

# SMOKE SIGNALS December 2024

#### A MESSAGE FROM TRIBAL COUNCIL

Munahoo, Neum,

Tzow, NahTahCutAhWena Good December. Happy Holidays to all and may the New Year, bring good health and happiness. The tribe will be having our Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony December 3rd from 5:00 -7:00 pm at the Oakview Terrance property at 33041 Auberry Road in Auberry, light refreshments will be provided. This event is open to the community. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be at BSR gym on December 20th for the Winter Gathering from 5:00 -7:00 pm.

A couple of awesome events coming up at Big Sandy Rancheria will be, having groundbreaking for the new Housing Development on December 12th at 10:00am. It will be one of the biggest housings projects the tribe has ever done. Please join us for the historic moment, this will be a huge expansion in our tribal housing. The weather is changing, and we would like to make sure our elders are keeping warm. If there are any elders in need of a load of wood for the winter, please contact the tribal office (559) 374-0066.

The next General Council meeting will be December 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the BSR GYM. These meetings are for <u>Tribal Members only</u>, no significant other may attend these meetings. We will be handing out the Tribal Christmas bonus, too, hope to see everyone there. Also all tribal offices will be closed December 24th & 25th for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Like always thank you for your time and energy and have a blessed rest of your month.

			24 VI. II II -401 PM	
Council I	Meetings	Tribal Office Holiday Schedule		
Tribal Council	General Council	Date	Holiday	
Wednesday, December 18, 2024	Sunday, December 15, 2024	Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	
***************************************		Wednesday, December 25, 2024	Christmas	

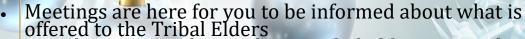


# Tribal Elder's Monthly Meeting



Second Thursday of the month at 12:00pm

## Canceled



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, December 19, 2024 10:00am-12:00pm **Big Sandy Rancheria** 37387 Auberry Mission Road Auberry, CA 93602



559-825-6645

37302 Rancheria Lane Auberry, CA 93602

#### **December Birthdays**

# Happy Birthday

Anissa Ballard Khianna Berry **Gabriel Berry** Lydia Cline Aleda Cogdell **Audrey Cogdell** Autumn Cogdell **David Culwell** Amanda Easley **Opal Easley** Alysha Edd Caden Fisher Fernando Flores Dakota Furr Illiana Garza Eli Hall Crystal Loren Huffman

**Amy Johns** Emma Johnson Adrian Johnson Joseph Lewis Briana Marquez **Kevin Marquez** Niali Marquez Tara Martinez Alexa McFarland Avalynn Menera Jacob Merrick Charlie Moore Alyssa Na Little Bear Oliver Josiah Patty Melissa Perez Miranda Perez

**Dallas Pruitt** Mark Richards Michael Riley Sabrina Riley Leanndra Rios Aurelia Rios Christopher Rodriquez **Evelyn Sample** Julia Smith Savannah Telles Janine Vella Jade Vella Derek Walker Roger Walder Jr. **Tammie Walker** Alanna Williams

#### **Big Sandy Rancheria Elders**

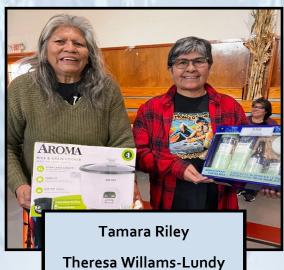
#### Hello BSR Elders

First of all I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas! I hope you all have a blessed Christmas with family and friends. Elders, we have a full calendar for the month of December. On December 7<sup>th</sup> is our annual Christmas Adult Bingo at 6:00pm here at Big Sandy Gym. The Council has purchased some nice bingo prizes with more CASH prizes this year. You don't want to miss out! December 15<sup>th</sup> is our General Council meeting at 10:00am at Big Sandy Gym. The Tribal Council is hoping to have a quorum to complete yearly business. So please be there, not to mention a little gift will be handed out. Tell your family who are voting members to attend, remember no children at our general council meetings. The Elders annual Christmas dinner with Tribal Council is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm at Nativos at Chukchansi Casino. There will be an elder's gift exchange, bring a gift get a gift. This is a BSR elder only dinner. If you would like to attend, you will need to RSVP with Leann Anguiano by December 9<sup>th</sup> (559) 917-1674. Elders dress to impress! Last on the calendar is our Winter Gathering on December 20th from 5:00-7:00pm. Come join us for dinner, visiting with friends and family, all is welcomed to this dinner. We hope to see you all there. Please note that we will not have our regularly scheduled elders' luncheon for the month of December. If you have any questions regarding all this information, please feel free to contact Leann Anguiano (559) 917-1674, languiano@bsrnation.com anytime.

WISHING ALL OUR BSR ELDERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



# November's Elders Luncheon





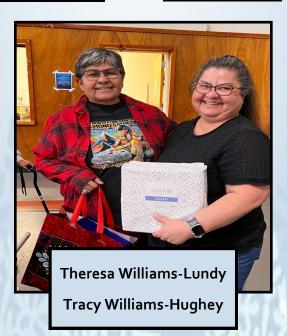
















# OVCDC Big Sandy Early Head Start December 2024 Newsletter

Accepting Applications for Enrollment! Both TANF and Tribal members now have priority placement with new OHS guidelines! Contact the site for an application!

Applications for the school year continues to be accepted throughout the year. EHS is a comprehensive early learning program for children 6 weeks-36 months old. The EHS program delivers early learning/education, health nutrition, and family support services.

### Important Dates

December 6th: Parent Workshop: Family Wellness through Tie Blankets and Mono Language December 13th: Family Winter Gathering

December 23rd-31st: Winter Break (Center Closed to Children) TBD: Storytime with Language/Literacy Program

#### Reminders

Our center hours are Monday-Friday from 7:45-3:45 P.M. Breakfast is from 8:30-9:00 A.M. If you need any assistance, please contact us!













37190 Jose Basin Road, Auberry, CA 93602
Phone (559) 855-7511, Fax (559) 855-7515
Blossom Garcia, Family/Child Service Specialist, bgarcia@ovcdc.com
Nikita Henderson, Site Supervisor, nhenderson@ovcdc.com

# BSR Head Start

#### Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Head Start Program

Big Sandy Rancheria has some wonderful community events coming up, and we wanted to share these resources with you. These events are a great way for families to connect, access services, and get support.

Check out the details below, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

Staff from the local Department of Social Services will be available to help families enroll in Cal Fresh or medical at the Community Recourse Center in Auberry. If you have questions about benefits or need assistance with the application process, bring your documents and drop by for support.

The BSR Head Start and Social Services department are planning a "Car seat event". Certified car seat technicians will be available to check your car seat, ensure it's properly installed, and help answer any questions about safety guidelines for different ages. Please be on the look out for survey and a sign up sheet.

Did you know? The Auberry library offers free early literacy programs for preschoolers and caregivers. Stop by to explore Storytime, borrow books, and learn about the resources they have for children and families.

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.

# Special Day Reminders

Community Food

Bank

December 19th, 2024

Movie/PJ day

December 20th, 2024

Closed: Staff

Development Day

December 23rd, 2024

<u>Christmas Break</u>

Dec. 23rd 2024 to Jan. 3rd, 2025

Center Reopen

January 6th, 2025



#### **BSR Environmental Department December 2024**

# Prevent soil Erosion during the winter months:

Soil erosion can be a big problem during the winter months. Snow and rain are the main problem of erosion. Your soil will gradually transform into gullies which will accelerate soil erosion.

Mulching—often acts as a soil insulator that helps to maintain soil moisture, and could be used as a soil stabilizer.

Sandbags – Use sandbags to divert water away from areas prone to erosion. You can get sandbags from your local County Yard at 33148 Auberry Rd. (559) 855-2626.

Retaining walls—Retaining walls can shield soil from erosion and keep water in the lawn or garden.

#### What is Pollution?

Pollution occurs when an amount of any substance or any form of energy is put into the environment at a rate faster than it can be dispersed or safely stored. The term pollution can refer to both artificial and natural materials that are created, consumed, and discarded in an unsustainable manner. There are things you can do to help the pollution. Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle, save energy by turning off lights, tv, computers, buy energy efficient appliances. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.

# Environmental Winter Competition:

- What are some climate change effects we see in our community?
- 2. What are some ways you can contribute to improving climate change effects?
- 3. How are Native communities more vulnerable than other communities when it comes to climate change impacts?
- 4. What can tribes do to build resilience against climate change?
- 5. What are some environmental programs that tribes can offer to their communities?

Answer each question with a minimum of 3 sentences. Once completed email answers to rriley@bsrnation.com. Must answer all 5 questions to be considered. Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, December 18th, 2024. All submission will be entered into a raffle. Any questions please contact Rebecca Riley @ 559.374-0066 ext. 240.

#### Surface Water

Surface water is any body of water above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and creeks. Surface water is created primarily by precipitation and is also known as blue water. It is important for many reasons, including:

**Drinking Water**-Source of drinking water for people.

Irrigation-Used for agricultural irrigation.

Habitat-For aquatic plants and animals.

**Wetlands**-surface water is very important for wetlands.









#### **Social Services**

**Social Services Department Update-** Hi BSR Nation from the Social Services Department. Feel free to reach out if you have questions about a particular program or event to either our Social Services Coordinator, Stephanie Casillas, at <a href="mailto:sscoord@bsrnation.com">sscoord@bsrnation.com</a> or 559-374-0066, ext. 242, our Case Manager Jazmine Garcia at ssbsr1@bsrnation.com or 559-374-0066, ext. 215 or Kip Bowmar, the Director of Planning and Development at <a href="mailto:pddirector@bsrnation.com">pddirector@bsrnation.com</a> or 559-955-1163. The Social Services Department works to support BSR's Tribal families by ensuring they have services, assistance, and support. By working with each individual and family we can identify their unique needs and help access resources to address them. Specific programs include:

**ICWA-** BSR will intervene in eligible child dependency cases involving Tribal Members and their children. This includes Tribal representation in court, case management, and service referrals.

**Victim Advocacy**- This includes connecting people with resources and helping them connect with culturally appropriate services available through BSR as part of the healing process.

**Tribally Approved Homes-** Federal law allows Tribes to approve or license their own foster homes. BSR has been active in advocating for child welfare and recognizes the need for appropriate tribal foster and adoptive homes. Families or individuals who would like to learn more can reach out to Social Services Department staff.

Flexible Family Supports- For families and individuals that are already approved as foster care homes, there are additional resources available to cover expenses like respite care, participation costs for children in enrichment activities including sports and arts that benefit the child's development, and activities that are designed to support a successful placement.

**Substance Use Disorder Services-** Counseling, both one-on-one and in group sessions from a certified counselor for substance use disorder is now available at the Community Resource Center (CRC) located at 33041 Auberry Road. The program is operated in partnership between Fresno American Indian Health Project (FAIHP) and BSR. Call 559-320-0490 ext. 605

Partnership with Community Allies- In addition to partnering with FAIHP, BSR is also partnering with FAIHP in the Medicine Wheel 12 Step Classes that are held every other Tuesday from 12-1 and the Sacred Circle every other Tuesday from 2:00 to 5:00. Both classes are offered at the CRC.

**Community Car Seat Installation Events**— Jazmine Garcia is now an authorized car seat technician and Stephanie Casillas will be attending classes January. Shortly after that will be hosting car seat installation events at BSR. Look for more information in future newsletters.

# 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









#### **BSR Head Start 2024 Policy Council Nomination Form**

What is the Policy Council? The Big Sandy Rancheria (BSR) Policy Council is a group of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and community members who help lead and make decisions about their program. Members can serve for one year at a time. They work closely with the program's management team to provide overall direction for the program.

What is the Nomination Process? Individuals can nominate themselves or other community members to serve on the Policy Council. Just fill out this form and either email it to <a href="mailto:ileal@bsrnation.com">ileal@bsrnation.com</a> or bring it by the BSR Head Start Office at 37802 Jose Basin Road, Auberry CA 93602.

How Often does the Policy Council meet? The BSR Policy Council meets four times a year. Meals are provided and so is childcare.

Are you nominating as either a Head Start Parent (P) or a Community Member (C)
If you have a child in BSR Head Start Program, do you work for BSR (Y/N)?
Name of Nominee
Adress
Phone Number
Email address:

Questions? Please call BSR's Head Start Director Johanna Leal at 559-374-0066, ext. 216



# FREE

Spring 2024

# **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 / (559)776-8281 or sign up with Rebecca Riley (559)374-0066 Ext. 240

# Big Sandy Rancheria Afterschool Program youth Rocked their Moc's for Native American Heritage Month!

This was a wonderful activity we did with our youth this month, Thank you to all our youth for participating!



Mikey Nephew



Irissa Riley











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









#### \* BSR HEAD START \* STORYTIME & LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE







Time: 11:30am Location: BSR Head Start Class



THE BSR CAP AND
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
ARE SEEKING INTEREST FOR A
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.
YOUTH AGES 14-18 ARE INVITED
TO JOIN AND BE YOUTH LEADERS

IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THE GROUP WILL MEET WEEKLY TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY ISSUES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN PERSON WITH EITHER BRANDI KELLEY OR REBECCA RILEY. DEADLINE FOR SIGN UPS IS DECEMBER 6TH.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT: BRANDI KELLEY @ 374-0066 EXT 206 OR REBECCA RILEY @ 374-0066 EXT. 240.









# BSR CAP

**Department** Learn about family bonding

# *DIY*Winter Decorations

Every Monday in December 6:00pm-8:00pm

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





EVEDV WEDNESDAY & EDIDA

IN DECEMBER 6:00pm - 8:00pm

For more information call Fabian Riley SR

559)374-0066

bsrcap4@bsrnation.com

37387 Auberry Mission Road , Auberry CA, 93602

# BSR CAP Department

# December

Join us to make Holiday
Ornaments

at the Big Sandy Rancheria Gym

Tuesday's 6:00-8:00 pm

**Depression Awareness** 

37387 Auberry Mission Road, Auberry CA 93602

For more information please contact Valery Burt bsrcap2@bsrnation.com or (559)374-0066 x228

## CAP Department



December

#### Cultural Clapper Stick Making

**BIG Sandy Rancheria** 

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Come join us
Thursdays, as we
make Clapper
Sticks

Finail Jiimmy Llewellyn
for more info

37387 Auberry Mission Rd CA 93602









# TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENTS:

# BSR TRIBAL BINGO

KIDS: Friday, December 6, 2024 @ 6:00PM (5-17 years old)

ADULT: Saturday, December 7 2024 @ 6:00PM (18+ Eligible Voting Members Only)

Location: Multi-purpose Building, 37387 Auberry Mission Rd. Contact Tribal Council with all questions 559-374-0066



# Winter Gathering COME AND JOIN BIG SANDY RANCHERIA AS WE COME TOGETHER FOR OUR 2024 WINTER GATHERING

TOYS FOR TOTS

# December 20th 5-7pm

Donated toys will be handed out to children in need. Please have your Toys for Tots application turned in by the deadline 11-14-2024. To insure your child receives a toy! If you have any questions call Brandi Kelley 559-374-0066 est.206 or email. bkelley@bsrnation.com

Location, 37387 Auberry Mission Rd.93602





We Invite You To Our

# End Of The Year Game Night

## MUSIC-GAMES-FOOD

Big Sandy Rancheria's CAP Department will be hosting a Game Night here at the GYM for the community! All of your favorite games as well as badmitten. Come bring in the New Year with us in a healthy and safe way.

WHERE? 37387 Auberry Mission Rd. Auberry CA,93602

WHEN?

#### DECEMBER 31st 7:00PM to MIDNIGHT

Contact Brandi Kelley for more information at bkelley@bsrnation.com 559-374-0066 ext.206







# DECEMBER 2024



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Sunday 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 7
IT'S A GEM CHRISTMAS 2:00-6:00PM	DIY Winter Decorations 6:00pm-8:00pm	CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING OAKVIEW 5:00PM-7:00PM	Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	5 Cultural Clapper Sticks Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	TULE River FOOD Distribution 10:30AM-12:00PM  KID'S BINGO 6:00PM	ADULT BINGO 6:00PM
8	9 DIY Winter Decorations 6:00pm-8:00pm	10 Holiday Ornament Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	11 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	Cultural Clapper Sticks Making 6:00pm-8:00PM	13 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	14
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 10:00 AM	16 DIY Winter Decorations 6:00pm-8:00pm	Holiday Ornament Making 6:00pm-8:00pm	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	FOOD BANK 10:00-12:00PM Cultural Clapper Sticks Making 6:00pm-8:00PM	WINTER GATHERING 5:00PM-7:00PM	21
22	23 DIY Winter Decorations 6:00pm-8:00pm	24 CHRISTMAS EVE  ALL OFFICES CLOSED	CHRISTMAS DAY  All OFFICES CLOSED	26 Cultural Clapper Sticks Making 6:00pm-8:00PM	27 Basketball Night 6:00pm 8:00pm	28
29	30 DIY Winter Decorations 6:00-8:00pm	END OF THE YEAR GAME NIGHT 7:00pm-12:00am				



# **JANUARY 2025**



				2020		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  NEW YEARS  DAY  ALL OFFICES  CLOSED	2 Community Volleyball Night 6:00-8:00pm	3 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY CAP PROGRAM CLOSED	4
5	6 Native Inspired Candle and soap makings 6:00pm-8:00pm	7 Pine Needle Baske Making for Beginners 6:00pm-8:00pm	8 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	9 ELDERS LUNCHEON 12:00PM Community Volleyball Night 6:00-8:00pm	10 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	11
12	Native Inspired Candle and soap makings 6:00pm-8:00pm	14 Pine Needle Baske Making for Beginners 6:00pm-8:00pm	15 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	16 FOOD BANK 10:00-12:00PM Community Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	17 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	18
19	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  ALL OFFICES CLOSED	21 Pine Needle Baske Making for Beginners 6:00pm-8:00pm	22 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	23 Community Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	24 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	25
26	27 Native Inspired Candle and soap makings 6:00pm-8:00pm	28 Pine Needle Baske Making for Beginners 6:00pm-8:00pm	29 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	30 Community Volleyball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	31 Basketball Night 6:00pm-8:00pm	

#### **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

