

MAY 2008



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! Thank you to everybody who attended our First Eagle Feather Award ceremony. It was a great way to honor community members for personal accomplishments. Gretchen Cox nominated Nellie Kipp, Winston Moore, Ashleigh Huerta, and Lynette Manuel for their outstanding cooperation and dedication to hard work in school. Gretchen also nominated Rory Nunez, Gwen Guevara and Alan Orosco for their support to the Indian Education program. The Homework club teacher, Mrs. Lynn, honored her students for all of their hard work as well.

The Tribal council would like to remind you all that members will receive their RSTF check by mail be-

ginning with the May distribution. It is important for the tribe to have your current mailing address. We have been getting returned mail for the following individuals: Peter Ballard, Patricia Beecher, William Beecher, and Adrienne Pozzi. If you are in contact with any of these individuals, please let them know to contact the Tribal Office so we will be able to send them their money.

We would like to inform you that our Tribal Administrator, Frank Fabunan, has resigned as of May 1st. The job has been posted on our website and will be advertised in the paper. We appreciate the work that Frank did for us during his time with BSR.

This month the Tribal Council will be meeting

with Group West to review the latest updates for the casino design. Group West will then be preparing a presentation for the General Council meeting that will be held on Sunday, June 29th at 3:00 PM. The monthly Tribal Council meeting will be on May 28th. If you have any items that you wish to put on our agenda please contact Gina Riley at the Tribal Office.

*Happy Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11th*



Announcements

<p>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.</p>	<p>7th Annual Big Sandy Pow Wow & Gathering</p> <p>May 17th & 18th</p> <p>Pow Wow Grounds Everyone Welcome</p>	<p>Food Stamp, Medi-Cal & Genesis Services</p> <p>May Dates: Thurs. May 1st, 15th & 29th 9:30 to 2:30</p> <p>No Appointment Necessary Bring your supporting documents and save time</p>
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Inside this issue:

Tribal Administrator	2
Head Start	2
ICWA	2
Mono Wind Casino	3
Gaming Commission	3
BSR Distributing	3
May Events	4

SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Tribal Administrator Submitted by Tribal Council

The Tribal Council would like to introduce our newest members to our team.

Our new EPA/Natural Resources Manager is Gabe Huerta and our Families Activities Coordinator is Joel Marvin. We welcome you two to the Big Sandy Rancheria Team & we wish you the best.



Hello,

My name is Gabriel Huerta, your newly appointed Natural Resources Manager. I am Lorna Baty-Huerta's (daughter of Butch Baty) husband of 12 years and we have 3 lovely daughters, so I have close ties to Big Sandy Rancheria. I have several years of public relations and managerial experience. I am also a great communicator. I will be responsible for all items pertaining to water, fire and waste management as well as many other responsibilities over time. It will be my primary goal to maintain current infrastructure as well as devise new ideas for possible growth and continued prosperity within our Tribal community, while caring for the Health and safety of our tribal members. My office is located at the Resource Community Center office-A. Again, I thank the Tribal Council for this amazing opportunity and look forward to meeting everyone at the 7th annual Big Sandy Rancheria Pow Wow on May 17th.

Hello,

My name is Joel Marvin. I am the Family Activities Coordinator. I am 31 years old. I have an eight year old son named Gabriel. He is in the second grade. We just moved back to the area. I am looking forward to meeting all parents and children in the community. I have some new and exciting ideas for the summer. I will look forward to seeing everyone there.

Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

Hello, and hope everyone is ready for the quickly approaching warm weather. It's hard to believe that Summer and the end of the school year is already upon us.

We have been operating our extended childcare services for one month now, and seem to be flowing quite well. Some of the families that are participating are very appreciative of having a full service child care program. For those families that are

not participating in the childcare program, the last day for Head Start will be May 29, 2008. We will be operating through summer taking two weeks off in July, and will continue to be open Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 5:30pm. We have several upcoming events in May, the first being our Head Start Home visits that begin on May 5th. Following Home visits, we'll have the Kindergarten

transition fieldtrip to Sierra Elementary School on May 7, and Kindergarten Registration for Sierra Elementary School on May 14. The regularly scheduled parent meeting will be May 20th, and the Celebration of Success @ Foothill Middle School will be on May 29, 2008.

ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

With the history and purpose of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) firmly under our belts we can now ask and answer some common ICWA questions. Let's start with what cases are covered by ICWA and which ones are not? To determine whether or not a case is covered by ICWA you'll need to use a two-prong test for applicability. First you'll need to determine if the case or the "child custody proceeding" involves foster care placement, termination of parental rights, or adoptive placement. Second, you'll need to identify that the child involved in the "child custody proceeding" is an Indian child. ICWA defines an Indian child as any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen (18) and a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or is eligible for membership in a federally recognized Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe. It should be noted that recent amendments to California law now extends the application of ICWA to State recognized Indian tribes, probate court and certain instances in the juvenile delinquency court. And now to the matter of what is not covered by the ICWA. Generally speaking ICWA does not apply in a divorce or dissolution proceeding as long as custody is awarded to at least one of the parents. However, if one parent initiates action to terminate the parental rights of the Indian parent or if any other party, other than an Indian parent is awarded custody in the proceeding then ICWA does apply. It is unsettled whether the ICWA applies to family law custody disputes between parents who were never married. To the extent such proceedings are like divorce or dissolutions proceedings, the ICWA does not apply. Another instance where the ICWA generally does not apply are juvenile delinquency proceedings. That is, when an out of home placement of a child is based upon an act which if committed by an adult would be deemed a crime then the proceeding addressing that criminal behavior is not subject to the ICWA. Exceptions to these matters are out of home placements based on the need, treatment or rehabilitation of the child. The underlying priority in California's juvenile law is treatment and rehabilitation of the child and the underlying intent of the ICWA is strong tribal involvement in these proceedings.

Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Elizabeth Kipp

Mun-a-hoo,

Congratulations to "Nick" of Fresno who won the 2008 Chevy Malibu. We wish him the best in his new vehicle.

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

- Cinco De Mayo- 5/5/08, enjoy the authentic Mariachi Music by "Carlos". Carlos will be playing from 5 PM- 11 PM, throughout the facility.
- Mothers Day- 5/11/08, WIN Jewelry at 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM & 8 PM (random drawing), Mothers will receive a complimentary carnation in the Broken Arrow Restaurant (one per person please).
- Don't miss the 7th Annual Big Sandy Rancheria Pow Wow & Gathering. Please go online at www.bigsandyrancheria.com for more information.
- Memorial Day- 5/26/08, Come and receive a Free T-shirt. While supplies last, T-shirts to honor Memorial Day, Winners Club Members will receive a Free T-shirt. We will also have a "Flag Pull", which you can WIN CASH!

On May 24, 2008 we are going to be celebrating our 12th Anniversary. You can have a chance to "Spin the Wheel" to WIN some fabulous prizes. You will also have the chance WIN CASH! At 10 PM & 12 Midnight will be giving away \$600.00 for each drawing. Only-10pts per entry. Start earning your points today!!!! And in celebrating the 12 years of being in business, we have 3 employees that have "stuck it out" with us. Charles Dandy, Frank Sanchez & Ronda Roman have been employed here at the Casino for 12 years. Please congratulate them and thank them for their hard work and dedication to Big Sandy Rancheria.

Look at the Cute Pair.... Yes that's right, on June 28th; Mono Wind Casino will be giving away not One, but Two Toyota Yaris'. Two Lucky Winners will drive off in a Brand New 2008 Toyota Yaris. Entries are still only 50 pts each, so START EARNING YOUR POINTS TODAY!

BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

Mun-a-hoo

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the Final Audit was almost complete, it is now complete and submitted to NIGC (National Indian Gaming Commission) by the Auditor E J Egghart & Associates.

The TICS (Tribal Internal Control System) has been signed by resolution by the Tribal Council and copies have been made and submitted to the Mono Wind Casino for distribution to all departments.

Great news, the State of California Department of Justice, Bureau of Gambling Control, did a Compact Compliance Review on October 23, 2007 during this process the Field Representative, Gabriele Taylor kept in touch with the Gaming Commission by keeping us informed and asking questions to Richard Johnson, Director of the Gaming Commission and myself. On April 23, 2008 the BSRGC receive correspondence stating that the BSRGC have met the compliance review and stated to the BSRGC the following: *'The BSRGC and the Tribe appeared to be in compliance with Tribal State Gaming Compact section 10.2 subd. (d), (e); 10.3 subds. (a), (b), and CGCC-7. Thank you to all whom made this possible. Along with that the BSRGC and Mono Wind Casino staff have completed the Emergency Management Guide for the Casino, this is for any emergency situations that happen in the Casino or nearby.*

On April 16, 2008 I presented to the Mono Wind Casino Dept. Directors at their Directors meeting the Standard Operating Procedures for background checks, explaining that we are no longer accepting Tribal members without doing an initial background check first. All potential employees will be treated the same in conducting the initial background checks. If anyone has any questions please feel free to call me at (559) 855-4003 ext. 208.

The regulators continue to meet with State Gambling Control Commission on the CGCC-8 proposed uniform regulation at this time the State feels it has met their correct wording for the new regulation. There will be a meeting on May 7, 2008 at Valley View Casino for the Regulators to meet with the State Gambling Control Commission but no vote will be taken at this meeting per the Protocol another meeting will be set at this May 7th meeting to vote on the proposed regulation CGCC-8, until then I will keep you updated to what is going on.

Until next time, A-we-a-na.

BSR Distribution Submitted by Halley Smith

Greetings to all,

I would like to take the opportunity this month to recognize and thank the Big Sandy Rancheria Distribution/Smoke Shop staff: Denise Licon, Lacey Gallagher, John Baty and Steve Manuel for all of their hard work and dedication. Running the Smoke shop and Distribution center is quite involved. On the Distribution side we are busy filling and shipping orders for our customers who operate Native owned and operated Smoke shops located primarily in California. We are continually organizing and monitoring our cigarette inventory. Placing orders with vendors and verifying shipments when the orders are received.

The Smoke shop located in front of the Mono Wind Casino, lets customers purchase the same items available on the Distribution side - cigarettes in cartons or packs as well as snacks and soda. Our customer basis continues to increase and we have a number of regular customers. We are now able to process credit card and debit sales, which has proven to be a plus for our customers. They really like it. This is just a quick overview of what goes on at the BSR Smoke shop.

The Smoke shop staff would also like to give a special thanks to James Robertson for his help this month. He assisted us with a very large order by using his forklift to move a number of pallets loaded with cigarette cases.

"Job well done" Crew keep up the good work!

Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Head Start gets a visit from Smokey the Bear, the US Forest Service & the CDF Fire Fighters



May Eagle Feather Awards



Please submit your nominations by Friday, May 23rd. For more info. Contact Joel Marvin @ (559) 855-7600

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

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

Monday, May 05, 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, June 29, 2008 @ 3:00 PM

Sunday, September 28, 2008 @ 3:00 PM

Sunday, December 14, 2008 @ 3:00 PM

Ashleigh Huerta

BSR's very own Ashleigh Huerta as received the Student of the month award for April for kindness at Auberry Elementary School. She has been taught that to enjoy life you first must treat others with respect and kindness.

Ashleigh also participated in the Lions Club Track Meet held at Sierra High School. She came home with a 1st place ribbon in the 200 meter dash. Monique Bailey also participated in this meet and came home with many ribbons. Sports are very important for our children it keeps them in shape and also give them a sense of purpose. Please encourage your child to participate in team sports. We are so blessed to have the gym available to us.

This information was contributed by Ashleigh's proud Mom, Lorna A. Huerta. If you know of a BSR youth that you would like to see recognized in the newsletter, let us know. We would like to share their story.



Pictured: Lorna Huerta, Barbara Morgan (the first teacher in space) & Principal Wait (Sierra High Alumni). For more information visit about traveling out of our atmosphere to the space station, visit: www.NASA.gov.

The Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Government Offices will be closed on Monday, May 12th in observance of Native American Day & Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.



Enjoy your three-day weekends!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

When applying for food stamps, you will need to bring valid ID and have the following material available:

IF EMPLOYED: Last four pay stubs or a letter from employer stating gross and net wages for the past month.

IF UNEMPLOYED: Proof that employment was terminated. Also identification and claim cards for unemployment benefits.

FIXED INCOME: All award letters or Photostats of checks for all pensions including VA, SSI, and Social Security benefits. Support payments must be verified through court order or divorce papers.

PROOF OF RESOURCES: Bring all savings account passbooks (parents & children). Bring all checking account books in addition to your last checking account statement and cancelled checks. All stocks, bonds, savings certificates, annuity funds and credit union membership, etc. must be reported and verified.

PROOF OF INCOME: Bring a copy of income tax return for past year. A profit and loss statement is required (self employed) for the current calendar quarter. For additional information call the re-certification office.

PROOF OF HOUSEHOLD BILLS:

Rent receipt or mortgage and tax payments, gas, heat, electric, water and telephone receipts for bills due in the current month

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: Bring the Social Security number for each member of your household. If a member of your household does not have a Social Security number, your food stamp certifier will assist you in obtaining one.



Genesis Family Center offers counseling or chemical dependency treatment services to anyone in the BSR community who is eligible for Medi-Cal. Genesis staff will be available at the Resource building on the same dates as Food Stamps and Medi-Cal services. Call (559) 439-5437

Services are available to BSR from Westcare including: Adult and parent-child residential drug treatment, outpatient treatment services, sober living environments, therapeutic childcare, youth services & more. Contact (559) 439-5437 for more information.



for more information.

**“WALKING GOOD PATHS TOGETHER”
Mini Friendship Pow Wow**

