



SMOKE SIGNALS

January 2026

A MESSAGE FROM TRIBAL COUNCIL

Munahoo Neum, Happy New Year!!!! We wish everyone the best of health and continued blessings throughout 2026. We are so happy to see our Tribal Membership attend the past General Council meeting on December 15th, as we were able to have our first quorum of 2025.

Home Key Housing Project- this 12-unit housing project, located on the north end of the Rancheria (Comstock) continues to remain on schedule. Quiring Construction is currently working on the interior finish work, flooring and countertops along with concrete curb and gutters. We are so excited to have this project to be completed in April 2026. If you have applied in 2025, as of January 1, 2026, you will need to resubmit or renew your current application. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Riley at 559-374-0066 ext. 240. We are excited to report that we are currently applying for the same funds to build additional homes, as we have just completed our Phase II environmental for additional 12 units. Once the studies are completed, we will apply for the funding in February.

BSR Museum is in renovation mode at the Oakview Terrace Building (Dr. Sally Veterinarian Building). Currently as time permits, we have our crew working on the building (wall removal and interior rehab) and have ordered material to being construction renovation. We do not have an expected time for completion, as this project is for the downtime of our crew.

Community Resource Center in Auberry (partnership with Fresno American Indian Health Project) has slowed due to funding and will be reorganized by the end of January 2026. We will update you as time progresses of the outcome of the Community Resource Center.

We have received funding from the State of California and Indian Health Service to drill a new well (#9) and to include improvements on the water filtration plant. With these 2 improvements, they will increase the volume of water and provide more capacity for water delivered to the community. As we know we are in the winter months, it is still important to continue with water conservation. many exciting ventures for Big Sandy Rancheria, as we are looking to a prosperous 2026.

Council Meeting		Tribal Office Holiday Schedule	
Tribal Council	General Council	Date	Holiday
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	Sunday, March 29, 2026	Thursday, January 1, 2026	New Year's Day
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Sunday, June 28, 2026	Monday, January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Jr.
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Sunday, September 27, 2026	Monday, February 16, 2026	Presidents Day
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	Sunday, December 16, 2026	Friday, May 8, 2026	National American Indian Day
Wednesday, May 27, 2026		Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 24, 2026		Friday, June 19, 2026	Juneteenth
Wednesday, July 29, 2026		Friday, July 3, 2026	Independence Day
Wednesday, August 26, 2026		Monday, September 7, 2026	Labor Day
Wednesday, September 30, 2026		Friday, September 25, 2026	California American Indian Day
Wednesday, October 28, 2026		Monday, October 12, 2026	Indigenous People's Day
Wednesday, November 25, 2026		Wednesday, November 11, 2026	Veterans Day
Wednesday, December 16, 2026		Thursday, November 26, 2026	Thanksgiving Day
		Friday, November 27, 2026	Day After Thanksgiving
		Thursday, December 24, 2026	Christmas Eve
		Friday, December 25, 2026	Christmas Day

REMINDER: The newsletter is available by email, if you would like to start receiving the newsletter through email rather than mail, please contact the Tribal Office at 559.374.0066.



Tribal Elder's Monthly Meeting



Second Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm

January 8, 2026

- Meetings are here for you to be informed about what is offered to the Tribal Elders
- Must be a Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Elder to attend
- There will be lunch and raffle prizes

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LEANN ANGUIANO
AT 559-374-0066.**



NEXT FOOD BANK

Thursday, January 15, 2026

10:00am-12:00pm

Big Sandy Rancheria

37387 Auberry Mission Road

Auberry, CA 93602

BSR General Store

6:00am-10:00pm

559-825-6645

**37302 Rancheria Lane
Auberry, CA 93602**

REMINDER: The newsletter is available by email, if you would like to start receiving the newsletter through email rather than mail, please contact the Tribal Office at 559.374.0066.

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Brooke Ball

Erica Ballard

Eric Lee Barber

Ramona Barrientos

Gabriella Baty

Heather Blewett

Ashton Brown-Goodwin

James Cogdell Jr.

Aleda Cogdell

Darin Coleman

Jordyn Davis

Catalina Espinoza

Devin Fisher

Layanna Gopher

Max Harrison

Jack Harrison

Marcus Harrison

Ashleigh Huerta

Haileigha Johnson

William Johnson

Briana Johnson

Adrian Johnson

Emily Kipp

Annie Knight

Irene Lara

Phyliss Lewis

Randy Lewis Jr.

Jimmy Llewellyn

Mitchell Llewellyn

Alexander Mancera

Alex Marquez

Brandon McFarland

Jesina Mendez

Hayden Mjelde

James Oliver

Sandra Oliver

Amina Oliver

Stephen Oliver

Alan Orosco Jr.

David Ortiz

Nicholas Ramirez

Morgan Reid

Michelle Reid

Morris Reid

Roberty Rios

James Robertson III

Steven Samaniego

Deshba Sanchez

Juanita Stamp

Aerius Telles

Darrel Telles

Marissa Vasquez

Michael Vasquez

Raelynn Walker

Melvin Wesley

Anna Wilson

Hello BSR Elders

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! I wish everyone a safe and healthy 2026. The Elders had an eventful December, starting with GEM event at Eagle Mountain in Porterville, Adult Bingo, General Council meeting and of course the Elder's annual Christmas trip to Chukchansi. There was 30 Elders that attended, they had a lot of fun and was able to fellowship with each other. They had a delicious dinner, an amazing dessert with Tribal Council at Nativos, there was a gift exchange, and everyone walked away full and content. Our regular scheduled Elders meeting will be on January 8th at 12:00pm. A hot meal will be served, with raffles and good company with other elders. Remember this is an Elders only luncheon. If you have any questions regarding any information, please feel free to contact Lean Anguiano at (559) 917-1674.

Elder's Christmas Outing & Chukchansi Casino



Valencia Guevara
Gwen Nunez



Regina Rhoan, Millie Howard-
Davis & Francis McCabe-Gann



Tiffany Lewis &
Connie Lewis



Phyllis Lewis
Ida Lewis



Loretta Sylvas
CeCe McFarland



Ruby Hammond
Joel Marvin



James Robertson
Karen Robertson



Johnny Baty
April Garcia



Jane Stamp
Deborah Cunningham



Phyllis Lewis
Tiffany Lewis



Deborah Cunningham



Miles Baty



Michelle Smith, Mae Berry,
Jude Berry, Samatha Hale

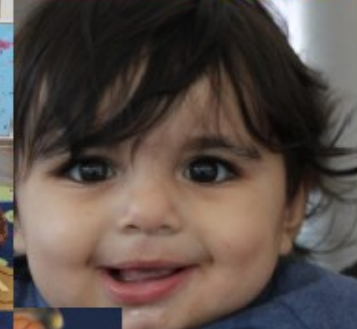


Janine Vella
Lori Beecher

BSR Bingo



BSR ECE DEPARTMENT



Special Day

Reminders

Centers Reopen:

January 5th,

2026

Community Food

Bank

January 15th,

2026

Centers Closed:

MLK Day

January 19th,

2026

Closed: Staff

Development

Day

January 30th,

2026

559 374 0066 ext.216

BSR Environmental Department January 2026

Recycling

From aluminum cans to junk cars and scrap metal, it is everywhere. Did you know a single aluminum soda can takes up to 200-500 years to decompose? If you recycle your cans it can be reused within 6 weeks!

Everybody knows that recycling is good for the environment, but not everybody does it. If you understand the benefits of recycling, not only is it to preserve earth's natural resources, also it puts money in your pockets.

Next time you will think twice before throwing away your soda cans instead of recycling them.

The good news is that BSR partners with the EOC to recycle at every event. The next time your at one of BSR event look for the blue CRV recycling bins near the trash cans.

3 Examples Surface Water

- **Rivers:** Flowing Streams of water that move from higher to lower elevations.
- **Lakes:** Large, standing bodies of water surrounded by land.
- **Oceans:** Vast bodies of saltwater that cover most of Earth's Surface.

Environmental Impact due to Waste..

Americans generate about 25% more waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's and holiday travel is a major source of carbon dioxide emissions.

- **Waste:** Millions of tons of extra waste is created from wrapping paper, packaging and discarded items after the holidays.
- **Energy Consumption:** Holiday lights and decorations significantly increase electricity during these couple of months.
- **Transportation:** Travel for the holidays is a major source of carbon emissions, with flying having the largest impact, followed by driving, buses and trains.
- **Food Waste:** A significant amount of food is wasted, contributing to methane emission from landfills. Please be mindful of our environment as we enter a new year.

Composting

Save your kitchen waste for your year round compost for your spring garden. Diverting it from landfills. This will reduce chemical fertilizers creating nutrient-dense food.



For information or any questions contact:

Lori Beecher @ 374-0066 or Rebecca Riley @ 374-0046.



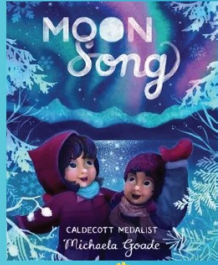


Kow-au-neat
(January)
2026

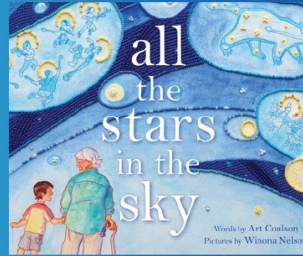


FRESNO COUNTY FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

PRESENTS



January 8th, 2026



January 22nd, 2026

JOIN US FOR A BOOK READ AND LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE ACTIVITY WITH BSR CAP YOUTH PROGRAM & COMMUNITY

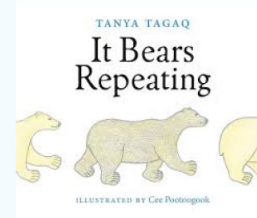
LOCATION: BSR GYM

Time : 4:00pm

For more information contact Parent Educator Jocelyn Saavedra at jsaavedra@ovcdc.com or Juliana Velasquez at jvelasquez@ovcdc.com, phone : (559) 226-2880



Fresno Family Literacy Program BSR EARLY HEAD START STORYTIME & LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE



Join us for Storytime & Language Experience w/ BSR EHS Class

Date: January 13th, 2026

Time: 11:00am

Location: BSR EHS Classroom

For more information contact: Jocelyn Saavedra at 559-226-2880 Ext. 212 or jsaavedra@ovcdc.com



Fresno Family Literacy Program



BSR Head Start Storytime & Language Experience



Join us for Storytime & Language Experience w/ BSR Head Start Class

Date: January 13th, 2026

Time: 11:30am

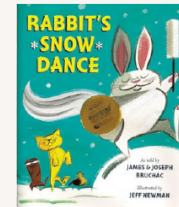
Location: BSR Head Start Class

For more information contact:
Jocelyn Saavedra at 559-226-2880 Ext. 212 or
jsaavedra@ovcdc.com



FRESNO FAMILY LITERACY WAGA CORNER

JANUARY



BOOK OF THE MONTH



A HIP AND OH HO-SO-FUNNY TAKE ON A TRADITIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN FABLE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PATIENCE, THE SEASONS, AND LISTENING TO YOUR FRIENDS

R	M	X	V	L	O	G	S	B	A
D	A	N	C	E	K	C	Q	P	T
A	W	B	M	I	D	U	U	Q	U
C	V	R	B	H	C	S	I	W	R
E	U	Q	L	I	B	J	R	R	T
Z	T	P	K	G	T	B	R	Y	L
B	E	A	R	F	A	E	L	A	E
Y	S	N	J	E	O	D	E	U	T
X	C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	O
F	O	P	G	B	A	N	K	D	S

RABBIT

DANCE

BEAR

TURTLE

CHIPMUNK

SQUIRRL

CONTACT: FRESNO FAMILY LITERACY
PHONE # (559) 226-2880



Come Join BSR Cap Department

Achieve Our Goals

DIY Glitter Resolution

Cup's

Monday's in
January
5th, 12th, and 26

6:00pm-8:00pm

For more information contact Aurelia Rios
bsrcap3@bsrnation.com 559-374-0066 x207
37387 Auberry Mission Rd

Join the BSR CAP department at
the garden to learn about
indigenous planting tips and
start our seed starts

Every Tuesday meet at the BSR
GARDEN from 11:30 -2:00 PM

bring your gloves and wear something
warm
be prepared to get messy

1-6-26
1-13-26
1-20-26
1-27-26



Contact Valery Burt

@bsrcap2@bsrnation.com

OR 559-374-0066

JANUARY BASKETBALL NIGHTS

SETTING FITNESS GOALS

wednesdays&Friday

DATES

1-2, 1-7, 1-9, 1-14
1-16, 1-21, 1-23, 1-28
1-30

6:00-8:00pm

location: Big Sandy Gym
37387 Auberry mission RD, Auberry CA 93602

For additional information contact nikle smith
at bsrcap5@bsrnation.com or call 559-374-0066



BIG SANDY RANCHERIA CAP DEPARTMENT

SAVINGS CLASS

ACHIEVING FINANCIAL GOALS

Join us on Thursdays in January, as we
set new goals for the new year and start a
savings book.

NO CLASS ON JANUARY 1ST

Big Sandy Rancheria Gym
37387 Auberry Mission Rd.
Auberry, CA 93602
6:00 - 8:00pm





MATTRESS RECYCLING FOR BSR

Big Sandy Rancheria and the Mattress Recycling Council are working together to provide free recycling services of old mattresses and box springs for the BSR residents.



Dates:
January 28th
8:30 am-4:30 pm
February 25th
8:30 am-4:30 pm

*BSR HAS RECYCLED OVER
74 MATTRESSES FROM THE
START OF THIS PROGRAM!



Mattress Recycling Council
Stacking Up Success Since 2015

For any questions, please contact Rebecca Riley @ (559) 374-0046



BIG SANDY RANCHERIA



Youth Advisory Council

Join the BSR CAP and Environmental Department as youth leaders in your community. Participate in key prevention and environmental issues. Meetings are held on the last Friday of every month at the BSR Computer Lab building. Ages 14-22 welcome.

January Date:
1/23/25 @4pm.

For questions, please contact:
Rebecca Riley or Brandi Kelley @
(559) 374-0066 ext. 240 or 206



VALLEYBUILD

YOSEMITE ADULT SCHOOL

YOUR FUTURE WON'T BUILD ITSELF

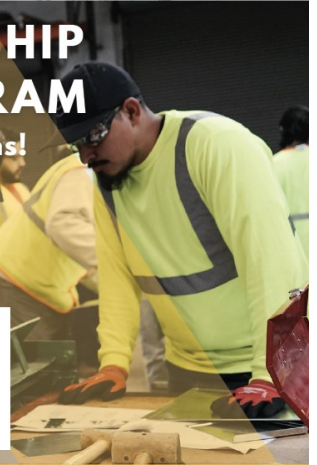
Training Begins: January 12, 2026-March 6, 2026

MC3 APPRENTICESHIP READINESS PROGRAM

Learn directly from trade unions!

BRICKLAYERS
CEMENT MASONS
ELECTRICIANS
GLAZIERS IRON
WORKERS
LABORERS
OPERATING ENGINEERS
PAINTERS
PLUMBERS/PIPEFITTERS
ROOFERS
SHEET METAL WORKERS
SURVEYORS

Big Sandy Rancheria
Orientation Info:



Participating unions will vary by county



THIS PROGRAM IS 100% SUPPORTED BY THE HIGH ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAREERS RESILIENT WORKFORCE FUND (HRWF) PROGRAM AS PART OF AWARDS TOTALING \$6,825,127.00 WITH 5% FINANCED FROM NON-FEDERAL SOURCES
Funded by the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board, an equal opportunity employer and program. Auxiliary aids and services are available by request to individuals with disabilities and/or limited English.



Adult Education in the BSR Computer Lab

Sierra Unified School District and Sierra Alternative Education are pleased to partner with Big Sandy Rancheria to offer in person help for students seeking their high school diploma using our online program. I will be in the computer lab at Big Sandy Rancheria:

- 8-3pm every Tuesday
- 1-4 on Wednesdays.

For any questions about getting your high school diploma, what steps to take you can contact Carolyn Mayes at Sierra Alternative Education at 559-855-3020, or sign up for adult school using the QR code below.

Please scan the QR code below to register for Adult Education/State Center Adult Education Consortium.

<https://tinyurl.com/STATE-CENTER-REG-FORM>



FAMILY SPIRIT

Home Visiting Program



What is Family Spirit?

The Family Spirit Program is an evidence-based and culturally tailored home visiting intervention delivered by community-based Health Educators as an Indigenous solution to supporting caregivers during pregnancy and early childhood. Caregivers gain knowledge and skills to achieve optimum development for their children.

Who can enroll?

Native American Pregnant women, expecting fathers, grandparents, and other caregivers of Native American children ages 0-5.

Big Sandy Rancheria Health Educators



Jazmine Garcia

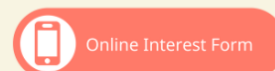
SSbsr1@bsrnation.com

559-374-0066 ext 215

How can I sign Up?

Call or stop by the Big Sandy Rancheria Social Services Department.

Or complete our online interest form, and we will contact you directly.





**CONTACT
SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
OFFICE
559-374-0049**

TRIBAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Big Sandy Rancheria Social Services Department is excited to announce that we are taking Food Assistance applications for our Tribal Nutrition Program.

What to Expect:

The Tribal Nutrition Program is designed to address food insecurity. By completing this application, social services staff will work with you to address these insecurities in three program options:

1. FOOD VOUCHERS

available for local grocery stores
(VOUCHERS AVAILABLE BASED ON FUNDS)

2. FOOD BOXES

3. REFERRALS FOR FOOD RESOURCES

An application must be completed and submitted for review. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.



JANUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NEW YEARS DAY ALL OFFICES CLOSED	2 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY ALL CAP PROGRAMS CLOSED	3
4	5 Resolution Cup 6:00pm-8:00pm	6 Seed Starting Home Garden 6:00pm-8:00pm	7 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	8 ELDERS LUNCHEON 12:00PM Literacy Program 4:00pm Life Skills and Budgeting 6:00pm-8:00pm	9 TULE RIVER DISTRIBUTION 10:30-12:00PM Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	10
11	12 Valley Build MC3 Apprenticeship program Resolution Cup 6:00pm-8:00pm	13 Family Literacy Book Read EHS—11:00am HS—11:30am Seed Starting Home Garden 6:00pm-8:00pm	14 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	15 FOOD BANK 10:00AM-12:00PM Life Skills and Budgeting 6:00pm-8:00pm	16 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	17
18	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ALL OFFICES CLOSED	20 Seed Starting Home Garden 6:00pm-8:00pm	21 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	22 Literacy Program 4:00pm Life Skills and Budgeting 5:00pm-7:00pm	23 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	24
25	26 Resolution Cup 6:00pm-8:00pm	27 Seed Starting Home Garden 6:00pm-8:00pm	28 BSR Mattress Recycling 8:30-4:30pm TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING 11:00AM Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	29 Life Skills and Budgeting 5:00pm-7:00pm	30 Basketball Night 5:00pm-7:00pm	31



FEBUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Beaded Heart Hoop making 6:00pm-8:00pm	3 Resin Crafts 6:00pm-8:00pm	4 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	5 Sweetheart Treats 6:00pm-8:00pm	6 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY ALL CAP PROGRAM CLOSED	7
8	9 Beaded Heart Hoop making 6:00pm-8:00pm	10 Resin Crafts 6:00pm-8:00pm	11 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	12 ELDERS LUNCHEON Sweetheart Treats 6:00pm-8:00pm	13 Healthy Relationships 5:00pm-7:00pm	14
15	16 PRESIDENTS DAY ALL OFFICES CLOSED	17 Resin Crafts 6:00pm-8:00pm	18 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	19 FOOD BANK 10:00AM- 12:00PM Sweetheart Treats 6:00pm-8:00pm	20 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	21
22	23 Beaded Heart Hoop making 6:00pm-8:00pm	24 Resin Crafts 6:00pm-8:00pm	25 BSR Mattress Recycling 8:30-4:30pm TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING 11:00AM Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	26 Sweetheart Treats 6:00pm-8:00pm	27 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	28

Big Sandy Rancheria Transportation Services



****Transportation is for Elders only until further notice****
We apologize for the inconvenience.

BSR CAP Department:
Brandi Kelley @ (559)374-0066 ext. 206
You can also stop by the gym in the CAP OFFICE

YOUR APPOINTMENT MUST BE MADE AND VERIFIED WITH THE CAP DEPARTMENT *BEFORE* YOUR SPOT CAN BE RESERVED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS *ONLY WITH BRANDI KELLEY* 24 HOURS PRIOR FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTS AND 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE FOR FRESNO TRANSPORTS.

The transporter will wait 15 minutes after your scheduled departure. If you do not arrive on time, your appointment will be canceled and can be rescheduled *with Brandi Kelley only*. There are new rules for the transportation services, please call the transporter for a copy of revised rules. Transportation services are for Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Members.

The transporter cannot transport kids to school that have missed the bus. All CVIH appointments are to be scheduled with CVIH transporter. If the CVIH transporter is unable to transport you, they will need to reschedule your appointment. This applies to all medical, dental, nutrition & referral appointments.



Big Sandy Rancheria

37387 Auberry Mission Rd

P.O. Box 337

Auberry, CA 93602

