



Big Sandy RANCHERIA

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

Smoke Signals

A Monthly Publication

Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! We hope that everyone is well and enjoying this hot summer weather. Up here at Big Sandy it has finally cooled to the mid 90's after a long heat wave. This summer we had a fun time sending about 120 of our youth and families to Great America for the day. This was a fun time for all. There are pictures on the web at www.bigsandyrancheria.com for all who would like to check them out.

For the month of September there are some things for all members to be aware of. On September 11th the Family-to-Family Collaborative will be having their monthly meeting in the BSR Multipurpose Building from 11 AM to 1

PM. This is a group of agencies, social workers, and parents that come together to offer services to families in need. Anyone is welcome to attend.

On September 17th at 5:00 PM we will be having a Child Care Public Hearing. We are in the process of pulling our funds from the ITCC consortium for Child Care. At this time those dollars will help the tribe implement wrap-around child care for Head Start. Those funds will also be available for tribal member children who are not in the Head Start age bracket (3-5).

Tuesday, September 18th is our second Bingo night. In August we had 65 peo-

ple from our community come and enjoy our Bingo night. This month's theme is "Fall back to the 50's." If you are able come and enjoy some food and fun.

Our General Council Quarterly meeting is on Sunday, September 30th at 10 AM. If you have any agenda items please contact Gina Riley at 559-855-2103. At the meeting there will be updates on our casino project. Connie Lewis and Pearl Hutchins will be attending the CNIGA meeting on September 20th and the CVIH conference on September 26th through 28th.

**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 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

Fallback to the 50's
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Location: BSR Multipurpose Building
Time: 5:300-8:30 pm

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GRATITUDE

To Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council, Big Sandy Rancheria Families, Friends and Relatives.

Thank you so very much for your support, concern and love shown through your giving actions. Our family experienced a great loss with the passing of our Father Albert Moore in April and another huge loss with the passing of our beloved "Bertie".

Once again, Thank you.
The Moore Family

Tribal Administrator Submitted by Frank Fabunan

Hello, my name is Frank Fabunan I am the Tribal Administrator for BSR. I have been on the job now for a little more than seven months and this is my first opportunity to introduce myself to you. In the short time I have been with BSR I have enjoyed meeting tribal members and working on behalf of the Tribe. I consider it a privilege to be able to use my 25 years of experience in working with tribal programs for the benefit of this community.

Prior to coming to BSR I have worked for tribes in Oregon and Washington for 22 years in a variety of positions including education, ICWA, Chemical Dependency, and social service. I have experience in tribal grants and contracts management and development; and in supervising a variety of tribal social service programs. For the past 4 years, I worked for Tribal TANF as a Site Manager.

I am very pleased to announce that in August Rebecca Cuthill has joined us as my Assistant and has been doing a great job in serving tribal members. Becky has

been a tremendous addition to the office. Welcome Becky!

As part of my job as Tribal Administrator, I am looking at developing and expanding services for tribal members. This means that I must get to know the community and the tribal members and the needs and interests in the community. I believe that to do that I need to listen to the membership about what people see as community needs and then work to develop resources that meet those needs. This does not mean that we can get every program that we wish for, but it does help to focus our energies on those things that tribal members feel are most important. Thank you, for all of your timely participation with the survey. I hope to develop a community meeting to discuss these ideas; and until then, I invite each of you to stop by the office to meet us and become acquainted.

We are hoping that one of the changes in tribal programs will be available starting in October. We have applied for

funding that will allow us to add "wrap-around" childcare services to our Head Start program. Through the use of funds from a Child Care Block Grant and a grant from the OVDC Tribal TANF program, we will be offering tribal parents who are working or in school the option of having their child remain at the Head Start Center until 5:30 each day.

The Child Care Block Grant will also allow the tribe to offer childcare support to working parents. We will be holding a public hearing on September 17th in the gym to hear your comments about the childcare program. I hope that we will see many of you at the hearing.

At this time there is still funds available for the Low Income Energy Assistance program. If you are a low-income family need LIHEAP program assistance with PGE,
-continued *see Tribal Administrator, page 4*

Head Start Submitted by Chrissy Atwell

We have had a very busy summer in Head Start this year. We had a volunteer painting Saturday and was joined by Tribal Council, Connie, Phyllis, Miles, along with Elena in Finance and Richard with the smoke shop. Some of the other volunteers were HS staff Jean Harrington, and Peggy MacLeod and from the BSR community was Tiffany Lewis, Ralph & Lynette Manuel, Kimberly Riley, Matthew, Jackie and Erica. We had a couple of long volun-

teer Saturdays and we are very grateful for the help that we received. We have also been busy preparing and recruiting children for the new year. We have enrolled eight tribal children in the program this year, which is awesome, they are the reason for the season and why we are here.

We currently have position openings for a teacher, custodian and program assistant. These positions require

a drug screen, background clearance and will be open until filled.

Our parent potluck orientation on Friday, August 31, 2007 was very successful. There were many interesting delicious dishes brought in to share. We have a new parent policy council in place which means we are ready for business. As always, we continue to accept children's applications throughout the year so send any/all 3 and 4 year olds our way, we promise fun filled days.

ICWA Submitted by Matthew West

Hello, my name is Matthew West and I am your new ICWA Coordinator here at the Big Sandy Rancheria. I am a member of the Ute Tribe from Fort Duchesne, Utah. I began my duties as your ICWA representative on July 16, 2007. I worked twelve years in the Native American child welfare arena. I hope to assist the Tribe in its continuing effort to assert its sovereignty and its right to be the guiding force in the destiny of its children. I

hope to assist the Tribe in its continuing effort to assert its sovereignty and its right to be the guiding force in the destiny of its children. I hope to accomplish this through effective collaboration, creative partnerships and the utilization of local resources.

Next year, 2008 will be the 30th anniversary of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, a federal law that prescribed specific state action when dealing with Native children in the family court. It

has taken all but four of those thirty years for the state of California to come into compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Within the last few years there have been great strides made by the tribes of California at the local and state child welfare level. The Big Sandy Rancheria has been a driving force here in the valley and in Sacramento to right the wrongs of the past and implement new and better policies continued -*see ICWA, page 4*

Mono Wind Casino Submitted by Liz Kipp

The Mono Wind Casino would like to invite you and your family to attend the 3rd Annual "Luau" on September 15, 2007. Come and enjoy traditional Polynesian Food and great entertainment performed by The Fresno Polynesian Club. And immediately following the Polynesian Club's performance is the one, the only.... Jeremy "Elvis" Pearce. Reserve your tickets NOW! \$37.00 for 13 years of age and older, \$20 for 12 years & under, for more information call Donna Marquez at 559-855-4350 ext. 33.

September 29, 2007 is the next "Prize Surprise" Giveaway. Try your luck at WINNING; an Entertainment Center, or Cruise for 2 PLUS \$500 Cash, or a \$10,000 Lowe's Home Improvement Gift Card, or a Quad with Trailer or a well stocked Game Room. Please contact the Winner's Club for more information at ext. 33. Also... start earning your points for the Vehicle Giveaway for NEW YEARS!!!!

We have added new themes to the casino in the Wide-Area Progressive Gaming Machines; Star Wars, Back to the Future, and Money Madness all are \$.01 machines, all are awaiting your chance to WIN it BIG with large Jackpots. If you have a "favorite" theme and would like to recommend to us, what it is you're looking for, please call and let us know. Remember, we prefer

IGT manufactured gaming machines, and we will compare the numbers and make a decision based on testing performance from the approved testing lab for gaming machines. All recommendations are welcomed and appreciated.

The financial status of the casino has improved since the last update. We have done a great job in keeping expenditures to a minimum and currently are at merely operational expenses. One large expense that has recently been a burden of the casino is the purchase of water for the residences of Big Sandy Rancheria. We have spend well over \$4,000 in water transport, which also includes the purchase of ice, rental of porta-potties, and other related items. During this transition, the casino has implemented a "conserve water" program and has ensured that all employees understand the importance of the very "sensitive" situation. And we ask that all the residences of Big Sandy Rancheria understand the importance

to "conserve" and use the water as needed. I would like to personally thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The casino currently has 87 employees employed with the total number of 14 as Tribal Member employees. We have tribal employees that are enrolled in school and I wish them the very best in their goal of achieving higher education. We are proud of you!

We currently are under going plans to "face lift" the Broken Arrow Restaurant, to provide a clean atmosphere for your dinning pleasure. We ask during this period, you excuse the mess, as we will do our best to ensure that construction is not during restaurant hours. Thank you again in advance for your cooperation.



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.

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



BSR Distributing and the BSR Smoke Shop are into the 9th month of operation for 2007 and would like to welcome two new team members and welcome back one of our team members back from maternity leave. First, everyone would like congratulate and welcome back Halley Smith who was on leave spending time with the arrival of

her twin boys, Evan and Ivan Lee. We missed Halley and we hope she enjoyed her time off. We look forward to her return on 9/10/07. BSR Distributing would also like to welcome two new team members, John Baty from Big Sandy Rancheria and Lacey Gallagher of Clovis. They will be assisting in both retail sales for the Smokeshop and the

shipping and receiving of the tobacco products for the distribution side of the operation. While Steve Manuel is off seeking higher education we will retain his position at the BSR Smokeshop as retail sales on nights and weekends. In closing we appreciate, Denise, for doing a great job while covering for Halley during her maternity leave.



ICWA-continued from page 2

and procedures when dealing with Native children. I hope to continue these positive steps as your ICWA worker here at the Big Sandy Rancheria. I can be reached at my office in the administration building Monday through Friday during regular business hours or by phone at 855-4003 ext. 215 or after hours at 559-917-7135. It is a pleasure to be of service here at the Big Sandy Rancheria. Finally, I will be a guest speaker for the "Together We Can!" conference to be held at the Fresno Convention Center, on September 27, 2007 from 8 am to 5 pm.

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propane or wood for the coming winter, please stop by and fill out an application. Because September is the end of the budget year for the LIHEAP, we have been notified by NCIDC that the limit on benefits have been increased to \$600.00 per household for the year. This means that even families that have received aid earlier this year can apply for a second time. This extension only lasts until the NCIDC runs out of LIHEAP funds or September 30th. Please call Becky or myself for an application or more information.

Thank you for your time.

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



Eric Barber

BSR Tribal Council Meeting Dates

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

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

you.

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

**Big Sandy Rancheria
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