

JUNE 2008



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! The Tribal Council would like to thank all who helped put on a great POW WOW this past month. There was a great crowd despite the hot, hot weather.

We would like to congratulate all of the graduates this year. We are very proud of our students and would like to recognize their accomplishments. Please contact us with names of graduates so we can put them in the "Smoke Signals" next month.

The Tribal Council has hired Gretchen Cox as our new Tribal Administrator. Gretchen has worked in our community as the Indian Education Liaison for Sierra Unified School District. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and a great work ethic. She will begin on Monday, June 2nd.

The Tribal Council would like to inform all members that there has been a lot of vandalism on the Rancheria. We have been made aware of people damaging water lines, destroying the bridges by the community building, messing with the breaker box on our community trailer, etc. The most discouraging part of this is the damage to the water lines. We have informed the members residing on our Rancheria of the water shortages at this time, and we really can't afford to be wasting water. The Tribal Council will be investigating any damages and inform the proper authorities if need be. We would appreciate it if parents would talk to their children about respecting our community property.

This month we will have the General Council meeting on Sunday, June 29th at 3:00 PM. We hope to have a quorum. Group West will be here to give an update on the design. Brownstone will also be here to update everyone on the project development. FYI- Tribal Chairperson Connie Lewis will be taking a leave due to surgery. She will continue to stay in contact with the tribe via phone & e-mail regarding tribal business.

Happy Father's Day
Sunday, June 15th



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.

School Graduations & Award Ceremonies

Auberry Elem.
June 4th - 9:30am
Sierra Elem.
June 5th - 9am
Foothill Middle
June 4th - 7pm
Sierra High
June 5th - 8pm

SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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Tribal Council Meetings

Wednesday, June 25, 2008
Wednesday, July 30, 2008
Wednesday, August 27, 2008
Tuesday, September 24, 2008

General Council Meetings

Sunday, June 29, 2008 @ 3:00 PM
Sunday, September 28, 2008 @ 3:00 PM

Natural Resources Manager Submitted by Gabriel Huerta

The summer season is upon us early this year. As you all are aware the Big Sandy Rancheria is very limited with its water resources. I want to thank everyone for their patience in regards to the repair work on Wells #2 and #4 and the Boil Water Notice. At this point in time there are 3 Wells running for the entire Reservation including the TANF Building, Broken Arrow Restaurant and the Mono Wind Casino. These Wells only produce water when water is available. With all repair work finally coming along, water shortages due to technical malfunctions seems to be at an end. With much hotter days ahead of us it's important that we continue to conserve water at all costs. Everyone is responsible for notifying the Natural Resource Dept. and /or the BSR Administration of any leaks. In order to properly monitor water consumption and to catch problems sooner rather than later, all water meters will begin being read as of June 2, 2008. Together we can make this summer more enjoyable for everyone who lives in the Reservation and those who visit it. Thanks, Natural Resources Manager Gabe Huerta

Families Activities Coordinator Submitted by Joel Marvin

Hello,

Well it is almost summer break. There will be a lot going on this summer, and I would like to give everyone a heads up on what's happening in June. On June 12 there will be a community BBQ 4 to 7pm at the Pow-wow grounds. Also on June 19 in the multi-purpose building there will be a fathers day gathering (DOWN TO EARTH DAD). I would also like to start a BSR softball team. If you are interested about joining the team or have any questions about this months events just give me a call 855-7600. See you all soon. JOEL MARVIN

Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

Hello, and congratulations to all the graduates and families of our community. We all know that having our children be successful in an education setting is no accident. It takes a great investment of time, energy, and attentive parenting to give our children the boost that they need to be successful in school and in turn, appreciate their own ability to learn. Remember, the parents are the FIRST teachers of their children. Speaking of teachers, we have several positions open in our program right now. Teacher Tonya is moving to Alaska so we'd like to wish her well and thank her for sharing a piece of her life with us, we will miss her. We are also looking for a teacher's assistant and cook. If anyone is interested, our applications can be found at the Head Start center or Tribal Office. We have been operating our extended childcare services since March, and things still seem to be flowing well. Eleven out of twenty children are participating in the extended hours. We are finishing the year with 18 children enrolled in Head Start. We have 6 tribal children and 3 natives and have 10 children being promoted to Kindergarten this year. We will always have room for improvement with a comprehensive program such as Head Start, but we have had a very fruitful year. As always, we encourage all Tribal children to attend Head Start to begin a solid foundation for a successful educational path.

ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

A crucial component of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is the Notice Requirement. This segment of the ICWA ensures that the tribe, parents, and Indian custodians will be allowed to assert their procedural rights under the ICWA. Proceedings that take place without the notice requirement having been satisfied may be in violation of the ICWA and may be subject to the invalidation process. In any involuntary proceeding where the court "knows or has reason to know" that an Indian child is involved, notice must be sent to the parents, Indian custodian and the tribe. State courts have an affirmative duty to inquire about a child's Indian status and it is the social workers responsibility to inquire about a child's Indian status. Notice of a pending Indian child custody proceeding must be sent to the parents, Indian custodian, and the child's tribe. Parents must be notified where termination of parental rights is a possible outcome. California rules of the court require that notice to the tribe be sent to the Chairperson, unless the tribe designates another agent. If the child is eligible for membership in more than one tribe, notice must be sent to each tribe. The notice must be sent via registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. The parents, Indian custodian, or tribe(s) mere awareness of the proceedings is insufficient and appropriate notice is still required, failure to do so places the proceeding in jeopardy of invalidation. Proper notice by the court sets a timetable for pending proceedings, no foster care or termination of parental rights hearings shall be held until at least 10 days after receipt of notice by the parent or Indian custodian and tribe. If requested a 20 day continuation must be granted to allow the parent, custodian or tribe to prepare for the hearing.

Matthew West, BSR ICWA Coordinator

Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Elizabeth Kipp

Mun-a-hoo,

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

- Fathers Day- June 15, 2008, randomly between 9AM and 3PM, the Casino will be giving out \$5.00 Match plays, as you are actively playing you Winner Club Card. And to Honor "Dad's", Power Tools will be the prizes to WIN at 3PM, 5 PM, 7 PM and 8PM- So don't miss out!
- Car Giveaway- June 28, 2008- We apologize for printing in the last newsletter of giving away Toyota Yaris', instead,, we have a beautiful Chevrolet AVEO. Great for the high cost of fuel, as this baby, will get you around town with many miles to the gallon. Only 50 pts. per entry as the drawing will take place at 11:45 PM. Start earning your points today!
- 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 and Mystery Jackpot Day.
- Every Thursday- Black Jack Tournament
- Slot Tournament on 6/6/08 & 6/20/08 (Fridays)
- Jeremy "Elvis" Pearce will be performing on 6/13/08 & 6/27/08 in the Broken Arrow Restaurant which is a

limited menu on performance nights. Are you into Classic Cars? Boy do we have one for you.... can you see yourself cruising with the top down in a 1965 Mustang Convertible? Yes, that right, for the upcoming New Year Celebration, you can be the LUCKY WINNER to drive off in a fully restored 1965 GT Convertible Mustang! Stop by the Casino to check at your new ride. Start earning your points today!!!! What a way to ring in the New Year!!!!

BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

Munahoo

Marlene Johnson, Internal Auditor and myself attended training for Casino Auditing Level 1 Workshop for Internal Auditors of Indian Gaming held at Egghart & Associates in Reno, Nevada for three (3) days. This was intense training, we learned a lot at least I did Marlene already knew several of the topics covered and was a refresher for her. The Gaming Commission will be taking advantage of training when it is available and within our budget.

There will be a Tribal Regulators Networking Meeting Wednesday June 11th, 2008 at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino this meeting is to discuss coordinated public relations efforts in reference to the CGCC-8 proposed Uniform Tribal Gaming Regulation. The State Gambling Control Board will be continuing their effort to establish the draft CGCC-8 as the Minimum Internal Control Standards; the Regulators will continue to discuss this rule at the June 11th meeting. When more news is forthcoming I will continue to keep you informed.

June 5, 2008 National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) will be on site to inspect background investigations files. We are currently updating all files with documentation that is required to be current. At this date we only have one (1) waiting for the "No Objection" letter, one (1) pending FBI report and six (6) non-key applicants for their two (2) year gaming license.

The Gaming Commission is currently working with the Casino Directors to go over the Policy and Procedures for each department with updated information and any changes that have been made after the initial approval date.

Until next time A-we-a-na'

BSR Distribution Submitted by Halley Smith

Greetings To All,

This month the BSR Smoke Shop would like to introduce Buffalo Deluxe Cigarettes. These are a Native American made cigarettes manufactured by the Tuscarora Indian Nation in New York, located just outside of Niagara Falls. Tuscarora Indian Nation also manufactures other popular cigarettes- Smokin Joes and Smokin Joes 100% All Natural.

The Buffalo Deluxe cigarette brand is an elegantly flavored blend that is available in six different flavors - Full Flavor, Light, Ultra Light, Menthol, Menthol Light, and Non-Filter. The 100's are packaged in soft packs and Kings in hard packs both are available at \$17.00 per carton.

The BSR Smoke shop would like to congratulate all of the 2008 Graduates and recognize all Dads and wish them a great Father's Day. Enjoy the summer!

BSR Smoke Shop.