



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

# Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

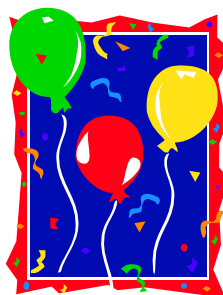
## Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! We hope that everyone had a Happy New Year. It was great to see such a wonderful turnout for the Christmas Dinner. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Things are moving along on the casino project. In December the Tribal Council met with the Brownstone, Group West, and Provost and Pritchard (engineer) to discuss preliminary design concepts. At that time we were also able to meet with Jones and Stokes to get an update on the EIS process. At the General Council meeting in December we were able to show the design concepts to those of you who attended. While there was not a quorum for the meeting, it was nice to hear your comments.

Those comments were forwarded to the architect.

This month the Tribal Council and BSREA will be meeting with Brownstone and Group West for a design update. We will also be meeting with the County of Fresno. The



Tribal council will be in Sacramento at the end of the month to begin meeting with the state regarding compact negotiations. Our office will be closed on

Monday, January 21st.

Included in this month's newsletter is the list of meeting dates for 2008. Please mark your calendar so you don't miss out on those meetings. Thanks to all of you who have faithfully attended our general council meetings. Your input is very important. If you have anything that you would like to add to the agenda, please contact Gina Riley at the Tribal Office.



## 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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### Committees

Membership, Events, Cultural,  
Cemetery, Pow Wow, Elders

If you are interested in serving on one or more of these committees, please contact the Tribal Council. We will be appointing new committee members for this year.

## Tribal Administrator Submitted by Frank Fabunan

Hello and best wishes to you all. I trust that your families had a fine holiday season and we can all get off to a great beginning in 2008.

There are funds available for the Low Indian Energy Assistance program. If you are a low-income family and have not already participated in a LIHEAP program. Please stop by and see Becky Cuthill to fill out an application.

This year, BSR will also be operating its own childcare assistance program. Low-income families can receive a subsidy for child care if the parents work or are participating in education or training services. This means that the BSR program will pay a portion of a families child care cost and the family is responsible for the remaining amount. The child care program will also be working with the BSR Tribal Head Start program to offer "wrap-around" child care for working families who participate in the Head Start Program. Finally, the program will also be able to provide limited respite care for families involved with the BSR ICWA program.

At 1:00 pm on Thursday, January 24th Liz Vannata from the Fresno USDA Rural Development office will be here in BSR to present information about the USDA's Home Repair Program. 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 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 must be completed by a licensed contractor.

Lastly for this month, BSR has been notified by FEMA that we will be receiving five trailer homes that were purchased for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina but were never used. The trailers are 2 and 3 bedroom models. We will be accepting applications from tribal families who want to be considered for receiving one of these trailers. Families who receive the trailers will have to qualify as low-income families and be willing to accept a low-interest HUD

loan to cover the cost of moving the trailer from storage in Arkansas or Texas to BSR and the cost of setting up the trailer and utilities.

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.



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## Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

Greetings Everyone! We hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season. The children had a wonderful time Christmas caroling considering it rained all day. We had no worries though; admin staff, OVDCD staff, and commissioners went to the gym to hear the kid version of Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, and other Christmas favorites. Once we shuttled the kids over to the Casino, we sat down to a warm

Christmas lunch and felt quite catered to by the wonderful Mono Wind restaurant staff. After a very full lunch, we were visited by Mr. and Mrs. Claus (much thanks to Frank Fabunan & Ruthie Beecher) who handed out individualized stockings to each of the children.

We would like to thank tribal council, admin staff, and parents for donations to help make this childhood memory

possible.

Just looking ahead, we will be sending the Head Start teacher, Tonya Belanger and Parent Policy Council Chairperson, Karla Sylvas-Mills to the Annual Parent Education training on January 21-23, 2008.

Thanks to all for any contribution to a very effective program.



## ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

At this time of year it is common throughout Indian Country to tell stories to teach lessons, traditions of the tribe and to pass along a tribe's heritage. Story telling can be a valuable tool and can be used to teach parenting skills.

When a parent tells a story it opens up lines of communication between the parent and



the child

and can be used to teach the values of the community.

Stories can teach that there are right ways to do things and that things can happen to those who don't follow the right way.

Even if we do not become a storyteller ourselves, we can use the same ideas contained in those stories and teach our children how to get along with others and how our actions can have serious consequences for ourselves and others.

The tradition of storytelling tells us that we have a strong heritage for being good listeners and for talking to our children. To have strong children we need good relationships. Good relationships depend on being able to talk and listen. Traditional Indian people listened with their hearts, eyes, and ears. When parents listen with their hearts children feel understood and they begin to trust. Most of all, parents listening with their hearts and eyes develop strong relationships with their children.

## Cultural Women's Learning Circle Submitted by Pearl Hutchins

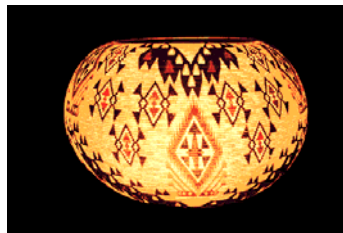
Beginning Saturday, January 26th an eleven-month series of cultural classes will be offered for interested BSR women. Classes will be held one Saturday per month in the Multi-purpose gym.



Classes throughout the year will include: basket making, yarn belts, seasonal gathering, coiling and twining; as well as one entire session dedicated entirely to learning to prepare and serve our traditional Mono

food, acorn mush. The classes will be for beginners to advanced skill levels. Age groups for the classes will be from age 10 to adult. This series will be open to women only.

Class participants are asked to bring their own materials to class. Those who do not have their own stock of materials may purchase supplies from other participants at the time of the classes.



For more information about the classes in this series contact Event Coordinator Pearl A Hutchins or Ruthie Beecher at 855-4003.



**January Tribal Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 30**

## BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

A New Year is upon us again so soon, it seems that time just passes by so fast that there is not enough time to catch our breath, but we will persevere to meet the challenges that are ahead of us this New Year 2008.

On December 3, 2007 the follow-up site visit conducted by the NIGC sent a letter to confirm their visit. We are meeting their objective in providing all documentations that are to be in each Mono Wind Casino employee file. Plus, GC office is meeting deadlines per the NIGC Code of Federal Regulations Title 25 for submitting documentations in their time line.

Mr. Johnson, Commission Director is on vacation and will return next week. Two of the Gaming Commission staff was on vacation now are back hard at

work. Amy Hutchins' birthday was on December 29, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

There is a State Regulators meeting next week Jan. 8th—Jan. 9th, 2008. Our attorney Sharon House will be representing Big Sandy Rancheria Gaming Commission and the BSR Tribal Council. The end of the month, Jan. 29—Jan. 31, there is a IGWG (Indian Gaming Working Group) training conference sponsored by the FBE in conjunction with NIGC At the Crown Plaza at San Diego. The IGWG was established in 2003 to enhance cooperation between federal agencies involved in Indian gaming. Further, to help protect the integrity of Indian gaming by enabling federal agencies to effectively investigate and prosecute criminal activity at Indian gaming operations. The

IGWG is comprised of the following federal agencies:

- FBI, Special Jurisdiction Unit
- National Indian Gaming Commission
- Dept. of the Interior Office of Inspector General
- IRS, Tribal Government Section
- Dept. of Treasury, Financial Crimes Analysis Center
- Dept. of Treasury, FinCEN
- U.S. Dept. of Justice
- BIA, Law Enforcement Service
- Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The Internal Controls are updated/revised and awaiting approval from the Director, Attorney and then forwarded to the Tribal Council for further review, *-continued see commission page 4*

## BSR Distribution Submitted by Halley Smith

The BSR Distributing is well on its way into the New Year, and the staff is looking forward to what the New Year unfolds for us. Our staff is hard at work completing all of 2007 close outs and completing orders on a daily basis. Much appreciation goes out to the Smoke Shop staff for all of their hard

work and dedication, job well done.

The BSR Distributing would like to take the time to introduce our Seneca and Opal 120's cigarettes. Our most popular Native American cigarette brand. Our Seneca premium cigarettes are manufactured in seven dif-

ferent flavors available in: Full Flavor, Light, Ultra Light, Non-Filter, Menthol, Menthol Light and Menthol Ultra Light) in hard or soft packs.

The Opal 120's Superslim style cigarette is available in five flavors: Full Flavor, *-continued see distribution page 4*

Commission *continued from page 3-*

Approval, then will be presented to Mono Wind Casino.

Until we meet again at this location we will be gathering more information to be presented in the next Tribal Newsletter. A-we-a-na'.

Distribution *continued from page 3-*

Light Ultra Light, Menthol, and Menthol Light in hard packs. The Opal 120 is the only Native American brand cigarette that is available in the 120mm super thin style.

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.

**January 19th Community Resource Fair & Family Fun: Auberry Elementary School  
11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Come learn about available services and resources available to children, teens and families living in the foothills community. Arts & crafts for the kids, free prizes and food. Everyone is invited to attend.

**California Primary Election  
Remember to Vote  
February 5th**



**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.

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

**OVCDC January 2008**

Upcoming Events

- ~Art Classes ~Parenting Classes ~Elders Club~
- For more information please contact Amanda Tamantez, Site Project Coordinator or Stephanie Dondero, Sports Coordinator to volunteer or join an activity. Phone 559-855-7575
- ~HUD Home Repair Loan Presentation~ Thursday, January 24th 1:00 pm at the community trailer building near the pow wow grounds.

You can find us on the Web at:  
[www.bigsandyrancheria.com](http://www.bigsandyrancheria.com)

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

**Big Sandy Rancheria**  
37387 Auberry Mission Road, PO Box 337, Auberry, CA 93602  
Phone: 559-855-4003 Fax: 559-855-4129  
e-mail: rc@bigsandyrancheria.com



37387 Auberry Mission Rd.  
P.O. Box 337  
Auberry, CA 93602