



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! The Tribal Council hopes that all is well for each one of you. We are preparing for our Tribal Easter Celebration.

The Easter party will be held on March 15th down at the project site. There is a lot of room down there.

We will be having games for the kids, Horseshoe tournament, Bingo, etc. We hope that you will attend.

This past month a huge burden was lifted from BSR when a settlement was reached with Mike Troilo. We paid him off



and he can no longer touch the casino or it's property.

We would like to give an update on the FEMA trailers that were announced in previous issues of the newsletter. They are currently on hold from FEMA until the units have been tested for formaldehyde. FEMA will inform us on when we will be able to get the units at a later date.

We are working on preparing for the POWWOW. This event will be held on May 17th-18th. We hope that you will be able to attend. The IHS Annual Conference will be held on March 17th-20th. Connie and Pearl will be attending this meeting. Connie will also attend the BIA Annual Budget conference the week of the 24th. The quarterly General Council meeting will be on Sunday,

March 30th at 10:00 AM. We look forward to having Group West there to give a presentation.

Congratulations to two BSR tribal youth who were named as "Students of the Month" for January at Auberry Elementary School: Winston Moore and Shaon Rodrigues

And congratulations to Alana Orosco who was named as January Native Student of the Month at Foothill Middle School. The tribe is proud to recognize the accomplishments of these tribal youth. If you know a youth who deserves recognition, let us know.

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.



Individual and family therapy is available to Medi-Cal recipients in the BSR community. Call 495-0669 for info or an appointment

Food Stamp and Medi-Cal services

March dates
Thurs. Mar 6th & 20th
9:30 to 2:30

No Appointment Necessary

Inside this issue:

Tribal Administrator	2
Head Start	2
ICWA	2
Women's Culture Classes	3
Mono Wind Casino, Gaming Commission	3
BSR Distributing	3
February Events	4

BSR Easter Celebration
Friday, March 14th
BSR Gym—Egg Coloring
5:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, March 15th
1:00—4:00 pm
New Project Site
Games, Bounce House
Family Fun, Food

Tribal Administrator Submitted by Frank Fabunan

Greetings. This month I would like to share some important information about the "Stimulus Payments" that has been very much in the news lately. Most of you know that starting in May, the Treasury Dept. will begin sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million individuals. The stimulus payments will go out through the late spring and summer.

Most Americans who qualify for an economic stimulus payment will not have to do anything other than file their 2007 individual income tax return to receive their payment this year. They will not have to complete applications, file any extra forms or call the Internal Revenue Service to request the payment, which is automatic. The IRS will determine eligibility, figure the amount and issue the payment.

Stimulus payments will be direct deposited for taxpayers selecting that option when filing their 2007 tax returns. Taxpayers who have already filed with direct deposit won't need to do anything else to receive the stimulus payment. For

taxpayers who haven't filed their 2007 returns yet, the IRS reminds them that direct deposit is the fastest way to get both regular refunds and stimulus payments.

Individuals who pay no tax and who have less than \$3,000 of qualifying income will not be eligible for the stimulus payment. Facts about the 2008 Stimulus Payments can be found at the following website: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/>

The law contains a special provision that requires economic stimulus payments to be disregarded as income when determining eligibility for Federal assistance programs. Section 101(d) of the Act states:

... [Stimulus payments] shall not be taken into account as income and shall not be taken into account as resources for the month of receipt and the following 2 months, for purposes of determining the eligibility of such individual or any other individual for benefits or assistance, under any Federal pro-

gram or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds...

This means that federal, state and tribal agencies that administer federally funded programs such as LI-HEAP, TANF, Food Stamps and child care may not count the receipt of these payments as income or resources in determining eligibility for these federally funded services in the month the payment was received or the following 2 months. This will be important to remember when the stimulus payments are distributed later this year.

MEN'S WELLNESS GATHERING March 19th - 22nd

Millerton Lake Cultural Preserves

Native men of all ages welcome

Youth under 17 must be with an adult

- Camp out
- Talking Circles
- Sweats daily at 6:00 pm
- Food

For more information contact Keith Turner (559) 696-0191

Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

Welcome, and warm wishes. We hope everyone is able to remain cozy during these cold winter months. We are doing our best to keep our children and families warm. Winters at BSR are not always pleasant as many are aware. We've had to close and/or send children home early due to recent snow storms and we apologize for the inconvenience.

We are still in the process of fine tuning the details of our Wrap Around

child care project and parents need to be on the look out for an additional application to qualify for the extended day. Remember, the extended day will be offered to those who qualify with a need. The extended child care hours WILL NOT be automatically available to all Head Start



children.

Hooray, Spring is almost here, and Easter is in March this year. As usual, we will be celebrating in the classroom. We are always seeking holiday craft/project donations and volunteers, and our teaching staff look forward to the help. Please see classroom staff about volunteering or items that they can use to assist in curriculum planning.

ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

This month's ICWA submission will be the first of several articles dealing with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978. Throughout the series basic questions about ICWA will be asked and answered and as a result the reader will gain a heightened awareness of ICWA. ICWA has been a federal law for thirty years so it seems we ought to start with the history of ICWA.



Before ICWA there were large numbers of Indian children being removed from their families by the state and federal social workers, placed in foster care and put on a fast track for adoption by the courts. Most of those children were placed in non-Indian homes and as a result they suffered serious physical, emotional, and substance abuse problems throughout their lives. In the early seventies a small Sioux tribe in North Dakota took notice of the devas-

tating effects of those state and federal child welfare policies and took action. The tribe gathered its resources and sought the services of the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), a private organization dedicated to protection of Indian tribal rights, together they set in motion a chain of events leading to the passage of ICWA.

In 1977 a congressional hearing reported that Indian children were 3 times more

-continued see ICWA page 4

Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Elizabeth Kipp

Are you our next WINNER? Start earning your points today for a 2008 Chevy Malibu. Entries are only 50 points each. The date for this giveaway is March 29, 2008. Check with the Winners Club for more details 559-855-4350 X-30.

For all our exciting promotions, please refer to the insert of the March 2008 calendar.

Please remember, when you are a lucky winner at Mono Wind Casino, which may result in a Jackpot over \$1,200, you must have a **valid government issued identification and social security card** to claim such prize. A Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal ID Card & Check Cashing ID does not qualify as a valid government ID, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Due on non-tribal individuals of Big Sandy Rancheria claiming a tribal dis-

count, the casino is implementing the following requirement to be eligible for the 25% discount;

- Tribal Members of Big Sandy Rancheria must print his/her name on guest check with the members Tribal ID #. (If you do not know your tribal ID number, please contact the Tribal Council office or Gaming Commission to have an ID made for you. You are not required to show your tribal ID card).
- If you do not disclose your tribal ID# on the guest check, you will not be eligible for the discount.
- Non-tribal individuals using this discount will encounter the "Customer Conduct" Policy and will be excluded from the premises as outlined in approved policy by

the Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council.

- Please be courteous to our employees as they are only doing their job. We have new employees in the restaurant and as over time, they will get to know who the members of the tribe are.

Tribal Elders Comps: We have some Elders that are trying to claim their weekly elders' comps twice in one week. Elders, please remember you may only claim the comp once a week beginning on Monday and ending on Sunday. Comps will not roll over into the following week. If you are found abusing this program, it may result in a denial of an issued comp; let's not find ourselves in that area. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec


On February 12th thru February 14, 2008 Amy and myself attended the WIGC (Western Indian Gaming Conference) at Palm Springs, California. I attended some of the workshops that were given on New Communicable distance test for off reservation gaming. Also, background investigations, auditing, plus the Trade show on both days. The weather was good on arrival and on Wednesday too. Although on Thursday there were some snow flurries, which was a surprise for me. All in all it was a quick trip and some good information was received.

Marlene attended Jury Duty this week, February 19, 2008. Good for

Marlene doing her patriot duty.

The Commission office is in the process of obtaining required documentation of all the paper work from the Mono Wind Casino employees. Which is submitted to the State Gambling Control Board for the State background investigation. These state applications are for the key employees such as the General Manager, Finance management and Supervisors of all departments.

We are still waiting for a response from NIGC for their 'No Objection' or 'Objection' letters of suitability determination of the employees. Until next time, A-we-a-na'.



BSR Community Informational Event

Tuesday March 11th
37802 Jose Basin Road
4:00 pm

Come and learn about services available to BSR from Westcare including: Residential drug treatment, outpatient treatment services, sober living environments, therapeutic childcare, youth services and more.

BSR Distribution Submitted by Halley Smith

SENECA—\$16.00 a carton

Full Flavor; Light; Ultra Light; Menthol; Menthol Light; Menthol Ultra Light 100's are available in soft or box. Full Flavor; Light; Ultra Light; Menthol; Menthol Light; Kings are available in soft or box the Non-Filter are only available in box.

SENECA 120's—\$16.00 a carton

Full Flavor; Light; Ultra Light; Menthol Light super thin are available in box.

OPAL 120's—\$16.00 a carton

Full Flavor; Light; Ultra Light; Menthol and Menthol Light super thin are available in box

SMOKIN JOES—\$17.00 a carton

Our hours of operation are: Mon-

Wed 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.



ICWA continued from page 2

Likely to be removed and placed in foster care than non-Indian children. In California the situation was much worse, where Indian children were 8 times more likely to be removed and placed in non-Indian adoptive homes as non-Indian children. By 1977 the evidence was overwhelming that the practices of state and federal child welfare agencies were misguided; to it's credit Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 with the intent of protecting the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of the Indian tribes by protecting a tribe's greatest resource, IT'S CHILDREN!



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

Congratulations!
Ruby Walker for working in the
Administration office through the
CIMC Workforce Program.
Good Job!

OVCDC Co-ed Softball Clinic
March 20—21 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

- Open to all youth boys & girls of all skill levels
- No participation fee
- Registration forms available at BSR gym and tribal office

For more information contact 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

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

CVIH Board Representative Report Submitted by Pearl Hutchins

- The Clovis Clinic is up and running. Most of the renovations are complete. Except for our new indoor lighting is still in the process for completion.
- The Prather Clinic has a new physician; Dr. Demayo. He started March 3, 2008. B. There is, a physician vacancy until filled, at the Clovis Clinic. CVIH will utilize staff until the position is filled.
- The 2008 IHS California Area Office Annual Tribal Leaders Consultation Conference will be held at Corning, CA. Hosting the meeting is the Paskenta Band of Nom Laki Indians. Tribal Chairs and the CVIH Board Representatives will attend.
- The Diabetes grant has comfortable walking shoes for our

Diabetic clients. To qualify they must comply with a yearly physical, eye, foot, dental exams, plus see the nutritionist. After completion a new pair of free Nike tennis shoes will be given to the Diabetic clients.

- If you have NO transportation to our CVIH clinic call the outreach dept and speak with Brenda Simpson, PHN. Please call 2-3 days in advance to give the transporters enough time to fit you into their schedule. The transporters have a 2-3 week filled appointment book and will try to accommodate clients as soon as they can. Thank you, we are here to serve you and your families for the best health care. Below is a list of numbers to reach our clinics and outreach department.

Prather Clinic	855-5390
Clovis Clinic	299-2608
Outreach Dept.	299-2634
Chuck Fowler	299-2578

BSR JOB OPENING

Position: Family Activities Coordinator
Salary: \$38,000.00/year; \$18.26/hour
Supervisor: Tribal Administrator
DUTIES:

- Promotes, implements, coordinates and supervises youth and family activities designed and approved by BSR Administration
- Completes participant registration to monitor eligibility for all program activities
- Completes and monitors community member participation in all program activities
- Maintains accurate records of all program expenditures and other activities for reports to project granting agency
- Prepares and submits timely reports on a monthly basis to record expenses, activities and participation.
- Coordinates community events and activities with other partner agencies, tribal groups and programs.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Successful incumbent would ideally possess the following knowledge, skills and abilities

- Aptitude in use of office pc and related equipment as well as average to accomplished skills in the use of MS Office Suite of products.

- A good driving record with no moving violations in the past five (5) years and no alcohol or drug related convictions at any time. Must provide an approved DMV summary prior to starting work.
- Proof of insurability for driving tribal vehicles and transporting program participants.
- Must pass background check and pre-employment drug screen.
- Proven record of successful work with youth and/or family related programs.
- Demonstrated interest and experience in working with community activity programs.
- Good written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work successfully with a variety of different people.
- Ability to coordinate group activities and to make related purchases and other financial arrangements.
- Proven ability to meet time commitments relating to reporting, file maintenance and record keeping.

For applications, contact the Tribal Office. Applications will close March 28th at close of business.



The Fabulous HARLEM CROWNS

Bring the whole family for a night of fun and excitement.

Mon, March 17th—BSR Gym
Basketball Clinic 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Crowns v. TANF team 7:00 pm

Food & Beverages Drawings

Sign up to play against the CROWNS contact Stephanie Dondero today!

“Eagle Feather” award Program

This month the Tribe is starting a special recognition program to honor accomplishments by BSR youth and their families. The idea of the Eagle Feather as a symbol that recognizes individual accomplishments in front of community members is one long recognized by Native people across the Americas. Traditionally a feather was given to a youth who had “earned their feather” as a warrior or in some special contribution to the community well-being. For the BSR program

- Students can be nominated by teachers or Indian Education Program staff for outstanding performance in the classroom.
- Students with perfect attendance for the month;
- Youth who volunteer to provide some community service such as helping community elders;
- Adults who have contributed to community or youth activities in the past month
- A parent who is active in the School or Head Start Parent Council, etc.

Award recipients will be recognized each month at a community gathering. They will receive a certificate and a small recognition award such as a movie pass. If you would like to nominate someone, contact Frank or Becky at the office.