



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008

Volume 9, Issue 1

BIA FUNDS RELEASED

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In November, 2008, Chairman Mike Keller, Vice Chair Adora Saulque and Fiscal Officer Cindy Kitts met with representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Sacramento. The meeting was very successful and informative. The main objective of the two-day meeting was for the group to become better acquainted with the BIA personnel and procedures.

works to obtain the 638 funds, and what reports and forms are to be completed to keep the funds coming in on a regular basis.

The 638 funds are used to sustain Tribal Government. This includes salaries for key people, such as a TAO, Secretary and Fiscal Officer, as well as building maintenance, utilities, office supplies, and other items that help the Tribal government function.

All in all, this was a successful trip to Sacramento, and the Office Staff, as well as Tribal Council looks forward to a great relationship with the Bureau.

CALL ALL ARTISTS!

The Tribe is redesigning its logo.

All Tribal members who are interested are invited to submit a drawing to the Tribal Council.

There will be a prize for the winning entry.

Submit your drawing to:

Tribal Council

PO Box I

Benton, California 93512

bentonpaiutetribe@wildblue.net

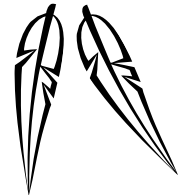
Entries must be in by April 15

The group met with Troy Burdick, and Claudette Rogers to discuss Tribal policies. They also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from HIP, Reality, Fee to Trust and 638 funds, which is the money that is received by the Tribe from the yearly contract with BIA for funds, which are to be used for Tribal Government.

As a result, there is a greater understanding of how the process

For 2009, the request for funds will include a capital expenditure for the purchase of Computers for the Tribal Office. These computers will be made available for Tribal Citizens to use for online classes, and for students for school. Since the Tribal Office has satellite internet now, the tribe will be able to offer internet access to those who need it.

The group also had the opportunity to meet with representatives at CIMC and get information on their organization.



ORDINANCE WORKSHOP

The Tribal Council has set a date of March 7, 2009 at 9:00 am to work on revising the Election Ordinance, Arbitration Ordinance, Gaming Ordinance, and the Tribal Constitution. The Council would like to invite any Tribal members who would be interesting in having input on changes to these Ordinances and the Constitution to come, give their suggestions, and voice their opinions.

It is the plan of Council to have these completed, and include the revised documents in the May election.

Council would also like to encourage those of you who are not able to attend to send your comments. You can send comments to the tribe by mail to: P.O. Box I, Benton, California 93512; Fax (760) 933-2412, or by email to:

bentonpaiutetribe@wildblue.net

If you have any general questions, please call the Tribal office (760) 933-2321

TURTLE HEALTH DECLARES BANKRUPTCY

In 2004, the Tribe loaned a total of \$50,000.00 to an organization called Turtle Health, on the recommendation of the then Tribal Chairman and the approval of the then sitting Tribal Council. The basis behind the loan was to aid Turtle Health in its upstart and beginning expenses.

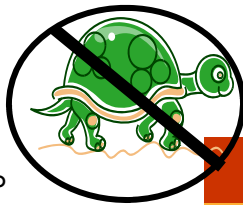
However, Turtle Health was unable to become active, and on February 3, 2009, in Federal Bankruptcy Court in Sacramento, declared their intention to go into Bankruptcy.

Chairman Mike Keller and Vice Chair Adora Saulque attending the hearing on behalf of the tribe, in hopes of receiving some kind of monetary settlement. Turtle Health declared they had no assets, and were unable to pay their debtors, so

the Tribe will have to take the loss of \$50,000.00.

The Tribal Office did receive another document, which will be returned to the Bankruptcy court in the hopes of receiving some kind of settlement. The only thing offered the tribe was used furniture.

This incident is unfortunate, as the \$50,000.00 spent on this venture could have been better used by the Tribe directly.



TRIBE LOOKING FOR TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Tribal Council will be advertising for a Tribal Administrator.

The Tribal Administrator will be responsible for the day to day operations of the Tribal staff, as well as finding and being accountable for Grant funding, along with other duties. The Tribal Administrator reports to the Tribal Council.

Please read the enclosed Job Description. If you are interested, and meet the qualifications, or if you know of someone who does, please contact the Tribal Office.

ARBITRATION COSTS

The final costs of the two Arbitration hearings has been tabulated by the Tribal Fiscal Office:

Arbitration held Summer, 2007

Head Arbitrator	\$3500.00
2 Arbitrators	\$2000.00
Travel Expenses	\$1000.00
Attorney Fees	\$2500.00
Secretary	\$150.00

TOTAL: \$9,150.00

Arbitration Hearings- 2008

Head Arbitrator	\$3089.00
2 Arbitrators	\$3061.91
Travel Expenses	\$1,641.00
Attorney Fees	\$2,500.00
Secretary	\$150.00
Printing	\$539.42

TOTAL: \$10,981.33

TOTAL ARBITRATION:

\$20,131.33

LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Are you interested in serving on a Tribal Committee? The Tribal Council is looking for committee members for the following committees: Housing, Education and Revenue Sharing (Gaming) .

Membership on a committee is an important part of Tribal service. You would be asked to participate in recommending to the Tribal Council on activities related to these committees.

You do not have to be a local resident to participate. The Tribe has the capabilities to include out of town members via teleconference.

If you would be interested in participating, please fill out the enclosed form. It may be returned by fax to: 760-933-2412, or by mail: P.O. Box I, Benton, California 93512, or may be downloaded from the tribal website: www.bentonpaiuterreservation.com

Benton Station News



Benton Station has a new look! It had a 'face lift' during the last part of November and part of December. Some of the much needed repairs had been "on the books" for years, but never seem to have been done. Some of them were required, and some were just to make the 'old place' look better.

Some of the 'updates'

- New floor in the Cafe
- New Floor in the Kitchen

- New counter
- Removal of the walk-through door between the store and café, and addition of a large passage way between the Café and Store
- New recessed lighting in the Café, and the addition of 2 ceiling fans.
- New curtains

And there were others.

The changes give Benton Station a new look for the new year.

Some other things that are in the works for 2009 are enlarging the restrooms, and repairing the pumps.

Benton Station looks forward to their changes and upgrades, and the employees and staff invite everyone to drop by and see the new look!!



Benton Paiute Economic Development Corporation

Board of Directors

Mike Keller, President

Mark Marquez, Vice President

Tim Keller

Winnifred (Bette) Reymore

"Kids" Christmas Party

The tribe hosted its annual "Kids" Christmas party in December to the delight of the young children and their families. We had a festive, happy afternoon beginning with snacks and crafts.

About forty children attended and feasted on a holiday buffet of chocolate, veggies and dip, chips, candy canes, cookies, cupcakes and more chocolate. The buffet was prepared by and donated by tribal members as well as the Tribal Council. Holiday music brightened the center along with a Christmas tree, hanging decorations and the warm fire.

The children decorated mini Christmas Stockings, or made colorful paper chains for their own houses. Santa came to greet the children, and have them candy and a big smile!

The Tribal center was filled with a jolly holiday spirit.

Thanks to Carrie and John Marquez, LaDona Saulque, Rana Saulque, Jared Saulque, Melissa Mitchell and Heather Saulque, Benton Station and the Tribal Council for their donations of time and supplies to make the party a huge success.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Toyiabe Indian Health will soon be installing exercise equipment in the old Saddle Tree Building.

This equipment will be available to Tribal members who wish to use it.

The Tribal Council is going to be hiring someone to work as a 'trainer' for the Wellness Center. The job will start out as part time, possibly 3 days a week, and may change depending on the amount of time the equipment is used.

Prior experience is not necessary as Toyiabe will be training an acceptable candidate.

If you are interested, please complete the application included in this newsletter. You can mail it back to: P.O. Box I, Benton, Ca 93512, fax it to: 760-933-2321, or access it on the web: bentonpaiuterreservation.com. If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Office.

TRIBAL OFFICE CONTACTS

Tribal office Phone: (760) 933-2321

Tribal Office Fax; (760) 933-2412

Email: bentonpaiutetribe@wildblue.net

Web: www.bentonpaiuterreservation.com

Fiscal Officer: Cindy Kitts

Tribal Secretary: Adora Saulque

Security: Dennis C Saulque

Maintenance: Vincent Meredith; Honavaa Lewis

Arbitrator: Jerod Blain



**Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe
Benton Paiute Reservation**

567 Yellow Jacket Road
PO BOX I
Benton, California 93512

Are You Current?

With the election coming in May, and the newsletters sent out, we want to be sure that we have your current address. If you have moved, or have a different address, please fill out this paper, and return it to the Tribal Office

Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe- P.O. Box I- Benton, California 93512 (760) 933-2321 bentonpaiutetribe@wildblue.net

Name _____	Telephone No _____
Current Mailing Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Email address _____	
Any special requests??	