



BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

SMOKE SIGNALS

April 2009

A MESSAGE FROM TRIBAL COUNCIL

Munahoo,

I ask of each tribal member to keep in their prayers two families that have had a loss of a dear member of their family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the McCabe Family for the loss of Monte Villanueva Sr. and also the Berry Family in the loss of Mark Berry. Both have been very active in all aspects of the tribe, as they will be dearly missed.

The Tribal Council has been working very hard to ensure the prosperity and growth for all tribal members. We are happy to report that the Head Start has made their move to their new location. The Tribal Council, Tribal Staff, Head Start Children and Parents participated in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new facility. Please stop by and take a tour, as you will witness the major improvements to provide a facility to better the education of our children. We would like to thank all employees for their hard work and dedication to make this move a successful one.

We are creating a working relationship with the Fresno County Supervisors to start a dialogue with Big Sandy Rancheria. We are scheduling meetings to talk to each Supervisor with regards to ensuring that Fresno County is aware of the future developments within the County and share information that will impact the County of Fresno.

Special Distribution Fund (SDF)- In our Tribal State Compact, Tribes in California pay into a Fund that is distributed to local county governments, with relation to the impacts gaming has within the County of the facility. For the 2008 funds, Mono Wind Ca-

sino paid into the SDF of \$9,617.76. The 2008 funding of the SDF is currently in the review period by the Tribes that pay into the fund through an application process. The Tribe has received applications requesting funding for their projects. There are guidelines that must be met to be eligible for funding, as there is a meeting scheduled for Friday April 3, 2009 to approve submittals.

In the 2007 Special Distribution Funding allocated to the Fresno County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee, the Tribe sponsored the "Tree Fresno- Friant Oak Tree Reforestation Project". With the sponsorship of this project a logo of the agencies will be displayed for the public to view. So be on the lookout for our Big Sandy Rancheria Logo on Friant Road.

Another entity that received sponsorship of funding from the same Funding source is our Auberry Volunteer Fire Department. The fire truck that was purchased with funding from the Special Distribution Funds will also display our Tribal logo.

We are currently planning for the following events:
Spring Gathering- this Gathering will kick off on Friday April 3, 2009 at the Multipurpose Building to decorate eggs for the Spring Gathering on Saturday April 4, 2009. We have a lot of activities/games scheduled. See you there!

We are also under going planning for the Annual Pow Wow. We have to raise a lot of money to support the Pow Wow and encourage everyone to

purchase Pow Wow Tickets from our two Princess Candidates. We have Theresa Johnson, the daughter of Leslie Perez and William Johnson, and Jackie Munoz, the daughter of Ida Lewis. We are so proud of these two young ladies and wish them the best of Luck!

Project: The final draft of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for final review. Once the Regional Office (Sacramento) reviews and approves, the EIS will be forwarded to the Central Office (Washington D.C.) for review and publication. This process will take approximately 2 months once submitted to the Central office. To minimize the 2 months, the Tribe will pressure the Central Office to expedite the publication.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Tribal Council Members at 559-855-4003
Elizabeth Kipp ext. 212
Miles Baty ext. 210
Johnny Baty ext. 209.
Have a great SPRING!

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.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR SUBMITTED BY GRETCHEN COX

Greetings!

Head Start/Child Care: A Ribbon Cutting was held on March 16th for the new location. BSR Tribal Council, and a few of SUSD staff and board members were also able to attend. Everyone was invited to tour the new building and play ground area. It was apparent on the children's faces that they were happy with their new location. If you haven't been able to visit the new location, I encourage you to do so. 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. You can obtain an application at the tribal office or the Head Start. If you are unable to come by, you can 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

\$180,000 for FY 2009, we will be able to serve families on and off the Rancheria beginning in December. 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. Since there is a waiting list, 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.

The HIP workshop with Ben Charley from BIA scheduled for March 6th was postponed. I will inform you of the new date and time once we obtain that information from BIA. 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 you must submit your FAFSA to apply for future scholarship opportunities.

Please feel free to call or email me should you have any questions regarding any of the programs here on the Rancheria.

ICWA SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW WEST

On the 16th of March 2009 the ICWA office and the Family Activities office coordinated a short community presentation from the Positive Indian Parenting curriculum followed by a spaghetti dinner served to all those in attendance. The presentation highlighted the lesson of the 'story teller' and the importance of that person in the tribe or family. The presentation explained that story telling not too long ago played an important part in the development of our tribal children. Story telling helped to establish lines of communication between the parent and the child as well as teaching the parent and child about respect for one another. Children became good listeners and heard stories of the consequences of bad behavior or stories that reinforced the morals and values of the tribe. Story telling today can be as important as it was years ago, I encourage every parent to take time and tell or read a story to your children and see what happens. I'd like to follow up this last presentation with another lesson from the Positive Indian Parenting series and set it for a Monday in April with another spaghetti dinner. Hope to see you there.

BSR DISTRIBUTION SUBMITTED BY RICHARD JOHNSON

We are now in our third month of 2009 and the Smoke Shop is operating at its peak performance with sales increasing in both the Smoke Shop and distributing. Our team started out the year quite busy organizing our inventory and maximizing our warehouse space to meet our ever growing demands, and now that it has been complete we are preparing for the new task of implementing the tax increase that was passed by President Obama's new administration.

The President has signed into law an expansion of the (SCHIP); State Children's Health Insurance Program, this will be paid for in part by a \$0.62 per pack increase in the federal tax to all cigarettes. What this means to the business is that it will increase the sale price of the cigarettes by a minimum of \$0.65 per pack and \$0.65 per carton being charged to the customer. This is a federal tax and applies to everyone in the tobacco business.

We also have some exciting news around the shop, our very own Halley Smith the Smoke Shop manager has given birth to a healthy baby boy, "Bruce Adrian Lee" born on March 15, 2009 at Clovis Community Hospital. Everyone at the business would like to congratulate Halley and Bruce on their new arrival and wish them well.

On March 12 we also welcomed a new member to our team, Leah Shelton. Leah has come to us with a background in retail sales so she will definitely be an asset to our business. Leah will mainly be on working our nights and weekend shift.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER SUBMITTED BY GABRIEL HUERTA

What a wonderful month this has been with all the beautiful sunshine, rain and snow, not to mention the wildflowers that are blooming. The flowers, and sunshine are good reminders though that summer will be here sooner than we know it and we are going to have be ready. The aquifers that feed the BSR public water system are recharging but based on the amount of production from last year to now, conservation measures are going to have to take place. Total well production for the month is at 449,500 gallons. Altogether BSR uses 380,500 gallons for residential use only. That's about 9,750 average gallons per house/ per month or about 350 average gallons per house a day. These figures are based on the residential and well meter reads for the month of February 2009.

What everyone should take away from this info is that every household is different. Some homes have more people/ children then others and some homes are in need of repair that would limit the amount of water wasted. Which ever is the case for you home you still need to consider cutting back on water use and/or making needed repairs. **FYI.** Some homes use 50-80 gallons of water per day but during the months of June through October 2008 those same homes were using 150-250 gallons. Believe it or not there are some homes that use 400-800 gallons of water per day during the winter and 1,200-2,100 gallons during this past summer. Water use will go up during summer and as the Public Water System is monitored by my department everyone can rest assure that safe drinking water is and will continue to be provided. We need to work together in order to conserve water because no matter how much my department monitors and maintains the system, once we've used water, only rain (and lots of it) can keep us from running out.

Please start preparing your home for the summer. Make any and all repairs to your air conditioning units. Make sure your floats; water lines and insulation for these units are in good functional condition. Watering your lawns and plants (if you have them), washing your cars, filling pools, and all other uses other than for consumption or hygiene will be closely monitored and possibly prohibited if necessary.

Trash is another hot topic this month. I've noticed that our local dogs continue on making quite a mess either at the tribal office or at home sites. Please remember to close the lids on the trash bins when you dump your trash. I've witnessed, with my own eyes, dogs jump in and jump out of an open trash bin looking for scraps. Whenever I am driving by your house in the little red mule (Golf Cart), if I have room and you have a bag of trash, just wave me down. I will gladly do my part if it'll help keep the place I work and the place you live cleaner.

Man's heart away from nature becomes hard. ~Standing Bear

BSR GAMING SUBMITTED BY GERI ALEC

Mun-a-hoo

The State Gambling Control Commission finally responded to the Audit and it is still in draft form for discussion within the Gaming Commission office. We just received this on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 and are in the process of reviewing for a response.

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 CGCC-8 have pulled back its movement of acting upon the CGCC-8 (MICS) there appears to be no pressing issues that need to be acted on by the Association. The next State Regulators meeting will be held at Picayune Rancheria (Chukchansi) on May 6, 2009.

A meeting was held at Pechanga to establish a work group composed of Tribal Regulatory Agencies that were having problems and concerns with the CGCC and/or the CA DOJ now known as the Bureau. The regulators of the Central Valley and Fresno area had a meeting at Santa Rosa Tachi in February and decided to move this workgroup proposal forward. This group will be discussing issues in reference to the audits that the State have with the different Casinos thorough out the state, there does not seem to be any guidelines that guide them in their request for the audits. As soon as the Tribal Gaming Agencies gets the guidelines established we will keep you informed.

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

2009 Meeting

Dates

General Council

Meetings

Sun, June 28, 2009

starts at 10 am

Sun, Sept. 27, 2009

starts at 10 am

Tribal Council

Meetings

Wed, April 29, 2009

Wed, May 27, 2009

Wed, June 24, 2009

Wed, July 29, 2009

Wed, Aug 26, 2009

Wed, Sept 30, 2009

Wed, Oct 28, 2009

Wed, Nov 18, 2009

Wed, Dec 16, 2009

FAMILY ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

I hope to see more of you at the events. We have some exciting things coming up for Easter.



Basketball
Thursday
April 23
6:00 - 8:30
BSR Gym



Volleyball Every
Thursday
April 2, April 9 &
April 16
6:00 - 8:30
BSR Gym

Movie Nights
Friday April 10
Friday April 24
6:00 - 8:30
BSR Gym

2009 BSR Spring Gathering

Easter Egg Decorating Party



Friday April 3
BSR Gym
5 - 8 pm

A small meal will be served to attendees
Chili Dogs or Hot Dogs
Chips & Drink



Spring Gathering

Saturday April 4
BSR Pow Wow Grounds
10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Horseshoe
Tournament
\$5 buy in

Family,
Friends,
Food,
Games
And
Prizes



Easter Egg
Hunt

MUCH MUCH MORE.....
Come and join in
on all the FUN



Cake
Walk



Badminton



OVCD
Tribal
TANF

HEAD START

We have been enjoying our new view here at BSR Head Start for a few weeks now. On March 16th, 2009 we had an overwhelming response from our Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council and local community members on site to help us cut the ribbon. We would like to thank everyone that attended. We encourage you to drop in and see the fabulous new classroom and playground. The children absolutely love the new site!

Hippoty-Hoppity Easter Bunny

(Sung To: Eensy, Weensy Spider).

*The Hippoty Hoppity Easter Bunny is coming straight at me.
Closer and closer he hops up on my knee.
Up to my shoulder the Bunny's much to near.
Happy Easter, he whispers in my ear.*

MONO WIND CASINO

The casino continues the in house promotions as we have done in the past. We will be giving away the \$500.00 a month for a year on April 11, 2009. Come and enter to win.

The restaurant will be having a soup and salad bar beginning April 14th. Check with the restaurant for details. Easter Sunday there will be a soup and salad bar from 11 am to 3 pm.

We will continue to send inserts out in the Mountain Press, look for the coupon.

Check our calendar being sent along with your news letter. We are continuing the day time and evening slot tournaments.

Looking forward to spring!

ELDERS' NEWS

The elders cleaned another pounding rock site. The site was located on Clarence Marvin's property. There were a total of 6 holes at this site. The Head Start children came out to join the elders and Wilma "Tillie" Lewis told them the history of pounding rocks. We had lunch out in the sun at Clarence Marvin's. After lunch the elders returned to the gym to participate in the CVIH Health Fair. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 9:00 in the BSR Gym.



Elders' Birthdays for the month of April

Ilene Cape
Pearl Hutchins
Beverly Lewis



Dan Lewis
Wilbur Beecher

EAGLE FEATHER AWARDS

ERIC MILLS - HEAD START
MOST IMPROVED

EDWARD WILLIAMS - AUBERRY ELEMENTARY
READING IMPROVEMENT

TIM LEE - SIERRA ELEMENTARY
RESPECT

YALANDA WALKER - SIERRA HIGH SCHOOL
HARD WORK & DETERMINATION ON PLANNING SHS POW
WOW 2010

Next Eagle Feather Award Night
Presentation

April 30, 2009 @ 6:00 pm in the BSR Gym



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

**Food Stamps & Medi-Cal
Available In the BSR Gym
April 2, April 16 & April 30
Hours: 10 - 2 (out for lunch 12 - 1)**

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

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



Call for more Information
559-237-3420

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 2 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 April 2 - Medi Cal & Food Stamps 10:00 - 2:00 Gym (lunch 12 - 1)
 April 3 - Easter Decorating Party Gym 5:00 - 8:00 Gym
 April 4 - Spring Gathering BSR Pow Wow Grounds 10:00 - 2:00
 April 7 - BSR Youth Council Meeting 5:00 - 6:00 Gym
 April 9 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 April 10 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30 Gym
 April 11 - TANF Medicine Bag Class 11:00 - 3:00 Gym
 April 12 - BSR Youth Council Meeting 5:00 - 6:00 Gym
 April 16 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 Gym
 April 16 - Medi Cal & Food Stamps 10:0 - 2:00 Gym (lunch 12 - 1)
 April 16 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 April 21 - BSR Youth Council Meeting 5:00 - 6:00 Gym
 April 23 - Car Seat Training Class 8:00 - 12:00 Gym
 April 23 - Family Basketball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 April 24 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30 Gym
 April 25 - TANF Medicine Bag Class 11:00 - 3:00 Gym
 April 25 - TANF Family Community Meeting 4:00 - 8:00 Gym
 April 28 - BSR Youth Council Meeting 5:00 - 6:00 Gym
 April 30 - Medi Cal & Food Stamps 10:0 - 2:00 Gym (lunch 12 - 1)
 April 30 - Eagle Feather Awards 6 pm Gym
 School Out April 6 - April 13 Spring Break

Ongoing:

Child Care 3:30 - 6:00 Monday - Friday Gym
 Bible Study 6:30 - 8:30 Gym
 TANF Outdoor Activities Wednesdays 4:30 Pow Wow Grounds
 TANF Events 6:00 - 9:00 Gym Mondays & Tuesdays

MAY 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						

May 2 - TANF Medicine Bag Class 11:00 - 3:00 Gym
 May 7 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 May 8 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30 Gym
 May 9 - TANF Youth Fitness Gathering San Joaquin Gorge
 May 10 - Mother's Day
 May 14 - Medi Cal & Food Stamps 10:00 - 2:00 Gym (lunch 12 - 1)
 May 14 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 May 15 - Pow Wow Head Staff Dinner 6:00 Gym
 May 16 & 17 - BSR Pow Wow
 May 21 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 Gym
 May 21 - Family Volleyball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 May 22 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30 Gym
 May 25 - Memorial Day Office Closed
 May 28 - Medi Cal & Food Stamps 10:00 - 2:00 Gym (lunch 12 - 1)
 May 28 - Family Basketball Night 5:30 - 8:30 Gym
 May 29 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 Gym

Ongoing:

Child Care 3:30 - 6:00 Monday - Friday Gym
 Bible Study 6:30 - 8:30 Gym
 TANF Softball League @ Foothill Middle School
 TANF Events 6:00 - 9:00 Gym Mondays & Tuesdays

BSR YOUTH COUNCIL

Big Sandy Rancheria Youth Council

Meetings are held on

Tuesdays in the BSR Gym

Starting 5:00 pm

