



The Mih:ila?k^hawna Minute

MAY 2023

COVID is still around. If you feel sick, or suspect you might have COVID, for the safety of everyone around you, please self quarantine and stay home! Do NOT come to the Tribal office.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Tribal Members:

We were dismayed by the disruption and bad behavior at the General Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Several members were out of control, disrespectful, aggressive and rude. Behavior like that will not be tolerated. It puts the Tribe at risk of not getting financing for the Casino project. We had members come from 3-4 hours away and they were all upset by the actions of some of the members trying to disrupt the meeting. We discussed concerns about the morale and the understaffed situation at the Casino and the search for a new CEO. It is important for financing that experienced leaders are hired who can guide us while we build the new structure and plan for the future.

At the meeting, we updated everyone about the Casino project and reported that there will be a **Special Membership Meeting held on July 8, 2023** for the members to make a final decision on the design. **Please mark your calendars!** It is important we have a quorum at that meeting and that everyone is respectful to everyone and no disruptions. We hope you will make plans to attend. An agenda will be sent closer to the meeting date.

The Bellacana Vineyards website is active, the Wine Club is open and wine can now be purchased online. Visit www.BellacanaVineyards.com to place an order. The Board is working hard for the Tribe's future.

Dry Creek Rancheria Board of Directors

Elder Brunch

The Elders are invited to a brunch on **Tuesday, May 23, 2023 from 11:00am to 12:30pm** in the Quail Run buffet at River Rock Casino. Please call Lori Leach at (707) 814-4149 to let her know if you will attend. Food will be served at 11am and gifts are available from 12:00pm to 12:30pm. **An RSVP and attendance is required** to receive gifts/raffle prizes.

Bookmark a new adventure in a California State Park. Free passes available now!

Check out a **free vehicle day-use pass** at the Tribal Office for 200+ California state parks.

A list of INELIGIBLE park units is available at CheckOutCAStateParks.com

Park for free. The pass entitles the bearer to free vehicle day use for one passenger vehicle and its occupants at participating state parks. Show the pass to a uniformed state park employee, scan the barcode on front of the pass at a reader or display from your vehicle's rearview mirror. Return the pass to the Tribal office **by the due date** so other members can also use this free vehicle day use pass. **Report lost passes** to Lori Leach (707) 814-4149.

Getting into the outdoors is the perfect way to connect with nature, family and friends, but please recreate responsibly:

Plan Ahead: Learn about the park before heading out

Play it Safe: Find out precautions to take when visiting the outdoors.

Leave No Trace: Leave areas better than you found them; stay on trails, pack out trash.

For additional safety tips: www.parks.ca.gov/SafetyTips

Explore California State Parks



The Tribal Office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 for Memorial Day



March 3rd through December 22nd, the SRJC Multicultural Museum is featuring the Elsie Allen Pomo Basket Collection; a remarkable group of over 130 baskets, photographs and stories born of the determination of Elsie Allen and her mother, Annie Burke to keep the legacy of Pomo Basketry alive.

RSVP for events at the museum website:

museum.santarosa.edu/breaking-traditions-saving-traditions

Native American Opportunity Plan

Students: You may be eligible for the Native American Opportunity Plan if you meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be a current or newly admitted University of California undergraduate, graduate or professional school student.
2. Must be a California Resident for **tuition purposes**.
3. Must be an enrolled member of Dry Creek Rancheria.
4. Must be enrolled in a qualifying UC degree program.

(Undergraduates must **apply for financial aid** by submitting a FAFSA or California Dream Act application.)

If you qualify, UC will contact you directly with further instructions. If you think you may qualify and have not been contacted by UC, reach out to your Native American student resource or community center or campus financial aid office.

Your in-state systemwide Tuition and Student Services Fees will be fully covered by either UC financial aid or another federal, state or other financial aid program. This plan applies to undergraduate and graduate students. For more information, visit:

[Native American Opportunity Plan | UC Admissions \(universityofcalifornia.edu\)](https://universityofcalifornia.edu)



Free Financial Coaching Available to Tribal Citizens

Since June 2020, with grant support from the Wells Fargo Foundation, the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC) has been offering three types of free financial coaching to tribal citizens across the United States:

- 1) credit counseling, 2) homebuyer education, and 3) financial management (i.e. budgeting).

Confidential sessions are offered one-on-one, by teleconference (Zoom) or phone call, with a certified credit counselor, homebuyer education provider, and financial educator, Felecia Freeman (Citizen Potawatomi). Typically, these sessions will last for an hour and are scheduled at a mutually agreeable time.

Thus far, ONAC has offered this free financial coaching to those participating in ONAC's other programming. Now, ONAC is offering these financial coaching services to a wider group of tribal constituents.

If you are a tribal citizen interested in free financial coaching, you are welcome to complete the following registration form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ONACcounselingregistration>.

Once the form has been submitted to ONAC, our financial coach will work with you to schedule a remote session by phone or teleconference. This confidential financial coaching is available to any American Indian or Alaska Native in the United States, regardless of where you reside.

For any questions about these financial coaching services, contact Christy Finsel, ONAC Executive Director, at (405) 720-0770 or cfinsel@oknativeassets.org.

Tribal Announcements

To make an announcement in the Tribal newsletter, contact Lori Leach at (707) 814-4149. For a birth, please provide the month of your child's birth, and a name. (Include a picture if you'd like.) To announce your engagement, provide your name, your significant other's name and a picture, if you'd like. For notice of a death, provide an obituary and a picture. To advertise your Tribal business, provide any information to promote the business.

Bellacana Tasting Lounge is looking for handcrafted items to sell

Email Tieraney Giron at TieraneyG@BellacanaVineyards.com

Lead Cook Needed in Fortune Café



River Rock Casino is Looking for a Lead Cook in the Fortune Café
Team ROCK is a fun group of enthusiastic individuals

enriched by diverse backgrounds and talents. We have a great career opportunity here for you.

Please visit our website for more information or reach out to Megan Napoli, our Recruiting Specialist (707) 857-1228 : www.riverrockcasino.com Apply today!

This position comes with a \$2,000 hiring bonus and GREAT benefits!

Email Communication is Faster & Worth \$25

If you would like to receive this newsletter or other paper documents from the Tribe via email, please email Lynn Laub at LynnL@drycreekrancheria.com or call her at (707) 814-4166. By providing your email, you will get a **one time \$25 gift** added to your per cap distribution.

LIHEAP

There are currently funds available in the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP.) This program provides assistance to low-income households who cannot meet their home energy costs. To inquire about program qualifications, call Lori Leach at (707) 814-4149. If you're getting TANF or any assistance except Medical, you could probably qualify for LIHEAP (if funds are available.) The Tribe's Housing Department also has limited funds for energy assistance. Contact Toni Giron at (707) 814-4128 for more information. If you don't qualify for LIHEAP, you may qualify for HEAP — contact the Sonoma County Social Services Department at (707) 849-2526 or go to their offices located at 1140 Wild Rose Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 . (HEAP is not a program that the Tribe can assist with.)



Bellacana Tasting Lounge

Thursday 11am-5pm
Friday & Sat 11am-7pm
Sunday 11am-5pm

9071 Windsor Rd. Windsor CA 95492

www.bellacanavineyards.com

Tieraney Giron at (707) 687-0956 or TieraneyG@BellacanaVineyards.com

Open Positions*: Casino , Gaming & Tribe

River Rock Casino:

Busser
Cook
Director of Slot Operations
Food & Beverage Cashier
Heavy Duty Housekeeping Attendant
Housekeeping Attendant
Kitchen Steward
Lead Cook
Manager of Cage
Player Development Host—
Bilingual Preferred
Security Officer
Security Officer/EMT
Sous Chef
System Specialist
Table Games Dealer/ Dealer School
TDR Lead Cook

Dry Creek Gaming Commission:

None

Dry Creek Rancheria:

Intake Specialist
Manager of Plant Operations
Plant Operator II
Rehousing Specialist

The ones in red have a \$2000 Hiring Bonus.

*Current openings - please note that these change weekly.

Apply online at:

www.riverrockcasino.com

If you have any questions please call Megan Napoli at 707-857-1228.



APPLY AT: RIVERROCKCASINO.COM

JOIN OUR TEAM \$2000 HIRING BONUS!

- \$1 Health Benefits
- Flexible Hours



RIVER ROCK CASINO
ALEXANDER VALLEY

The new \$2,000 Hiring Bonus program for new hires will be structured and paid out as follows: **\$2,000 total:** \$500 paid at 3 months, \$500 paid at 6 months, \$500 paid at 9 months, \$500 paid at 1 year

For current job opportunities please visit: www.riverrockcasino.com

Careers link: <https://www.riverrockcasino.com/general/jobs/>

If you are employed at River Rock Casino we have an **Employee Referral Program**. Refer an employee and after 6 months you'll receive **\$500.00**. See HR for more details on how the program works. We have great career opportunities and offer one of the best benefits packages in Sonoma County!

TERO Department News

TERO has a Skills Bank Survey available to interested tribal members. Contact the TERO Officers at terodepartment@drycreekrancheria.com if you want to be added to our skills bank for upcoming projects and positions. Or if you have any questions, please call Krystal Amante at (707) 909-0936 or Annette Martinez at (707) 909-0214.

Environmental Department News



11th INTER-TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH CAMPOUT

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
RECREATIONAL GAMES
TRADITIONAL FOODS

FORT BRAGG, CA
JUNE 20-23, 2023
TUESDAY - FRIDAY

for information: Potter Valley Tribe 707.462.1213



Open Invitation to All Interested Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Tribes

The 11th Inter-Tribal Environmental Youth Campout will be held **Tuesday through Friday**, June 20-23, 2023 at Noyo-bida Ranch in beautiful Fort Bragg, California. The event provides a safe atmosphere for native youth and is intended to be inclusive of the larger tribal community. All tribes are invited to sponsor native youth and/or families to participate and make the event a success!

Tribal youth will participate in a combination of workshops and presentations including topics on the environment, culture, health and wellness, and education. Fun team-building games and activities will be mixed in throughout the week and provide a great opportunity for native youth to make connections and build relationships.

Tribes interested in signing up for the event or for more information, please contact Potter Valley Tribe at 707-462-1213 or by email at waterresources@pottervalleytribe.com or pvtepadirector@pottervalleytribe.com. Tribal representatives who would like to participate, provide a workshop or coordinate an activity are invited to attend the planning meetings via Zoom, or at the Potter Valley Tribal Office located at 2251 South State Street, Ukiah CA (or other locations to be announced).

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

The MLSTEP Inter-Tribal Environmental Youth Campout Planning Team

SCIHP—Honoring of Graduates Celebration—Class of 2023

SONOMA COUNTY INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT, INC.



ATTENTION CLASS OF 2023

HONORING OF GRADUATES CELEBRATION

JUNE 6, 2023

5:00PM-7:00PM

**Finley Auditorium
2060 W College Avenue Santa Rosa
High School, College, Technical School and
Trade School Graduates**

**Native American graduates living in Sonoma
County OR if you live outside of Sonoma
County and are a tribal member of Cloverdale
Rancheria, Dry Creek Rancheria, Graton
Rancheria, Lytton Rancheria, Manchester Point
Arena Rancheria, Stewarts Point Rancheria and
Mishewal are welcome to sign up.**

○ — ○ **TO SIGN UP:** ○ — ○

**Email: aupevents@scihp.org to be placed on our
2023 Graduation list**

**Please include in email: Name, age, school (major if college),
tribe, phone number, graduation photo and favorite
inspirational quote**



Housing Department News

The Open House—Housing Table Survey \$75 gift card winners are: Russell Chitwood, Rufino Ugo, Katherine Casillas and Elliott Olivarez.

Rooftop Solar Installer Apprenticeships: The Bi'du Khaale Elder Village will have rooftop solar installed on every house and the community center. The Tribe has funding through a Department of Energy grant to hire 4-6 apprentices to participate. There will be both an online course of study and hands-on learning during installation. If you are interested in being an apprentice. Contact David Smith-Ferri at (707) 814-4065.



\$2,500
Spring Hot Seats
Fridays, May 12,
May 19 & May 26, 2023
5pm – 10pm

Every 15 minutes we'll randomly select a winner. Each winner picks an envelope to reveal a prize!

See the Cashier/Club for complete details. Players must be actively playing with their club card inserted to be qualified.



California Indian Legal Services Tribal Alert—APRIL 2023



VETERANS AFFAIRS CO-PAYMENT EXEMPTION RULE

Under a new regulation that took effect on April 4th, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will no longer require co-payments for hospital care, nursing home care, or outpatient medical care provided by the VA to patients who provide documents showing that they are Native American (including Alaska Native). This regulation also waives any copayments the VA would otherwise require for prescription and over-the-counter medications (not including medical devices, medical supplies, or nutritional supplements like vitamins) that the VA provides. The

VA additionally will retroactively reimburse any such copayments already made by qualifying individuals for services provided on or after January 5th, 2022.

To qualify for this co-payment exemption, a person receiving such care from the VA must be an "Indian" or an "urban Indian" as defined in the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (U.S. Code, Title 25, Section 1603). This definition is broad and includes any veteran who is:

- (1) A member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe;
- (2) (a) A member of an unrecognized Tribe, band, or other organized group of Indians, including those tribes, bands, or groups terminated since 1940 or (b) is a descendant, in the first or second degree, of any such member;
- (3) (a) Recognized now or in the future by the State as an Indian in which they reside or (b) is a descendant, in the first or second degree, of any such member;
- (4) (The following is the language specifically used by the VA, even though one of the component terms is widely considered offensive) "An Eskimo or Aleut or other Alaska Native";
- (5) Is considered by the Department of Interior to be an Indian for any purpose;
- (6) Is considered by the Department of Health and Human Services to be an Indian under that Department's regulations (this includes a specific definition of "California Indian");
- (7) The veteran resides in an "urban center" (a community with sufficiently large urban Indian population with unmet health needs) and meets one or more of the criteria (1)–(6) above.

The VA does not require a specific form of documentation to show eligibility for this copayment exemption and/or reimbursement. It simply requires submission of documentation beyond self-identification that directly shows the applicant to be an "Indian" or "urban Indian" under the above criteria. In order to respect the sovereignty of tribal governments, the VA will specifically accept any document issued by a federally-recognized tribe so long as it demonstrates membership.

California Rural Indian Health Board News

VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS MAY 24—AUGUST 2, 2023

The California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. presents the

Community Health Worker Training Program

As part of the rural healthcare workforce collaborative between CRIHB, California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. and Northern California Indian Development Council, the Washington State Department of Health will conduct a Community Health Worker training program May 24—August 2, 2023. This virtual training will strengthen the skills, knowledge, and abilities of those who help connect community members with health and social services.

TRAINING INFORMATION

- ◇ Free training
- ◇ Self-paced, instructor-guided online ten-week course
- ◇ 30 hours total classroom time
- ◇ Training materials provided
- ◇ Must have access to the internet
- ◇ Chromebook and supportive services stipend available
- ◇ Certificate of completion
- ◇ Graduates may enroll in free continuing health education modules

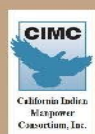
ELIGIBILITY

- ☑ Employees and community members associated, either by Tribal affiliation or employment, with CRIHB-contracted member Tribal Health Programs and their affiliated Tribes.
- ☑ Unemployed and underemployed people from these Tribal communities are encouraged to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GD873WR>
Apply by Monday, May 1, 2023

For program questions or to request an application, please contact Jan Carver at jcarver@crihb.org or (916) 718-6429.



California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.
1020 Sundown Way, Roseville, CA 95661
(916) 929-9761
www.crihb.org



Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 607
Geyserville, CA 95441

Tribal Government Offices:

1450 Airport Boulevard, Suite 200A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Gaming Commission:

1450 Airport Boulevard, Suite 200B
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9:00am — 4:00pm

To avoid delays, please call
ahead for an appointment

Contacts

Board of Directors	707.814.4166
Support Services	707.814.4149
Education	707.814.4128
Housing	707.814.4038
Public Works Department	707.431.4067
Fiscal	707.814.4197
Environmental Protection	707.431.4071
Human Resources	707.857.1247
Gaming Commission	707.814.4246
Tribal Fire Department	707.814.4390
Bellacana wine	707.814-4195
Main number	707.814.4150

Westwater Financial, Inc.*
707.419.3070 office

*Westwater Financial is not affiliated with DCR

RIVER ROCK CASINO NEWS

\$125,000

LUCK OF THE DRAW GIVEAWAY



EARN
TICKETS
STARTING
FEBRUARY 1

UNBEATABLE HAND, UNBEATABLE WINNINGS!
MARCH 18 | APRIL 29 | MAY 20

\$125,000 Luck of the Draw Giveaway. Club members can earn tickets to the drawings. On Saturday **May 20** and cash drawings at 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm and 11pm, winners will be drawn from the ticket drum following the schedule below.

Drawing Nights and Prize Structure:

Saturdays April 29 and May 20 are the promotion nights and the prize structure is as follows:

- 7:00pm: 2 guests win \$500
- 8:00pm: 2 guests win \$1,000
- 9:00pm: 5 play Royal Flush game:
 - 4 win \$1,000 (or possible \$2,000)
 - 1 wins \$10,000
- 10pm: 5 play Royal Flush game:
 - 4 win \$1,000 (or possible \$2,000)
 - 1 wins \$10,000
- 11pm: 10 Platinum members win \$500 each



50 OR BETTER

Every Monday in April

Members 50 years of age or better enjoy exclusive benefits! You'll receive \$10 in Free Play AND 50% off select breakfast menu EVERY Monday! We can't wait to see you!

QUAIL RUN CAFE



SEAFOOD BUFFET

Featuring All-You-Can-Eat Crab!
Fridays • 4pm–9pm



PORTABLE BBQ GRILL GIVEAWAY

Thursday, May 25 2pm – 9pm
(Platinum Members Only)

Saturday, May 27, or Sunday, May 28
12pm – 8pm

Earn 1,000 Tier Points before 8pm on Saturday May 27 or Sunday May 28 then redeem between 12p – 8p at the Platinum/Gold Service Desk. Earn 1,000 Tier Points for an additional gift.

Available while supplies last. Must be present to redeem. Maximum 2 gifts per person.

\$2,500 HUMP DAY SLOT TOURNAMENT

Beginning April 5—June 28, 2023

5:30pm—8:30pm Last Registration 8:15pm

Happy Hump Day! Play for your chance to win your share of \$2,500 in free play prizes every week! Platinum and Gold members receive one free entry for each tournament. Receive one entry for every 100 tier points or buy in for \$10 in cash or comp dollars. Play up to 3 times each week.



10th—13th \$75 Free Play

14th—19th \$50 Free Play

20th—25th \$25 Free Play

1st \$500 Free Play

2nd \$300 Free Play

3rd \$250 Free Play

4th \$200 Free Play



Memorial Day!
Earn 250 Tier Points and
Earn a Flag Tote Bag
12pm – 8pm

Senior's Day \$10 Free Play & 50% off select breakfast