



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

# Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

## Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! Hopefully all is well with you and your family. This last month we had a fun time at our Bingo night. It was great to see such a wonderful turnout. There were 150 or more in attendance. The Snack Bar sold out of everything. We look forward to the continued success for this event. The next Bingo night is on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Come and join the fun and wear a Halloween Costume to participate in the costume contest. Prizes will be given for the funniest, scariest, and most original costumes. We would like to ask that parents monitor the ac-

tivities of their children during our Bingo nights. Parents must accompany children under 12.

For the month of October, Connie Lewis will be attending the CNIGA meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Pearl Hutchins will be attending meetings as our representative for CVIH. Our monthly Tribal Council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 AM. If you have any agenda items please contact Gina Riley at the Tribal Office.

We have been meeting with our developer regarding the casino project. The Tribal Council

is expecting things to start up again. We are close to finalizing the agreements needed for the funding to continue our project. Once the agreements are signed we can complete the Environmental Impact Study, Compact negotiation, Lease Agreement with landowner, etc. Please attend the next General Council meeting for a full update.

**Wellbriety  
Adult Group Meetings**

**Big Sandy Gym**

**Every Tuesday, 4-6 pm  
Phone: 360-7950**

## Announcements

### Membership

Please be sure to notify the tribe if you have an address change. We still receive a lot of return 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.

### AA/NA Meetings

Wednesday evenings  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Place: Ruthie Beecher's  
Come! Everyone needs someone to listen to. See ya there!

### BSR Bingo

**Fright Night!**  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007  
Location: BSR  
Multi-Purpose Building  
Time: 5:30-8:30 pm

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### 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

It may seem strange to be thinking about cold weather and winterizing your home while the temperature is still bouncing around in the nineties but now is the time to start preparing. We are trying to coordinate our new BSR Low Income Energy Assistance Program with other resources to help tribal families save energy and stay warmer this winter. The Tribal Administrator's Office will be working with housing and county weatherization programs to help to insulate and protect BSR homes this fall to protect against the winter cold weather.

We hope to have local contractors visit homes on the Rancheria to determine what can be done to protect against heat loss and high energy bills. This service is offered by the Fresno County Weatherization program and 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 when needed. Through the tribe's NAHASDA program we plan to secure insulating pipe wraps to protect water pipes from the kind of damage experi-

enced last winter. We will purchase the pipe wraps for tribal members who will have to install the wrapping themselves.

As I mentioned last month in the newsletter, BSR will operate our own Low Income Energy Assistance program this year. If you are a low-income family please contact either Frank or Becky about LI-HEAP program assistance with PGE, propane or wood for the coming winter, please stop by and fill out an application.

Thank you for your time.

## Education Submitted by Tribal Administrator

### The Gates Scholarship Application Lab

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS), funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding American Indian/Alaska Native, African American, Asian Pacific Islander Americans, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in all discipline areas and a graduate education for those students pursuing studies in mathematics, science, engineering, education, library science, or public health.

The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding students with significant financial need to reach their fullest potential. Eligibility criteria include:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (un-weighted);
- Will be entering a U.S. accredited

college or university as a full time, degree-seeking freshman in the fall;

- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities; and

- Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. (Eligibility for Federal Pell Grant can only be determined through the submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Programs). This lab is for all students that meet the eligibility criteria. The 2007-2008 Gates Millennium Scholarship Nomination Packet can be accessed online at [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org) or [www.aige.com](http://www.aige.com).



**Lab confirmed sites, additional sites to follow in the November issue.**

**WHEN:** Tues., Nov. 13, 2007, 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** Fresno City College, hosted by NAISA (Native American Indian Student

Association)

**WHAT:** AIGC presentation of GMF and other scholarships – and how AIGC is a resource Contact person: Judy Ramirez

[judith.ramirez@fresnocitycollege.edu](mailto:judith.ramirez@fresnocitycollege.edu)



**WHEN:** Thu., November 15, 2007, 9:00 AM

**WHERE:** Sierra High School

**WHAT:** A Gates Millennium Scholarship Lab to assist students in completing a Gates Millennium Scholarship Application Contact person: Tawanih Estrada, [msparkyestrada@yahoo.com](mailto:msparkyestrada@yahoo.com) and Gretchen Cox [gcox@sierra.k12.ca.us](mailto:gcox@sierra.k12.ca.us).



**WHEN:** Sat., Nov. 17, 2007, 9:00 AM – 12:00, Supporting a Strong GMF application

**WHERE:** California State University Fresno

**WHAT:** Workshop for parents, Nominators, people who are asked to write letters of reference, Tribal Education Coordinators, School counselors, etc.,

Lunch provided by CSUF University Outreach Services 12:00 – 1:00

GMF application lab for students 1:00– 4:00 PM

Contact Person: Hector Cerda c- 415-225-3859 [pdjrunner@yahoo.com](mailto:pdjrunner@yahoo.com)

## ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

During the month of September 2007 the BSR ICWA Office provided ICWA services for ongoing clients in the form of home visits, domestic violence counseling and assisting with filing court documents. The ICWA office continued its partnering effort with the various entities working with Big Sandy Rancheria. At the last Foothill Collaborative meeting held at BSR the ICWA office pushed for more concrete goals and accountabil-

ity for the participants of the collaborative. The ICWA Office also met with Fresno County DCFS ICWA liaison and began the process of establishing Fresno County policies, procedures and guidelines regarding any proposed DCFS action involving BSR children. BSR ICWA office also attended a two day "un-doing racism" workshop held in Fresno County. BSR ICWA representative attended an ICWA Workgroup meeting in Sacramento and re-

ported on the positive efforts happening here in the central valley. BSR ICWA has collaborated with the surrounding tribes and is in the process of organizing community ICWA presentations beginning in late October. BSR ICWA has set a tentative date with the Central Training Academy to present a basic ICWA Workshop in Fresno County. BSR ICWA is actively participating in the planning of the 2008 ICWA Summit and 2008 ICWA State Conference.

## Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Liz Kipp

September 29<sup>th</sup> is your chance to get your entries in for the "Prize Surprise" giveaway. You can WIN, one of the following: \$10,000 Home Improvement card, Quad with Trailer, Game Room Entertainment Center, or a Cruise for two with \$500 spending CASH. Hurry and get your WINNING ENTRIES IN TODAY!

The month of October is filled with many exciting promotions. Visit the Winner's Club for details on the month's promotions or log onto [www.monowind.com](http://www.monowind.com).

I would like to personally welcome Sharon Coltra as the new Food & Beverage Director. Sharon has many years of experience in the Food & Beverage field, and has a lot of new and exciting ideas for the Broken Arrow Restaurant. She is launching a new menu for everyone that will include meals that meet certain diet needs. We have removed a wall to expose the "pizza oven" (from

Italy). Once the staff sets up the oven we will begin offering PIZZA. Yummm! Sharon has plans to establish a Bakery with fresh homemade pies, donuts and bread. Just the smell alone will bring you back wanting more. I am very excited to have Sharon on the management team and we are all looking forward to the new changes.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Mono Wind Casino brings you "The Last BBQ of the Season". In celebration of the closing of this year's BBQ season we have planned a menu with your choice of Steak, Chicken or Ribs with a green salad, beans and a roll for \$8.00 per person and \$15.00 for couples. We will have prizes to give away and to add to the day's events we will have a MECHANICAL BULL for you to try and "hold on" to for 8 seconds. We are trying this event for the first time, and ask that you to stop by and participate in the excitement.

The Casino is already planning on "Ringing in the New Year!" and what a better way to ring in the New Year than in a brand new 2008 Toyota Hybrid Camry. For only 50 points from your Winners Club Card Account, you can be the lucky Winner to drive off in this beautiful car, so get your entries in NOW!

We have increased the number of tribal members working at the casino from 14 on the last report to 17. I am very excited to have the new tribal members aboard and wish them all the luck in their new positions.



## BSR Gaming Commission Submitted by Geri Alec

Hello everyone! The BSR gaming commission is still very hard at work. It is difficult to let you know what we are working on due to confidentiality, but there are some items that you may be interested in.

The Background Investigator is current with all the background investigations. The Auditor and Compliance Officer are currently working diligently on

completing reviews before the end of the year.

Amy Hutchins has just completed her 6<sup>th</sup> year with the Gaming Commission. Congratulations! Amy.

The Surveillance department has been working very hard monitoring the casino 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This department's role, while not often noticed, is critical in the success-

ful operation of the casino.

The following is a list of meetings, trainings and workshops that the commission has attended or will be participating in:

**August 6<sup>th</sup>,** State Regulators Meeting to review the CGCC8 held at Rincon Casino, attended by Geri Alec, Commission Supervisor –*continued see Commission page 4*

## BSR Distribution Submitted by Richard Johnson

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

Hello everyone, I am Halley Smith and I am the BSR Distributing/Smoke Shop manager. I have been working at the BSR Smoke Shop for approximately three years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome that I received when I returned back to work from my maternity leave. I would also like to thank the Smoke Shop staff for all their continued hard work. We are looking forward to a productive and successful year.

The Smokeshop and BSR Distribution carry a variety of Native made premium brand products at a very low price. All our products are available in either box or soft style. One of the newest products that we are offering are *Rogers*, a premium brand product made of high quality tobacco.

We make every effort to provide our customers with great value for quality products. One example is our

"Frequent Buyer Card" program. This promotion is available to all our customers. With the purchase of any twenty cartons you receive one free carton. We hope to provide more specials to you in the near future, if you would like to make any suggestions please feel free to stop in and visit us.



Commission –continued from page 3

**August 15-17th**, NIGA Condensed Certification Course –3 day training session held at Diamond Mountain Casino, attended by Geri Alec, Commission Supervisor

**September 5-6**, GLI University Program- training and workshop held at The Spa in Palm Springs, attended by Geri Alec, Commission Supervisor; Angelica Perez, Background Investigator and Amy Hutchins, Compliance Officer

**October 16-17th**, GLI –In Service Training to be held at GLI in Las Vegas, and to be attended by Richard Johnson, Commission Director; Marlene Johnson, Auditor and Amy Hutchins, Compliance Officer.

**OVCDC Tribal TANF Proudly Sponsors our 1st Annual Co-ED Youth Basketball Clinic**

- Open to all interested youth boys and girls of all skill levels
- No Participation Fee
- Registration Forms available@ BSR Gym & Tribal TANF offices
- Free shirts to be handed out to all participants

All youth in Fresno County are encouraged to come out and participate. This is a community based activity and parent's involvement is greatly appreciated. All youth 1st-3rd grades or 5-9 yrs old.

**DEADLINE for Registration 11/30/07** ~For more information contact Sports Coordinator, Stephanie Dondero 559-855-7575

**REMINDER**

*OVCDC Tribal TANF offices will be closed from October 8th through October 11th for mandatory training.*

Big Sandy Rancheria ~ Art Showcase



Eric Barber

## 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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