



# SMOKE SIGNALS

February 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM TRIBAL COUNCIL

Munahoo Neum,

Tzow, Pasikwa, good February. Happy Valentines Day. The CAP department, will be having their Healthy Relationship Dance on Friday, February 14th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the BSR GYM. Please come join us for an evening of fun.

Central Valley Indian Health, will be hosting their annual Eagle Walk on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at Millerton Lake registration is at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Mika Fisher RDN at (559) 299-2578 Ext. 1619. Also, with the new year upon us, please make sure all your information has been updated, your current address and contact information is crucial when it comes to communication with the tribe, especially in regards to any questions on applications being submitted whether it be housing, education, tribal ID's etc. This can be addressed in a timely manner with your updated information. Just a friendly reminder the Food Bank is every third Thursday of the month starting around 10:00 a.m. Big Sandy Community Recourse Center at 33041 Auberry Rd. will have Fresno County and Big Sandy Social Services onsite offering Medi-Cal, CalFresh and Cash Aid. For information please contact Jazmine Garcia BSR Case Manager (559) 787-4116 .

All tribal offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025 for Presidents Day. We will resume with regular hours the following day. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the receptionist desk (559) 374-0066 ext. 200. Thank you for all your time and energy and like always have a blessed rest of your month.

Council Meetings		Tribal Office Holiday Schedule	
Tribal Council	General Council	Date	Holiday
Wednesday, February 26, 2025	Sunday, March 30, 2025	Monday, February 17, 2025	Presidents Day
Wednesday, March 26, 2025	Sunday, June 29, 2025	Friday, May 9, 2025	National American Indian Day
Wednesday, April 30, 2025	Sunday, September 28, 2025	Monday, May 26, 2025	Memorial Day
Wednesday, May 28, 2025	Sunday, December 14, 2025	Friday, July 4, 2025	Independence Day
Wednesday, June 25, 2025		Monday, September 1, 2025	Labor Day
Wednesday, July 30, 2025		Friday, September 26, 2025	California American Indian Day
Wednesday, August 27, 2025		Monday, October 13, 2025	Indigenous People's Day
Wednesday, September 24, 2025		Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Veterans Day
Wednesday, October 29, 2025		Thursday, November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving Day
Wednesday, November 26, 2025		Friday, November 28, 2025	Day After Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 17, 2025		Wednesday, December 24, 2025	Christmas Eve
		Thursday, December 25, 2025	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 12:00pm

**February 13, 2025**

- 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, February 20, 2025**

**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.

## February Birthdays

# Happy Birthday

Julie Adkins  
Howtzah Beecher  
Gilbert Beecher  
Ahkakowah Beecher  
Rudy Colmenero  
Stephanie Coston  
Robert Davis  
Autumn Davis  
Brianna Gillihan  
Robert Harlan  
Rebecca Hodges  
Logan Johnson  
Teresa Johnson  
Nadiah Johnson

Rayetta Lara  
Constance Lewis  
Kristine Lewis  
Joseph Marquez  
Michael Minihane  
Winstin Moore  
Phillip Moore  
Zachariah Oliver  
Naomi Orosco  
Giovanni Patty-Gallo  
Jonathon Reid  
Douglas Riley  
Fabian Riley  
Virginia Riley

Annie Riley  
Robert Robertson  
Quintin Rodriguez  
Larissa Rodriguez  
Samuel Samaniego  
Shaniah Samaniego  
Michael Sandoval  
Grant Sewell  
Theodore Stankewitz  
Michael Turner  
Paul Valles  
Felix Vela  
Abriyah Villanueva  
Theresa Williams-Lundy

## Big Sandy Rancheria Elders

Hello BSR Elders

I hope your all doing well and staying warm. Last month we had Fresno Madera Agency of aging do a short presentation on resources that their agency can assist elders with, which included Caregiver support, Food programs, Hospice, Legal services Medi-Cal & Medicare and many more topics. If you would like more information we have pamphlets available at the Tribal office front desk. Our next Elders luncheon is on February 13th, at 12:00 pm. CVIH will be doing a presentation of Heart Health on February 26th.

CVIH will be having there annual Eagle Walk at Millerton Lake on February 26th registration is at 9:00 am. We will be taking the elder's van to Millerton Lake, if you need a ride please contact Leann Anguiano. If your not able to walk you can visit at the picnic area. CVIH will be serving sandwiches for lunch, your welcome to bring a side dish. You will need the flyer to get into Millerton Lake for free. If you have any question about the Eagle walk please contact Leann Anguiano (559) 917-1674 or Mika Fisher at CVIH (559) 299-2578. We would like to welcome our newest elders to the group, Tracy Williams-Hughey and Patricia Beecher, welcome ladies! We now have 71 elders that are 55 and up, 41 women and 30 male elders. If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact Leann Anguiano (559) 917-1674, [languiano@bsrnation.com](mailto:languiano@bsrnation.com)

# Elder's Luncheon



Anthony Riley & Tamara Riley



Agency of Aging Speaker Miles,  
Lori Beecher, Jeannie Valles &  
Regina Rhoan



Loretta Sylvas, Jane Stamp &  
Connie Lewis



Mae Berry & Aleda Cogdell



Pearl Hutchins



Mae Berry, Gina Mangiarelli, Aleda Cogdell, Tamara Riley &  
Anthony Riley



Loretta Sylvas, Jane Stamp, Connie Lewis, Matt Munoz &  
Pearl Hutchins

# BSR Head Start

## Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Head Start Program

As we enter the second half of the school year, our program begins to shift its focus from primarily supporting social and emotional growth to emphasizing literacy and mathematics. You can support this transition at home by engaging in simple, fun activities such as singing the ABCs, counting everyday objects, and identifying shapes in your surroundings. These small actions can make a big difference in building your child's skills.

We value your partnership in your child's education! If you have questions, concerns, or ideas to share, please don't hesitate to reach out. Open communication ensures we can best support your child's growth and development.

We'll be celebrating Valentine's Day on Friday, February 14th. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to share kindness and friendship.

Valentines Exchange: If your child would like to bring valentines or treats, we have 20 students.

As temperatures drop, please remember to send your child with a warm jacket, gloves, and hat. We want all our little ones to stay cozy and warm during outdoor play.

### Smart Limits

1. **Take charge:** Children crave limits and boundaries. It helps children manage the world without confusion. 2. **Discipline is not punishment:** Enforcing limits is really about teaching children how to behave in the world. This helps them to become caring, in control, and learn important skills. 3. **Pick your battles:** Kids cannot absorb too many rules. Focus on the things that really matter -- such as not hitting.

## Special Day

### Reminders

#### Valentine's Day

#### Card Exchange

February 14th, 2025

#### Community Food

#### Bank

February 20th, 2025

#### Closed: Mid-Winter

#### Break

February 17th to  
21st, 2025

#### Head Start Reopens

February 24th, 2025

#### Parent Meeting

February 26th, 2025

#### Closed: Staff

#### Development Day

February 28th, 2025

# BSR Environmental Department February 2025

## Air Quality

Air pollution is actually worse during the winter months. Cold air is denser and moves slower than warm air. This density means that cold air traps the pollution but also doesn't whisk it away. Air pollution in winter remains in place much longer and is inhaled at a higher rate than in the summer months. Growing indoor houseplants is an excellent way to purify the air in your house.

**Here is a couple good houseplants:**

1. **Aloe Vera**—is known to remove formaldehyde and benzene.
2. **Pothos**—is known to remove carbon monoxide.
3. **Gerbera Daisy**—is known to remove formaldehyde, benzene.

## Environmental Raffle

In December, we hosted a raffle testing the communities knowledge on key environmental issues. We had only one entry responded and won! Please read your newsletter and participate in all future surveys and events. Thank you.

## Tips for Reducing Waste at Home

- ♦ **Reduce:** Buy in bulk, avoid single-serving packaging, and use reusable bags. You can also use a reusable water bottle instead of plastic, and bring your own mug to avoid disposable coffee cups.
- ♦ **Reuse:** Use old jars for storage, and repurpose items you're not using. You can also use silicone mats instead of parchment paper or foil.
- ♦ **Recycle:** Choose products in recyclable or refillable containers, recycled paper, glass, and other recovered materials.

## Clean Groundwater Water

Here at the Big Sandy community we need to continue to work towards preventing groundwater pollution. We all need to remember, to properly dispose of motor oil, clearing abandoned vehicles off their property, clean up trash and junk around their homes, and don't dump chemicals down your drains or on the ground. Safety store your gas.

## Climate Change

Climate change has a big impact on our area, mostly lack of water due to very little rain. With our winter months getting warmer and shorter, we are experiencing less and less water in the ground and on the surface. This is because of warmer atmosphere which hold in a lot of moisture. Which creates less rain and snow for our mountain area.



For information or any questions contact:

Lori Beecher @ 374-0066 ext. 200\*[lbeecher@bsrnation.com](mailto:lbeecher@bsrnation.com)

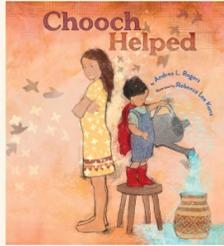




BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

Fresno Family Literacy Program

# BSR EARLY HEAD START STORYTIME & LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE



JOIN US FOR STORYTIME & LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE WITH BSR EHS CLASS

FEBRUARY 11TH | 11:00AM | BSR EHS CLASS

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



Family Literacy Program

**BSR HEAD START STORYTIME & LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE**

**Chooch Helped**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 11TH**  
**TIME: 11:30AM**

**LOCATION: BSR HEAD START CLASS**

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

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



# Pasi-Kwa

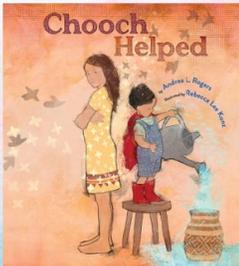
(February)



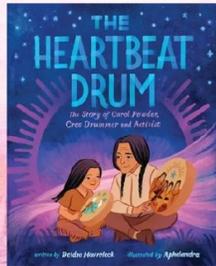
## Fresno County Family Literacy Program



**Presents**



February 13, 2025



February 27, 2025

**Join us for a Book Read and Language Experience Activity with BSR CAP Youth Program & Community**

**Location: BSR Gym**

**Time: 4:00 pm**



For More information contact Parent Educator, Jocelyn Saavedra at jsaavedra@ovcdc.com / Juliana Velasquez at jvelasquez@ovcdc.com Phone #

559-226-2880

### HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR ADULT STUDENTS REGISTRATION OPEN!



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR THE ADULT EDUCATION/STATE CENTER ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM.

- (SCAEC will continue to have a representative on campus monthly to provide transition assistance and to give information to students. Appointments can be made with the SCAEC transitional specialist for individualized help.)
- Enrollment Procedures: High School Diploma, Workforce Development, Professional Development
- Students must sign into their Google account to fill out all forms.
- (Must be completed every school year)
- <https://tinyurl.com/STATE-CENTER-REG-FORM>
- Contact the teacher or registrar to update your information as needed or to make an appointment to complete enrollment.

Carolyn Mayes: Adult Education Teacher, Email:cmayes@sierrausd.org  
Office Big Sandy Rancheria:(559)374-0066 ext. 241, Office Alt Ed: (559)855-3020

#### **Big Sandy Rancheria Computer Lab**

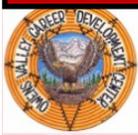
- High school diploma completion and support
- Professional development support
- Workforce development services
- Drivers license education
- Career development support

For any questions or additional information contact Rebecca Riley: Education Coordinator, Email: rriley@bsrnation.com, Phone: (559) 374-0066 ext. 240



PRINCIPAL: ANTHONY ABRAMS, REGISTRAR: JACKIE BADONI.  
SIERRA ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTER:  
33280 LODGE ROAD, TOLLHOUSE, CA, 93667 PHONE: (559) 855-3020





**BSR CAP  
Department  
February**



**DIY  
RIBBON  
ROSES**



**Monday's  
3rd, 10th, and 24th  
6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Topic of the class is on Health Relationships**

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

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**February  
No-Sew  
Heart Pillows**



**Every Tuesday  
6:00-8:00 pm**

**Come join us to make no sew heart pillows, while we learn how to recognize abuse in relationships**

If you have any questions please ask for Valery Burt

**bsrcap2@bsrnation.com  
or (559)374-0066 x228**

**37387 Auberry Mission  
Road, Auberry CA 93602**



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**CAP Department  
Family Fitness**

**VOLLEYBALL  
NIGHT**



**EVERY THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY  
6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Contact Jimmy Llewellyn  
(559)374-0066 X 207

37387 Auberry Mission RD. CA 93602



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**BSR CAP DEPARTMENT**



**EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
& FRIDAY IN  
MARCH**



**6:00pm  
8:00pm**



For more information call Fabian Riley Sr.  
559)374-0066 ext 207 bsrcap4@bsrnation.com  
37387 Auberry Mission Road, Auberry California 93602

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YOU ARE INVITED

# Healthy Relationship Dance

FEB | 14 | 2025

**FOOD.MUSIC.GROUP ACTIVITIES**

Learn facts about dating violence.

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Big Sandy Gym  
37387 Auberry Mission Rd.  
Auberry CA,93602



Contact Brandi Kelley for more information at 559-374-0066 ext.206 or [bkelley@bsrnation.com](mailto:bkelley@bsrnation.com)

**AUBERRY  
COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE CENTER**



## Outreach Pop Up Events

**Fresno County Department of Social Services Outreach staff and Big Sandy Rancheria Social Services staff will be onsite to provide assistance with NEW and EXISTING applications for assistance programs.**



### Programs

Medi-Cal  
CalFresh  
Cash Aid



### Dates

February 19	May 21
March 19	June 18
April 16	July 16



**Time: 9AM-3PM**

Walk-In's Available

For More Information  
Contact: Jazmine Garcia  
BSR Case Manager  
559-787-4116

**Auberry Community  
Resource Center**  
33041 Auberry Rd.,  
Auberry, CA



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# Eagle Walk

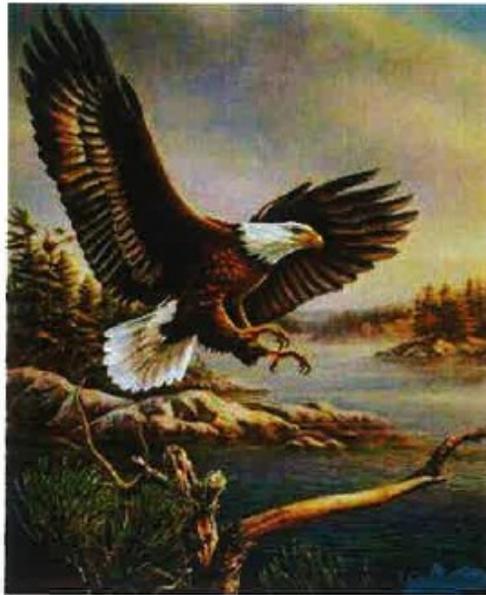
**Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

**Time: Registration 9:00 AM**

**9:30 AM Walk Starts**

**Place: Millerton Lake**

**Meet: The Parking lot by the boat ramp (picnic area) just past the Fresno park entrance.**



**FREE TO ALL CVIH PATIENTS & FAMILY**

Please bring this flyer as your parking pass. If assistance is needed please let us know.

**Wear warm clothes; bring binoculars. Sandwiches will be provided! Feel free to bring your favorite side-dish to share!**

**For more information please contact:**

**Mika Fisher, RDN at (559) 299-2578 Ext. 1619**



# Property Management Application WORKSHOP

Receive personalized assistance with completing your property management application, including guidance on gathering the required documents. Additionally, gain valuable insights into the application process and what to expect after submission. Computers will be available to help you access and collect income documents as needed. Let us help you navigate the process with ease and confidence

Thursday  
February 27th

| 10:00am- |

BSR Computer  
Lab

For any questions: please contact  
Rebecca Riley @ (559) 374-0066 ext. 240



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 Multi Purpose building.

**February Date: 2/28/25**  
**@4pm.**



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



Big Sandy Rancheria

# CAR SEAT CHECK UP EVENT

**Saturday, MARCH 1, 2025**

Sponsored by Big Sandy  
Rancheria Head Start and Social  
Services



**REGISTRATION OPEN**  
Register online  
Or fill out an application with  
BSR Social Services



Space is limited

Please be advised this event is for families/guardians with children that are required by state law (8 years of age and 4 foot 9 inches) to ride in a vehicle with a proper child safety restrain system.



Clovis Community College

**FREE**

Spring 2025

# EARN COLLEGE CREDIT

Class held on site at the Big Sandy  
Rancheria Computer Lab

**Interdisciplinary Studies 50**  
**College Success College**  
**INTDS 50 - 81853**  
**3 Unit Course**

**March 17th - May 23rd**  
**Big Sandy Rancheria**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**6:00PM - 7:15PM**

- ✓ This class is transferable for Area E CSU GE credit INTDS-50 will prepare you for academic success throughout your college journey
- ✓ Explore personal responsibility, critical thinking, self-awareness, self-motivation, and effective communication
- ✓ Build relationships with Clovis Community College faculty, staff, and support services
- ✓ 3 transferable units to CSU and UC

Questions? Please contact Nate Saari:  
[nate.saari@cloviscollege.edu](mailto:nate.saari@cloviscollege.edu) / (559)776-8281  
or sign up with  
Rebecca Riley (559)374-0066 Ext. 240

# **Big Sandy Rancheria**

## **Community Swap Meet**

**When: April 26, 2025**

**8 am—12 pm**

**Where: 33041 Oakview Terrace Complex  
Auberry Ca 93602**

**Reduce - the waste**

**Recycle - the present**

**Reuse - the old**

**BSR Environmental Department would like to invite you to join us for our community Swap Meet at Oakview Terrace complex. The purpose of these events is to educate people on how to prevent unnecessary waste.**

**For information or any questions contact:**

**Lori Beecher @ 374-0066 ext. 226**





# **24th Annual Pow Wow & Gathering**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **May 17 & 18, 2025**

**Free Event, Open to the Public.  
FREE Vendor Booths, Arts/Crafts  
Dance Competitions- CASH Prizes, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd  
Places  
ALL Drums Welcome  
Handgame Tournament**

**37802 Jose Basin Rd., Auberry, California 93602**



# FEBRUARY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 DIY Ribbon Rose Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	4 No-Sew Heart Pillow 6:00pm-8:00pm	5 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	6 Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	7 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	8
9	10 DIY Ribbon Rose Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	11 No Sew Heart Pillow 6:00pm-8:00pm	12 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	13 ELDERS LUNCHEON 12:00PM Book Read 4:00pm Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	14 TULE RIVER FOOD DISTRIBUTION 10:30-12:00PM HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP DANCE 5:00pm-7:00pm	15
16	17 <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>  <b>ALL OFFICES CLOSED</b>	18 No Sew Heart Pillow 6:00pm-8:00pm	19 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm Outreach Pop Up Event 9:00am-3:00pm	20 FOOD BANK 10:00-12:00PM Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	21 Basketball Night 6:00pm 8:00pm	22
23	24 DIY Ribbon Rose Making 6:00-8:00pm	25 No Sew Heart Pillow 6:00pm-8:00pm	26 Eagle Walk Registration 9:00am TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING 10:00AM Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	27 Property Management Application Workshop 10:00am Book Read 4:00 pm Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	28 Youth Advisory Meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm Basketball Night 6:00pm 8:00pm	



# MARCH 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Car Seat Check up Event
2	3 Selfcare Workshop 6:00pm-8:00pm	4 Beaded Hoop Earrings 6:00pm-8:00pm	5 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	6 Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	7 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	8
9	10 Selfcare Workshop 6:00pm-8:00pm	11 Beaded Hoop Earrings 6:00pm-8:00pm	12 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	13 ELDERS LUNCHEON 12:00PM Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	14 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	15
16	17 Selfcare Workshop 6:00pm-8:00pm	18 Earn College Credits 6:00pm-7:15pm Beaded Hoop Earrings 6:00pm-8:00pm	19 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	20 FOOD BANK 10:00-12:00PM Earn College Credits 6:00pm-7:15pm Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	21 Basketball Night 6:00pm 8:00pm	22
23	24 Selfcare Workshop 6:00pm-8:00pm	25 Earn College Credits 6:00pm-7:15pm Beaded Hoop Earrings 6:00pm-8:00pm	26 TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING 10:00AM Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	27 Earn College Credits 6:00pm-7:15pm Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	28 Youth Advisory Meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm Basketball Night 6:00pm 8:00pm	29
30	31 Selfcare Workshop 6:00pm-8:00pm					

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## 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

