

# ARROW

A woman is shown in profile, facing left, wearing an elaborate traditional Native American headdress. The headdress is composed of a dense layer of brown feathers at the top, with white feathers and orange and black decorative elements hanging down. She is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a patterned necklace. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

DECEMBER 2023

HABEMATOLEL POMO OF UPPER LAKE TRIBAL PUBLICATION

GABRIELLE CIRELLI  
HELPS REWRITE TRIBE'S  
CONSTITUTION

8TH ANNUAL  
BIG TIME CELEBRATION

MEET CHRISTIAN VALVERDE

DECEMBER 2023

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT





# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

by Sherry Treppa

## The Power of Responsibility

As the 20th anniversary reestablishing Habematolel's modern government approaches in 2024, we must remember that our collective responsibility as a nation extends beyond its leadership, its lands, its people, and this place in time. As Native people, our collective exercise of sovereignty must be exemplified through deliberate and responsible leadership. While we should never lose sight of the progress that tribes have made collectively over time, there are new challenges emerging every day – some of them self-inflicted. Responsible leadership is shown through a spirit of cooperation among all tribal nations, and we must constantly recognize that careless actions of any tribal nation can undermine the long-term success of all tribal nations.

Tribes and tribal sovereignty predate the creation of the United States and its state and federal governments. Despite this, historically, tribes have been at the mercy of the United States government, with our laws often at odds with federal Indian policy. For over 200 years, the pendulum of these policy conflicts has swung drastically from genocide and reservations, to forced assimilation, to reorganization, to the termination of tribal governments and finally to the current policy of self-determination. Throughout all these challenges, the sovereign authority of Indian people to govern themselves has survived through the determination of our ancestors.

Like many of our sister tribal nations, Habematolel's

history is filled with adversity. Our history with the federal government begins with attempted genocide at the Bloody Island Massacre and includes a failed attempt at terminating our Government through the California Rancheria Act. Our Tribe fought back by filing a suit to reverse the termination illegally imposed in the 1950s, and we prevailed in 1983. Even with our victory, the federal government continued its resistance, and it took until 2004. With the passage of our modern Constitution our Tribal Government was reborn.

To sustain the modern era of federal Indian policy, all tribes, including Habematolel, must wisely exercise, cherish and defend their sovereignty. We must recognize that each of our actions can have far-reaching consequences for all tribes which could be detrimental to tribal sovereignty and self-determination. When decisions regarding internal affairs, such as determining membership or electing leadership, go awry for one tribe, it can have broad ramifications for the rest of Indian Country.

Real-life examples abound within Indian Country throughout history and continue to present day: tribal leadership ignoring their own tribe's laws to remove boards of directors or trustees in an act of individual self-interest or political gain; tribal members for personal retribution posting negative content on social media, unwittingly providing fodder for class action attorneys who want to take advantage of tribes' weaknesses; tribal leaders distributing unbudgeted moneys to membership or purposely defaulting on debt agreements to gain favor in upcoming elections rather than acting in the tribe's best interest. While such actions can appear attractive in the short-term, they can and do have long-lasting ripple effects not only on their own tribe's reputation, but others looking for opportunities to better their tribes for many years after.

Governmental meltdowns, disputed tribal elections, tribal corruption and the disregard for tribal law all unfairly impact the reputations of all tribal nations. Likewise, lawsuits based on bad facts often result in bad law for all tribes. For example, tribes' ability to build their governments and



*Habematolel hosted AG Kobach for a luncheon at the Lenexa Call Center and discussed our Tribe and tribal businesses and how we can work together as sister sovereigns.*



develop their economies through business enterprises is now under scrutiny because the inattentive actions of one tribe resulted in an overreaching court decision that will most likely require a costly legal battle to be overturned.

Tribes must not succumb to quick fixes, subvert established processes, act without proper authority or allow external self-serving influences to impact a tribe's decisions and destinies. All tribes should rely upon tested, established administrative methods that create a solid foundation for the future and minimize the threat of litigation.



L to R: Heather Payne (Otoe Missouri), John Williams, Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO), Terrance Malaterre (Turtle Mountain), Nicole Dogwill (Turtle Mountain), Sherry Treppa

Tribes must also understand that our communities exist in a global economy. Accordingly, just one tribe deliberately reneging on financial or other contractual commitments can send shock waves through capital markets, transmitting the message that tribes in general are no longer a sound risk. Tribes' ability to access capital at a reasonable cost becomes impossible, and the pool of willing business partners dries up. Habematolel suffered through one of these periods caused by the actions of one tribe when attempting to build our casino. All tribes understand the sovereign right afforded other tribes to make decisions in the best interest of their people. However, in making decisions, a tribe cannot disregard the consequences its actions may have on all other tribal communities today and for generations to come.

Leadership and responsibility do not begin and end with the Tribal Council. Leadership must be exemplified throughout the tribe's membership, traditions, tribal businesses and relationships with our sister sovereigns, both tribal and non-tribal. Leadership is exemplified by respecting and following the rules that were set and determined for our People far before we were born and will remain far beyond our lives.

The Habematolel Tribe reserves a deep appreciation for the hardships Indian peoples in this country have weathered. We pay honor to our rich past by preserving it – and by embodying its lessons in the hard-earned freedom of our everyday lives. Most importantly, tribes must learn from our tragic historical lessons, acknowledge them, leave them in the past and redouble our commitment not to repeat them. As Indian sovereigns transition from surviving oppression to becoming influential and powerful, we must be mindful to forego the human tendencies toward resentment and the desire for retribution. We must look to the future with hope, abiding values and a commitment to care for our People and our neighbors.

With newfound power comes newfound responsibility. For the Habematolel People, we have emerged from one of the darkest moments in history to become a vital contributor to our local economy and our civic community. Our accomplishments are not the result of striking oil or opening a casino in a market close to an urban center. Our accomplishments are directly attributable to hard work, resilience, community mindedness and, many times, just raw human determination. They are nothing less than remarkable. Our sovereign's shining example of how to act honorably, courageously and responsibly to be good stewards of our own Tribe and its lands, while being a good neighbor to our community, will have a far-reaching and positive impact on our community, Indian Country and quite possibly the nation as a whole. Responsible leadership provides hope for the modern era of tribal self-determination.



Respectfully,  
*Sherry Treppa*

Chairperson  
Habematolel Pomo  
of Upper Lake  
Executive Council

# TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

by Anthony Arroyo Sr.



2nd/3rd Quarter 2023

Hello Tribal Members,

2023 brought the promise of change, and through most of the year, it delivered on that promise. We began the year hoping for a return to what we once considered normal, as we have been severely tested over the past several years. Those struggles, however, inspire new ideas and plans for the future of the Tribe.

One such plan was an update to our communications technology infrastructure. This provided an opportunity to send and receive information to the Membership in a more comprehensive manner with the goal of improving overall interaction between the Tribal Government and its people. Along with this ambitious endeavor, however, came many challenges in the form of technical glitches and security concerns. The Tribe is still in the early stages of development, particularly in the area of Information Technology (IT).

We have been fortunate through the growth and expansion of our entities, namely Habemco,

to come across and work with a number of talented individuals in several fields, specifically IT. The Tribal Administration has had the pleasure of working with Jared Fire, Systems Engineer and Cloud Solutions Architect of Habemco, for the past several years in a remote relationship on anything from virtually hosting our General Membership and Townhall meetings, to establishing new network connections and troubleshooting numerous department issues. In early 2023, it was proposed that the growing Tribal Government could use the talents and skill set of Mr. Fire onsite to propel the Tribe to new heights in providing services to its Members. After lengthy discussion and careful consideration, Mr. Fire accepted the new challenge, and in mid-June, he and his family relocated to Upper Lake so that he could accept the role of Director of IT for the Tribal Government. In a short amount of time, Mr. Fire has put together an aggressive and comprehensive strategy to upgrade several technological areas that will streamline operations and save the Tribe money in the long





Jared Fire, Director of IT for the Tribal Government

run. We are extremely excited to have Jared Fire onsite as part of the Tribal Government team, and although he has already made an appearance at the July General Membership meeting, hopefully more Tribal Members will get the opportunity to meet our newest team member in the near future.

Another win for the Tribe came from the successful implementation of Project Connect in March 2023. Through a grant, Project Connect facilitates better communication between the Tribal Government and Membership by allowing for a desktop, laptop or tablet to be delivered to each of the Tribe's adult members. At the time of publication, approximately 70% of the adult General Membership has been provided with an electronic device, and we anticipate 100% participation by the end of 2023.

Once Project Connect has been completed, the Tribe will shift to the planning stages of its future projects, including the improvement of broadband access in remote areas where many of our Tribal Members live.

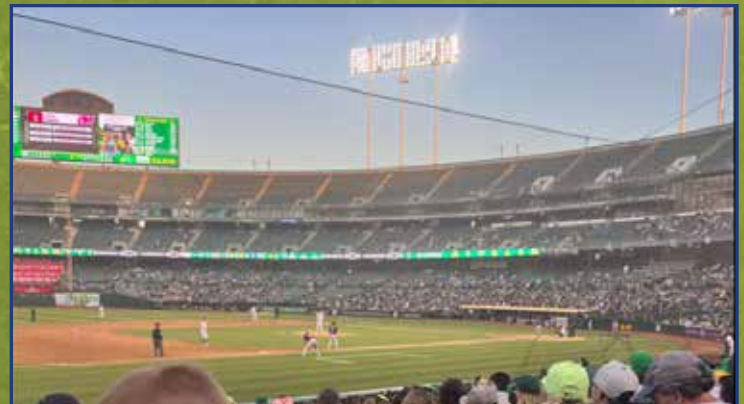
Respectfully,

**Anthony Arroyo Sr.**

Tribal Administrator

# Thank you to American Indian Child Resource Center for hosting!

On July 17, 2023, the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake attended a Major League Baseball night game as the Oakland A's took on the Boston Red Sox.





# 2023

## HOUSING SERVICES

Each of the following housing programs implementing the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) is available. All are designed for low-income applicants. Call or come by the HPUL Office-Housing Department for assistance/questions.

### Emergency Rental Assistance:

- The program pays for the applicant's first month's rent and deposit
- This program is designed to assist Tribal Members who are in an emergency situation and lack the funds needed to move immediately
- **An emergency defined in our Policies and Procedures are as follows:**

- Homeless due to fire
- Homeless due to flood
- Homeless due to unsafe living conditions / overcrowding
- Homeless due to renting a home that is being sold
- Homeless due to domestic violence - contingent upon attending counseling
- Medical necessity, due to severe/permanent illness or disability

### Student Housing Assistance:

- This program is designed to provide monthly income payments for full-time college students for up to four years
- *Criteria & Funding are as follows:*
- Deposit is to be returned to the Tribe upon leaving/graduating the program
- Housing assistance up to \$1,000 per month for full-time students (12 units or more per semester maintaining a 2.0 grade point average or above)
- Assistance in the amount of up to \$250.00 per month for part-time students (less than 12 units but carrying at

least 4 units per semester)

- Homeowner's mortgage payments will be considered as housing assistance under this program
- This portion of the program is on a reimbursement basis only with proof of payment/receipt and must be the student's primary residence
- Tribe's service area to cover entire United States and world for students studying abroad
- Housing/Rental payment can be made to student if landlord does not accept 3rd party payments as long as proper documentation is submitted (i.e. proof of payment, notice from landlord, etc.)
- Program will cover up to \$300.00 housing assistance for those students who live with a parent or relative (i.e. formal rental agreement and W-9 must be submitted)
- Grade point average requirements are now cumulative to be consistent with amendments to the Tribe's scholarship program

### HPUL Housing Rehabilitation Programs (NOT income based):

- Assist Members in rehabilitating their housing to ensure that their homes are brought to a standard housing condition
- Maximum assistance up to \$20K to Members in good standing with the Tribe
- Residence must be owned by the applicant or have a valid 25-year lease for the residence
- Residence must be within the Tribe's Service Area
- Proof of insurance on the residence
- Residence must be the Member's permanent non-seasonal residence
- Requested repairs must bring the residence to a Standard Housing Condition (see definitions page 6 Z in the Members Services Department Policies &



Procedures Manual)

#### **NAHASDA Housing Rehabilitation Program (income based):**

- This Program is consistent with the approved Indian Housing Plan submitted under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996
- Assist Members in rehabilitating their housing to ensure that their homes are brought to a standard housing condition in compliance with Section 8 or 24 CFR 882.109 Quality Housing Standards
- Maximum assistance up to \$40K; with assistance of \$10K for houses designated for eventual replacement
- Criteria based on the following:
  - > Income (Applicants shall be low income. Low income is 80% of the United States median income limits for the given year.)
  - > Age
  - > Handicap
  - > Living Conditions
  - > Size of Family

#### **Homebuyers Assistance Program:**

- Assists homebuyers with their deposit when purchasing a home to live in
- \$20K down payment
- Up to \$7,500 as a secondary category of assistance to purchase or use as a down payment for a trailer, 5th wheel or mobile home
- Homebuyers are required to verify occupancy on an annual basis through signed affidavit with additional documentation or down payment assistance must be repaid after one (1) year from date of purchase

#### **Disaster Emergency Home Repair (not income based):**

- Assists Member homeowners with unexpected repairs

caused by natural disasters

- Maximum assistance up to \$10K

#### **Advanced Student Rental Assistance:**

- This program is for full-time students that have already utilized the Tribe's initial four-year Student Rental Assistance Program and wish to continue with schooling such as a Doctorate degree
- This program shares the same requirements as Student Housing Assistance
- Maximum monthly assistance up to \$1K per month, with a security deposit of \$1K, with the allowance for students living with relatives for assistance up to \$300 per month

#### **Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program:**

##### **2023 funding is available**

- Assistance with paying energy bills
- This is a low-income based program
- The elderly and families with children are to receive service first
- The amounts received for this assistance depends on the grant award amount

For questions or for assistance, contact Cathy Berton:

Phone: 707-275-0737 x103

Email: [cberton@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:cberton@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Office: HPUL Office-Housing Department,  
2470 Main St, Upper Lake, CA

Sincerely,

*Cathy Berton*

Cathy Berton, Housing Director

# 2023 Office Directory

STAFF NAMES	STAFF TITLES	STAFF EMAIL	PHONE
Anthony Arroyo, Sr.	Tribal Administrator	<a href="mailto:aarroyosr@hpultribe-nsn.gov">aarroyosr@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737 x101
Robin Peckham	Fiscal Officer	<a href="mailto:rpeckham@hpultribe-nsn.gov">rpeckham@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737 x112
Jaime Bianez	Fiscal Clerk	<a href="mailto:jbianez@hpultribe-nsn.gov">jbianez@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737 x127
Aaron Holstine	Fiscal Clerk	<a href="mailto:aholstine@hpultribe-nsn.gov">aholstine@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737 x117
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Alyssa Jackson	Transportation Manager	<a href="mailto:alyssajackson@hpultribe-nsn.gov">alyssajackson@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737 x111
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Danielle Santana-Cazares	Environmental Director	<a href="mailto:dcazares@hpultribe-nsn.gov">dcazares@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6938
Carlito Martinez	Environmental Assistant	<a href="mailto:cmartinez@hpultribe-nsn.gov">cmartinez@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6940
Vacancy	Environmental Technician	N/A	N/A
Santos Obedoza	Tribal Water Operator	<a href="mailto:sobedoza@hpultribe-nsn.gov">sobedoza@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6939
Dustin Thaxton	Solid Waste Technician	<a href="mailto:dthaxton@hpultribe-nsn.gov">dthaxton@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-530-4568
Raynell Gould	Grant Writer	<a href="mailto:rgould@hpultribe-nsn.gov">rgould@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	360-255-3921
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Lonnie Krohn	Maintenance Manager	<a href="mailto:lkrohn@hpultribe-nsn.gov">lkrohn@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-349-1669
Jared Fire	IT Director	<a href="mailto:jfire@hpultribe-nsn.gov">jfire@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737 x114
Robert Geary	Cultural Resources Administrator & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	<a href="mailto:rgeary@hpultribe-nsn.gov">rgeary@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6923
Jeffrey Lynch	GIS Analyst	<a href="mailto:jlynch@hpultribe-nsn.gov">jlynch@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6909
Vacancy	Executive Assistant-Cultural Resources	N/A	707-900-6931
David Richter	Tribal Cultural Monitor I	<a href="mailto:drichter@hpultribe-nsn.gov">drichter@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6932
Whitney Petrey	Tribal Historian	<a href="mailto:wpetrey@hpultribe-nsn.gov">wpetrey@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-0737
Tatiana Cantrell	Health & Human Services Administrator	<a href="mailto:tcantrell@hpultribe-nsn.gov">tcantrell@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6906
Katrina Fesmire	Executive Assistant- Health & Human Services	<a href="mailto:kfesmire@hpultribe-nsn.gov">kfesmire@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6929
Vacancy	Early Childhood Education Manager	N/A	707-395-5437
Vacancy	Early Childhood - Teacher Assistant	N/A	707-395-5437
Alexandra Acevedo	Early Childhood - Teacher	<a href="mailto:aacevedo@hpultribe-nsn.gov">aacevedo@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-395-5437
Joy Marcks	Education Director	<a href="mailto:jmarcks@hpultribe-nsn.gov">jmarcks@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-275-8727 x15
Vacancy	Education Coordinator	N/A	707-275-8727 x21
Monique Brown	Education Assistant	<a href="mailto:mbrown@hpultribe-nsn.gov">mbrown@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-909-0268
Amelia Rodriguez	Education Assistant	<a href="mailto:arodriguez@hpultribe-nsn.gov">arodriguez@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-909-0267
Jayne Brown	Programs Compliance Specialist	<a href="mailto:jbrown@hpultribe-nsn.gov">jbrown@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6921
Ida D. Morrison	Tribal Member Services Coordinator	<a href="mailto:imorrison@hpultribe-nsn.gov">imorrison@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-1739
Vacancy	ICWA Advocate	<a href="mailto:icwa@hpultribe-nsn.gov">icwa@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	N/A
Vacancy	Transitional Services Director	N/A	N/A
Vacancy	Transitional Services Coordinator	N/A	N/A
Vacancy	Transitional Services Case Manager	N/A	N/A
Vacancy	Transitional Services Assistant	N/A	N/A
Keona Peters	Administrator / Interim Tribal Gaming Commissioner - Secretary	<a href="mailto:kpeters@hpultribe-nsn.gov">kpeters@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6984
William Bowers	TGC Surveillance Manager	<a href="mailto:wbowers@hpultribe-nsn.gov">wbowers@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6988
Martina Jackson	TGC Backgrounds Investigator	N/A	707-900-6982
Nicolas Carrillo	TGC - Compliance Officer	<a href="mailto:ncarrillo@hpultribe-nsn.gov">ncarrillo@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-6981
Iris Picton	Tribal Gaming Commissioner - Treasurer	<a href="mailto:tgc_treasurer@hpultribe-nsn.gov">tgc_treasurer@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-391-8364
Michael A. Icaey	Tribal Gaming Commissioner - Chair	<a href="mailto:tgc_chair@hpultribe-nsn.gov">tgc_chair@hpultribe-nsn.gov</a>	707-900-1504



# HPUL Roster

## COUNCIL:

**Executive Council**  
Jennifer Burnett, Member At Large  
Vicky Hutchison, Member At Large  
Carol Muñoz, Secretary  
Danielle Cirelli, Treasurer  
Sherry Treppa ◀  
Michael Y. Marcks ✦  
Veronica Krohn, Member At Large

## ENTERPRISE:

**Habemco BOD**  
Executive Council  
**Tribal Consumer Financial Services Regulatory Commissioner**  
David Tomas

## CASINO:

**Tribal Gaming Commissioners**  
Michael A. Icaey, Chair  
Iris Picton, Secretary  
Keona Peters, Interim Treasurer ☀  
**Running Creek Casino**  
Chris Vieceil,  
General Manager

- ◀ CHAIRPERSON
- ✦ VICE-CHAIRPERSON
- ◀ ALTERNATE
- ‡ ADVISOR/LIAISON
- ☀ NON-TRIBAL MEMBER

## COMMITTEES:

**Constitutional Review Committee**  
Aimee Jackson  
Teresa Meek  
Kathleen Treppa  
Carol Muñoz  
Gabrielle Cirelli, Secretary  
Shay Parajon  
Danielle Cirelli  
Nicole Grigg ◀  
Veronica Krohn  
Jessica Jackson

**Election Board**  
Nicole Grigg ◀  
Abigail Burnett, Secretary  
Carmella Icaey-Johnson  
Diane Jones  
Vacancy

**Tribal Cultural Committee**  
Kathleen Treppa ◀  
Dianna Snyder  
Aimee Jackson  
Brobborsia Thomas  
Leora Treppa-Diego

**Scholarship Fund Selection Committee**  
Danielle Cirelli  
Nicole Grigg  
Veronica Krohn\*  
Shay Parajon  
Michael Y. Marcks ‡

**Housing Commission**  
Danielle Cirelli  
Aimee Jackson ◀  
Iris Picton  
Leora Treppa-Diego  
Vacancy

**Enrollment**  
Cathy Berton ☀  
Regina Icaey  
Teresa Meek ◀  
Danielle Cirelli  
Makayla Parajon

**Eastern Pomo Language Advocates Committee**  
Amos Crabtree  
Brittany Dennison  
Kathleen Treppa, Secretary  
Vacancy

## COMMITTEES/DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES:

**Parent Advisory Committee**  
Eileen Brown  
Brittany Dennison  
Aimee Jackson  
Danielle Jackson  
Jessica Jackson  
Martina Jackson  
Veroncia Krohn  
Iris Picton  
Alyssa Jackson  
Brianna Jackson ◀  
Dezaray Wilson

**Tribal Garden Project**  
David Richter ☀  
John McAlear  
J. Rob Holstine  
Santos Obedoza, Sr.  
Dean Williams ☀  
Vicky Hutchison ◀  
Carlito Martinez  
Lonnie Krohn ☀  
James Penn ☀  
Wesley Caesar ☀  
Daniella Santana-Cazares ☀  
Dustin Thaxton

**Fee-To-Trust Consortium**  
Jennifer Burnett  
Michael Y. Marcks ◀  
**Indian Child Welfare Act**  
Vacancy, ICWA Advocate

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
Anthony Arroyo, Sr.  
Eileen Brown  
Aaron Holstine ◀  
Marchelle Treppa

**Mendocino College-Native American Advisory Council**  
Joy Marcks

**Hinthal Environmental Resource Consortium**  
Daniella Santana-Cazares ☀  
Vacancy ◀

**Lake County Tribal Health Consortium**  
Jennifer Burnett (KT's Alternate) ◀  
Teresa Meek  
Leora Treppa-Diego (TM's Alternate) ◀  
Kathleen Treppa

**Tribal Families Coalition**  
Sherry Treppa  
Veronica Krohn ◀

**THV Tribal Advisory**  
Monique Brown

## DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES:

**General Service Administration**  
Anthony Arroyo, Sr.  
Traci Munion

**National Congress of American Indians**  
Michael Y. Marcks ◀  
Sherry Treppa

**Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act**  
Aaron Holstine  
Regina Icaey

**Northshore Business Association**  
Danielle Cirelli  
Michael Y. Marcks ◀

**United Pomo Nations Council**  
Sherry Treppa  
Veronica Krohn ◀

**National Indian Gaming Association**  
Sherry Treppa  
Michael Y. Marcks ◀

**Lake Co. Chamber of Commerce**  
Sherry Treppa  
Executive Council ◀

**Tribal Court Judges/Justice(s)**  
Joseph Wiseman, Chief Judge  
Vacancy, Associate Judge  
Shirley Obedoza, Tribal Court, Associate Judge  
Anthony Arroyo, Sr. Tribal Court, Associate Judge  
Christine Williams, Court of Appeals, Chief Justice  
Leora Treppa-Diego Court of Appeals, Associate Justice  
Nicholas Mazanec, Court of Appeals, Associate Justice

**Tribal State Association**  
Michael A. Icaey  
Iris Picton ◀  
Keona Peters ☀ ◀

**Upper Lake Unified School District-Native American Action Council**  
Joy Marcks ☀

**Blue Ribbon Committee**  
Daniella Santana-Cazares ☀  
Vacancy ◀

**Native American Financial Officers Association**  
Danielle Cirelli ◀  
Sherry Treppa



The Scholarship Fund Selection Committee wishes to highlight a few aspects of the various scholarships provided under the Seven Generations Scholarship Fund as well as share a few pointers to assist with a smooth application and payment process. Please refer to the Scholarship Guidelines for the exact requirements and qualifying expenses for any/all categories.

**Adult Education Programs - <https://www.hpultribe-nsn.gov/education/preamble-guidelines/>**

**<https://www.hpultribe-nsn.gov/education/adult-education-scholarship-application/>** - Adult Members are eligible to receive up to \$3,000 per funding cycle (which is an annual cycle running from August 2023 through July 2024). This means that each year, adult Members can apply for up to \$3,000 to take an education course of their choice. Additionally, scholarship funds may be used for expenses beyond tuition, such as room and board, supplies and transportation (maximum of 10% of the award). Here are some examples of the types of programs under which Adult Education scholarships have been provided:

- Summer School to supplement Higher Education Awards
- Craft classes such as t-shirt printing, craft making and sewing
- Conferences such as real estate and design
- Certifications such as teaching ballet or craft classes

**Pre-Elementary & Youth Education & Incentive Activity Programs -**

**<https://www.hpultribe-nsn.gov/education/pre-elementary-education-scholarship-application/>** Pre-Elementary Members are eligible to receive \$500, and Youth Members are eligible to receive \$1,500 for K-8th grade and \$2,000 for 9th-12th grade per funding

cycle (which roughly follows each school year, August 2023 through July 2024). Funds can be used for a variety of things, such as school supplies, school pictures and equipment and clothing for extracurricular activities. Here are some examples of the types of items that qualified as allowable expenses for the Youth scholarship category:

- School: Pens, pencils, backpacks, craft supplies, project supplies, yearbook, class pictures, field trips, etc.
- Extracurricular activities: variety of sports gear, football helmets, soccer cleats, baseball bats gloves, uniforms, balls, trophies, photos, practice gear, registration fees, ice skates, lessons, camps, etc.

### **Tips When Applying**

The Scholarship Fund Selection Committee receives hundreds of applications per funding cycle. To ensure a smooth application and payment process, the Committee wanted to share a few tips when applying:

- Reach out to the Committee far in advance of the monthly deadlines if you have any questions. This will ensure that we can help you right away and that your application does not get kicked to the next month. Some questions need to be asked of the Executive Council as opposed to the Committee.
- Review the requirements carefully, and be sure to submit a completed application. If we receive incomplete applications, it takes both the Committee and the applicant a significant amount of time exchanging emails to track the correct documentation down.
- Take pictures of receipts as soon as you receive them – this makes it easy to locate once applying.
- Keep track of funds received each funding cycle to ensure you are maximizing use of available funds. We find some applicants use only some, but not all, of available funds each funding cycle.

Applications can be found and submitted via the Tribe's website at <https://www.hpultribe-nsn.gov/educational-benefits-and-programs/> under the Seven Generations Scholarship Fund page or upon request by contacting the HPUL tribal office at 707-275-0737.

Members and parents/guardians can email the Committee at [scholarship@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:scholarship@hpultribe-nsn.gov) for questions or to submit an application.



# 2023 Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake COMMITTEE & DELEGATE EMAIL DIRECTORY

## Committee Name

## Group Email Contact

Constitutional Review Committee

[constitution@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:constitution@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Election Board

[election@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:election@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Enrollment Committee

[enrollment@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:enrollment@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Tribal Cultural Committee (TCC)

[cultural@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:cultural@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Housing Commission

[housing@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:housing@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Eastern Pomo Language Advocate Committee

[language@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:language@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

[parent@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:parent@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Scholarship Fund Selection Committee (SFSC)

[scholarship@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:scholarship@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

Tribal Garden Project

[garden@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:garden@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

## Delegate Name

## Group Email Contact

Lake Co. Tribal Health Consortium Delegates

[lcthc@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:lcthc@hpultribe-nsn.gov)



WELCOME TO THE  
**HPUL  
WEBSITE**



Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake's  
site always has a fresh look,  
created with **YOU** in mind.

[hpultribe-NSN.gov](http://hpultribe-NSN.gov)



# Garden Project 2023

2023 is potentially one of the coolest and latest starts to summer garden plantings in Northern California in many years, due primarily to wet and cold winter conditions that extended well into late spring. Nonetheless, a few new members of the Tribal Garden Project (Vicky Hutchison, Carlito Martinez and Wesley Caesar) commenced early spring planning and preparation for a small Tribal garden. Although planting was later than usual due to weather, the result produced an abundance of tomatoes and other vegetables. New this season are above-ground containers providing protection from below-ground rodents and insects as well as providing for more manageable weed removal. Thank you to the Tribal Garden Project members for your hard work in bringing the local Membership, staff and casino some tasty garden delights.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Tribal Members and their extended families on the successful births of the their newborns!



**Shably Navarro** on her 1st child, newborn baby girl:

**Name:** Malia Sage Salvia

**Born:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023

**Time:** 7:55 a.m.

**Weight:** 7lbs. 2oz.

**Length:** 20"

**Birth Location:** Adventist Health & Rideout – Marysville, CA

**Baby's Father:** Dominick Salvia

**Siblings:** None

**Maternal Grandparents:** Vanessa Niko (HPUL Member, deceased) & Tim Navarro (non-Native)

**Great Maternal Grandparents:** : Coveda Miller (HPUL Member, deceased), Emigdio & Kathey Navarro

With a lot of aunts, uncles and cousins that love her!



**Seneca Snow** on her 1st child, newborn baby boy:

**Name:** Andy J. Hernandez, Jr.

**Born:** Monday, August 29, 2023

**Time:** 2:48 a.m.

**Weight:** 5lbs. 11oz.

**Length:** 19"

**Birth Location:** Sutter Health Lakeside Hospital, Lakeport, CA

**Maternal Grandparents:** William Snow, Jr. (HPUL Member) & Yolanda Snow

**Maternal Great Grandparents:** William Snow, Sr. (HPUL Member) & Carmen Snow



**Cheyenne Obedoza** on her 1st child, newborn baby boy:

**Name:** Damon Mark Obedoza-Gill

**Born:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023

**Time:** 4:57 a.m.

**Weight:** 8lbs. 6oz.

**Length:** 20"

**Birth Location:** Sutter Lakeside Hospital, Lakeport, CA

**Baby's Father:** Zachary Gill

**Maternal Grandparents:** : Sherry Lynn Wolf & Santos Raymond Obedoza, Sr. (HPUL Member)

**Paternal Grandparents:** Michael Gill & Rebecca Taylor

The Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe and Staff would like to send our best wishes. What beautiful babies!

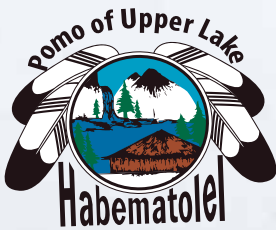
# gOB Postings



## SEEKING CASINO EMPLOYMENT

If you're interested in a job / opening, contact the Running Creek Casino Human Resource department at any of the following contacts:

Running Creek Casino  
635 E. Hwy. 20  
P.O. Box 977, Upper Lake, CA 95485  
Phone: 707-262-5420  
Fax: 707-262-5469  
Email: [hr@runningcreekcasino.com](mailto:hr@runningcreekcasino.com)



If you're interested in a job / opening, contact the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake tribal office at any of the following - ask for the Habemco HR:

9470 Main St.  
P.O. Box 516, Upper Lake, CA 95485  
Phone: 855-696-7700 Fax: 707-275-0757  
Email: [hr@habemco.com](mailto:hr@habemco.com)



## SEEKING TRIBAL GAMING COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT

If you're interested in a job / opening, contact the Habematolel - Tribal Gaming Commission Office at any of the following:

635 E. Hwy. 20  
P.O. Box 97, Upper Lake, CA 95485  
Fax: 707-262-5472

### Tribal Gaming Commission:

Keona Peters, Administrator  
Email: [kpeters@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:kpeters@hpultribe-nsn.gov)  
Phone: 707-262-5466

Executive Council  
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake  
Email: [ec@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:ec@hpultribe-nsn.gov)  
Phone: 707-900-6920 Fax: 707-275-0757



STAY IN THE KNOW AND "LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK AT:

[FACEBOOK.COM/HPULTRIBE](https://www.facebook.com/HPULTRIBE)



HABEMCO

## SEEKING HABEMCO or UPPER LAKE PROCESSING SERVICES (ULPS) EMPLOYMENT

If you're interested in a job / opening, contact the Habemco or Upper Lake Processing Services, Human Resources department at any of the following contacts:



635 E. Hwy 20, A  
Upper Lake, CA 95485  
Phone: 855-696-7700  
Email: [hr@habemco.com](mailto:hr@habemco.com)



# SHARE YOUR ANNOUNCE- MENTS!

ARROW Newsletter wants Tribal Members, Staff and Committees to submit announcements they would like to share with others in the Arrow. No matter how big or small, we want to know about it. A special event, milestone, accomplishment, award, photo or article – please share! Your announcements are important to us and are always welcomed.

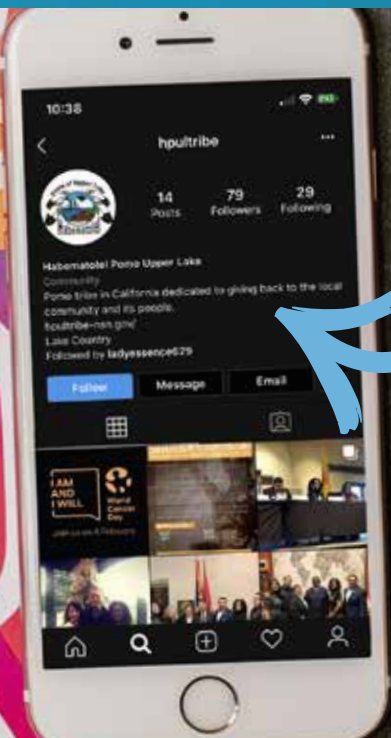
Please submit your announcements to:  
[arrow@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:arrow@hpultribe-nsn.gov) or to the HPUL Tribal Office.

# HPUL IS ON INSTAGRAM!

STAY IN THE KNOW AND FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AT:



@HPULTRIBE







# ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

by Daniella Santana-Cazares, Environmental Director

Greetings,

What a year. I am nearing my one-year mark as the Director of HEPA. Our small department has stayed busy implementing projects to protect the environment. We have continued to build partnerships with County, State and Federal agencies to highlight the impacts on the environment that affect the tribe. If you find any project of interest and would like to be more involved or want further clarifying information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

## Fisheries

The whole month of July, HEPA staff has prioritized rescuing fishes that have become stranded in the following creeks due to rapid water level drop: Scotts Creek, Middle Creek, Robinson Creek, Alley Creek, Lyons Creek and Alley Creek. A wet winter provided for an abundance of Clear Lake Hitch to migrate up the streams to spawn.

Unfortunately, those eggs and larval fish were impacted by the drying streams, and many did not survive. Currently we are still observing Clear Lake Hitch juveniles throughout Middle Creek, these fish



*Dead adult Sacramento Suckers found at disconnected section of Middle Creek.*

are less than 0.5 inch long. Middle Creek is now disconnected in several sections. Other fish species rescued in all life stages include Sacramento Suckers and Three Spine Stickleback. If you see disconnected sections of creeks with stranded fish in them, please contact the HEPA department immediately.

## Water

It is that time of year when the streams have started to go dry. Streams in Lake County are considered perennial, which means they hold water seasonally. Additionally, streams lose water faster when over-pumping of groundwater is conducted or when illegal diversions of creek water occur. Water conservation is key in ensuring a sustainable source of water for all.





### Air, Heat, HAB

Please remain cautious of temperatures throughout the summer and fall. Many problems are exacerbated in this season. Three things to be mindful of to protect your health: excessive heat, air quality and harmful algal blooms (HABs).

The heat waves can bring on problems that you would have never expected. We currently do not have any wildfires in the area; however, Lake County is being affected by drift smoke from fires outside of the county. If you have a swamp cooler that cools your home, it does not purify the air, and smoke particles can make it into your home. Additionally, if you live adjacent to Clear Lake, that same swamp cooler may also be aerosolizing cyanotoxins that are present from Cyanobacteria. Heat waves also increase the risk for wildfires. Be cautious of all activities that may ignite a fire.

More information can be found at the following web portals:

**HABs: Clear Lake Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins Monitoring Program** <https://www.bvrancheria.com/clearlakecyanotoxins>

**Air Quality: PurpleAir | Real-time Air Quality Monitoring** <https://www2.purpleair.com>

**Excessive Heat: Heat Watch vs. Warning** <https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-ww>

### Solid Waste

HEPA staff is monitoring all rancheria properties and streams. We are working with our County, State and Federal partners to ensure a healthy environment for humans and wildlife. The impacts of littering and open dumping can be detrimental to a community. If you need assistance in hazardous waste disposal, electronics disposal or large item disposal please reach out to our Solid Waste technician.

HEPA hosted an open house and Coastal Cleanup Day on September 23. Coastal Cleanup Day focused on cleaning along roadways to prevent pollution from entering the creeks and storm drains. A Lake Rancheria cleanup was also conducted



*Gabe Miller rescuing stranded fish in Alley Creek.*

in September. If you would like to learn about future cleanup opportunities, reach out to the HEPA director at (include contact info), and if you would like to participate in any future, HEPA will have all the equipment available to safely clean up our community.

### Environmental Staff Updates

HEPA participated in the HPUL apprenticeship program. Thank you Joy Marks for finding us a great candidate: Gabe Miller. Gabe has been able to participate in all sampling of water quality, observations of Clear Lake Hitch, rescues of stranded fish, lessons about the tribe's water system, meetings with neighboring tribes to learn about their environmental programs and a study on Pilot Carp Eradication on Clear Lake by Robinin's Fisheries Department.

We will be looking to add new team members to HEPA staff. The introduction of new staff will be given in the next newsletter.





## HABEMATOLEL POMO CULTURAL RESOURCES



*From left to right: David Richter: Tribal Member/Monitor, Jeff Lynch: GIS Analyst, Lourdes Guillory: former Executive Assistant, Johnathan Costillas: Cultural Monitor Supervisor, and Robert Geary: Cultural Resources Administrator/THPO*

In June 2022, the Cultural Resources Department (CRD) moved from the Tribal Executive Office Building to Dr. Hopkins's old address at 9425 Main St. in Upper Lake. The CRD, through the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), addresses and responds to all ground disturbance permits within Lake County. This is done by responding to AB52 Notifications and Requests for Review and

arranging for Consultations meetings with the permittee per AB-52 Native Americans: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA ([https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB52](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB52))) when needed. These projects can be anything from road or highway repairs, individual property projects, County and City projects or requests for input on matters related to



State, Federal and Special Districts policies where matters of Cultural Resources and their protection need to be addressed. We encourage and welcome you to stop by to meet the staff and take a tour of the office.

Below are a few recent collaborations that we've undertaken:

### Collaboration CEQA AB-52 Training for City of Clearlake City Council, Planners, and Staff

On Friday, June 30, 2023, HPUL Cultural Resources Administrator/ THPO Robert Geary collaborated with Lisa Westwood of ECORP Consulting Inc. and provided CEQA/AB52 training for the City of Clearlake City Council, Planning Commissioners and City Planners. This was a 3-hour training to educate City planners, commissioners and committees about the CEQA/AB52 processes and regulations from a legal and Tribal perspective. Many other agencies also attended via Zoom, including the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), California State Attorney General's Office, California State Parks, etc. The NAHC requested to use the video for training their staff about Tribal perspectives when dealing with CEQA.

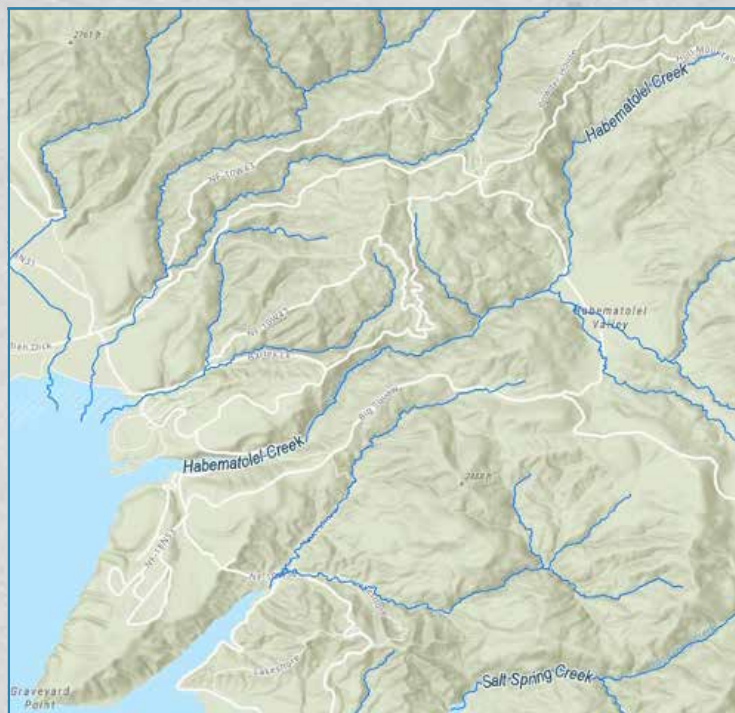
### Mendocino Prescribed Fire & Fuels Management Strategy Collaboration

On July 25, 2023 the Habematolel Cultural Resources Department went on a site visit with representatives from the United States Forest Services (USFS), specifically the Upper Lake and Covelo Ranger Districts. The primary purpose of this visit is to explore ways to collaborate between the United States Forest Services and the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake for the Mendocino Prescribed Fire & Fuels Management Strategy and future projects. Discussions focused on potential Tribal use near the Middle Creek Campground, incorporating more oak trees for acorn gathering, forest diversity and exploring opportunities for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants.

### Habematolel Valley and Habematolel Creek Name Change

The Cultural Resources Department has submitted a name change at the request of the Executive Council to the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names pursuant to [Assembly Bill No. 2022](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2022) ([https://](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2022)

[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB2022](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2022)) and replaced "sq\*\*w\_" names across the state. United States Board on Geographic Names & California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for the removal and renaming of the derogatory names of Big "sq\*\* w" Creek and "Sq\*\* w" Valley. These were successfully changed to Habematolel Creek and Habematolel Valley. An additional submission was made to the United States Board on Geographic Names to change the name of Big "sq\*\* w" Road to Habematolel Pass or Habematolel Road. This process is ongoing. We're glad to see positive changes happening to recognize and address derogatory language.



Location map of Habematolel Valley and Habematolel Creek at Lake Pillsbury

### NAGPRA:

The CRD has been responding to requests to repatriate items under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). These requests require an in-depth review of historical documents and archaeological records to create geolocation maps to assist with repatriation. Some of what we respond to are preliminary collections lists of cultural, historical and burial-associated items currently housed at numerous museums and academic institutions around the country. When it is determined that there are culturally sensitive





*Jeff Lynch, GIS Analyst at the 2023 ESRI User Conference Native Nations Summit Group Photo.*

or ancestral items of concern within these lists, the Tribe initiates consultation and starts the tedious process of bringing these items home. These consultations involve discussions about chemical contamination, site locations, documentation and repatriation.

### **ESRI GIS Annual Conference/Workshop**

The Tribe's GIS Analyst Jeff Lynch plays a vital role in creating maps for diverse types of projects that the CRD responds to. These also include maps at the request of the Executive Council and for litigation matters. This involves reviewing and gathering project information, archaeological reports and historical data to ensure accurate, detailed maps are produced. The GIS Analyst's expertise ensures that projects are well-planned and executed, making the Tribe's or Executive Council's operations more efficient and effective.

Jeff Lynch recently attended the 2023 ESRI User Conference in San Diego, CA. While at the conference, he attended numerous workshops and breakout sessions associated with ESRI products and Arc GIS Pro to strengthen his map skills and knowledge. While at the conference, he was pleased to be able to attend the first Native Nations Summit. This was the Inaugural event of the Native Nations Summit. It highlighted what tribes are using ArcGIS for within their tribes and the capacities that can be built upon. Jeff Lynch looks forward to attending this annually.

### **Habematolel Pomo Tribal Monitors**

The CRD's Tribal Monitors are crucial in protecting and preserving tribal cultural resources and sacred sites. CRD Tribal Monitors work on various construction sites in the Habematolel aboriginal territories and provide Cultural Sensitivity training to project personnel. The Tribal Monitors





*Tribal Member/Monitor David Richter conducting ground survey behind box grader.*



*Tribal Member/Monitor David Richter at Cultural Resources Department Display, Upper Lake Middle School Cultural Observance Day*

have been involved in training the public about the importance of Tribal cultural knowledge on a project site and utilizing drone technology when surveying large project areas.

### **Tribal Historian Position**

The Cultural Resources Department currently has a position open for a Tribal Historian. This position will report to the Cultural Resources Administrator. Duties include managing and cataloging all language, preservation of cultural collections, NAGPRA repatriations, consultations, management of physical collections and coordination of archival research. This position will work with the Cultural Resources Department Administrator to ensure that documentation is correctly collected and organized, oversee Tribal and University volunteers performing

archival research, and collaborate with consultants to develop and adapt the Tribe's research project design.

We are expecting more change and development this year from our department. Please feel free to contact our office or come by for a visit. Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully,

Robert Geary

Cultural Resources Department Administrator/  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

[rgeary@hpultribe-nsn.gov](mailto:rgeary@hpultribe-nsn.gov)

# Rising 3L Gabrielle Cirelli Finds Challenges, Rewards in Helping Rewrite Her Tribe's Constitution

Via UC Berkeley School of Law | 05/18/2023



Gabrielle Cirelli is the youngest law student Member on the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake's five-person Constitutional Review Committee. Photo credit: Shelby Knowles

*Helping others is baked into Gabrielle Cirelli's DNA. Her parents instilled the importance of giving back, she's volunteered at food banks and soup kitchens since middle school and the rising 3L has taken on multiple leadership roles at Berkeley Law in the public interest arena.*

*That work includes helping the Food Justice Project, which assists students in appealing rulings that denied or terminated their CalFresh benefits. It also involves co-chairing Berkeley's Native American Law Students Association chapter, which promotes the success of Native students, creates awareness around Native issues and fosters a culture of unity, cooperation and respect.*

*Recently, Cirelli has advanced tribal causes through another rewarding endeavor: helping to update the constitution of her own Tribe, the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, California. She is the youngest of the Tribe's ten Constitutional Review Committee members, and the only law student.*

*Cirelli worked for Jenner & Block and Uber last summer, and this summer she worked for Goodwin Procter. During that time, she will also continue to engage in what she calls "the ongoing process" of revamping her Tribe's Constitution. Completing that effort will likely take a few more years, in part to factor in tribal elections that are not held annually, and Cirelli says she's in it for the long haul.*

*Below, she describes this unique opportunity and both the demands and fulfillment it brings.*

From a young age, I witnessed my family's involvement working and volunteering with our Tribe. Throughout my childhood, my family would often visit our ancestral homeland of Upper Lake to attend tribal meetings, community events and family gatherings. I have many fond memories of spending summer afternoons on the lake with my cousins and discussing the Tribe

in the evenings over dinner.

I was always inspired hearing about how my Tribe achieved federal recognition, its growth and prosperity and how my family's continued involvement has assisted the Tribe in reaching new heights. It was from these family trips and dinner



conversations that my interest in working with my Tribe grew.

After finishing my undergraduate degree at UCLA and moving back to the Bay Area, it felt like the right time to begin working with my Tribe. Initially, I was unsure how I wanted to be involved. I was interested in the legal field but did not think I could work with my Tribe in a related capacity. After speaking with one of the Tribe's attorneys and my family members, I decided to join the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC).

The CRC is tasked with amending the Constitution of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake. Working with attorneys, the committee works to revise the Constitution based on feedback from Tribal Members. Our Constitution was ratified many years ago, and as the Tribe has grown the Constitution needs to be updated to accommodate this growth and adjust to new developments.

The CRC drafts proposed amendments to the Constitution. We, the CRC, meet every month, but also host presentations and additional meetings as needed. Because the Constitution is dense, we've broken the document up into smaller sections to review and propose possible amendments. This was done to not overwhelm Tribal Members with having to review many proposed amendments at one time.

The most pressing issue we're working on is vacancy language. Our Constitution lists a very short and outdated process for when an Executive Council (EC) member can no longer serve the Tribe and must step down before their term ends. The current process is not fair for Tribal Members. It doesn't give a timeline or determine when holding a special election should occur, set the qualifications an interim appointee must have or protect the Tribe's interest when an EC member must step down. Our Constitution also doesn't state what is to take place when two or more EC positions are vacant. Our committee has addressed this in our proposed amendments.

Going section by section and incorporating feedback from Tribal Members, the CRC drafts proposed



*Growing up, frequent family visits to their ancestral homeland sparked Cirelli's interest in helping her Tribe prosper.*

amendments and then educates the General Membership through presentations, meetings, emails and letters on what they would mean for the Tribe. The proposed amendments are presented, and the General Membership votes to determine whether they are accepted.

If the proposed amendments pass, we move to the next section of the Constitution to begin drafting new ones. If they do not pass, the CRC then discusses with the General Membership why they did not vote to approve them and adjusts the language before the next vote.

We the CRC have reviewed other tribes' constitutions that have been updated in recent years, allowing us to see what others have done in addressing similar problems and concerns while also noting what won't work for us. We're also fortunate to partner with attorneys who have gone through the process of updating constitutions with other tribes before. Their insight is very helpful as we amend ours, especially when trying to balance varying opinions





*Cirelli (right) and her cousin and fellow HPUL Tribal Member Makenzie Parajon attend the Sunrise Ceremony at Alcatraz last fall on Indigenous Peoples Day.*

# Marlon Graduates 8th Grade!

Marlon D. Snyder, HPUL Tribal Member, is an 8th grade graduate of Chico Country Day School (CCDS). Marlon attended CCDS from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Snyder is the great-grandson of Joaquin and Verle Miller, and grandson of Thedorna Miller.

Marlon is currently attending Chico High School as a third-generation legacy.

Congratulations, Marlon! May your first year in high school be memorable.

and solve problems.

Being on the CRC for three years has been rewarding and challenging. With tribal members being from different generations, each group has varying thoughts on what changes, if any, should be made to the constitution. Incorporating feedback from tribal members and balancing different views, working with attorneys, ensuring Tribal Members know what the proposed amendments mean for the Tribe's future and ensuring the Constitution can support the Tribe in the years to come is no small task.

Despite the challenges, I view working with the CRC as my way of ensuring the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake will continue to exist and prosper for future generations. It is also my small way of honoring those before me. My great-grandmother, great-aunt, grandfather, mother, aunts, uncles and countless cousins have and continue to support our tribe. Working on the CRC is my way of ensuring their legacy and hard work continues.







Christian Valverde, Marketing Automation Engineer for Habemco has been with the company since November 2018

# Meet Christian Valverde

Via Bold Journey | 09/12/2023

<https://boldjourney.com/meet-christian-valverde/>

We caught up with the brilliant and insightful Christian Valverde a few weeks ago and have shared our conversation below.

**Christian, thank you so much for taking the time to share your lessons learned with us, and we're sure your wisdom will help many. So, one question that comes up often and that we're hoping you can shed some light on is keeping creativity alive over long stretches – how do you keep your creativity alive?**

I keep my creativity alive by recognizing this is an evolving journey for me. It's not about chasing some elusive perfect formula to keep my art mojo alive. It's more like a "figure-it-out-as-you-go" kind of deal. It's a conversation with myself that remains open, and there is freedom in that.

Life has its seasons, and creativity dances to that same tune. As for me, I'm sort of in this chill phase, because there's a whirlwind of other stuff going on. For instance, I'm prepping for my wedding in October with my amazing soon-to-be wife, and that takes precedence. Some things weigh heavier on the priority scale than keeping up with pressure to produce work, post on social media, which, trust me, is a shortcut to burnout city.

I've realized that it's not just okay, but actually more sensible, to pump the brakes and give yourself a



breather when these seasons come along. If you're gasping for inspiration, get your hands dirty and dive into your work. As Picasso smartly put it, "Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working." So, yeah, that's the groove I'm riding. Work hard, take a pause when needed and let inspiration crash the party when it's ready.

**Appreciate the insights and wisdom. Before we dig deeper and ask you about the skills that matter and more, maybe you can tell our readers about yourself?** Well, long story short – I'm a Kansas City native,





born into a wonderful blend of Hispanic and Italian heritage. My journey into the art world wasn't your typical story. It all started with a casual suggestion from a friend, and before I knew it, I was on an artistic adventure I hadn't planned for. What began as a simple experiment soon became a source of incredible fulfillment, allowing me to express my life's experiences on canvas in ways I never dreamed of.

Color has always been the beating heart of my artistic expression. I love playing with vibrant hues that blend to create unique shapes that seem to tell stories from the heart. You'll find hints of abstraction and Latin influences in my work, adding a touch of mystery that invites viewers into a world of hidden meanings.

What makes my art special in a sea of creativity is its essence – it's unpolished yet magnetic. Being entirely self-taught brings a raw and authentic quality to my work. It's not just about shapes and colors; it's an open door inviting you to explore your own emotions, experiences and perspectives.

Among the many colors on my artistic journey, one stands out vibrantly – a milestone I'm truly proud of. Early in my career, I had the privilege to showcase my work in numerous group and solo exhibitions. Then, in December 2012, the Brooklyn Art Library honored me by featuring my artwork in an international art book, a moment that truly established my presence on the global artistic stage.

As I look ahead into the future, my creative path takes on an air of mystery. Themes evolve, concepts shift, new interests emerge and the seasons of life come and go. My art remains a reflection of emotions woven into colors, shapes and stories – a testament to the limitless power of human expression.

***Looking back, what do you think were the three qualities, skills or areas of knowledge that were most impactful in your journey? What advice do you have for folks who are early in their journey in terms of how they can best develop or improve on these?***

When I look back, I've come to realize that two qualities have played a profound role in shaping both my work and my creative approach:

### 1. Fearless Experimentation: Embrace Playful Exploration

Central to my journey has been fearless experimentation. Stepping into the realm of art without a lot of art formation actually set me free to explore without constraints. It led me to discover my artistic voice naturally, without the burden of preconceived notions or deliberate efforts. I started my artistic venture without a rigid plan, which turned out to be a blessing. It gave me the freedom to play and unearth a way of working that resonated with me.

Advice: I encourage you to embrace experimentation. Give yourself the freedom to create without judgment and see mistakes as steppingstones to growth.

### 2. Multidisciplinary Fusion: Embrace Diverse Influences







My artistic journey is enriched by blending diverse disciplines. My background in marketing, graphic and web design, and 3D motion artistry infuses fresh perspectives into my canvas work. This multidisciplinary approach lets me draw from one field to enhance another, creating a unique tapestry of creativity.

Advice: As you embark on your artistic journey, explore various fields like music, literature, or science. Let these influences intermingle with your artistry, uncovering unexpected connections that invigorate your work. Remember, creativity thrives on the exchange of ideas.

I offer these insights as a guiding light for emerging artists: embrace fearless experimentation, revel in multidisciplinary exploration, and cultivate an intuitive connection with your art. Let your journey be a voyage of self-discovery, authenticity, and boundless creativity. As you navigate the paths of your artistic expedition, remember that the most profound discoveries often lie just beyond the familiar.

***Do you think it's better to go all in on our strengths or to try to be more well-rounded by investing effort on improving areas you aren't as strong in?***

(Laughs) Well, it seems I've already tipped my hand on this one.

Focusing on our strengths can lead to impressive results, boosting our self-confidence and competence.

When we channel our energy into areas where our natural talents shine, we often unlock a level of excellence that makes us stand out. These strengths become our signature, something unique that captures attention and resonates with people.

In my artistic journey, leaning into my strengths has been transformative. Embracing what comes naturally to me has allowed me to carve out an authentic niche. My art has a distinct voice, a blend of colors, shapes, and emotions that springs from my strengths.

However, it's essential to balance this with growth in less familiar areas. You don't have to be an expert in everything, but investing effort in improving weaker skills can expand your toolkit. This openness to learning and adaptation can lead to unexpected breakthroughs.

For me, this balance emerged as an artist with my previous professional experience. At first, these fields appeared disconnected from my work on canvas, but blending them together introduced new angles that elevated my art.

Instead of seeing these two approaches as opposites, I believe in their harmonious coexistence. Nurturing strengths provides a solid foundation for creative expression, while embracing growth enriches our perspectives and widens our artistic palette.

Ultimately, it's about recognizing that pursuing excellence in our strengths doesn't exclude pursuing growth. It's an invitation to explore the intersection of these two ideas.

As I continue my artistic journey, I navigate this balance—an approach that intertwines learning and comfort with growth.

## Contact Info:

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# 8th Annual BIG TIME 2023 CELEBRATION

The Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake celebrated their 8th annual Big Time Event at the Running Creek Casino on Saturday, August 19, 2023.

As JK Rowling wrote in Harry Potter and Goblet of Fire, "We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided." With that in mind, the Tribal Cultural Committee directed their focus on Unity with the chosen theme of The Unity Circle.

Various Tribal dance groups and talented vendors provided entertainment and shopping for the numerous attendees. A delicious lunch was provided from the Wild Creek Restaurant, compliments of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe.

The Tribal Cultural Committee would like to thank the following Running Creek Staff Members:

Chris Vicelli, General Manager; Rosanna Muniz, Marketing Manager; Steve Tonelli, Elite Casino Host; the Food and Beverage Department's George, Bobby, Mike, Myra and several other of their wonderful staff; Christian Muniz, Maintenance Supervisor; Kucin Thomas, Owner and Manager of Thomas Mobile Entertainment Services; our Tribal Member Timothy Snow's Tribal Dance Group and, last but certainly not least, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake's Vice Chairman Michael Marcks, for his thoughtful and graceful opening remarks. The Tribal Cultural Committee offered the Prayer for Unity and Prosperity for all.

The event was a huge success, and the Habematolel Tribal Culture Committee looks forward to working towards the Unity Circle theme for many future events planned. Stay tuned for future tribal events.





# HPUL ATTENDS S.F. GIANTS GAME FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT



On July 7, 2023, the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake attended a Major League Baseball night game of the San Francisco Giants on Native-American Heritage Night at Oracle Park! Tribal Members and their families/guests came out to support the Bay Area's Native-American culture as the Giants took on the Colorado Rockies. Members were given the VIP treatment with on-field access and complimentary food and drinks in Triples Alley. The Giants went 9 innings and lost 5 to 2 (SF: 2 runs and 5 hits; CR: 5 runs and 9 hits).

Thank you, everyone, for coming to show your Native-American and Giants pride! And thank you to the Tribe for offering this fun experience to the Members.



