



Indian Country Update

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

WINTER 2006

President Bush Signs Patriot Act Renewal

Bill Includes Major Efforts to Fight Methamphetamine Abuse

The Patriot Act Reauthorization Act includes the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act Of 2005. This bill introduces commonsense safeguards that will make many ingredients used in methamphetamine manufacturing more difficult to obtain in bulk and easier for law enforcement to track. For example, the bill places limits on large-scale purchases of over-the-counter drugs that are used to manufacture methamphetamines— and requires stores to keep these ingredients behind the counter or in locked display cases. It increases penalties for smuggling and selling methamphetamines, which will be valuable tools to help fight this problem in Indian Country.



President George W. Bush shakes hands with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, R. Pa., after signing H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, Thursday, March 9, 2006 in the East Room of the White House. White House photo by Kimberlee Hewitt.

Bush Administration in Indian Country



Chairman Charles Vaughn of the Hualapai Indian Tribe hosted Nick Sinatra from the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs on February 17, 2006 on the Hualapai reservation in Peach Springs, Arizona for a discussion on Arizona tribal affairs and a tour of the lands. Members of the tribal council and of the Intertribal Council of Arizona were in attendance.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit in Indian Country

Medicare Reform has been one of the President's top priorities and today millions of Americans are taking advantage of the new health care programs offered by Medicare. These new programs include a prescription drug discount card, preventive care like the "Welcome to Medicare" physical, and cardiovascular and blood sugar screenings that can help identify and prevent life threatening diseases. Also, those who have no drug coverage and average drug expenses will be able to cut the costs of their drugs by half or more. It is important to enroll in this program in order to receive these new benefits.

Please encourage Seniors to sign up for the new Medicare program today. The prescription drug coverage for enrolled seniors began January 1, 2006, but it is not too late to enroll. Seniors must sign up for this program by May 15, 2006. After this time period a late fee will be assessed.

To enroll or to find more information on the process, please call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit www.medicare.gov or www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships.

National Congress of American Indians Comes to the White House



Photo Courtesy of White House Intergovernmental Affairs: Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs discussing a renewed partnership between the NCAI and the Bush Administration with NCAI President Joe Garcia at the White House meeting.

On January 24, 2006 the Executive Board of the National Congress of American Indians met at the White House with high level officials from across the Executive Branch of the government. Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs hosted the meeting. Pat Ragsdale, Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bob Middleton, Director of the Office of Energy Programs & Economic Development at the Department of Interior and Dr. Chuck Grim, Director of Indian Health Service also participated. Among the issues discussed were ways to work more closely to help tribes take advantage of energy resources in Indian Country, economic development partnerships, Indian Health Care, No Child Left Behind, and tribal sovereignty. The meeting was very constructive and as a result, the White House hosted an Indian Country specific conference call the next week to discuss the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit and how to better communicate with American Indians and Alaska Natives on the enrollment process.

Upcoming Events in Indian Country

Medicare Part D-Prescription Drug Benefit Enrollment Deadline:
May 15, 2006



Get more information at www.medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare

North American Indigenous Games

Denver, Colorado July 2-9, 2006 • "In the Spirit of the Sports Warrior"



The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) is a large-scale multi-sport and culture celebration offering competition in 16 sports for Indigenous athletes between the ages 13-19 and adults ages 20 and over. The North American Indigenous Games will be held in Denver, Colorado July 2-9, 2006. Photo courtesy of the Colorado Indigenous Games Society.

Yes, I would like to become informed about White House activities...



Name _____
 Title _____
 E-mail Address (required) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

PLEASE PRINT FORM AND FAX TO (202) 456-7015.