

Smoke Signals

A Message From Tribal Council

Munahoo,

The Tribe would like to express our sincere sympathy to the Marvin Family for the loss of Dorothy Marvin. She was a great lady, and will truly be missed.

The Tribal Council is very happy to inform the membership that the Indian Health Service septic projects are now complete. The following individuals are now on line with all utilities; Wilford Williams, Leslie Perez, Robert Hutchins Jr., and Ida Lewis. I know these families are very happy as some projects were on the list for years.

Housing projects under the NAHASDA program have completed the project walk through to allow for Contractors to submit a bid on the projects. Awarded Contractors have started the projects - Ruthie Beecher, Wilshire & Lottie Alec and Thane Baty

Our Tribal Administrator researched two USDA grants that were inactive due to incomplete applications and reinserted them back into action, as two qualified Tribal Members were approved for the grant to help in the rehabilitation of their homes. Gretchen started the bid process for the two projects and is now active and ready for the Contractors to start. Two individuals waiting for rehabilitation are Mae Berry and Cecelia Wesley. At our last General Council meeting, KK Santilian mentioned that the fence/gate at the Head Start needed to be fixed, as children can crawl by the wooden gate and is unsafe. Johnny Baty and Miles Baty have been working on the gate to ensure the safety of the children.

Miles Baty and Johnny Baty have also been monitoring the water system for the tribe and have been very active to ensure the quality and quantity is sufficient to supply the Rancheria. The Tribal Council had received a call from a Tribal Member that they were out of water, in further research of the issue, it was determined that the pump went out of the pressure pump that supplied the house. There was no effect on the Com-

munity water system. Well #5 had a new pump installed. This well is located near Geri Alec's mobile home. Auberry Builders has completed the work and now Well #5 has a new pump and is on standby for water testing to determine the quality of water and levels of contaminants- if any prior to being on line. During the work in progress, someone "stole" the exposed copper wire to which resulted in added cost to the project. Any information regarding the theft, please call the Tribal Council or 9-1-1 as all calls will be kept anonymous.

It is very important as the summer season arises, to start conserving water now. As a very vital and precious commodity, we ask that everyone do their part to ensure that the community is sufficiently supplied with water. Johnny Baty will be conducting "water audit/survey" during his Elder Delivery on Friday May 8, 2009. Please allow for him to inspect; sinks, toilets, or any water outlet to start the process of trying to fix any leaks before the summer season is upon us. Thank you in advance for allowing Johnny to conduct audit, so we can do our best to not waste water.

Liz Kipp has taken the role of assisting Tribal Members with Membership needs. Please keep in mind that Tribal Enrollment Application, copy of your Social Security Card, Birth Certificate and Family Tree are all required for the eligibility for membership. Please if you have not yet enrolled your children, please do so. You can find enrollment forms at www.bigsandyrancheria.com. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Turning 18? Please visit www.bigsandyrancheria.com or call the Tribal Office to request an "Add to Voting List" form. Please keep in mind; if you have not submitted your Add to Voting List form you will not be eligible to receive any disbursements.

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Tribal Administrator

Submitted by Gretchen Cox

The administrative assistant, Angie Beihn, and myself recently attended the 27th Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect hosted by National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). Not only were we able to obtain important information, we were able to initiate dialog with people whom are of great resource. We were also given the materials from one of the many workshops, Language in Life-Giving Traditional Parenting Skills Back to Our Parents, to pass on in our family life skills workshop. It explains the importance of reading and singing to the children in the child's brain development. Please continue to read or sing to your children everyday. **Housing:** We are currently using our FY 2008 funding for rehabilitation projects and assisting two tribal members with their USDA applications. We are completing home repairs on three tribal member's homes. Due to the funding increase of over \$180,000 for FY 2009, we will be able to serve families both on and off the Ranche-

ria in Fresno, Madera, and Kings counties 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. Eligibility is based on income, in addition to points scored on the application. These two criteria will determine ranking and placement on the waiting list.

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. The scholarship application is available online or call the tribal office to have one mailed to you. We also have additional scholarship information offered by organizations available for tribal members.

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

Mono Wind Casino

Submitted by Carolyn Silva

The casino continues to have their weekly promotions. May is a busy month with Cinco de Mayo on the 5th, you can guess the dollar amount in the Pinata to win. Sunday's are Fun Days, with randomly picked machines, if you are playing that machine you win dollars. Mother's Day we will be giving away sets of jewelry. Mono Wind will celebrate its thirteenth anniversary this May, so get pre qualified for a chance to win \$1300.00. The casino will be giving away the Pontoon Boat June 27th, enter to win. The slot tournaments are during the day time every other Thursday. Night time tournaments are every other Friday. Memorial Day we will have wheel spins for cash, jewelry and other prizes. The restaurant is making some minor changes, with a soup and salad bar daily for lunch. Come and check out the changes.

(Continued from page 1)

Reminder: Tribal Council Election is on May 23, 2009 from 7 AM- 7 PM. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, please request your absentee ballot before May 8, 2009 to ensure your ballot is received by the Election Committee in time to be counted on May 23, 2009.

The Tribal Council would like to thank all tribal members for the respect we received during the last disbursement of the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund. Again, this quarter, the RSTF will be mailed, as we have had many updates on change of address on Tribal Members. Tribal Council will also like to remind Members that there are no advances on the RSTF.

**Food Stamps & Medi-Cal
Available In the BSR Gym
May 7 & May 21
Hours: 10 - 2 (out for lunch 12 - 1)**

**Big Sandy Rancheria
Elections
May 23, 2009
7:00 am - 7:00 pm
BSR Gymnasium**



Head Start

Submitted by Jami Rodriguez



April Showers are bringing May flowers. The children, staff and families had a fantastic, eventful and colorful month at Head Start.

In honor of our new facility we purchased and planted a Chinese Hackberry tree. We planted the tree during Earth Day week. Practice the three R's: first **reduce** how much you use, then **reuse** what you can and then **recycle** the rest. Finally, dispose of what's left in the most environmentally friendly way.

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS

REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

On Thursday April 2, Smokey Bear and his crew came to visit the BSR Tribal Head Start. Cal Fire and the Forest Service stations taught the children about important fire prevention skills. The children took photos with Smokey Bear. The children also got a chance to spray the fire hose from the fire truck. With the fire season quickly approaching, the fire safety skills taught to the children will greatly benefit them in the future. We also celebrated Easter with an Easter egg hunt that same afternoon.

Once a month the Fresno Public Library brings their new 33 ft. bookmobile to the Head Start. In small groups the children go in and check out books. While in the bookmobile the librarian reads a story to the children. The children absolutely love this experience. The new bookmobile stops at community centers, apartment complexes, shopping centers, retirement centers and post offices.

Please mark your calendars for a wonderful event you will not want to miss. The BSR Tribal Head Start will be celebrating a successful completion of a school year. BSR Tribal Head Start Promotion Ceremony Wednesday May 20, 2009 @ 6:00 pm in the BSR Gym. Please let a Head Start employee know if you will be attending this event. Feel free to contact me at any time

Big Sandy Rancheria Head Start Field Trip to a Pounding Rock



On Thursday March 19, 2009 the students of Big Sandy Rancheria Head Start were given a chance to experience one of the many ways of survival of the early Mono Indians. The sun was finally shining and the kids were eager to go for a walk. Three teachers, two of our kids' Grandmothers and 15, 3 to 4 year olds hiked up a steep hill behind tribal member Clarence Marvin's home. This is where we met up with three Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal elders Melba Beecher, Jane Stamp, Tillie Lewis and the family activities coordinator, Norelva Alarcon. The children were all amazed to see a large hole in the rock which was created by the pounding of acorns. This pounding rock site was used by Clarence Marvin's late relatives. Mrs. Lewis demonstrated and told the children how the Mono Indians pounded acorns to a grainy texture to start the process of making acorn mush. Acorn was a staple in the Mono Indians diet years ago. The acorn went great with deer meat or salmon. The Head start staff and children would like to say thank you to Mrs. Lewis and all who were involved in the pounding rock experience. This was a great cultural event not just for the children but for all that attended.



Elders' Meeting May 21 @ 9:00 We will meet in the gym

Elders' Birthdays for the Month of May are:
Miles Baty, Jeanette Sample & Loretta Sylvas

Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Offices
will be closed on
Memorial Day - May 25, 2009

Tule River Food Distribution
May 5, 2009
Location: Rancheria Lane Circle
10:30 - 12:00

**In Memory of
Mark John Berry**



**September 2, 1967
March 27, 2009**

On behalf of the Berry Family, we would like to extend our heartfelt thank you all who have helped us during this difficult time. Deputy Trevino, of the Auberry Sheriffs' Sub- Station, Big Sandy Rancharia Tribal Council for all their support and help, to those who helped us with food, supplies, delivering wood, supplying tents, chairs and tables. To Anna, Chad, Tammie, Paul, Sam, Alan, Seta, Tillie, Chrissy, Tippy, K.K., Vickie, Penny, Gina, and to those whose names I did not mention. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of you. A special thank you to Milo Chenot.

BSR Distribution Submitted by Richard Johnson

BSR Distributing overcome the April 1st 2009 six dollar and fifty cent federal tax increase with minimal complaints from customers since most were aware that is was a mandatory tax increase.

For the month of April BSR Distributing didn't notice any change in customer orders with the tax increase, the shipments to our customers have remained the same. The only thing noticeable was that we did see a slight increase in the quantity of product shipped to each customer. BSR Distributing now has a customer base of 23 different tribally owned smoke shops and casinos gift shops we ship to throughout California.

The tribe's smoke shop has also seen an increase in foot traffic with new customers every day making the change from name brand to native made products, this is possibly due to the tough economic times and most people wanting more for their dollar. When a customer knows they can get the same quality from a native made product as others it doesn't take them long to become a regular customer of BSR Distributing.

BSR Youth Council

Meet every Tuesday at 5:00 pm in the BSR Gymnasium
open to youth ages 10 - 24

ICWA

Submitted by
Gretchen Cox

BSR is always looking for best ways to meet the needs of its members. After reassessing the ICWA department, it was determined that a Social Service Coordinator is best suited for the department. The Social Service Coordinator's primary responsibilities are to interview clients to access their needs for social services; counsels clients on available resources and independent living skills; assist clients in identifying and make referrals to a variety of public and community agencies providing food, shelter, clothing, medical, educational and other services; schedules client appointments; acts as client advocate in obtaining services; investigates reports of child or elder abuse, neglect and/or exploitation; assesses the degree of immediate risk to the child/elder and takes necessary action to minimize the risk. A full job description and application is available on our web site and posted in the tribal office.

The Social Service Coordinator will work with BSR Family Activities Director in conducting family life skills workshops. These workshops will be open to all tribal members. More information and dates on these workshops will be in future newsletters.

If you have any questions feel free call the Tribal office (559) 855-4003

Family Activities Department

Submitted by Norelva Alarcon

Big Sandy Rancheria Family Activities Department May Calendar of Events

Family Volleyball Night
Thursdays @ 6:00 pm
BSR Gym
May 7
May 14
May 21



Family Movie Night
6:30 - 8:30 pm
BSR Gym
Friday May 8
&
Friday May 22

For more information contact
Norelva Alarcon
Family Activities Coordinator
559-855-4003 ext 219
na@bigsandyrancheria.com
or stop by my office is located in the gym
on the right hand side of the stage

Eagle Feather Awards
Wednesday May 27, 2009
BSR Gym @ 6:00 pm
dinner & drinks
will be served to all
that attend
come and celebrate the posi-
tive traits of our local people

Elder's Meeting
Date: Thursday May 22
Time: 9:00 - 11:00
Where: 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 & much more.



Call for more Information
559-237-3420



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

**Happy
Mother's Day**
May 10, 2009

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA TRIBAL HEAD START GRADUATION MAY 20, 2009

**BSR GYM
6:00 PM**



**Big Sandy Rancheria
2009 Pow Wow
May 16 - 17**

**Head Staff Dinner
Friday May 15 @ 6 pm**

**Vendors can start setting
up Friday May 15
starting @ 10:00 am**

Natural Resource

Submitted by Gretchen Cox

Currently the position of Utility Worker/Water Tech is open until filled. A full job description and application are available on our web site and posted in the tribal office.

Last week's spike in temperature reminded us of the importance of water here on the Rancheria. We were able to repair the pump on well #5. It will be approximately another week before it is back online so it cannot be stressed enough of the need to conserve water. Please continue to inform the Tribal office of any broken water lines, leaks, or needed plumbing repairs. Listed below are some water conservation tips:

Conserve Water in the Bathroom

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. In other words, don't use it for garbage. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Use a low-flow showerhead.
- Install aerators on faucets.
- Don't let the water run when washing, brushing and shaving. Turn it on and off as needed.
- Take showers instead of baths. A ten-minute shower with a low-flow showerhead uses half the water of a regular bath.

Conserve Water in the Kitchen

- Avoid washing dishes under a stream of water. Turn off the water in between dishes. Use only a full dishwasher and clothes washer.
- Avoid using your garbage disposal system in your sink. It uses lots of water to run. Compost your scraps instead.

Conserve Water Outdoors

- Mulch planting beds with newspaper, leaves, bark, or wood chips. Mulches retain soil moisture and improve soil quality.
- Water your plantings with a soaker hose or a drip irrigation system. Less water evaporates this way than with a sprinkler, and you target your watering.
- Use a timing device with any watering system.
- Watering in the early morning before the sun is intense helps reduce the water lost from evaporation. Installing rain gutters and collecting water from downspouts also helps reduce water use.

BSR Gaming Submitted by Geri Alec

Mun-na-hoo

On April 1, 2009 The State of California Gambling Control Commission's representatives Mr. Robert Swonger and Mr. Donald Zielins from the audit department were on site to conduct an exit interview in regards to the audit they conducted back in August of 2008, for the audit years of June 2005 to June 2008. They reported to the gaming commission that according to their findings Mono Wind Casino has a credit of fifteen dollars and ninety-seven cents with the State of California Gambling Control Commission in over payment of gaming devices.

Department of Justice (DOJ) State of California Compact review for Compliance on November 21, 2008 on the following sections 6.4.2, 6.5.3, 8.1.5, 8.1.11, the casino is in compliance on all section except for a minor adjustment on the facility license.

Egghart and Associates has successfully completed the financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2008, they completed with an exit interview. The year-end audit for the fiscal year 2008 will be submitted to the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) as required within one hundred twenty days of fiscal year end, by April 30, 2009.

On April 14, 2009 The Mono Wind Casino received one Wide Area Progressive machine.

The National Indian Gaming Commission has sent the report reflecting the annual compliance status from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 this report reflected that the last two quarters of the year the fees owed were submitted late, upon this conclusion the remaining report showed that Big Sandy is in compliance.

National Indian Gaming Commission is hosting a training session in Sacramento for surveillance personnel; two operators from the Commission's surveillance department will be attending.

Marlene Johnson-Commission and Amy Hutchins-Commission have started the testing of the machines to insure the integrity of the game, this will continue through out the year until the required amount is fulfilled.

May 5th and May 6th there will be two meetings this office will be attending which will be held at Picayune Tribal Gaming Commission, on the 5th the meeting will be in reference to auditing and inspections and then on the 6th the meeting will be for the Central Valley Networking Regulators Group that encompasses Bishop Paiute Tribe, Tule River Tribe, Table Mountain Tribe, Santa Rosa Tachi Tribe, Tuolumne Tribe, Picayune Tribe and Big Sandy Tribe.

Until next time - A-we-a-na



**2009
Big Sandy
Rancheria
Spring Gathering**

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 - BSR Constitution Committee Mtg. 9:30 in Gym
- May 6 - Bible Study 6:30 in Gym
- May 7 - MediCal/Food Stamps 10-2 in Gym
- May 7 - AA Meeting 2:30-3:30 in Gym
- May 7 - Family Volleyball 6:00 - 9:00 Gym
- May 8 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30 Gym
- May 10 - Mother's Day
- May 11 - National Indian Day Tribal Offices Closed
- May 13 - Bible Study 6:30 Gym
- May 14 - AA Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 Gym
- May 14 - Volleyball Night 6:00 - 8:30 Gym
- May 15 - BSR Pow Wow Head Staff Dinner 6 pm Gym
- May 16 - 8th Annual BSR Pow Wow
- May 17 - 8th Annual BSR Pow Wow
- May 20 - BSR Tribal Head Start Graduation 6:00 pm Gym
- May 21 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 am Gym
- May 21 - MediCal/Food Stamps 10-2 Gym
- May 21 - Family Volleyball Night 6:00-8:30 Gym
- May 22 - Family Movie Night 6:00-8:30 Gym
- May 23 - BSR Elections 7 am - 7 pm in Gym
- May 25 - Memorial Day Tribal Offices Closed
- May 27 - Eagle Feather Awards 6:00 pm Gym
- May 27 - Bible Study 6:30 in Gym
- May 28 - AA Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 in Gym
- May 28 - Celebration of Success at Foothill

June 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				

- June 3 - Foothill Middle School Graduation
- June 3 - Bible Study 6:30 Gym
- June 4 - MediCal/Food Stamps 10-12 & 1-2 in Gym
- June 4 - AA Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 in Gym
- June 4 - Sierra High School Graduation
- June 11 - AA Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 in Gym
- June 11 - Family Volleyball Night 6:00 - 9:00 in Gym
- June 12 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30 in Gym
- June 17 - Bible Study 6:30 in Gym
- June 18 - MediCal/Food Stamps 10-12 & 1-2 in Gym
- June 18 - Elders' Meeting 9:00 in Gym
- June 18 - AA Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 in Gym
- June 18 - Family Volleyball Night 6:00 - 9:00
- June 21 - Father's Day
- June 24 - Bible Study 6:30 in Gym
- June 25 - AA Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 in Gym
- June 25 - Eagle Feather Awards 5:30 - 6:30 in Gym
- June 25 - Family Volleyball Night 6:30 - 9:00 in Gym
- June 26 - Family Movie Night 6:00 - 8:30
- June 28 - General Council Meeting 10:00 am in Gym

- 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, 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

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.



Big Sandy Rancheria
PO Box 337
Auberry, CA 93602