

# SMOKE SIGNALS

## Big Sandy Rancheria

### A Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! The Tribal Council wishes everyone a Happy Valentine's Day this month. We are almost finished with relocation of some of the departments. The Gaming Commission is now settled into their new office. Once TANF moves into the old gaming trailer, the Tribal Council and the Family Activities department can move into the gym. Head Start will be moving into the Community Trailer during the month of February. Some of you have called and needed membership letters and other documents from the Tribal Council. We thank you for your patience at getting these items. We should be settled soon.

As we mentioned last month, the EIS is now in the hands of the BIA. We are waiting on the BIA for the public comment period to begin. We hope to have more information to report to you at the next General Council meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Tribal Council encourages all members to try and attend the General Council meetings. The dates are posted on the website and in this newsletter each month. The General Council meetings and Tribal Council meetings are the best times for members to ask questions, receive information, and voice their concerns. Tribal

Members are also encouraged to come in and talk to the Tribal Council. If you would like to meet with the Tribal Council, please contact Gina Riley to make an appointment.

The Tribal Council will be in the office most of the month. February 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>, members of the Tribal Council will be traveling to Las Vegas to the Pier Conference for Native Americans. This conference will focus on economic development for tribes. Our Tribal Council meeting will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> this month.

Once again, the Tribal Council hopes that we will have a good turnout for the March General Council meeting. We are seeing a lot of progress for the tribe and would like to share that with all of you. We have already seen an increase in the grant programs as Gretchen continues to improve her departments. We have seen a dramatic increase in the amount of Tribal Members our LIHEAP program has helped. At the General Council meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> we will have reports from our various departments available for you to see. If you have any agenda items, please contact Gina Riley to be put on the agenda.

### Tribal Administrator Gretchen Cox

Happy New Year! We have many new and exciting changes here on the Rancheria. Our programs are growing! This has created the need to relocate some departments. Thus allowing Big Sandy Rancheria to continue to provide services efficiently to meet the needs of the Tribal Members. **Head Start/Child Care:** There are many exciting changes going on in this department as well. The program will be relocating to the Community Building. Due to an increase in services and enrollment, this move will allow us to stay in compliance and have the much needed space for the children. We are still accepting applications for childcare services for students in grades k-8. Beginning February 2, students in grades 1-12 can ride the bus to the gym, receive a snack, and get assistance with their homework. Please stop by the tribal office or Head Start building to pick up an application. **Family Activities Program:** We continue to offer a variety of fun and healthy activities for the community. Be sure to check out the calendar of events so you can come out and participate. Any ideas for future activities are welcome. **Housing:** We have received our FY 2008 funding. So if you are in need of repairs, applications are available at the Tribal Office. Keep in mind, there is a waiting list so getting your application in ASAP is highly recommended. Please remember to fill out your housing application completely as any missing information could delay the processing. **Scholarships:** We still have funding available for vocational education. If you are considering enrolling in a program, now is a great time to

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### Meeting Dates 2009

#### General Council Meetings

Sun, March 29, 2009 10:00 am

Sun, June 29, 2009 10:00 am

Sun, September 27, 2009  
10:00 am

#### Tribal Council Meetings

Wed, February 25, 2009

Wed, March 25, 2009

Wed, April 29, 2009

Wed, May 27, 2009

Wed, June 24, 2009

Wed, July 29, 2009

Wed, August 26, 2009

Wed, September 30, 2009

Wed, October 28, 2009

Wed, November 18, 2009

Wed, December 16, 2009

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# Natural Resource Manager Gabriel Huerta

Hello Everyone,

Winter has been here for a month or so now with very little to show. This January happened to be one of the driest Januaries in recent history. This does not bode well for Big Sandy Rancheria's water status. Everyone is encouraged to begin monitoring their water use. Water will be a huge issue this summer and its in everyone's best interest within the Rancheria to do all they can to conserve water. In the next couple of months information pertaining to residential water use will be available for the residents to view. This information along with the help of this Department and Tribal Council will go along way in hopefully avoiding a severe water outage this year.

Public Water System Water Quality remains good. The water being provided is safe and very drinkable. Higher than recommended levels of Uranium are still a long term issue that Indian Health Services and the EPA are actively assisting us to overcome. Some may have noticed water from the system that looked a bit milky. This is do to air trapped within the system. Air in the water is strictly cosmetic and is not a health & safety issue. By allowing a glass of water to sit for a minute you'll find that the air does vent leaving the water very clear.

All the trash bins have been relocated to the Tribal Admin. Office. Thus far the decision to move the bins is paying off. I would like to ask everyone who uses the bins to remember to put down the lids to avoid the dogs from making a huge mess.

The Natural Resources Department is now located in the Main Tribal Administration Building. Please feel free to visit with any questions, concerns and/or ideas you may have.

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. ~Native American Proverb

The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives. ~Sioux

Gabe Huerta - Natural Resources Manager

855-4003 x204



## Family Activities

### Department

Norelva Alarcon

Volleyball nights will be every Thursday night 5:30 - 8:30 starting in February. We will have two movie nights a month, every other Friday unless there is an event scheduled (see calendar on pg 5 for dates). Friday, February 13 will be our Valentine's Gathering "Healthy Relationships " @ 6 pm in the BSR Gym. I have starting events with the Elders, on February 19 we will be meeting at the gym at 9 am. The elders that did attend the breakfast on January 21 agreed to start clearing the areas around the local pounding rocks and make trails to each site. We will have a lunch in the gym at 12:00 and discuss the next months event. Hope to see more elders at the next meeting. This month's Eagle Feather Awards will be held on February 25 at 6 pm in BSR Gym. Eagle Feather Awards honor our local children and community members for their achievements and good behavior. Family Activities Department will be moving, my new office will be located in the gym. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call at 855-4003 ext or you can email me at na@bigsandyrancheria.com

## ICWA Matthew West

At this time of the year many of us take time to make new resolves to better our lives and/or the lives of our families. If the Big Sandy Rancheria Indian Child Welfare Act Program could make just one New Years resolution, that resolution would be to find and certify one home as a Native American foster home here on the Rancheria. The other day I was reminded of the importance of having foster homes available in the event children are removed from a home. Simply put if you have a home that's ready and good to go as a foster home then you don't have to waste anytime running about trying to certify one at the last moment. Of more importance is that the child can go directly into the Native foster home until a suitable relative placement is identified, if there is no foster home then the child is at risk to go into foster care elsewhere in the county. This coming year the ICWA Program will be partnering with the Activities Coordinator to educate and inform the members of the Big Sandy Rancheria of the need for foster homes as well as short informational sessions about positive Indian parenting, domestic violence, and child abuse/ neglect awareness. Happy new year from the Big Sandy Rancheria ICWA Program, may the forthcoming year bring happiness and prosperity to everyone.

559-855-4003 ext 215

mw@bigsandyrancheria.com

# Gaming Geri Alec



Mun-a-hoo

The Gaming Commission has moved from the office trailer to where the Tribal Council conducted business we have so much more room, we are really enjoying it.

We contacted the State Gambling Control Commission in reference to the final audit report and they are reviewing our response to the audit.

The State of California Department of Justice still has yet to notify us the status of the compliance review. Still waiting.

The California Gambling Control Commission (CGCC) in reference to the CGCC8 we have not heard of any actions on the MICS decision as of this date. There was a cancellation of meetings this month and have been rescheduled for January 2009. The regulators have a meeting scheduled for next month in Lemoore not sure of the date yet.

There are two (2) new Wide Area Progressive (WAP) with the theme of Indiana Jones. The Last Crusade that was just installed on Wednesday January 22, 2009. These are gaming devices that are IGT and the Gaming Commission has to be on site for delivery and removal of equipment along with EPROM removal, this is by the guidelines of TICS and IGT Policy and Procedures to ensure all involved are in compliance.

If you have any questions of any of the procedures that the Gaming Commission is complied to follow please ask this office we will be glad to answer any questions.

Until next time,

A-we-a-na

## BSR Distributing

Halley Smith

Now that we are well into 2009 we are excited for what this year will bring. We started out the year quite busy organizing our inventory and maximizing our warehouse space to meet our ever growing demands.

The Smoke Shop will be upgrading to a new cash register system in the month of February. The new system also has an inventory tracking feature. This system will help provide a quicker and more accurate count on our inventory. Staff will be trained on the new system.

BSR Distributing Management would like to congratulate Tribal Member Phillip Moore on successfully completing his forklift training, job well done! All of the BSR Smoke Shop staff has now attended and successfully completed the forklift training certification course.

Also, the BSR Distributing Management would like to wish BSR Smoke Shop employees Phillip Moore and Lacy Gallagher a Happy Birthday.

As a reminder the Smoke Shop hours are as follows:

Monday - Wednesday	8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Thursday - Friday	8:00 am to 9:00 pm
Saturday - Sunday	10:00 am to 6:00 pm

“To know when to go away and when to come closer is the key to any lasting relationship.”

## Head Start

Jami Rodriguez

My office location has changed. The new location is now at the community building. (Future site for the Head Start) Please see our web site [www.bigsandyrancheria.com](http://www.bigsandyrancheria.com) for a complete application and details on our two fabulous programs. Families must meet Head Start & Child Care income guidelines and other eligibility requirements to be eligible for services. A child must be at least three years old by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Children who have documented special needs and/or disabilities are also eligible for our program regardless of income. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Listed below are a few items you need to bring that will help get your child's enrollment complete and ready to be approved, or put on the waiting list.

- \*Pre-enrollment Application
- \*Birth Certificate
- \*Social Security Card/Number
- \*Physical Exam
- \*Updated Immunization Record
- \*TB Skin Test Verification
- \*Income verification
- \*Tribal Documentation (if applicable)

I can be reached at [jr@bigsandyrancheria.com](mailto:jr@bigsandyrancheria.com) or 559-855-7601 for any questions you may have about child care or Head Start.

# Mono Wind Casino

Carolyn Silva

For the month of February, Mono Wind will continue to have daily promotions. The slot tournaments continue every other Friday. However in the month of February we will have daytime and nighttime tournaments. Check the postings for date and time. There will be a valentine tournament. See your enclosed calendar for various promotions.

The card tables are closed for now. Two new Indiana Jones wide area gaming machines were installed January 22.

### The restaurant has new winter hours.

8 am - 8 pm Monday thru Thursday

7 am - 9 pm Friday thru Saturday

7 am - 8 pm Sunday

You will notice we have fewer employees but we are working as efficiently as possible.

Come join us for the new promotions and new gaming machines.

## Tribal Administrator Gretchen Cox

(Continued from page 1)

enroll! Also, for those planning on pursuing or continuing their higher education, now is the time to submit your FAFSA to prepare for future scholarship opportunities. Please give me a call if you have any questions. LIHEAP: The program is still taking applications for your PG&E for heating needs which includes propane, wood, and pellet payment assistance. Applications are available at the Tribal Office, or call to have one mailed to you. Please get your applications in ASAP as there is only a small amount of funding available. If you have any questions, please contact the Administrative Assistant, Angie Beihn @ 855-4003 x 214 so she can assist you with processing your application. Hope you all have a happy and healthy New Year!

## EAGLE FEATHER AWARDS

### LOCAL STUDENTS

**EMMA JOHNSON - HEAD START**  
cooperative, helpful, and being respectful to others

**GABRIEL BERRY - AUBERRY ELEMENTARY**  
working very hard at becoming a better student

**REED TELLES - SIERRA ELEMENTARY**  
4th grade student council rep, 3.75 GPA,  
very responsible and creative

**STEPHANIE BATY- FOOTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Member of FMS undefeated volleyball team and 3.5 GPA

**TANYA WALKER - SIERRA HIGH SCHOOL**  
volunteers her time with all F.A.D. events "very helpful"

### COMMUNITY MEMBER

**SAMANTHA WHEELER**  
volunteer work at Big Sandy Head Start

**NEXT EAGLE FEATHER AWARD NIGHT**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2009 @ 6 PM**  
**BSR GYM**

Services are available to BSR from Westcare including:  
Adult and parent-child residential drug treatment, outpatient treatment services, sober living environments, therapeutic childcare, youth services & more.



Contact:  
(559) 439-5437

For more information.



Genesis Family Center offers counseling or chemical dependency treatment services to anyone in the BSR community who is eligible for Medi-Cal. Genesis staff will be available at the Resource building on the same dates as Food Stamps and Medi-Cal services. Call (559) 439-5437

## Elders' News

Pounding Rock Project  
Thursday, February 19, 2009  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Meet at BSR Gym  
clearing of brush and debris from local  
pounding rocks  
continental breakfast will be served at 9:00 and  
lunch will be served at 12:00

## Happy Birthday

### January

Juanita Stamp  
Phyllis Lewis  
Richard Lewis Sr.  
Edith Beecher

### February

Cecelia Wesley

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 	13	14 
15	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22 	23	24	25	26	27	28

Thursday 5 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 6 - Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 12 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 13 - Basket Making 9 - 3 Gym hosted by CVIH Traditional Committee  
 February 13 - Valentine's Day Gathering "Healthy Relationships" 6:00 pm BSR Gym  
 February 14 - Valentine's Day  
 February 16 - Presidents' Day Tribal Office Closed  
 February 19 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 20 - Auberry First Baptist Church "Youth Rally" 10 - 10  
 February 25 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 pm Gym  
 February 26 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 27 - Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 19 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 am BSR Gym  
Ongoing  
 Mon - Thurs Homework Club K - 5 in Community Bldg 3:30 - 5:00  
 Mon - Thurs After School Program 6 - 12 Gym 3:30 - 6:00

### OVCDC Ongoing - All Events Held in BSR Gym

BSR Youth Council  
 Youth Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Prevention  
 Drumming, Signing and Dancing

Call OVCDC  
 for More Info  
 855-7575



# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March 5 - Volleyball 5:30 - 8:30  
 March 6 - Movie 5:30 - 8:30  
 March 8 - Daylight Savings set your clocks ahead 1 hour  
 March 12 - Volleyball 5:30 - 8:30  
 March 19 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 am BSR Gym  
 March 19 - Volleyball 5:30 - 8:30  
 March 20 - Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 March 26 - Volleyball 5:30 - 8:30  
 March 30 - Eagle Feather Awards 6 pm Gym  
Ongoing  
 Mon - Thurs Homework Club K - 12 in Gym 3:30 - 4:45 pm  
 Youth Activities 4:45 - 6:00 pm

### Membership:

It is very important to notify the Tribal Office if you have an address change.  
 Also, when a Tribal Member turns 18, it is their responsibility to notify the tribe. Forms can be found on the BSR website or you can request them from the Tribe.

**Tule River Food Distribution**  
 February 4, 2009  
 March 4, 2009  
 Location: Rancheria Lane Circle  
 10:30 - 12:00

**Food Stamps & Medi-Cal**  
**Available In the BSR Gym**  
**February 5, 2009**  
**March 5, 2009**  
**Hours:**  
**9:30—12:00**  
**1:00—2:30**