



### A Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! Happy New Year!

We hope that you all had a good holiday season. We enjoyed a few inches of snow up here at Big Sandy on Christmas. We are happy to report that the EIS was submitted to the BIA just before the New Year. We will keep you updated on the progress that is made on this.

We have included the dates for both General Council and Tribal Council meetings for 2009. Unfortunately, we did not get a quorum for any General Council meeting this past year. The Tribal Council would like to encourage everyone to get involved and attend the meetings. We appreciate your input and ideas.

Some members have noticed that all of the trash bins have been moved up by the Tribal Office. We decided to move them because of the overflow of trash that we have been getting charged for. Our Tribal Administrator is looking into a grant that would enable us to fence around the trash bins and keep the area clean. The tribe gets charged extra for items that are placed in the

bins that are not acceptable.

This month we will be making some transitions in the office. TANF will be moving into the modular that is currently occupied by the Gaming Commission. There, they will be doing their cash aid assistance for TANF clients. The Gaming Commission will be moving into the current Tribal Council office. The Tribal Council, along with the receptionist and the Family Activities Coordinator will be moving to the gym.

We are also expanding down at Head Start. They have outgrown the current facility and will be moving to the community trailer. This move is needed in order for us to stay in compliance with the standards of Head Start. The Head Start director's office will move down there as well. The Natural Resource office will relocate up to the current Tribal Office.

The next Tribal Council meeting will be on January 28, 2009. If you have any items to be placed on our agenda, contact Gina Riley at the Tribal Office.

### Inside This Issue

Tribal Administrator	2
BSR Distribution	2
Family Activities Department	2
ICWA	3
Natural Resource Manager	3
Gaming	3
Head Start	4
Mono Wind Casino	4

### Meeting Dates 2009

#### General Council Meetings

Sunday, March 29, 2009 10:00 AM

Sunday, June 29, 2009 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 27, 2009 10:00 AM

#### Tribal Council Meetings

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

### BSR 2008 Winter Gathering



## Tribal Administrator Submitted By Gretchen Cox

Winter Greetings,

**Head Start/Child Care:** We are still accepting applications for childcare services for students in grades k-8. They can ride the bus to the community building, receive a snack, and get assistance with their homework. And these services are free!!! Please stop by the tribal office or Head Start building to pick up an application. **Family Activities Program:** We continue to offer many activities for families and students so please come and join us. **Housing:** We have received our FY 2008 funding so if you are in need of repairs, please get your application in ASAP. 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 cause a delay in processing your request. **Scholarships:** We still have funding available for vocational educa-

tion, so if you are considering enrolling in a program, now is a great time. Also, for those of you planning on attending school for the 09-10 school year, you will be able to fill out your FAFASA beginning in January. Completing your FAFSA is mandatory if you plan on applying for financial aid or scholarships of any kind. We will be hosting financial aid workshops in the spring to help those with questions or looking for more scholarship opportunities. **LIHEAP:** The program is now taking applications for your PG& E, propane, and heating needs including wood and pellets. Applications are available at the tribal office, on our website, or call to have one mailed to you. Please get your application in ASAP as there is a limited amount of funding and it is administered on a first come first served basis.

*Hope you all have a safe and Happy New Year!*

## BSR Distribution

Submitted By Halley Smith

Greetings,

The BSR Smoke Shop staff has had a busy December, in addition to the daily operations of the Smoke Shop and Distribution Center, staff has been focusing on closing out 2008 with a year end inventory. The staff is looking forward to and preparing for another successful year.

As we look back on the 2008 Smoke Shop accomplishments, we have much to be proud of:

- *January 2008*-discussion began on increasing space and expanding the Smoke Shop in order to meet the needs of the rapidly growing business. It was decided that a new warehouse would be the best way to meet that need. The construction and installation of a new warehouse included reviewing plans, bids and materials and coordinating with various parties in order to complete. By the end of August The BSR Smoke Shop finally had a new warehouse.
- *August 2008*-with a new warehouse and additional space the next item needed was a forklift. A forklift was purchased and staff was sent to forklift training. Everyone passed the class and obtained their certification as forklift operators.
- *September 2008*-Smoke shop team member Johnny Baty was elected to BSR Tribal Council and assumed his duties as treasurer. We wish him much success in his new role on Tribal Council
- *November 2008*-With Johnny Baty's departure the Smoke Shop needed to recruit staff. Hiring staff was very important in order to carry out the day to day operational needs and necessary in order to continue meeting the demands of a growing business. By the end of November tribal members Victoria Sorondo and Phillip Moore were hired.

continued on page 4

## Family Activities Coordinator

Submitted By Norelva Alarcon

My first month has been a very exciting one. Volleyball Nights have started up again. We had two movie nights, we watched "The Grinch" with Jim Carrey and The Polar Express. Hopefully with the Holidays out of the way we can start planning more regular events. The Eagle Feather Awards Presentation was held on December 18. There were seven awards handed out. The next Eagle Feather Awards Presentation will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2009 @ 6:00 pm in the gym. The Winter Gathering was a great success, high five to all that helped to make it a success. There were over 300 people in attendance. The New Year's Eve Gathering was filled with fun. We played board games, guitar heroes, bingo, and arts & crafts. At midnight we brought in the new year with our noise makers and threw balloons in the air. In January the Family Activities Department will be planning events for our elders. We will be having a breakfast for the elders (see calendar for dates & times). We will talking with the elders to get ideas of what kind of events they would like to do in the future. The goal is to have activities for all community members. I just want to thank all for making my job fun and exciting. If you have any questions or concerns you give me a call at the office 855-7600 or email me at na@bigsandyrancheria.com. My office is located in the community building if you want to stop by and say hello or have any ideas for future events for the community. Thank You!!!! I hope the new year brings you happiness and joy.

**"Never live in the past but  
always learn from it."**

**ICWA** Submitted By Matthew West

It's the end of another year and for many of us it's a time to reflect on the highs and lows of the last year. The Big Sandy Rancheria (BSR) Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program has come along way with regards to collaborative efforts with local and private agencies. Throughout the year it has been the goal of the ICWA Program to change attitudes, change practices, change policy and change structure in the existing child welfare landscape, at the state, county and tribal levels. One of the most important accomplishments for the ICWA Program this year was the active participation in the re-writing of Fresno County's child welfare practice, procedure and guideline handbook as it pertains to Native Children. This collaborative effort was a first in the state of California and it's a signal that now is the time to join together and make a better child welfare system for everyone. We here at the BSR ICWA office will continue to enhance our abilities to provide greater service to the members of the Big Sandy Rancheria and make the work an opportunity of possibilities instead of limitations. Blessing to one and all from the BSR ICWA Program.

**Natural Resource Manager** Submitted By Gabriel Huerta

Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and safely brought in the New Year. 2009 will hopefully bring more stories of success and prosperity to our Rancheria. To help get things in motion the Natural Resources Dept will be performing a very thorough Audit of the Public Water System beginning 01/05/2009. It is in the best interests of the Tribe to have a better understanding of the water system, its components and how it effects our environment as well as our budget. This will include weekly visits to each home site within the Rancheria that has access to the Public Water System, in order to conduct meter reads and to update maps of the water system. I appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter. Water is the lifeblood of our Rancheria in many ways and it is the goal of this department to share a better understanding of that before the hot summer months begin.

Also, I want to thank those of you who have taken the initiative to maintain a decent firebreak around your homes within the Rancheria. Removing brush, low hanging tree limbs and dead trees during the cold months can greatly reduce the fire hazard once things begin to warm up again.

The trash bins have been relocated to the Tribal Admin. Office. Only the bin at the Community Building remains, which will be moved within the next few weeks. There has been a slight reduction in illegal dumping and litter throughout the Rancheria do in part to the relocation of the bins, Utility personnel and general public awareness.

I want to remind everyone that if we don't take of our fragile environment especially here in the Big Sandy Rancheria where you may live, work, or visit no one else is going to do it for us. How we treat Mother Earth will have lasting effects not only for us but also for our children and all our Tribal descendants of tomorrow.

**Gaming** Submitted By Geri Alec

Mun-a-hoo

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. We contacted the State Gambling Control Commission in reference to the final audit report and they will contact us soon. The State of California Department of Justice still has yet to notify us the status of the compliance review. 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.

E. J Egghart audit is done this year there was some findings and a few that have been questions and when they come to do the final review those items will be brought for questioning in April 2009.

At this time our staff would like to extend to everyone  
**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Until next time,  
 A-we-a-na

**New Year's Gathering 08**

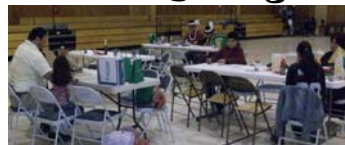
**Guitar Heroes**



**Family Pics**



**Family Bingo**



**Basketball**



**Board Games**



## Head Start Submitted By Jami Rodriguez

The New Year will bring great changes to the BSR Head Start Program. I am *thrilled* to announce the **move** of the Head Start Program. By March 2009 the program will be located in the BSR Community Building. This building is located next to the Pow-Wow grounds. This building will allow the staff a break and work room, the director to be on site with the program and additional classroom space for the children.

Learning experiences can be fun for everyone. Children and parents can share the joy of learning and playing while they communicate and grow together. By working together with your child, you are helping to build his or her language and literacy, social and emotional, gross motor, fine motor and cognitive skills. Your children's ability to learn new skills will depend on their stage of development and their individual interests. Before you get started with an activity in "Fun and Learning for Parents and Children", you might review the Helpful Hints below. They offer ways to help you plan and prepare for the activity anytime and anywhere:

- Establish some rules with your children and be consistent about enforcing them.
- Use eye contact and reasoning to relate positively to your children.
- Praise your children for their positive behaviors and let them know that they are loved.

Remember, you are your child's first and most important teacher and your home is a primary learning place! Their learning will depend on the opportunities and support that you offer them at home and in their surroundings.

Continued from page 2 - BSR Distribution

The BSR Smoke Shop Management would like to thank the Smoke Shop staff for their continued hard work and dedication. The BSR Smoke Shop staff wishes everyone a safe and joyous New Year.

As the New Year unfolds...  
 May you be blessed with...  
 The joy of new beginnings...  
 Prosperity to live life to the  
 fullest...

Serene Moments to bring peace and happiness...  
 May each new day bring for you new joys and new  
 hopes!

Happy New Year!

## Eagle Feather Awards

### Local Students

Nellie Kipp - Auberry Elem. "Respect"  
 Teresa Johnson - Auberry Elem. "Leadership"  
 Wasoomte DelToro - Auberry Elem.  
 "Leadership"  
 Erika Munoz - Auberry Elem. "Leadership"  
 Alana Orosco - Foothill "Kindness"  
 Christopher Nunez - SHS "Respect"

### Community Member

Alan Orosco - "Kindness"

Nest Eagle Feather Award Night  
 January 30, 2009 @ 6 pm  
 BSR Gym

## Mono Wind Casino

Submitted By Carolyn Silva

See Calendar Insert



## January 2009

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

January 1 - New Year's Day Tribal Office Closed  
 January 2 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 January 9 - Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 January 13 - Big Sandy Youth Family Orientation Potluck  
 6:00 pm BSR Gym  
 January 16 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Tribal Office Closed  
 January 23 - Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 January 28 - Tribal Council Meeting  
 January 30 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 pm  
 January 21 - Elders' Breakfast 8:00 am BSR Gym

Ongoing

Mon - Thurs Homework Club K - 5 in Comm. Bldg 3:30 - 5:00  
**OVCDC Ongoing - All Events Held In BSR Gym**  
 Homework Club 3:30 - 5:00 grades 6 - 12  
 Big Sandy Youth Council Wednesdays 5 pm  
 Youth Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Prevention Fridays 4 - 5 pm  
 Drumming, Singing and Dancing Tuesday & Thursday 5 - 7 pm  
 Call OVCDC for more information 855-7575

## February 2009

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

February 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 - 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 - Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 26 - Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30  
 February 25 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 pm  
 February 18 - Elders' Breakfast 8:00 am BSR Gym

Ongoing

Mon - Thurs Homework Club K - 5 in Comm. Bldg. 3:30 - 5:00  
**OVCDC Ongoing - All Events Held In BSR Gym**  
 Homework Club 3:30 - 5:00 grades 6 - 12  
 Big Sandy Youth Council Wednesdays 5 pm  
 Youth Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Prevention Fridays 4 - 5 pm  
 Drumming, Singing and Dancing Tuesday & Thursday 5 - 7 pm  
 Call OVCDC for more information 855-7575

## Announcements

**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**  
**January 7, 2009**  
**February 5, 2009**  
**Location: Rancheria Lane Circle**  
**10:30 - 12:00**

**Food Stamps & Medi-Cal Available In the BSR Gym**

**January 8, 2009**  
**January 22, 2009**

**Hours:**  
**9:30—12:00      1:00—2:30**



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

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.