



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! We have recently had some beautiful snowy days up here on the Rancheria. The tribal council hopes that all our members our enjoying the winter season.

Quite a few issues have arisen this past month that we would like to update you on. We held a Special General Council meeting on January 18th to update the General Membership on the events related to Mike Troilo as well as the news stories about the casino project. There were not enough members to establish a quorum, but there was some good discussion that took place. Currently, Mike Troilo has accepted our settlement offer and will be paid off in the next few days. The issues with the county and BIA are getting resolved

in order to complete the geotechnical testing needed for the EIS process. The Tribal Council would like to encourage the members who can to attend the general council meetings. The next regular meeting will be on Sunday, March 30th at 10:00 AM.

Due to the bombardment of calls and complaints from tribal members regarding the distribution of the RSTF checks, we will be mailing ALL checks beginning next quarter. There is no set date when the tribe receives the RSTF check. Typically, the check will come by mail around the first part of the month. The mail is checked on a daily basis. If the RSTF check is there, the tribal member checks get handed out that same afternoon and then mailed the next day. The

staff works as fast as they can to get things processed in a timely fashion. Some of our members call the office on a daily basis checking on the RSTF, and some have gotten very rude to the staff. Others have come up to the office expecting to pick up checks based on rumor of its arrival. In order to stop the harassment the Tribal Council has decided that ALL checks will be mailed. There will be no exceptions. Please make sure that your address is current so you will receive your check in a timely matter.

Another housekeeping issue is the matter of membership letters. The Tribal Council receives several requests for membership letters on a daily

Announcements

Membership: Please be sure to notify the tribe if you have an address change. We still receive a lot of returned mail. Also, when a Tribal Member turns 18, it is their responsibility to notify the tribe. Forms can be found on the BSR website or you can request them from the Tribe.

Wellbriety

Adult Group Meetings

Big Sandy Gym

Every Tuesday, 4-6 pm
Phone: 360-7950

Free tax preparation For low-income workers

California Indian
Legal Services
Starting Jan. 17, 2008
Call 1-800-743-8941
For information

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Sierra Unified Indian Education
Parent Committee Meeting
Tue, Feb 18th
5:30 to 8:00 pm
Big Sandy Gym

Dinner Provided. Public Invited
For Information contact:
Gretchen Cox : 360-7532

Tribal Administrator Submitted by Frank Fabunan

Hi again and best wishes to you all. The January meeting with the USDA was cancelled due to snow. That meeting is rescheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 7th with Liz Vannata from the Fresno USDA Rural Development office. She will present information about the USDA's Home Repair Program at the community resource building next to the pow wow grounds. The program provides funds for home repairs to people who own and occupy a single family home located in a rural area. Under this program, low interest loans of up to \$20,000.00 are available through USDA for people who qualify as low income. The interest rate for the loan is 1% for a maximum of 20 years. The repair work for USDA projects must be completed by a licensed contractor. I urge any one who may be interested in this event to attend.

It may only be February, but now is the time to start working on preparing your tax return for 2007. Remember that California Indian Legal Services is offering free assistance to low income workers.

Call 1-800-743-8941 for information. You may qualify for Earned Income Credit or other benefits based on your income from last year.

Remember, there are still some funds available for the Low Income Energy Assistance program. If you are a low-income family and have not already participated in a LIHEAP program since October 2007.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the services mentioned in this article please contact our office at 855-4003. Ask for either Frank or Becky.

**BSR and TANF
Offices will be closed
on Monday,
February 18th for
PRESIDENTS DAY**

Auberry Transit offers bus service between foothills communities and Big Sandy and Cold Springs Rancherias from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The Transit also offers intercity services to the Fresno Clovis metropolitan area every Tuesday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The cost for the service is \$5.00 per round trip.

To schedule service to the metro area, call the toll-free number: 1-800-325-7433 the day before you wish to travel to request a service pick up. Give the dispatcher your address and phone information. On the service day (Tuesday) the driver will circulate to pick up passengers with reservations from 8:00 am to 10:00 am and then travel to Fresno-Clovis. From 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm the driver picks up passengers for the return trip to Big Sandy. Big Sandy passengers will be returned home between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

Happy New Year! We are off to a great start here at the Head Start program. We just completed the installation of a Start-of-the-Art outdoor preschool equipment structure. We waited a long time to purchase age appropriate outdoor equipment for the children. Our program received \$47,000 in a one time funding grant application to make this purchase. We also purchased other one time funding opportunities such as a new

washer and dryer, a vacuum/shampooer all in one combo, a new fence and installation among other things. Congratulations, Head Start!

We have a full house of 20 children and are fully staffed ready for the wrap around services to be implemented very soon. We will be posting Head Start positions for more classroom staff so be on the look out. Positions will be posted in the Newsletter and the Moun-

tain Press.

As usual, we are always accepting children's enrollment applications and accept the neediest families first according to our ranking scale. At this time, we have 6 Tribal children and 14 non-tribal children enrolled. Also, we are always in need of parent/community volunteers so feel free to stop by and pay us a visit. Until next time, be safe!

ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

It's the start of the New Year and the ICWA program has figuratively jumped in with both feet to enhance the services that can be offered to the members of the Rancheria. Recently a Community-Information Fair was held at the Elementary School. The fair was through the the Mem-Fresno



Auberry School. realized efforts of bers of the County

Family to Family Foothill Collaborative and the Big Sandy Rancheria. Those in attendance received a first hand look at the many agencies (county and private) offering an array of services to the members of the Rancheria and the nearby 'foothill community.'

By mid-February the ICWA Department should be ready to start offering Positive Indian Parenting classes for anyone needing them. The Parenting curriculum will be submitted to Fresno

County so that it can be reviewed and approved as meeting the standards of the counties' parenting class. Approval of the Positive Indian Parenting curriculum means less travel to attend a county parenting class.

During the upcoming year the ICWA Office will focus on other areas of concern and will acquire the knowledge and information needed to enhance the services offered by the Tribe to its members.

Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Elizabeth Kipp

The Mono Wind Casino has undergone a remodeling of the Broken Arrow Restaurant to help in your enjoyment of a delicious breakfast, lunch or dinner entrée. We are so very proud of the “facelift” of the restaurant and invite you to come and enjoy the pleasant surroundings.

We have a WINNER! Yes, our winner for the New Years Giveaway is “Nancy” from Auberry. Nancy and her husband have recently moved to the area. She was bugging her husband for a car. She said “Let’s go to Mono Wind and win that car.” And behold she won it! We have another car giveaway already lined up for your chance to drive off in it. It is a 2008 Chevy Malibu, silver in color. Good Luck,

as entries are still only 50 pts. The date for this giveaway is March 29, 2008. Check with the Winners Club for more details 559-855-4350 X-30.

The casino has 94 employees of which 5 tribal members recently joined our team. We wish them the best and continued success.

We have a fun packed month of promotions; Valentines Day, 2/14/08 (Thursday), Slot Tournament of Roses @ 7:00 PM, as well as a Blackjack Tournament @ 7:30 PM.

Please call the Winners Club for more details and don’t forget to bring your sweetheart to dine in the Broken Arrow Restaurant and enjoy the sounds of “Full Deck Duo” for

your dining entertainment.

Jeremy Elvis Pearce is scheduled to perform on Friday 2/8/08 at 7:30 PM.

Please log onto www.monowind.com for more exciting promotion details or call the Winner’s Club at 559-855-4350 X-30.

Happy Valentines!

February Tribal Council Meeting

Wednesday 27, 2008

BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

On Wednesday January 16, 2008 there was a Notice of Levy under writ of execution (Money Judgment) executed at the Mono Wind Casino. Notice was delivered by the Fresno County Sheriffs Department for non-fixed assets under \$1000.00. This was done at the direction of the Courts by the Attorneys for Mike Triolo, a former General Manager; the courts have awarded a judgment against Mono Wind for wrongful termination in 2001.

The Gaming Commission’s first obligation is protecting the assets of the

tribe, in view of the fact that these items seized and removed from Wind Casino without following proper procedures. This type of action jeopardizes the regulations that are set forth by Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and violation of the State Gaming Compact. Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council is in the process of a resolution to this issue.

I mentioned in the last newsletter there is training provided by the FBI and the NIGC in San Diego. The Gaming Commission staff will not be at

tending this training session at this time. Although is offered again the Commission may send a couple of team members if financially feasible.

The Gaming Commission updated all background investigations. We are waiting for confirmation from the NIGC for an objection or no-objection letter.

The Mono Wind Casino Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS) are in review by the Director and the Attorney for the Commission and when they are completed it will be presented to BSR Tribal Council for final approval. Until next time, A-we-a-na’.

BSR Distribution Submitted by Halley Smith

January was a great first month of the year, for BSR Distribution. Our staff hopes the same for you.

The BSR Distributing, Natives, are available as Full Flavor, Lights, Ultra lights, Menthol and Menthol Lights in both the 100’s and King sizes soft and hard box.

Our Smokin Joes All Natural cigarettes are available as Smokin Joes Full

Flavor, Smokin Joes Medium, Smokin Joes Lights, Smokin Joes Menthol, and Smokin Joes Menthol Lights in both Kings and 100’s, and Smokin Joes Ultra Lights 100’s. Only the Smokin Joes Full Flavor Kings come in a hard pack.

The Smoke Shop now carries the Redman Chew Pouches, also come on by and try our newest Heron cigarettes. Our Heron cigarettes come in

Full Flavor, Lights, Ultra Light, Menthol, and Menthol Lights are available in kings and 100’s.

Our hours of operation are: M-W 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Th and Fri. 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and Sat. and Sun. 10 AM to 6 PM. Our hours of operation are: M-W 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Th and Fri. 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and Sat. and Sun. 10 AM to 6 PM.

Tribal *continued from page 1-*

Basis. We are happy to get those ready for each member that needs one. We would like to request that you give a minimum of 24 hours notice for letters to be prepared. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this issue.

This month members of the Tribal Council will be attending the WIGC the week of the 11th in Agua Caliente. The CNIGA meeting will be held that same week. The Tribal office will be closed on February 18th. The next Tribal Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 27th.

**AA/NA Meetings
Every Wednesday
Community Resource Center
(Elders Building)
TIME: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Conducted by Ruthie Beecher &
Becky Cuthill**

**USDA Home Repair
Loan Program meeting
February 7, 2008, 1 PM
Community Resource Center
(Elders Building)**

OVCDC February 2008

Upcoming Events

- Art Classes
- Parenting Classes
- Elders Club

For more information please contact
Amanda Talamantez, Site Project Coordinator or
Stephanie Dondero, Sports Coordinator to volunteer or
join an activity.
Phone 559-855-7575

BSR Tribal Council Meeting Dates

As a convenience to all tribal members, the council has provided the following meeting dates through 2008. We appreciate your interest and encourage your participation. Thank you.

You can find us on the Web at:
www.bigsandyrancheria.com

Tribal Council Meetings

Wednesday, January 30, 2008
Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Wednesday, April 30, 2008
Wednesday, May 28, 2008
Wednesday, June 25, 2008
Wednesday, July 30, 2008
Wednesday, August 27, 2008
Tuesday, September 24, 2008
Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Wednesday, December 17, 2008

General Council Meetings

Sunday, March 30, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

Sunday, June 29, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 28, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 14, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

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