

The Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community Publication
Sacaton, Az.



VOL.3 NO.10

OCTOBER 23, 1987 PAGE 1

Tusk from mammoth is unearthed by crew at Tanner gravel pit

A six-foot long tusk from either a pre-historic mammoth or a mastodon was unearthed Sept. 28 at the Tanner Industries sand and gravel pit.

The tusk is from a type of giant, woolly elephant that lived in the Gila River Basin during the last Ice Age

See Tusk of giant, Page 7



MAMMOTH TUSK—This tusk, looking from the mammoth end of the thing, was unearthed at the Tanner Industries gravel pit on the Gila River Indian Community Sept. 28 by a tractor operator. The ruler atop the tusk is one-foot long.

Judge candidate drops from Nov. 3 race, campaigns continue

Candidate for Gila River associate tribal judge George Thompson withdrew from the race Oct. 7 following his arrest for drunken driving several days earlier.

Thompson, at the Oct. 7 session of the Gila River tribal council apologized to council members for the incident, and told them he was going to seek professional help for an apparent drinking problem.

He has since resigned as an associate judge with the tribal court.

His withdrawal allows Clarie Rovie's name to be added to the Nov. 3 General Election ballot for one of two seats for associate tribal judge.

Rovie, who finished fifth in the primary election voting for associate judge, joins Annette J. Stewart, Darlina C. Milda, and Ray Sundust in the race for the two seats.

Meanwhile, candidates for governor, lieutenant governor and chief tribal judge continue their campaign efforts, some more active than others.

Renay R. Peters, candidate for chief tribal judge, said he has been active in his campaign.

"I've been going through (the community) contacting various community members, individuals. I've gone out door to door passing out my flyers," Peters said.

"I'll be going to districts four and five next week, and finish up with district one," he said.

"The reception from the community has been very good, I have gotten a lot of positive feedback."

"And I've had other members of the community go out and contact

people without my soliciting their help," Peters said.

He said the campaigning isn't new to him, because he has previously run unsuccessfully against chief tribal judge Randy J. Hoyema.

"I'm as confident as any candidate. But you can't expect to win until the final vote is counted," he said.

On the other hand Hoyema, who outpolled Peters in the September primary election by 66 votes, hasn't been getting out as much as he'd like.

He said his duties as chief judge, as well as other commitments have taken his time.

"I've been around, and my wife has too. As a matter of fact she was bitten by a dog in Blackwater," said Hoyema.

For the most part, though, Hoyema said commitments have kept him from doing too much campaigning.

The week of Oct. 22 he was in Tucson, serving as the lead trainer in a course for basic tribal court advocates attended by representatives from several tribes.

He feels his three years as chief judge and his exposure in the community will offset some of his inability to get out on the campaign trail.

Donald R. Antone Sr., Gila River governor who is seeking reelection running against current Lt. Gov. Thomas R. White, says his campaign effort is going well.

"I think it's going well. One of the things that I personally appreciate is that the campaign has been clean," said Antone.

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Gila River Indian News
P.O. Box 459
Sacaton, Arizona 85247

Halloween Parade in Sacaton is set Oct. 31 along Main Street

A Halloween Parade with a top award of \$50 going to the person with the best costume will be held in Sacaton Oct. 31.

The parade is being sponsored by Arizona Traders and MTO Smoke Shop.

Edith Peters of MTO, said parade participants should start assembling at Arizona Traders about 1:30 p.m. to register. The parade will start at 2 p.m. and end at the shopping plaza in Sacaton.

In addition to the \$50 grand prize,

Peters said prizes will be given to age category winners.

In the 1 to 5 age group, the winning girl will get a doll, the boy a truck. In the 6 to 12 and 13 to 16 age groups, skateboards will be given to the boys, the girls' prizes haven't yet been determined.

The adult male winner will get a basketball, the adult female prize is still undetermined.

All parade participants will be given Halloween candy and other goodies, Peters said.

Sacaton Auto Supply is paying bills, paying taxes, paying payroll

About a year ago Sacaton Auto Supply was reeling from a \$700,000 debt, today the store is operating and paying its bills, but it's unlikely the \$300,000 the Gila River tribe injected into the store to help it reorganize will ever be recouped by the tribe.

Ruben Norris, director of Gila River Economic Development, said when the tribe decided to keep the store going after poor management accumulated the debt over three years, it funneled the \$300,000 into the store to help it get back on its feet.

"I don't know if the debt will ever be paid. It (the store) was in such a sick position that \$300,000 was needed to give it new life," said Norris.

The store is now holding its own, but it is a small retail operation and

likely will never meet the income expectations of the tribe, he said.

Though the tribe may not recoup its money outright, there are benefits being realized, he said.

"It's paying its current creditors, pays taxes to the tribe, pays an employee payroll, pays rent to tribal income," he said.

Norris said the management of Sacaton Auto supply has changed hands.

Regina Cooper, the office manager was promoted to manager when Carl Hestand resigned.

Norris said the tribe didn't want Hestand to leave, but he resigned to manage an auto supply house in Phoenix, which was a step up.

AUTUMN OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

FUND RAISER FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN ARIZONA INDIAN NATIONS PROGRAM

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5 PM — Arts and Crafts and Food sale, Entertainment by Bruce Hamana, Joe Manuel, Jake Coin

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MC — Thomas Brown

Casa Blanca Market opens addition, more space, laundromat added

Casa Blanca Market for the past several weeks has had a new look, and since Oct. 16 has been the site of a new laundromat.

The tribally owned market has been under renovation since last January, with 1,200 square feet added to the retail store, and another 1,200 square feet built for the laundromat.

The work was done with \$127,799 in community block grant money and a loan from the tribe's San Tan Economic Development Corporation.

Ruben Norris, director of the Gila River office of economic development, said, "The laundromat is open, it opened about noon last Friday. It's being managed by the manager of the market."

"Ross Lyons is the new promoted manager of the laundromat and the market," said Norris.

He said Lyons was the assistant manager of the store, and to go along with the community's effort to hire within the tribe, he was promoted.

Before too long, said Norris, the U.S. Post Office now located on the north side of the Casa Blanca district center may relocate to the market.

"An effort is being made now to relocate the post office into the Casa Blanca Market," he said.

The tribe is negotiating with the U.S. Post Office to cover moving costs as well as the cost for improvements to the market so the post office can be accommodated, Norris said.

"The main purpose for moving is that the existing post office has experienced vandalism," and there is concern about protection of the mail, he said.

Notice of the planned move has been made to the district's coordinator, Norris said.

Annual carnival scheduled at Sacaton school

The annual carnival at Sacaton Middle School will be held Sept. 29 at the school, and will feature a raffle with three prizes.

The carnival, with activities in the gym, cafeteria, and walkways, will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

There will be game booths, and a food sale in the cafeteria. Tickets for games and food will be sold for 25 cents, however, some games and food items may require more than one ticket.

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each. Prizes include a 13-inch color TV, a video cassette player, and a BMX bike.

Proceeds from the carnival are divided between the elementary and middle school for student activities.

Last year's carnival took in almost \$3,000.

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So far candidates are keeping this campaign clean as a whistle

Continued from page 1

"Tommy and all the other candidates should be congratulated on a real clean campaign compared to some in the past," he said.

Though it is hard to tell from the results of the primary election, which gleaned two candidates from a field of six, Antone's campaign task could involve making up ground.

White in the primary finished 175 votes ahead of Antone, taking 37 percent of the 1,023 votes counted.

White said about his campaign, "Right now my campaign committee has gotten flyers and posters out into the districts."

"I think we could have done more...we're doing what we can and keeping it clean," he said.

"I've attended a few weekend feasts

and talke with people," White said, and the general response has been for a change.

Dallas DeLowe, who is running against William R. Rhodes for the lieutenant governor's post, said the campaigning that he has been able to do has gotten positive results.

"I would like to say that I've been well received. I've experienced a positive reception from the people who I have contacted," he said.

"I have met with the elderly in districts five, six, seven, and plan to contact the elderly in the other districts, one through four, sometime before the election."

DeLowe also may have ground to make up, since in the primary he trailed Rhodes by 150 votes. Rhodes took 35 percent of the 1,004 votes that were cast among five candidates.

Other candidates on the campaign trail who have gone public,

announcing they will be running as write-in candidates are Georgette H. Chase and Lucius Kyyitan.

Chase finished a close third in the governor's race in the primary election. She trailed Antone by only six votes.

Kyyitan, a candidate in the race for

lieutenant governor, was only two votes behind DeLowe in the primary election.

A special General Election issue of the Gila River Indian news will be published the week of Oct. 29. It will feature the candidates with views on their candidacy.

1988 budget of \$4.1 million is OK'd by Gila River tribal council

A budget of \$4.1 million was set Sept. 16 by the Gila River tribal council for the 1988 fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Projected costs for tribal administration, the tribal council, legal expenses, judicial expenses and program expenses total \$4,185,435.

And projected revenue from business income, interest income, agricultural and other income totals \$4,185,435.

Expenses for tribal administration total \$827,475, salaries and fringe benefits making up \$665,105.

The total expense for the tribal council is \$539,958.

And as is usual with most budgets, salaries and fringe benefits comprise a substantial portion of the budget—\$165,692 in the case of the council.

Legal expenses total \$201,370, salaries and fringe benefits making up \$167,895 of the figure.

Expenses for judicial operations are projected to be \$408,783, \$337,483 going for salaries and fringe benefits.

It is anticipated that the \$408,783 contribution by the tribe will be reduced to \$242,670 with an expected

injection into the judicial budget of \$166,113 from a contract with the BIA under Public Law 93-638.

Program expenses, which include cost items such as education assistance, insurance and bonding, supplement to law enforcement services, land use planning assistance, community service assistance, assistance to Head Start, supplement to HRD administration and a number of other programs to which the tribe provides assistance and support, total \$2,114,559.

District services expenses total \$259,403, of which the tribe directly provides \$103,267.

To cover this budget, Gila River expects to generate \$1,638,537 in business income from operations such as Tanner Corp., Firebird Lake, Specialty Forest Products, Lone Butte Development Corp., and other smaller reservation operations.

Interest income is expected bring in another \$793,032, and income from agricultural leases and farming will provide \$572,092.

Other income such as sales taxes and indirect costs from BIA, IHS and other federal contracts will total \$1,181,774.



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RV park near arts and crafts center will soon be taking seasonal traffic

A recreational vehicle park next to the Gila River Arts and Crafts center is complete and is expected to be operating in several weeks.

Urban Giff, community manager for the Gila River tribe, said construction of the RV park was completed in September, but it isn't yet open.

"We are doing some final administrative procedures—the management plan, or plan of operation," he said.

The park should be open and operating for the coming tourist season.

Giff said, "We're in the season right now. We could be having some business."

The tribe has hired Dennis Sigerfoosh of Casa Grande to manage the 22 space park, Giff said.

The 22 spaces are full service hookups, meaning there is water and electric service to each space.

There is additional room in the RV park for constructing more full service spaces, or for camping, he said.

Construction of the park started

last January with \$169,099 from a community development block grant, and a private loan from the tribe's San Tan Economic Development Corporation.

Indian authors are being asked to submit works for Indian anthology

A call to Indian authors to submit material is being made for a planned anthology of contemporary literature about Indian life in Arizona.

The collection of selected literary pieces by American Indian authors will focus on the experiences of Indians who live, have lived or are writing on some aspect of Arizona reservation or off-reservation life.

The anthology will be published by the Arizona Historical Foundation in the fall of 1988.

It is open to all writers, including unpublished writers, and there is no age requirement.

The only stipulation made by the foundation is that the people be creative and the writing good.

Potential writers should include a short statement about their tribal affiliation and personal background, their association with Arizona, and their writing.

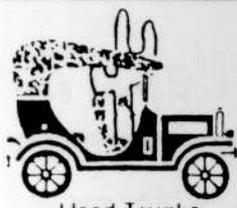
The foundation is looking for unpublished work and will pay \$50 for each poem, short story, drama or essay that is selected to be included in the anthology.

The authors will be presented with a copy of the completed anthology upon publication.

The deadline for receiving submissions is Feb. 15, 1988. Work submitted earlier will be accepted.

Kathleen Sands, editor of the planned anthology, said, "We are hopeful that this anthology will make a contribution to the understanding of American Indian experiences in Arizona, and that it will serve as a resource for students and writers in our state."

All submissions may be sent to: Kathleen Sands, Editor, Contemporary Arizona Indian Anthology, Arizona Historical Foundation, Arizona State University, Hayden Library, Tempe, AZ 85287.



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The editorial staff of the Gila River Indian News welcomes all signed letters. Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be published. The editors reserve the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and to meet journalistic and style standards. The editors reserve the right to reject any potentially libelous or defamatory statements or letters.

The views and opinions expressed in the letters are not necessarily those of the editors, staff or the Gila River Indian Community.

Send letters to: Editor, Gila River Indian News, P.O. Box 459, Sacaton, AZ 85247.

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Urban L. Giff, Editor

Colleen Moyah, Managing Editor

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Information about mail subscriptions and advertising rates is available by writing to Gila River Indian News, P.O. Box 459, Sacaton, Arizona 85247. (602)562-3311.

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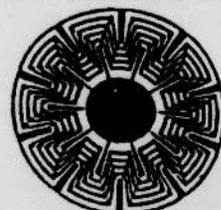
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● **All-Indian Rodeo**

1 P.M. Sat. and Sun., rodeo arena.

● **Pow Wow**

Noon on Saturday, west of arena.

● **Miss Tohono O'odham Pageant**

2 P.M. Friday, Segundo Hall, BHS.

● **Rodeo Parade**

9 A.M. Saturday, downtown Sells.

● **Fair Exhibits**

10 A.M. Daily, Livestock Complex.

● **Carnival Midway**

10 A.M. Daily, Livestock Complex.

● **Junior Rodeo**

1 P.M. Friday, rodeo arena.

● **Indian Food**

10 A.M. Daily, concession stands and booths open at Livestock Complex.

● **Arts & Crafts Show and Sale**

10 A.M. Daily, Livestock Complex.

● **Fireworks Show**

After sundown Sat., west of arena.

● **Chicken Scratch Dances**

8 P.M. Friday, Miss Tohono O'odham Coronation; and Saturday at 8 P.M., Livestock Complex.

● **Popover Contest**

1 P.M. Saturday, Livestock Complex.

● **Men's Basketball Tournament**

4 P.M. to 11 P.M. Thurs. and Friday at Santa Rosa Brdg. School; 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. Saturday, Baboquivari High, Sells.

● **Coed Softball Tournament**

4 P.M. to sunset Friday; 7 A.M. to sunset Sat., fields north of Sells tribal bldg.

● **Free Band Jams**

Daily at the Livestock Complex.

● **10-K Race**

7 A.M. Saturday, Sells Shopping Center.

For more information contact Phyllis Francisco at (602)383-2221 Ext. 285, or write Tohono O'odham Rodeo & Fair, P.O. Box 1175, Sells, AZ 85634.

Gila River Youth Home receives award for distinguished service

The Gila River Indian Community Youth Home was cited for its superior food program by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In a ceremony and luncheon Oct. 19, Chuck Tercero of the USDA presented tribal nutritionist Lynn Rusch, youth home supervisor Estela Alvarez-Mudd, and house parents with a certificate of recognition for good record keeping, nutrition education, and its successful lunch program.

Tercero said the award was from the administration's western region office, and is not one easily earned.

"The program is selected by a nomination through the state. There are very few of them given out," he said.

"There are three given out in any one state. That really points out how distinguished this program is," said Tercero.

Lynn Rusch, nutritionist for the Gila River Social Services Department, received a certificate of appreciation from the USDA for her contribution to education and health at the youth home.

Certificates of appreciation awarded by the youth home were presented to Urban Giff, Gila River tribal operations; Alida Thomas, Gila

River treasurer; and Mary Blackwater, tribal comptroller; for their financial support of the home through the

tribe.

And Lewis Lane, director of Gila River Social Services, was named

honorary house parent. He was given a clock and plaque for his continued support of the youth home.



GRIN Photo
THEY KEEP A HEALTHY HOME—The staff and house parents of the Gila River Youth Home were recognized by the USDA for good record keeping, a good nutrition education program, and a successful lunch program. The award was presented Oct. 19. In photo from right to left, Lynn Rusch, Gila River Social Services nutritionist; Chuck Tercero of the USDA; Estela Alvarez-Mudd, youth home supervisor; and house parents Blanche Lewis, Roby Warwick, Winifred Dixon, Kathrine Smith, Laverne Jay, Edna DeLowe, and Melvin Lewis Sr.

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Community Calendar

- Oct. 24 — Head Start Halloween Carnival at District 7 Service Center. 5 PM to 10 PM.
- Oct. 26 — Special Candidates Night for election candidates. District 7 Service Center, 7 PM.
- Oct. 28 — Election Campaign Speeches for election candidates. District 3 Service Center, 7 PM.
- Oct. 29 — Sacaton Middle School Carnival. 6 PM to 9 PM.
- Oct. 30 — Coed Softball Tournament at Casa Blanca area ballfield. Continues on Oct. 31.
- Oct. 30 — Halloween Party, 7 PM at District 7 Service Center.
- Oct. 31 — Coed Softball Tournament at Casa Blanca area ballfield.
- Oct. 31 — Halloween Street Parade, Sacaton. Main Street from Arizona Traders to MTO Smoke Shop.
- Oct. 31 — Halloween Dance, 8 PM at District 7 Service Center.
- Oct. 31 — Halloween Dance, District 3 Multi-purpose building. Door prizes, refreshments, costume contest. 8 PM.

HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT LISTED ON THE CALENDAR? IT COSTS YOU NOTHING. CALL (602)622-3919.

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how to apply

Application forms and additional information can be obtained from: President's Commission on White House Fellowships, 712 Jackson Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503, (202) 395-4522. Applications are accepted from June 1 through November 15.

Save the Children fund raiser set in Phoenix

An Autumn Outdoor Festival to raise funds for Save the Children will be held Nov. 13 at the Phoenix Indian Center.

The activities will be held in the parking lot of the center located at 1337 N. First Ave. in Phoenix.

Beginning at 5 p.m. there will be an arts and crafts and a food sale.

Also from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. there will be solo singing performances by Bruce Hamana, a Hopi; Joe Manuel from the Gila River Indian Community, and Jake Coin, a Hopi.

At 7 p.m. there will be a dance with disc jockey Btaka Brown. A variety of music, including chicken scratch, country, soul, rock, and more, will be featured.

Advanced tickets to the event are \$3 for singles, \$5 for couples. Tickets at the gate will be \$4. Advanced tickets can be arranged by calling 274-6595 in Phoenix.

Master of ceremonies for the festival will be Thomas Brown, director of Save the Children's Arizona Indian Nations Program.

The festival will help raise money for the organization's annual National Indian Child Conference, and it will provide exposure for Save the Children since its move to Phoenix from Tucson June 15.

The Phoenix location provides a more central location and better access for the nine Arizona tribes it serves, according to an organization spokesperson.

Tusk of giant mammoth found at Tanner gravel pit

Continued from page 1

approximately 10,000 to 20,000 years ago, according to Dr. Troy Pewe of Arizona State University.

Mildred Begay, a front-end loader operator for Tanner, unearthed the tusk as she was removing sand and

rock from the base of a sheer gravel wall about 50 feet high.

After removing a load of gravel, Begay noticed the tusk, which had apparently fallen out of the wall onto the pile of dirt she was loading.

She stopped her machine and

notified her supervisor, and the tusk was carefully removed.

Pewe, who is a professor of Environmental Geology at ASU, was summoned to the site.

He said he couldn't be sure if the tusk was that of a mammoth or a mastodon without more of the animal's bones.

Especially helpful in the identification would be any of the animal's teeth, he said.

In an effort to locate more bones and teeth, Pewe and a small crew carefully searched the gravel pit, using the front-end loader to move several tons of earth.

The two-hour search for more evidence was unsuccessful.

Pewe said that although the tusk isn't considered an extremely rare discovery in the United States, it is very interesting to find such a tusk in the Gila River Basin.

He also noted that it wouldn't have been surprising to find pre-historic arrowheads along with the tusk, since early man often hunted the giant elephant as a source of meat.

Small bands of hunters would surround and kill the beast, which was large and slow moving. The animal was butchered right where it was killed.

The tusk found at the Tanner site is being kept by the Gila River Indian Community, and plans are being made to preserve and display it.

By Bill Carey

for the Gila River Indian News



DIGGING FOR MORE—Using this front-end loader to move several tons of gravel, efforts to dig out more of the animal's bones and teeth turned up nothing.

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NATIONAL

Bill to improve food commodity program

The U.S. House in August passed a bill aimed at improving the administration of the food commodity program.

The bill requires the secretary of agriculture to work to improve the quality of packaging, size, form and delivery of the Food Distribution Program on Indian reservations.

The commodity program is a substitute for food stamps, and serves about 150,000 Indians each month.

Senator concerned about Indians and AIDS

In joining as a co-sponsor of a bill dealing with AIDS among infants, Sen. John McCain, (R-Ariz.), expressed concern about the spread of the disease among Indians.

He said there is concern about the spread of AIDS among the Native American population because of a rise in intravenous drug abuse among Indians.

In a lengthy statement, McCain said, "There needs to be early intervention techniques, education and bolstered health services on the reservations."

"The reality here is that the threat of AIDS in small Indian communities is so great that entire tribes could be wiped out by the spread of this disease," said McCain.

Bill on Indian elderly passes the Senate

A bill that creates an Office of Native American Programs in the Administration on Aging was passed by the Senate in August.

The measure, introduced and promoted by New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman, was passed as part of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

It strengthens, expands, and clarifies titles in the Older Americans Act to ensure better access and delivery of services to older American Indians.

In pushing for the bill, Bingaman said, "One survey indicates that as many as 33 percent to 83 percent of Indian elderly live below the poverty line in this country."

"Inadequate health care, lack of transportation, and the rural environment of the majority of older reservation Indians add to their arduous and burdensome way of life."

"The solutions to these ills did not lie in creating a new program, but rather in refining the Older Americans Act."

In addition to setting up an Office of Native American Programs, the bill also creates an associate commissioner's post on Native American Aging.

Part of the task of the new post is to work with other federal agencies to produce a study on the availability and quality of services for older Native Americans.

Also, the bill mandates that at the next available opportunity national grants or contracts be awarded to employ older American Indians and other Native Americans.

Money to Indian schools to combat drug abuse;

Nearly \$2 million has been transferred from the U.S. Department

of Education to the BIA for Indian schools and tribes to use for drug abuse education and prevention.

The transfer of funds, which were allocated to the Education Department under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, is part of an agreement between the departments that was signed in August.

Approximately 70 percent of the money will go into BIA and tribally-contracted schools to pay for school-based programs like family drug abuse education, counseling, intervention and rehabilitation referrals.

The rest of the money can be contracted by tribal governments that are affiliated with BIA-funded schools, the money being used for community-based programs dealing with drug abuse.

Those community programs given highest priority are those aimed at high risk youth, which are defined as school dropouts, the economically disadvantaged, and students who are pregnant.

Montana bank is first ever tribally-owned and chartered

The first tribally-owned, federally-chartered bank in history was opened in August by the Blackfeet tribe in Browning, Montana.

The tribe is the majority stockholder in the venture, which was approved by the U.S. controller of the currency.

Indian population grows in leaps

According to the General Accounting Office (GAO) in 1980 there were one and a half times more Indians than in 1960, an increase of 161 percent over the 20-year period.

The GAO report said in 1960 there were 523,591 Indians, and by 1980 the number had increased to 1,364,033.

The GAO compiled the information for a report to Rep. Ron Marlenee (R-Mont.) The congressman asked the GAO to find out the number of Indians eligible for federal programs in 1960, 1970 and 1980, and the total budget for Indian programs in 1986 and 1987.

The GAO said Indian programs government wide received around \$3 billion in those two years from 12 departments and agencies.

Penalty for buying Indian owned cars

A suit was filed by the Sac and Fox Nation in federal court challenging a state of Oklahoma requirement that persons who buy automobiles with tribal license tags must pay state fees for the years in which the cars weren't licensed by the state.

The tribe issues its own auto license tags in place of state tags, and the state requirement says that those who bought tribally-tagged cars can't get Oklahoma tags until they pay for past years.

The Oklahoma tribe in its suit contends the state's requirement is unconstitutional.

When BIA took over it went from bad to worse

In 1982 the tribal government of the Crow Tribe of Montana was taken over and managed by the BIA because the tribe had piled up about \$40,000 in disallowed costs under

federal contracts.

In 1986 the tribe regained control of its government and found \$1.3 million in unpaid bills, and another \$5.3 million paid out in legal fees that couldn't be verified.

This, coupled with claims by the tribe of BIA mismanagement of the tribe's oil and coal resources, led to a lawsuit filed by the tribe in U.S. District Court in August against Interior Secretary Donald P. Hodel.

The suit says through official actions, the federal government violated the tribe's right to tribal sovereignty and its right to self-determination, and through a number of arbitrary and capricious acts, breached its trust responsibility to the tribe, damaged its reputation, financial viability and its creditworthiness.

Crow Chairman Richard Real Bird, said it all started in 1982 when the BIA, because of questions about disallowed costs in federal programs administered by the tribe, took control of the Crow Tribal government.

Real Bird said the amount in question was about one-half of one percent of approximately \$8 million in federal Public Law 93-638 contracts.

The BIA appointed a manager who, said Real Bird, "became chairman and treasurer (for the tribe). He was there for five year with total control."

"In 1986 the tribe regained control of our government, and we found there were a lot of unpaid bills," said Real Bird.

There was \$1.38 million of outstanding immediate debt owed to vendors, and some long term debt, he said.

He said the tribe is having difficulty getting records from the bureau in an effort to straighten out the bills.

"We also found out that during his management, there was \$183,000 in disallowed costs...in 638 contracts," said Real Bird.

And, he said, there was another \$5.3 million in unverified legal fees that had been paid during the five-year period.

In addition, Real Bird said the tribe also contends that the BIA has mismanaged a tribally-owned coal mining operation, and two oil sites on 250,000 acres in Colorado.

Also, the bureau has further shirked its trust responsibility by not enforcing the 1920 Crow Allotment Act, he said.

The act limits the amount of acreage non-Indians can own on Crow land—640 for farming, 1,200 for grazing.

Real Bird said because of the BIA's failure to enforce the act, some non-Indians have accumulated up to 35,000 acres of Crow land.

Because of all this, Real Bird said, the BIA is putting pressure on the Crows by denying the tribe's effort to draw \$700,000 from its federal reserve account of more than \$1 million.

Real Bird said his tribe is asking other tribes across the nation who have similar problems to join in the Crow suit.

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A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

To the kind people of Gila River, who supported my candidacy for the Office of Lieutenant Governor in the primary election September 15, 1987, I would like to express my utmost appreciation. Thank you for the encouragement and concerns we shared and voiced throughout the campaign.

Although I was 21 votes shy of being put on the General Election Ballot, I continue to believe that I am a contender in the future leadership of this Tribe. For now, I will continue to prepare myself mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually for that time to come.

As is said, "you have to vote if you want a say so or voice in tribal matters..." I truly believe that voter turn out will increase among tribal members as economic and political activity increase. I encourage all of you to vote your conscience in the General Election on November 3, 1987.

Remember, your vote is your voice in tribal affairs. It is very important to the growth and welfare of our Tribe and Community. Again, thank you for your support and God bless you all.

Joseph Manuel
The Pima Nation