

JULY 2008



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

# Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

## Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo!  
 We have had some hot days this month. We hope that you have a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This month we welcome Gretchen Cox as our new Tribal Administrator. She has jumped right in and been working hard on our grants and services to our tribe. This month, as you know, Connie is home recovering from her surgery. She has checked in with us several times and seems to be doing well. In June Pearl and Miles attended the CNIGA meeting in Connie's absence. We had our General Council meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> and unfortunately there was not a quorum. We tried to accommodate the tribal members who had requested that the meeting be moved to a later time. It was nice to hear from Group West and Brownstone regarding the status of our project.

We also heard from our attorney about the timeline for the EIS and Compact. Our next General Council meeting will be on September 28, 2008. We will have the time of the meeting announced in the next few newsletters after it has been determined. The Tribal Council would like to thank all of the tribal members that regularly attend the General Council meetings. It is very helpful to get input from the membership. Group West would like to set up a time this month to come out again and have an evening meeting where they could show everyone a more in-depth look and some of the designs that his team has been working on. We will send out more information once that meeting has been set up. In July we are looking forward to sending the kids (ages 5-17) to Magic Mountain. The trip is scheduled for

Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. We have sent out permission slips to all the parents. We will be chartering two busses. Please make sure that you get your child's permission slip in as soon as possible. This month the Tribal Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any items to add to our agenda, please call Gina Riley at the Tribal Office. Thanks again for all the members that did attend the General Council meeting.

Happy 4th of July



## 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.

### Summer School Class

Available for grades 1st-5th

Mon.-Thurs. 9am-1pm

Location:  
 BSR Elders  
 Community Building

### SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT  
 YOUR APPLICATION FOR  
 THE BIG SANDY  
 RANCHERIA HIGHER  
 EDUCATION GRANT IS  
 JULY 31, 2008**

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

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### Tribal Council Meetings

- Wednesday, July 30, 2008
- Wednesday, August 27, 2008
- Tuesday, September 24, 2008
- Wednesday, October 29, 2008

### General Council Meetings

- Sunday, September 28, 2008 @ 3:00 PM
- Sunday, December 14, 2008 @ 3:00 PM

## Tribal Administrator Submitted by Gretchen Cox

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Munahoo-

My name is Gretchen Cox and I am the new Tribal Administrator. I am Mono/Chukchansi, daughter of Don Davis, granddaughter of Dixie Jackson. I am happily married to Jon Cox, (son of Artie Cox), and we have two daughters. I have lived in this area all of my life, graduated from Sierra High School, and graduated from Fresno City College. I will be returning to school in the fall to complete my bachelor's degree in business administration. I was recently the Community Liaison for Sierra Unified School District, so I have worked with many of your kids in the Indian Education Program.

I am very excited and honored to be working for Big Sandy Rancheria. There is great potential for growth and I look forward to working hard to ensure the success of the rancheria and tribal members. Thank you again for this great opportunity and you can expect to see great things on the horizon!

## Families Activities Coordinator Submitted by Joel Marvin

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I would like to thank everyone who participated at our community BBQ. It was a success. Also, I would like to personally thank Pearl Hutchins and Becky Cuthill for helping with the BBQ. Great job ladies! I'm looking forward to many more events in the future. There is a hike over Mono Pass coming up in July. If anyone is interested in going, please contact me A.S. A. P. @ (559) 855-7600.

## Head Start Submitted by BSR Tribal Administration

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The Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Head Start Wrap-around Program will be closed and on vacation from Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Wrap-around program will resume on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. We have recently added three new employees to our Tribal Head Start staff. We would like to congratulate Big Sandy Rancheria's tribal member KK Santillan (daughter of Butch & Nancy Baty) on receiving one of our Teacher Assistant positions. Welcome to our team KK! The other two new employees are Sharon Leonard -TA & Natalie Phelan - Cook. Our new Tribal Head Start staff will begin on Monday, July 7, 2008. The BSR Tribal Head Start 'Head Teacher' position is still available. For more information on this position or for an application, please visit Big Sandy's website at: [www.bigsandyrancheria.com](http://www.bigsandyrancheria.com) or you may call the BSR tribal office @ (559) 855-4003.

## Natural Resources Manager Submitted by Gabriel Huerta

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Mun-a-hoo,

Water Update - I want to take this time to thank everyone for their continued patience in regards to the repair work on the wells. Summer weather is here and that means all of us need to be very cautious with the water we use. Each home site will be held responsible for its water use and/or misuse. Water meters are being read at a regular basis in order to curb misuse and to catch problems before they get out of hand.

With the small amount of rain fall this winter/spring and the current high temperatures each of the Community System Wells are beginning to show signs of lower production. With that in mind, Tribal Council and the Natural Resource Department are requesting that everyone conserve as much water as possible, so as to avoid a severe water outage.

Here are a few helpful ways you can help conserve our water;

- Check pipes and faucets for leaks. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons a year per household leak.
- Test for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If color appears in the bowl after 30 minutes you have a toilet leak. One leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day.
- Run your dishwasher and/or washing machine only when you have a full load.
- Take short showers instead of baths. Baths can use 30 to 50 gallons of water. Showers use 5-10 gallons of water per minute. So the shorter the shower, the less water is wasted.
- When washing your dishes by hand, don't let the water run freely to rinse. Fill up the other side of the sink with rinse water.
- Put a pitcher of drinking water in your refrigerator. Do not cool the tap water by running it every time you want a drink.
- Catch shower and sink warm up water in a pan or bucket, and use it to provide water for plants and pets.
- Water lawns and gardens during the coolest part of the day (early morning or late evening).
- Use a drip irrigation system, instead of sprinklers. This helps apply water slowly and exactly where it is needed.

Again, thanks to everyone for helping conserve our most vital resource..... WATER.

Gabe Huerta, Natural Resource Manager

## Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Elizabeth Kipp

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Mun-a-hoo,

For the Month of July, come & join us as we celebrate: (please see the Winners' Club for more details.)

- Every Thursday WIN- a BBQ Grill. At 7 PM & 9 PM, don't miss your chance to take one home.
- Every Saturday, SPIN the WHEEL for fabulous prizes. 1 PM- 10 PM Two lucky Winners' Club Members per hour will SPIN the WHEEL.
- Every Monday & Thursdays is Senior Day at Mono Wind Casino.
- Every Tuesday- is Men's Match Play Day
- Every Wednesday- is Women's Match Play Day & Mystery Jackpot Day.
- Every Thursday- Black Jack Tournament
- Slot Tournament on 7/4/08, 7/18/08 & 7/25/8 (Fridays)
- Jeremy "Elvis" Pearce will be performing on 7/11/08 in the Broken Arrow Restaurant which is a limited menu.

Stop by and see the Classic you are sure to own. For the 2009 New Year Celebration, you can be the LUCKY WINNER to drive off in a fully restored 1965 GT Convertible Mustang! Start earning your points today!!!! What a way to ring in the New Year!!!!

## BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

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The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) had made an on site visit June 5, 2008 for a review of background investigation files and review of the Surveillance office. Per KariAnne Delabra, Field Investigator all of our files are updated and looking good, the Surveillance department is in good standing. Of course this was all verbal nothing in writing yet.

Good news is the Gaming Commission office is all caught up on all background investigations, there has not been to much activity on employees of Mono Wind Casino so our Background Investigator has been kept busy by completing and catching up on all paper work. The Internal Auditor has been busy by keeping the Casino in compliance in maintaining the machine files and auditing the key control, financial and Title 31 reports that is received daily in our office.

E. J. Egghart and Associates auditors are here this week reviewing for compliance issues per the TICS/MICS (Tribal Internal Control Standards/Minimum Internal Control Standards) we should know by next month how well we did.

I did attend the Tribal Regulators Networking Meeting on June 11, 2008 at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino hosted by Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Gaming Commission. The discussion was on the CGCC8 proposed regulations that was submitted from the State Gambling Control Bureau on how the Tribal Regulators were going to educate the public on how we regulate our Tribal Casinos a packet of information will be presented at the next tribal regulators meeting scheduled for Tuesday July 1, 2008 at Picayune Gaming Commission office. On Tuesday August 5, 2008 will be the State Regulator Network Association meeting will be held at Konocti Vista Casino Resort at Lakeport, Ca. co-hosted by Big Valley Rancheria and Rumsey Indian Rancheria for the vote to accept the CGCC-8 regulations. More information will be forthcoming after this date on the CGCC-8.

I would like to take this time to thank the Utility Crew for cleaning around our office before we had visitors. Thank you the office looks good now.

## BSR Distribution Submitted by Halley Smith

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The BSR Smoke Shop would like to take time to introduce a few of our newest products, coming soon.

**Seneca Little Cigars** - available in four different king flavors soft packs (Cherry; Vanilla; Natural; & Menthol)

**Native Non-Filter Cigarettes** - available in king soft packs

As a friendly reminder to our tribal members, the BSR Smoke Shop has more to offer then just tobacco products; we carry a variety of snacks; and sodas at an affordable price that you will enjoy and love.

The BSR Smoke Shop is always open to suggestions and requests from our customers; our goal is to find new improvements that satisfy our valued customers.

## ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

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Last month's ICWA article dealt with notice, when it's required, who to notice, and how proper notice establishes a timetable for further proceedings. This month we'll set ICWA procedure aside and discuss some very exciting ICWA events having just occurred here in the central valley. On June 6, 2008 Fresno County's Department of Children and Family Services Director, Cathy Huerta signed a newly revised county ICWA Policy, Procedure and Guideline (PP&G) document and issued a directive to her subordinates to begin adhering to the new PP&G. The new PP&G is especially important because it spells out exactly what steps the social workers must take when an Indian child is involved in a County/Rancheria child protection case. It should also be mentioned that at each stage of the PP&G revision process the Big Sandy Rancheria ICWA office along with the other foothill tribes were present to provided comment and input as to what needed to be changed or implemented in the new PP&G to ensure the creation of a positive product. Continued - see ICWA page 5

**Community BBQ Gathering held on June 12th  
A BSR Family Activities Dept. & Tribal TANF Event**



BSR reigning Volleyball Champs  
Lorna Baty-Huerta, Jackie Lee Badoni & Michelle



BSR reigning  
Horseshoe Champs



**A time of family,  
friends & fun!**

**LEARN OR PRACTICE POWWOW STYLE DANCES**

Classes began June 19th  
& will continue every  
Thursday through-out  
the summer!  
Open to all interested  
youth in  
the community.



**Highlights**  
Boy's Fancy, Grass &  
Traditional dances  
Girl's fancy, jingle &  
traditional dances  
(bring your shawls)

Location: Multi-Purpose Building  
(Big Sandy Rancheria TANF GYM)  
Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Contact person:  
Marlene Johnson or William Johnson  
559-855-4003 ext. 217 or 559-760-5391

**ICWA** continued from page 3

On June 9th, 10th, and 11th of this year the 15th Annual ICWA State Conference was held in Visalia, Ca. at the Holiday Inn the theme for this year's conference was "Realizing the Purpose and Intent of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978" the conference was hosted by the Big Sandy Rancheria and several other collaborative partners. The conference was a great success and met the goals the conference committee had set for itself to bring about more in-depth ICWA education, training, and ICWA advocacy skills and knowledge. It was also the intent of the committee to offer conference participants an opportunity to focus on specific ICWA issues and to voice their opinion on matters such as child welfare policy, attitude, and practice. Keynote speakers at the conference were Commissioner Abby Abinanti from the San Francisco area juvenile court system and Mrs. Nadja Jones from the National Indian Child Welfare Association in Portland, Oregon. Finally, hats off and a big thank-you to Council Member Pearl Hutchins and her nieces Carly Tex and Erin Tex for their cultural basket weaving presentation at the conference. ICWA - Matthew West

If you're ever in Bozeman, Montana stop in at the Bank of Bozeman. A beautiful, two level 17,000 square foot facility with it's new prominent location on Harmon Stream Boulevard. When you're there, say hello to fellow Big Sandy Rancheria tribal member Michael F. Richards, the son of the late beloved Ellen Richards. Michael carries the title of President and CEO of the Bank of Bozeman, not to mention Michael is one of the bank's founders. The bank's décor is deliberately created to take patrons back to a time when the pace of life was a bit less hectic. Michael wants people to, "Remember the days, when everyone in the community supported each other." The bank's motto is: "Fully Invested in You" and is echoed in Michael's banking philosophy, a telling gesture of that philosophy is in his business card that reads: "I'm accessible". While the décor may take you back in time, Michael has ensured that the patrons of his bank are the benefactors of a sleek top-of-the-line banking technology and operation, combine that with exceptional customer service and you've got a bank designed with people in mind.  
**Keep up the great work Michael!**



**Congratulations to all our Graduates!**

**8th Grade**  
**Joseph Lewis**  
**Brandon McFarland**  
**Matthew Munoz**  
**Alisha Orosco**  
**Ashton Richards**

**Sierra High School**  
**Theresa Berry**

**Fresno State University**  
**Amanda Perches**



The Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Government Offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th.



Have a safe & fun 4th of July!