



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

# Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

## Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! It was great to see such a wonderful turnout for the Fandango we had a couple of weeks ago. It is exciting to know that there is going to be some progress real soon. As you heard from our developer, the interim funding is available. The EIS process should be starting up pretty quickly and it should be completed in about four months. We will also begin working on the compact with the state and continue with the lease agreement with the BIA and the Landowner. There should be updates at our next General Council meeting on December 16th.

This month we have a Tribal member, Bethany Costa, who is willing to come up to the

Rancheria to give free haircuts. She will be here on Monday, November 5th and Monday November 19th. She will be at the gym between 11 AM and 3 PM. Please call if you would like to schedule a time although an appointment is not necessary.

The Tribal Council has a concern about the vandalism on the Rancheria. There have been problems with children loitering in front of the casino, destroying property at the gym, destroying property on private land within Rancheria boundaries, starting fires, littering on the side of the road, and destroying property at the cemetery. We are very concerned about all of these things. There are activities down at the gym for kids of all ages throughout the

week (Homework Club, Basketball, Volleyball, Computer, Books, Videos, Ping Pong, Foosball, etc.) The cemetery is a sacred place that should be respected by all. We would like to encourage our parents to talk to the kids about being respectful of their community.

The Tribal Council will be attending the G2E Gaming Expo November 12th through November 16th. Our Thanksgiving Dinner for the Tribal Members will be on Monday, November 19th at 5:00 PM. The Tribal Council monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28th. The office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd.

## 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. The forms can be found on the BSR website or you can request them from the Tribe.

### Bingo

Due to the holidays our monthly Bingo night will be postponed until January, 2008.

**Wellbriety  
Adult Group Meetings**  
**Big Sandy Gym**  
**Every Tuesday, 4-6 pm**  
**Phone: 360-7950**

### Inside this issue:

Tribal Administrator	2
Head Start	2
ICWA	2
Mono Wind Casino, Gaming Commission	3
BSR Distributing	3
OVDCD Events	4
MWC Calendar and Cultural Event	Inserts

### Committees

*Membership, Events, Cultural, Cemetery, POW WOW, Elders*

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

## Tribal Administrator Submitted by Frank Fabunan

Hard to believe that another month has come and gone; but here I am writing another newsletter article—so it must be true. I would like to thank all of you who helped to make the October 25th start of Food Stamp and Medi-cal services here on the Rancheria an outstanding success. For those of you who missed the notice, Fresno County has agreed to have eligibility workers available here in the Community Resource Building every-other Thursday from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. These workers will be able to meet with anyone who is receiving or wants to apply for Food Stamps or Medi-cal assistance. The next date that the workers will be at BSR is Thursday, November 8th. Since the date after November 8th falls on Thanksgiving, the next November service date will be Thursday, November 29th. For an appointment you can contact either Johnnie Belford at 454-2573 or Jose Corchado at 454-2576. You are not required to have an appointment to use this service, but your waiting time may be less if you schedule ahead of time.

As I mentioned in my article last month, BSR is working with local partners to provide weatherization services to families that have been served by the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). If you received LIHEAP assistance through this office in 2007, you will be automatically referred to the weatherization program. Within the next week, local contractors will visit LIHEAP homes on the Rancheria to determine what can be done to protect against heat loss and high energy bills. This service is offered by PGE and the Fresno County Weatherization Program. It includes repairs such as replacing broken windows with single pane glass, thermal wraps for hot water heaters, weather stripping around windows and doors and even ceiling insulation if needed. If you were not on the list as being served by LIHEAP in 2007 and think that you may be eligible for this important service; please call the office at 855-4003 and speak to either Becky Cuthill or myself.

Just a few words about services in the near future. We are working with a num-

ber of partner agencies in the local area to bring more social services to BSR. Within the next month, Genesis Family Services will start offering counseling services. If you have a Medi-cal card, services can be covered at no cost. We have also started work on bringing services from Fresno Superior Court Self-help Center, The Marjorie Mason Center and other service agencies to BSR. All of these services will be made available to all community members. As these new services are added, please let us know what you think.

**BSR Kids Go Fishing** On an early brisk Saturday morning, we gathered captains with their bass boats, parents, kids and fishing buddies to claim brand new fishing poles and tackle; and all brought hearty appetites. We signed in and ate a free hot pancake breakfast. An hour later we were out on a boat looking for the best fishing hole on Millerton Lake. All fish caught were released back to Millerton Lake.  
- continued see TA page 4

## Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

Happy Halloween! We have had a wonderful start of a new school year. We are fully enrolled with 20 children and already have a new parent policy council in place. We would like to thank Gretchen Cox and SUSD transportation for providing us with a bus and driver for our field trip to Cobb Ranch. The children were very excited about riding the bus and getting to pick their own pumpkin to take home. The

class also went “trick or treating” in Auberry and the Big Sandy community ending with a Casino Luncheon.

We would especially like to thank our Head Start parents for cooperating with all of our many program needs and requirements. Each child is required to have several health screenings, and we are approximately 90% complete thanks to our parents and children having good attendance. Also,

our Parent-Teacher conferences are in progress and Home Visits are right around the corner. We hope everyone had a safe and silly Halloween.



And we wish all a Happy Thanksgiving!

## ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

Greetings, and on behalf of the Big Sandy Rancheria Indian Child Welfare Act Program I wish each and everyone health and happiness. The month of October has been a busy one here at the ICWA office and at times it seemed as if the running from here to there was never going to end. As a result of the work the ICWA office will be facilitating a series of Positive Indian Parenting sessions for the community, the time and location of these

sessions have yet to be determined and will be announced as soon as they are known.

The ICWA office has also partnered with the Genesis Program from Fresno and we are in the process of establishing policies, procedures, and guidelines in order to make referrals to their counseling program.

The ICWA office recently received forms from the Fresno County Sheriff's Department for the COATS-4-

KIDS CAMPAIGN 2007. If you would like to participate in this program or know of someone who would benefit as a participant please contact the ICWA office in person or telephone, 855-4003 ext. 215 to obtain the information needed. This information will be shared with the Head Start Program and you may contact them at their office.

Many blessings to all and thank you for the opportunity to serve, Matthew West, ICWA Coordinator.

## Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Liz Kipp

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. Munahoo ! (Hello),

As the General Manager of the Mono Wind Casino, I am very proud and excited to bring you another exciting newsletter update that will inform you of the events and promotions that are taking place here at the Friendliest Casino in California.

The Mono Wind Casino offers a variety of gaming activities, with over 300 gaming machines, Blackjack (double deck Blackjack and six deck shoes) Texas Hold'em Table and Pai-Gow. Our Table Games are open on Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 2 PM to Midnight, and on Saturday 2 PM to 1 AM. We have a lot of your favorite slot machines, ranging from \$.01, \$.02, \$.05, \$.25, \$.50, \$1.00 and \$5.00 denominations to choose from.

Mono Wind Casino has an exciting November planned with **"Mystery Jackpot"** every Wednesday, Slot Tournaments on 11/9 & 11/30, Saturday Spin Offs, Two for Tuesdays and Monday Night Football. You can pull a flag and win some CASH, or WIN a watch on 11/4, or on the **BIG DAY** of WINNING a Thanksgiving Dinner Package. We are always looking for something new and fun at Mono Wind Casino.

And if Gambling is your game, then you cannot go wrong by placing a bet to see Jeremy "Elvis" Pearce perform in the Broken Arrow Restaurant. As reservations are required, you can bet that this is the best show you will ever see in the Central Valley, which will have you coming back for more (call MWC at 855-4003, ext.23 for reserva-

tions).

Come relax and enjoy "The Friendliest Casino in California". We may be small, but we offer a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere without the hustle and bustle of larger Casinos. Someone is always happy to help assist you with any questions; you can either contact our Winner's Booth at ext. 30 or Asst. Director of Marketing, Donna Marquez at ext. 33.

As always, we greatly appreciate all of our customers, and hope to see you soon. From all of us here at Mono Wind Casino, Happy Holidays to you and your family.



## BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

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The Gaming Commission would like to say a big 'Thank You' to former employee Angelica Perez, Background Investigator for her dedication. We will miss her greatly and wish her the best in her next endeavor, Good Luck Angelica.

Our Gaming Commission Director, Compliance Officer and Internal Auditor just returned from training at the GLI (Gaming Laboratories Incorporated) in Las Vegas. They brought back a lot of information regarding the testing of gaming machines. Staff will utilize the training by conducting the tests

on MWC machines. A GLI field representative will be here at the end of the month to train the Supervisor on how to navigate the website, look for signatures on gaming machines and other pertinent information. The State of California Department of Justice and Gambling Control Commission were here on Thursday October 18, 2007 for a meet and greet meeting. We learned that the DOJ has a very confidential protection process for files that are received from the BSR Gaming Commission for background investigations. If anyone on staff at

the Casino was concerned about confidentiality, please be assured that information is kept quite safe.

On October 23, 2007 the DOJ compliance division reviewed the Casino to ensure it was in compliance with the Tribal State Compact along with all the required documentation.

Next month there will be new information for tribal casino employees. We look forward to giving you more insight in the months to come on how this office operates.

Happy Thanksgiving.

### BSR Distribution

M-W 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Th. and Fri. 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Sat. and Sun. 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

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**Tribal Administrator –continued from page 2**

Our boat captain caught a fish. We saw a HUGE fish jump out of lake and back in. Late in the morning we noticed a BIG fish laying in the shallow water. We love fish stories too, especially, the ones that got away.

There was something for everybody. On-shore activities included games, nature presentations, and a karate exhibit. We enjoyed a barbecue luncheon followed by the “Millerton Lake 2007” awards ceremony recognizing the participating children’s accomplishments. Awards went to Matthew Munoz, Ernie Soto Jr., Katalina Soto, Sally Bonilla, and Carlos Bonilla. The C.A.S.T. For Kids Foundation from Renton, WA along with many other sponsors produced this adventure. Our invitation came from Dave (Big Bear), from Chawanakee. Thank you Dave!

Big Sandy Rancheria ~ Big Fish Day



Matthew Munoz-Millerton Lake 10/07

**OVCDC November, 2007**

- Homework club Monday—Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Scrap Booking Class 11/9 and 11/30, 4-5:30 p.m.
- Volunteer/ Chaperone Orientation Tues. 11/13, 5-6 p.m.

**Upcoming Events**

- Art Classes
- Parenting Classes
- Elders Club

For more information please contact Amanda Talamantez, Site Project Coordinator or Stephanie Dondero, Sports Coordinator to volunteer or join an activity. Phone 559-855-7575

**BSR Tribal Council Meeting Dates**

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

As a convenience to all tribal members, the council has provided the following meeting dates through 2007. We appreciate your interest and encourage your participation. Thank you.

**Tribal Council Meetings**

- Wednesday, January 31, 2007
- Wednesday, February 28, 2007
- Wednesday, March 28, 2007
- Wednesday, April 25, 2007
- Wednesday, May 30, 2007
- Wednesday, June 27, 2007
- Wednesday, July 25, 2007
- Wednesday, August 29, 2007
- Tuesday, September 25, 2007
- Wednesday, October 31, 2007
- Wednesday, November 28, 2007
- Wednesday, December 19, 2007

**General Council Meetings**

- Sunday, March 25, 2007 @ 10:00 AM
- Sunday, June 24, 2007 @ 10:00 AM
- Sunday, September 30, 2007 @ 10:00 AM
- Sunday, December 16, 2007 @ 10:00 AM

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