fee lands in order to qualify for affordable housing assistance. The Housing Services program will not assist in clearing liens or claims but will provide technical assistance and assist with other costs necessary to allow for landowners with fractionalized interests in becoming eligible for housing assistance and allow for a Useful Life/Use Restriction to be recorded.

Homeownership Assistance Program:

- Funding for this program is currently limited to placement of available FEMA mobile homes.
- The Homeownership Assistance Program may be utilized on Trust, Individually Allotted, or Fee Simple Lands located within Fresno, Madera, or Mariposa County.
- Applicants must have ownership of the land where the home will be placed in order to be eligible for this program. The applicant must be listed on Title Status Report provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for trust or allotment lands or must be on the deed for fee lands. If the applicant owns a divided interest in a proposed home site, they must have a long-term residential lease in place, or obtain the necessary consent from all other interests to become eligible.
- Proposed home sites are encouraged to have access to infrastructure/utilities (access, water, power,

and sewer). If services are being provided by another homeowner on the property, consent must be provided. All service connections must be feasible within the total cost of development allowable.

- The total cost of development 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:

- Emergency Potable Water Program has been established to provide eligible homeowners with an emergency potable water supply due to periodic droughts.
- The program will cover costs to have a licensed potable water hauler fill temporary or permanent water storage tanks.
- This program is designed to be temporary and non-recurring to meet emergency water supply needs until replacement or altering of the private water systems can be undertaken by IHS or the NFRIHA.
- The NFRIHA will provide the minimum necessary potable water for human consumption, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of families.
- Funds must be used toward sustaining permanent residential structures.
- Water storage tanks and booster pumps may be provided to applicants through the program if the applicant does not currently have one or the ability to accept potable water delivery.

CONTACT

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

Main Telephone: (559) 877-7360

Fax: (559) 877-4193

Email: smoore@nfriha-nsn.gov

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





Citizen Spotlight



We would like to wish NFR elder Karen Ritter and her husband Alan Ritter of Waldron, Arkansas a Happy 30 year anniversary!

Karen Ritter is the daughter of the late Guy and Margie Taylor. Together they have 20 grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way.

Love, Bryan and Patricia Thompson
& kids

John and Nicole Mundy & kids

Andrew and Christina Parsons & kids

Eric and Brandi Parsons & kids



Congratulations to Guy Taylor!

This past march, Guy Taylor Sr. entered his hotrod Chevy pickup into the 12th LMC Truck Spring Lone Star Nationals at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

His Truck is a labor of love that he built from the ground up.

In the 4th Round he achieved a speed of **120 mph!**

Guys Truck:

1981 Chevy

Engine: 5.3 Liter Chevy LS1

Transmission: GM 4L80-E

Top Speed: At least 120 mph

We are very proud to have such amazing and talented people in our tribe!



New Graduates:

Kimberly Phillips

Munahoo!

My name is Kimberly Phillips, Virgil & Margie Bishop's youngest daughter. I am a proud tribal member who lives quite a ways away (Redding, CA). Even though I am far North, the tribe has continued to help me become successful and graduate college as an RN. I want to reach out and say,

"Thank you!"

I cannot find the words to express my gratefulness, gratitude, and forever thankful heart. I graduated as an RN in December 2020. Getting through school took strength and focus and support from you ALL. Thank you to EVERYONE who had a hand in helping me and my family become successful! A special Thank You to my creator, and to my father and mother for raising me up in the way which I should go.

I absolutely LOVE what I do! I serve at the Redding Veterans Home saving our Veterans BACK. Serving our Veteran's is my hearts ministry and calling and I enjoy EVERY moment.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you... A MILLION!!



JoAnne "Jo-Joe" Lee



JoAnne "Jo-Joe" Lee is an enrolled member of North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California. She is the great-granddaughter of Chief John Sherman and Sally Sherman. Jo-Joe received her Master of Social Work within the Accelerated Policy Program at Columbia University School of Social Work on May 14, 2022. She was a 2021-2022 Fisher Cummings Research and Policy Fellow for the Office on Trafficking In Persons where she addressed barriers to social services for people with lived experience in trafficking including Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). Jo-Joe works with California Tribes as Program Coordinator for the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) to address barriers to land and water rights within the state. Jo-Joe is also Co-Executive Director for her non-profit Urban Reziliency (UR) which seeks to alleviate the homelessness crisis plaguing the Bay Area's Native American, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth. She obtained her undergraduate from University of California, Berkeley where she served as the Executive Director of the Indigenous and Native Recruitment and Retention Center and the Program Coordinator for the Native Student Development Office. She also participated in the Public Policy and International Affairs Junior's Fellow Program (PPIA) which is grounded programmatically to empower and better address the needs of historically underrepresented communities. She will be pursuing her Juris Doctor at the University of California, Davis School of Law this fall. She hopes to assist Native and Indigenous Peoples at a policy and legal level to implement positive change within systems that have treated Native/Indigenous sovereignties and autonomies unjustly.





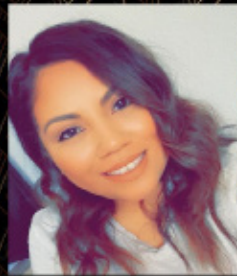
Angela Kester
Bachelors in Social Work from
Fresno State University

Broken chains

I am Angela
I am me
I am Strong
I am a mother
Strong mono Native American women
I am my ancestor's creation
I am broken chains
I am grateful
My people Mono North Fork
We hold love, respect, memories, stories, laughs, and bonds
History keeps our people's memories alive
Stories, respect, trust, and the truth
"The Trail" culture and roots
Passing our culture, roots to the next generations to come to
keep our people's memory alive
Do not forget who you are
A strong Mono Native American woman
I am my ancestor's creation



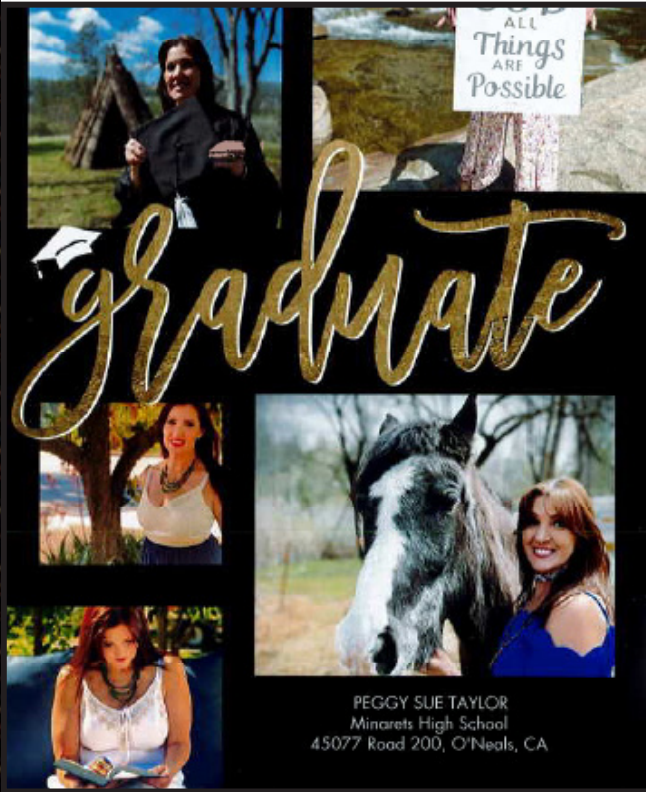
Jessica Grijalva
Associates in Liberal Studies from
Reedley College



Justina Luna



Triston Keohavong



graduate

PEGGY SUE TAYLOR
Minarets High School
45077 Road 200, O'Neals, CA

Other Graduates:

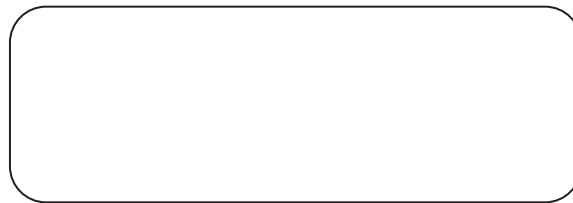
Westley Hughes - Westley is graduating with an A.S. in physics. He plans on continuing on to complete his masters.

Traci Cline - Traci is graduating with an A.S. in teaching this summer. She has been working on her degree since 2004, and received her Highschool diploma in 2020.

The North Fork Rancheria would like to congratulate all of the
2022 graduates on a job well done!



**North Fork Rancheria
of Mono Indians**
Tribal Government Office
P.O. Box 929, North Fork, CA 93643



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