

N+KWA N+M

SUMMER 2026



NIKWA NIM

**YouTube**NORTHFORKRANCHERIA-NSN.GOV[@NORTHFORKRANCHERIA](https://www.instagram.com/NORTHFORKRANCHERIA)

Words from our Chairperson

Mun a hoo!

Let's celebrate and be excited!

There are events North Fork Rancheria can celebrate this year and all of us should be really excited for everyone in the Tribe as well as all our employees, all those who supported us along the way, as well as those who worked with us.

We are celebrating a 30 year anniversary of the signing of our Constitution. Our thanks go out to that base roll of people who began this journey for the North Fork Mono people to be a recognized Tribe.

We are now over 3,000 people enrolled in our tribe which makes us one of the largest Tribes in the state of California. We also continue to enroll our babies up to two years of age.

There are 109 recognized tribes in this State but most have smaller populations. Just as a reminder, each tribe determines their own enrollment as to who and how their people are enrolled.

This year we are also, after over 20 years of pursuing this project, celebrating the construction and the soon to be opening of our North Fork Resort and Casino! Tribal Council is hoping all our Tribal Citizens will be pleased with the opening and preparations that are coming with this event.

This is so exciting and especially because the revenues from this facility will help all our people and our Tribal government. Today we use funds from our programs and grants but with these added revenues we can add so much more and be able to fund and expand more programs such as Culture, Heritage, and Language. Proudly we have accomplished so much in these 30 years. Please reflect on all North Fork Rancheria has built and done through this time.

We were warned by others that we would be busier and have so much more to do during this time and they were right but although it has become to be, it is a good, happy, and very rewarding time for us to be in.

A HUGE Thank You goes out to all those who have helped with all our endeavors and especially all the NFR staff who have been working for and with us all these years.

We look forward to a fantastic year for all of us.

Be safe, take care of yourselves and your loved ones and toh gee.

Ah Wee ah noh or A kut tha tig

Elaine Bethel Fink
Tribal Chairperson

Elaine Bethel Fink



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Words from our Vice-Chairman



Hi everybody,

Summertime! Be careful out there. Fire Season. Stay Hydrated. Lots of water! Watch for snakes! Have fun at the lake. Keep an eye on those little ones.

Tribal Council's busy everywhere, trying to stay ahead of the game and in tune with all that effect the Tribe and the future of the Tribe and citizens. Lots of stuff going on within the Tribe. It's graduation time. We have many vacancies in the Tribe. We have many Tribal functions to partake in.

I recently attended an MMIP Investigations conference in Sacramento, the first one of it's kind. This is a very important issue to Indian Country. It's an epidemic that needs attention in all areas of the judicial system. We are dealing with Native American Graves Protection Act (NAGPRA) issues everywhere. We recently attended UC Berkeley in regard to things they have in their possession. We've been dealing with inadvertent discoveries in Yosemite National Park. And consultation/discussions with many institutions around the state and across the country. I big shout out to our Environmental Protection Department for their efforts. Also trying to stay in tune with Emergency preparedness for our people.



MMIP Investigation Training



Madera County Emergency Preparedness

And, Congratulations to all the graduates of 2026 !!!

We need to encourage all the young people today to become educated, pursue careers and professions that will be a voice and make changes for Indian country. We're so very proud of these young people that will be future leaders!

Have fun and be safe everybody!

Tribal Vice Chairman

fbeihn@nfr-nsn.gov

559-760-2485

Fred L. Beihn





Tribal Secretary News

Munahoo Neum
Nüü Christina naniyadü. (My name is Christina



As we embark on over 30 years of Federal Recognition it's important for each citizen to understand what governmental framework, policies, statutes, regulations, plans and procedures that we follow. Here's a list of some of the documents that we have here with NFR. There are more documents than those listed below, and this is a short list of what we have to follow here at NFR.

1. The Constitution of the North Fork Rancheria
2. North Fork Rancheria Tribal Council Bylaws Statute
3. Election Statute of the North Fork Rancheria
4. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California Enrollment Statute
5. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California Indian Children Protection Statute
6. North Fork Rancheria Indian Housing Authority Statute
7. North Fork Rancheria Record Access Statute
8. North Fork Rancheria Tribal Privacy Statute
9. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California Prevailing Wage Ordinance
10. North Fork Rancheria Heritage Committee Bylaws
11. Elder Committee Bylaws
12. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California Enrollment Committee Bylaws
13. North Fork Rancheria Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Advisory Board Bylaws
14. North Fork Rancheria Indian Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Bylaws
15. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California Personnel Policies and Procedures
16. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians Travel Policy
17. Drug Free Workplace Policy
18. North Fork Rancheria Fiscal Policies and Procedures
19. North Fork Rancheria Code of Conduct Policy
20. Computer Usage Policy

Summer is around the corner so that means wildfire season is here. Be careful in those waterways as well, the waters are cold and swift. Enjoy the annual gathering, see you soon.

Take care and until next time.

Christina McDonald



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**Tribal Treasurer
Maryann McGovran
Economic Development Authority
Board President**



CASINO UPDATE!!!!

Outside

There is a lot happening on HWY 99! The outside of the building is 90% completed and the last of the decorative metal panels are being installed. The last of the signs around the outside of the building are being installed. The large digital sign is expected to be installed in September. Keep an eye out for that if you live in the area. The tree planting is 90% done and it looks amazing. Bus stop canopies foundation is in progress also the curbs adjacent to the Casino.

Inside

The ceilings are completed; cameras install in progress. Tile walkways install in progress. Manzanita Steakhouse drywall is completed and now preparing for the finishes, kitchen tile is completed, and kitchen equipment is being delivered. 99 Clubhouse (Sports Lounge) drywall is 90% completed, sectional doors at patio are installed and pizza oven has been delivered. Food Court drywall is ready for finishes, kitchen wall stainless is completed, tile completed in service areas, and kitchen equipment is in progress. This is just a highlight of the construction in progress; there is so much more going on.

Jobs

The Executive Management team is all in place along with Department Directors and Managers. All positions are now open to apply for. We currently have around 180 Tribal Citizens that have applied for jobs in different departments. Tribal Council is really excited about that and hopes for the best for all applicants. If interested, please go to northforkmonocasino.com to apply. The Gaming Commission staff is now full, and Tribal Council is in the process of approving three people as the Gaming Commissioners.

If you have any questions, please contact me cell 559-760-4877 email mmcgovran@nfr-nsn.gov or anyone else on the EDAB.



SUN Bucks, also known as Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), is a food assistance program in California that provides \$120 per eligible child to help families buy groceries during the summer months when school is out. Eligible families receive the funds on a debit-style Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

Eligibility and Application

Most eligible children are enrolled automatically if they participate in school lunch programs, receive benefits like CalFresh/Medi-Cal, or are in foster/migrant care. Families not automatically enrolled can submit a school meal application to check eligibility.

Using the Benefit

- **Amount:** A one-time payment of \$120 per child is loaded onto a debit-style EBT card.
- **Usage:** Funds can be used for groceries at authorized retailers, farmers' markets, but not for hot or prepared foods.
- **Expiration:** Funds expire 122 days after loading.

For cardholder assistance, the SUN Bucks helpline is available at (877) 328-9677. The helpline provides automated support 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Live agents are available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. To check your benefit balance and claim status, visit the California EBT cardholder website.



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NIKWA NIM



Words from our Member at Large

Native Americans are using technology when it is available to interact, communicate, share culture, and gain the skills needed in a digital world. Despite a lack of access, higher prices for broadband and often non-existent infrastructure, leaders in these communities have developed a vision and built self-sufficient networks and community technology centers to connect and strengthen their Native communities.

The lack of broadband access was a multiplier of these impacts. As leaders in Tribal lands across the United States fight to close this digital gap for Tribal communities and ensure equal broadband access, they are shaping national discourse and bringing overdue attention to this disparity in new and exciting ways.

Take reliable broadband internet, which has become a critical infrastructure—as vital to daily life as utilities like water and electricity. However, this essential service remains inaccessible to many Native American communities, perpetuating longstanding underinvestment in Tribal infrastructure.

According to the Government Accountability Office, as of 2020, 18% of residents on Tribal lands lacked access to broadband service—more than four times the rate in non-Tribal areas at 4%. These disparities are even more pronounced in certain regions: In Arizona's Tribal communities, 60% of residents lack broadband connectivity, illustrating how geographic and systemic barriers compound to limit access.

This connectivity gap affects over 1.4 million Native Americans and represents more than a digital disparity—it makes full participation in economic, social, cultural, and civic engagement impossible.

Addressing these challenges requires recognizing Tribal digital sovereignty, an essential concept for Native American communities' self-determination. It goes beyond connecting to the internet; it's a holistic approach for governance over all digital assets, from physical network infrastructure to the full life cycle of data, from its collection and storage to its use and transmission. This approach empowers tribes to manage their own technological futures, ensuring that solutions are not imposed from the outside but are instead aligned with their unique priorities. This includes tribes designing their own digital codes and data protection protocols that respect their cultural values and legal frameworks. It means building and controlling their own network infrastructure to ensure reliable connectivity and digital equity for all community members. It also centers the ability to create and secure funding and resources necessary to support areas like education, health care, and economic development.



Scan for website

DCFS Hosts Free Mono Language Class for Youth in Preparation for Annual Gathering at Minarets High School

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is hosting a free Mono language class for youth ages 5 through 17 in preparation for the upcoming Annual Gathering at Minarets High School. Sign-ups for the program were held on May 1st, with strong interest from families across the community. The weekly classes, held every Friday leading up to the gathering,

provide students with instruction in the Mono language through songs, prayer, and cultural learning activities. The program is designed to help youth build confidence in speaking and understanding the language.

The weekly Friday classes are led by DCFS staff in collaboration with North Fork Rancheria Tribal Citizen Ashley Pomona, a Tribally Approved Home Specialist.

“The program aims to support cultural learning, youth engagement, and language preservation,” said Ashley Pomona.



Scan QR code
to watch DCFS
media



DCFS Brings in Multiple sponsors to teach Elder's about fire safety

06/04/26 – The DCFS/ICWA Department hosted a free Fire Safety Class for North Fork Rancheria Elders at the Community Center.

Representatives from CAL FIRE provided valuable fire safety information and preparedness tips to help elders stay safe during fire season.

Participants also learned about resources, services, and assistance programs available through local organizations and nonprofits serving residents in the North Fork area.

The DCFS/ICWA Department provided lunch for all guests and elders in attendance and held raffle drawings throughout the event.

To stay informed about upcoming workshops, events, and resources, please visit the Citizen Portal.



Scan QR code
to watch DCFS
media



Meet North Fork Rancheria's Elders Committee

In our culture, our elders are the keepers of our traditions, culture, and family history. They are deeply respected members of our community, and we honor the wisdom, guidance, and knowledge they share.

We are proud to introduce our Elders Committee Council members.

The Elders Committee recently participated in our April Earth Day event, where they hosted a free raffle. Committee member Judy Lucas generously donated a self-care basket filled with a variety of wellness items for the giveaway.



North Fork Rancheria's Elders Committee Council Members:

Sandra Hardgrave - Chairperson
Barbra Works - Vice Chairperson
Sharon Carter - Secretary
Judy Lucas - Member At Large
Bobby Jones - Treasurer



4/18/26 - Elder Committee members pose with the raffle basket they generously donated during the Earth Day event hosted by North Fork Rancheria EPD Department.



Elders Committee Visits the Elders Gathering in Sacramento

06/06/26 - Members of the Elders Committee traveled by bus to Sacramento, California, to attend the Elders Gathering at the State Indian Museum, joining fellow elders in a day of cultural connection, learning, and community.

Secretary Snider-Ashtari had the privilege of reading Governor Newsom's Proclamation of Honored Elders Day at the 47th Annual Honored Elders Day event in Sacramento.



NORTH FORK RANCHERIA INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY (NFRHA)



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 NFRHA.

NFRHA PROJECT UPDATES



- **Wah-Up-Weh-Tu Housing Project:** The NFRHA 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. The plans are now at 100% complete and stamped. Now we are seeking bids from grading companies.



- **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. Architectural plans have been submitted to the county and awaiting review. 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 NFRHA 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. It is now completely finished!



- **Wellness Center:** The NFRHA 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

Join the Citizen Portal for the latest Tribal news, events, and casino updates.

Follow us on social media



YouTube

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. All documents requiring job application, casino information, and upcoming event information are all found on the citizen portal.



NFR SMS

SMART MESSAGING SYSTEM



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

559-236-6663

NFRALERT

Receive critical alerts
during emergencies

ELDERS

Receive updates
specifically for Tribal Elders

NFRSMS

Receive non-emergency
updates from the tribe



559-877-2461
nfr-nsn.gov/nfrsms

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 or scan QR code below.



The purpose of North Fork Rancheria Tribal Transit Program (NFRTTP) 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 NFRTTP 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



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



NFR Tribal Citizens get 15% off, and NFR employees get 10% off regularly priced service and parts. NFRAR is open to the public. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



Citizen Spotlight

Congratulations



Tayven Garcia

Dear Son,

Congratulations on earning your college degree (AA in Industrial Technology at Bakersfield College). We are so incredibly proud of you. Your journey wasn't always easy, and you faced challenges that would have stopped many people in their tracks, but you never gave up. You pushed forward with determination, strength, and a belief in yourself that inspires everyone around you.

Today, you're not just celebrating a degree. You're celebrating every late night, every setback you turned into a comeback, and every moment you chose resilience over giving up. You've proven that barriers can be overcome and that your future is yours to build. You did that son!

I hope you take a moment to truly feel proud of the young man you've become. This is only the beginning, and I can't wait to see all the incredible things you'll accomplish next.

**With all my love and pride, We Love you Forever and Ever Son.
Love Mom and Dad**

P.S. Look for me in the stands...I will be the loudest roaring like a Lion for you!



Cole Lewis

I just wanna say im so proud of you Cole you did it class of 2026 although you had a challenging year you pushed though & got it done one proud Momma. He loves playing sports, such a sweet, kind, loving kid. I'm truly proud of him, he came a long ways in Kindergarten!!! Im super proud of you Son.

Love, Momma, Sister, & Brother

Citizen Spotlight

Congratulations

**Roseleigh Forster, Braxton Forster,
Ahkakowah Beecher**



Congratulations to (Left to Right):
Roseleigh 'Pah ah nigh' Forster, Braxton 'Koige' Forster and Ahkakowah (Strawberry) Beecher, recent preschool graduates. They are the great-great-great-great grandchildren of Susan Johnson. Rosey will stay one more year in preschool and Braxton and Ahkakowah will move onto Kindergarten. The families are so proud of you and love you all.

Michael Vasquez



Congratulations to Michael Joaquin Vasquez on graduating from the 8th grade at North Fork Elementary School! Michael is the grandson of Juanita Williams. We wish him continued success and all the best as he begins the next chapter of his educational journey.

Greg Hale



Greg Hale you did it! Congratulations on graduating from Chawanakee Adult School. Greg is the son of Bobby Hale and the proud father of Gracie and Bella Hale. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Well done, Greg!

Follow us on social media

