



Smoke Signals

March 2009



A Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo! As most of you know the Tribal Council has received a recall petition for the following Tribal Council members: Chairperson Elizabeth Kipp, Vice Chair Miles Baty, Secretary Regina Riley, and Member at Large Pearl Hutchins. There have been some members that have requested that their names be removed from the petition after speaking with the Tribal Council. We appreciate those Tribal Members that have written letters regarding their signature removal. Rather than argue the validity of the petition, the Tribal Council has decided to accept the petition and call for the recall election on Saturday, March 21, 2009. By now you should have all received the notice for the election as well as a copy of the petition. If you would like to request an absentee ballot please contact the Tribal Office.

On Sunday, February 22, 2009 a special General Council meeting was held in order to talk about the petition and discuss any concerns that the Tribal Members have for the Tribal Council. There were only 28 Tribal members that came to the meeting. Of the 28 members that were present only 8 attendees were present that signed the petition.

While there was no quorum for this meeting there were some that asked questions of the Tribal Council. Liz began the discussion with an explanation of how the petition was received on Friday, February 20th. Up to that point the Tribal Council had not had anyone come to the Tribal Council with any concerns. There have been a lot of rumors out in the community that the Tribal Council has tried to address by the letter that was sent out the previous week. Some members asked why the petitioning group was not present at the meeting. The Tribal Council was told that some members were encouraged not to attend the meeting with the Tribal Council.

The additional concerns from Tribal Members were discussed. The Tribal Council was asked why Head Start was moved to the Community Trailer. Liz explained that the smaller modular that Head Start was in had been too small to operate a classroom of twenty students. In order for the program to grow and be in compliance we had to move to a larger facility. Previously, the Community Trailer had been utilized by the elders and then later was managed by TANF. More recently, the Community Trailer had been used for Tribal Member gatherings, Summer School, the Family-to-Family Collaborative, and Homework club. All of these programs as well as elder and community events were relocated to the gym when Head Start was transferred. The concern from the Tribal members was that the elders did not have a place to meet, as well as concern of the location of the POW WOW. Liz explained that the elders and any other group had the gym for a meeting place. The POW WOW committee was made aware that we might have to rearrange vendors and/or drum groups for the POW WOW, but there is still plenty of room for the POW WOW.

The Tribal Members questioned if there was going to be a usage fee for the gym. Liz explained that this was a topic of discussion amongst the Tribal Council, but at this point there has been no decision. There has not been a charge in the past for Tribal Members and we had talked about keeping it that way. The charges would be for outside groups such as Tribal TANF, churches, schools, and other businesses that might need to utilize the gym space. The fees would not be for Tribal Members.

There was question about the Tribal Council salaries. Apparently the rumor was out in the community that the Tribal Council had received a raise.

This information is incorrect. The Tribal Council is receiving the same salary as the previous Council. This present Tribal Council stopped all vacation accrual for the Tribal Council. Now, there is no added cost of vacation pay to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council also took away per diem for travel. Previously, it was \$50/day for per diem that was issued. Now, we use a credit card to only pay for the meals and hotel. This is much easier and efficient to track.

There was a Tribal Member that requested that the Tribal Council do home visits. Some of the Tribal Council members explained that they had been out to see the homes on the Rancheria. The Tribal Council is more than willing to come and visit people that request us to be in their home. We are also respectful of people that might not want a home visit. We have 253 adult Tribal Members, and while a home visit to each might not be feasible, the Tribal Council gives everyone the opportunity to utilize the services that are available to Tribal Members.

There was a Tribal Member that voiced concern that we did not do enough for our veterans at the Veteran's Day Parade. Liz explained that there were four Tribal Council members that volunteered to assist Tippy Baty with the Veteran's Day Parade Float. Miles and Liz made sure that the vehicles were there for the float. Pearl helped arrange for the Color guard from Dunlap. Johnny was present to help as well as be honored as a veteran. Tippy Baty, as the Interim Family Activity Coordinator at that time, arranged for the dancers and the spot in the parade. There was also other staff that came to the parade on that day to bring water, coffee, and snacks for all involved.

There were comments made at the meeting about our Tribal Administrator being disrespectful to Tribal Members. The Tribal Council asked that anyone that did have a complaint or concern should notify the Tribal Council. We can't address something

that we haven't heard about. To this day, there have not been any complaints of this nature brought to the Tribal Council.

The Tribal Council appreciates the ones who did come to the meeting to ask questions. At this time we are uncertain of what will happen but we want to be prepared for anything. Attached in this newsletter is a memo that was sent out to our BSR Employees. This memo explains the different scenarios that the tribe will face depending on the outcome of the recall election.

Scenario A

If the current Tribal Council remains in office or if there is a minimum of three (3) Tribal Council members remaining in office, then business will carry on as usual. The Tribe can only operate and conduct business if there is a quorum (3 Tribal Council members).

Scenario B

If the four (4) Tribal Council members that are facing this recall do in fact get recalled, then there will not be a quorum and any and all business transactions will cease. Having only one or two Tribal Council members remain, no business will be conducted. If this turns out to be the case all employees will be on lay-off status as of March 20, 2009. There will be a period of up to 60 days in order to have a special election to fill the Tribal Council vacancies. During that time there will not be check signers, which will affect the grant programs, business and payroll, but it will also greatly effect the RSTF disbursement that comes up in May.

This month the Tribal Council will be in the office. The recall election is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. If you are unable to come and vote in person you can request an absentee ballot by calling the Tribal Office at 559-855-4003. If any tribal members have any further questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact the Tribal Council.

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

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

Natural Resources Manager

Submitted by Gabriel Huerta 855-4003 ext 204

Hello Everyone,

Well Mother Nature showed her mercy, at least for this month with all the rain and snow in our area. As good as this rain was we are still well below the normal average rainfall for the season. Federal Environmentalists and Water professionals all agree that the state of California is in for a very dry summer. As a result BSR residents and visitors need to start thinking about water conservation. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed. Feel free to schedule a meeting with me or drop off a written suggestion to the Tribal Admin. Building to be placed in my mailbox. In the coming months I'll be placing some valuable ideas in the newsletters for everyone to consider. Water meter data, for those houses that have them have been analyzed. Homeowners looking to find out what their average water usage was can schedule an appointment with me. I.H.S. will be assisting BSR this month in continuing the Public Water System Project that will hopefully lower the levels of Uranium in our water. I.H.S will also be visiting several different home sites in order to ascertain I.H.S ability to proceed with installing certain water and septic services. All in all the Natural Resource Department continues to make great strides in providing safe drinking water and maintaining a respectable septic/water/solid waste infrastructure.

"Man's heart away from nature becomes hard"

Standing Bear

"There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed " Mohandas K. Gandhi



BSR Distributing

Submitted by Halley Smith 855-5210

BSR Smoke Shop Price List

Chocolate Candy Bars

\$0.75

Snickers

Almond Snickers

Milky Way

Kit Kat Twix

3 Musketeers

Hershey's

Hershey's with Almonds

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Candy \$0.25

Air Heads

Candy \$0.50

Tic Tacs Life Savers

Candy \$0.75

Skittles Red Vines

Starburst Mentos

Air Heads Xtremes

Candy \$1.75

Altoids

Chips \$0.50

Flamin' Hot Cheetos

Munchies Cheese Fix

Chips \$0.75

Doritos Nacho Cheese

Doritos Cool Ranch

Cheetos Fritos Lay's BB

Lay's Classic Potato

Gum \$0.35

Wrigley's

Gum \$0.75

Bubblicious

Stride Trident Splash

Snacks \$0.25

Oberto Beef Jerky

Snacks \$0.50

Cheez-Its

Peanuts

Sweet N' Salty Trail Mix

Fruit Snacks

Rice Krispie Treats

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Snacks \$0.75

Oreo Cookies

M&M Cookies

Corn Nuts

Jack Link Jerky

Davis Sunflower Seeds

Drinks

Sodas \$1.00

Pepsi

Diet Pepsi

Wild Cherry Pepsi

Diet Wild Cherry Pepsi

Mt. Dew

Mt. Dew Code Red

Squirt

Sierra Mist

Dr. Pepper

Root Beer

Orange

Water

Gatorade \$1.50

Mt. Dew AMP Energy

Drink

\$2.00

ELDERS' NEWS



L to R: Melba Beecher, Cecelia Wesley, Jane Stamp, Paul Beecher, Rochelle Bonillas, Wilma Lewis and Adrianna Garcia

The Elders' Pounding Rock Project was a very rewarding day. We had uncovered two sites that were completely covered. The first site was behind the casino, we had to clear at least two inches of dirt and grass from this site. There was no sign that there was even a rock there. The second site was across the street from the gym, it was covered with leaves and some dirt. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, we will meet at the gym at 9 am and return to the gym at 12 to participate in the CVIH Health Fair (10 - 3). Hope to see some new faces at the next meeting.



Above: Site behind Casino
Below: Site Across the Street from Gym



No March Birthdays

Next Meeting March 26, 2009

9:00 - 12:00

ICWA

Submitted by Matthew West 855-4003 ext



Too often communities witness the horror and devastation of child abuse and neglect along with the pervasive and long lasting effects it has on the children, their families and the community. There is no single approach, no single person or office that can prevent child abuse. To stop child abuse we must replace our frustration with education, we must also make our children and ourselves aware of the problem along with the solutions. We must work together as a family and community to partner and collaborate with other offices and agencies in order to stop the abuse and protect our children. Child abuse prevention is everyone's business and together we can make a difference. For further information regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect please contact the BSR ICWA.

Mono Wind Casino

Submitted by Carolyn Silva

Notes From the Casino

The casino continues to have its Senior Days, Men's Day, Ladies Day along with early bird promotions on Friday's.

We will have a special drawing on March 8th for Daylight Savings.

Coming in March, daytime slot tournaments.

Giveaways in March of BBQ and umbrellas.

Slot tournament at the night of St. Patrick's Day.

See the enclosed calendar for more information.

We have a couple of new machines; everyone seems to enjoy playing them a lot.

The restaurant has some new hours, check them out your next visit.

We will be giving away \$500.00 a month for 12 months in April to one lucky person.

Check the winners club for details.

Hope to see all of you at the casino.

Tribal Administrator Submitted By Gretchen Cox 855-4003 ext 201

Greetings!

All transitions have been successfully completed. Thank you for your continued patience. **Head Start/Child Care:** The Head Start Program is now enjoying their new facility. Please feel free to stop and check it out. We are still accepting applications for childcare services for students in grades k-12. 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., or call the Tribal Office to have one mailed to you. **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 or suggestions for future activities are welcome. **Housing:** We are currently using our FY 2008 funding for rehabilitation projects. Due to the funding increase of over \$180,00 for FY 2009, we will be able to serve families on and off the Rancheria beginning in December. So if you are in need of repairs, applications are available at the Tribal Office, online, or call the Tribal Office to have one mailed to you. 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. **Also, we will be hosting a HIP workshop with Ben Charley from BIA this Friday, March 6 @ 12:00 in the gym.** **Scholarships:** We still have funding available for vocational education. If you are considering enrolling in a program, now is a great time to 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. **LIHEAP:** We have successfully processed 36 applications using all grant funding for this program and are no longer accepting applications. We will keep you posted if we are allocated any additional funding due to the new stimulus plan. **Please feel free to call or email me should you have any questions regarding any of the programs here on the Rancheria.**

Happy First Day Of Spring March 20, 2009

Big Sandy Head Start Submitted by Jami Rodriguez

WE HAVE MOVED

Monday February 23, 2009 was the first day of school at our new and amazing facility. This terrific move has doubled our classroom and playground square footage. We would like to **THANK** everyone that helped with our much needed relocation. We are now located at :

37802 Jose Basin Road
Classroom Phone: 559-855-7600
Director's Office: 559-855-7601
Fax: 559-855-7602

Our Head Start and Enrichment programs offer many great things for preschool and kindergarten aged children. One of the excellent things that we offer is the Family Style meal service. This service provides children an opportunity to learn healthy eating habits. Adults should model healthy eating habits and proper table manners. Family style meal service has some advantages... Family style meals allow children to identify and be introduced to new foods, new tastes, and new menus. Children are often unsure about new foods. Seeing new foods and watching others serve themselves gets them interested. They are more willing to try a small serving when they see other children trying new foods. Children can choose the amount of food they want to have on their plate. When foods are served family-style, children may choose to take a small portion of food, knowing that the food will still be available if they would like a second serving. Children feel more in control to judge their hunger and fullness throughout the meal, knowing that more food is within easy reach. Children practice good table manners and new skills with their hands and fingers. Serving themselves gives children time to practice skills like passing, pouring, and scooping foods. Taking turns, sharing, and polite turning down foods are all a part of the table manners children learn by participating in family-style meal service.

If you have any questions about our two fabulous programs please feel free to contact me at any time. Here is a great wintertime recipe for you to try.

1 package cornbread mix
2 large onions, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
2 cloves of garlic, chopped
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/4 cup water
3 (15 oz) cans of black beans,
drained and rinsed well
1 cup chicken or vegetable broth
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon of chili powder
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
Dash hot pepper, or to taste
4 fresh oranges
1 cup nonfat sour cream

Bake cornbread in a 9x9 inch pan, as directed on package. While cornbread is baking, make chili by combining onions, green and red bell peppers, garlic, oil and water in a large saucepan. Cook, stirring often, for 10 minutes, or until vegetables are soft. Add beans, broth, oregano, chili powder, allspice, and hot pepper, if desired. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 10 minutes more. While chili is simmering, shred 2 teaspoons orange peel. Squeeze juice from enough oranges to make 1/2 cup. Set shredded peel and juice aside. Peel and remove all white membrane from remaining oranges, then slice fruit crosswise. Cover oranges and set aside.

Uncover chili and bring back to a boil. Continue boiling for 15 to 20 minutes, until chili thickens. Stir in 1 teaspoon orange peel and add in all of the juice. Ladle chili into bowls. Top with orange slices and a dollop of sour cream. Garnish with one remaining teaspoon of orange peel. Serve cornbread slice on side of chili. Enjoy!

Makes 4 servings: per serving (with one 2-by-2 inch cornbread square) 490 calories; 10 grams fat; 0 mg cholesterol.

Preparation time: approximately 1 hour



Meeting Dates

2009

General Council Meetings

Sun, March 29, 2009 10:00 am

Sun, June 28, 2009 10:00 am

Sun, Sept. 27, 2009 10:00 am

Tribal Council Meetings

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



Black Bean Chili with Oranges and Cornbread

Gaming Submitted by Marlene Johnson

Mun-a-hoo, We had our first staff meeting with Surveillance in our new location along with a pot-luck. We will continue to have meetings to ensure communication between our departments. The Santa Rosa Gaming Commission hosted the Central Valley Networking Regulators meeting at Tachi Indian Gaming Center in Lemoore, unfortunately were unable to attend and get information due to the snow and ice on the roads. The California State Regulators Association will be meeting at Cher-ae Heights Casino in Trinidad, Ca. We will not be attending due to the economy and distance. The attorney Sharon House will represent the Big Sandy Rancheria Gaming Commission.
Until Next Time, A-we-a-na

BSR Youth Council

Submitted by Violet Johnson

A Youth Council was formed for our tribal and community youth. The required age is 10 - 20. The council consists of: Chairman - Dakota Johnson (community), Vice chairman - Melvin Wesley (tribal), Treasurer - Tanya Walker (tribal), Secretary - Violet Johnson (tribal), Sgt Of Arms - Wasoomte DelToro (tribal), Information Officers - Alana Orosco (tribal) & Amber Johnson (community), Delegates - Corey Johnson (community) & Dustin Rogozienski (community). Their first event was a 3-on-3 Co Ed Basketball Tournament with two age groups, 12 & under and 18 & under. It was held on February 21 at the BSR Gym. They are looking forward to holding more events in the future.



Big Sandy Rancheria 2009 Youth Council

L to R: Wasoomte Del Toro, Alana Orosco, Violet Johnson, Amber Johnson, Dakota Johnson, Corey Johnson and Dustin Rogozienski.

Family Activities Department

Submitted by Norelva Alarcon 855-4003 ext 219

The Family Activities Department has been very busy. We had volleyball every Thursday night. A basketball night will start in March. We had two movie nights. We watched Madagascar 2 and . The monthly Eagle Feather Awards was held on February 25th (see Eagle Feather Awards for winners). The Elders' Pounding Rock Project was a rewarding day, with hard work two sites were uncovered. (see Elders' News for more information). A Youth Council was formed and held their first event on February 21, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (see Youth Council Report for information). Due to the large amount of snow that we received on February 13th the Healthy Relationships Event was cancelled. The gym was opened @ 10 am for the children during winter break Feb. 17-19. They were fed lunch and participated in various activities. I would like to take this time to welcome our new employee Tiffany Ward, child care. She is in charge of the after school program, which includes tutoring the children, in charge of activities in the gym from 4:30 - 6 pm, she also assists me in my events. Her office is located with me in the gym if you have any questions for her or myself you can stop by or give us a call..

Recall Election
Saturday March 21, 2009
BSR Gym
7:00 am - 7:00 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.



BSR Calendar of Events

MARCH 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				

March 4 - Head Start In Gym 10 - 12
 March 5 - Diabetes Class BSR Gym 10:00 - 11:30
 March 5 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 March 11 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 March 12 - Diabetes Class BSR Gym 10:00 - 11:30
 March 12 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 March 13 - Family Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30
 March 13 - BSR Staff in Gym 8:00 - 1:00
 March 15 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 March 16 - Positive Parenting Presentation 6:00 - 7:00
 March 18 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 March 19 - Diabetes Class BSR Gym 10:00 - 11:30
 March 19 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
March 21 - Special Elections to be held in gym all day
 March 25 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 March 26 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 - 12:00
 March 26 - CVIH Health Fair 10:00 - 3:00 (Lunch 12 - 1)
 March 26 - Family Basketball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 March 27 - Family Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30
 March 30 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 - 8:00

 After School Program 3:30 - 6:00 in Gym Monday - Friday
 Bible Study in Gym every Wednesday Night 6:00 - 9:00

APRIL 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		

April 1 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 April 2 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 April 3 - Egg Decorating Event 5:00 - 8:00
 April 4 - Spring Gathering in Gym 8:00 - 10:00 (if raining)
 April 9 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 April 10 - BSR Staff in Gym 8:00 - 1:00
 April 10 - Family Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30
 April 15 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 April 16 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 April 18 - Gym Reserved for private event
 April 22 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 April 23 - Car Seat Safety Training in Gym 8:00 - 12:00
 April 23 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30
 April 24 - Family Movie Night 5:30 - 8:30
 April 29 - Head Start in Gym 10 - 12
 April 30 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 - 8:00



After School Program 3:30 - 6:00 in Gym Monday - Friday
 Bible Study in Gym every Wednesday Night 6:00 - 9:00

Children out of school for Easter Break April 6 - April 13 (return to school on April 14) we may be providing activities for children during these days, will let you know at a later date

ALL EVENTS SCHEDULED AFTER MARCH 20 WILL BE CANCELLED PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 21.

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.

March 8th
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Set Your Clocks Ahead 1
Hour Before Going to Bed
Saturday Night



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