

The Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community Publication
Sacaton, Az.



VOL.4 NO.8

AUGUST 10, 1988 PAGE 1

First in state, possibly the nation

Gila River assumes child health care

Youth conference
is at Sacaton
August 12 and 13

In a move to improve health care for children on the reservation, the Gila River Indian Community has gotten state and federal approval to take over a key part of a child-care program currently provided by the Indian Health Service.

The agreement by the tribe, the federal government and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is the first of its kind in Arizona.

The child-care program, called EPSDT for early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment, ensures regular medical checkups and treatment for categorically eligible children under 17 who are enrolled in AHCCCS.

AHCCCS is the state's health care program for the needy. Categorical members of AHCCCS are those covered under Medicaid.

Federal funds disbursed by AHCCCS to the IHS for the child-care service will now go directly to the Gila River Indian Community's Department of Health Services.

The tribe will take over the screening part of EPSDT, which includes initial checkups and tests to determine the health of a child.

IHS will continue to maintain control of diagnosis and medical treatment.

Dianna Garcia-Smith, director of public health nursing for the tribe's health department, said this is the first Indian community in the state, possibly the nation, to gain approval from the federal government for such a program.

She said this also opens the door for other tribes to take local control of similar health care programs.

She said, "What we're doing is tailoring our health program to this community. Our population has a high diabetic rate. We need more concentrated service in this area.

"With federal pass-through money coming directly to the tribe, we can hire more nurse practitioners to concentrate on children early."

The agreement was completed July 21 by the tribe, AHCCCS, IHS, and the federal Health Care Financing Administration, each of which had different requirements for approval.

The tribe, through its health department, initiated the idea three years ago and proposed it. Talks with the federal government began last September.

An AHCCCS spokesman said other tribes in the state have begun investigating the possibility of taking over the same health care service for their communities.

According to AHCCCS, it's easier for the state health agency to deal with tribes than with IHS because it's local people negotiating at a local level, thereby bypassing the bureaucracy in Washington.

Garcia-Smith said the tribe feels confident it has the expertise to handle the program successfully.

She said the sheer volume of people who visit IHS facilities on the reservation doesn't allow them to give the same attention the tribe can give.

At present the tribe puts much emphasis on the health care of children up to age 5, and with the added funds, the tribe will be able to concentrate on children through age 17, she said.

About 1,000 Gila River children are expected to be in the program annually. Each will be scheduled for an average of three to four screening visits a year.

Recreational activities, the election of district representatives, and workshops on topics from tribal culture to sex education will highlight the 2nd annual Akimel O'odham Pee-Posh Youth Conference Aug. 12 and 13 at Sacaton.

The conference will begin with registration each day at 8 a.m. at Sacaton Elementary School. The conference theme is "Youth: Learning, Sharing, Understanding and Growing."

The conference's first activity will be Friday at 6 a.m.—a 2-mile fun run/walk. Participation is open to the public, with a registration fee of \$5. All participants will receive a T-shirt.

Scheduled workshops include topics on tribal culture, tribal government, building self-esteem, sex education, community involvement in substance abuse prevention, and strengthening family values.

Recreational activities will include a six-team youth basketball tournament, volleyball, a cook-out, swimming, dance, youth talent show, and a banquet.

During the conference there will be an election of district representatives to the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council.

Representatives will be elected from each of the Gila River Indian Community's seven districts.

Candidates may be nominated by their respective districts, or may declare their own candidacy.

To be either a candidate or a voter, a person's name must appear on the official tribal roll of the Gila River Indian Community, and he or she must be from 14 to 25 years old.

For more information about the conference, call Arlene Howard or Carol French at 562-3334, extension 6.

Move underway to Hu Hu Kam Hospital

Moving day for staff and patients at Sacaton Hospital to the new Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital at Sacaton isn't officially scheduled until Oct. 1, but some employees are already making the move.

Lance Lewis, operations officer for the Indian Health Service hospital, said the hospital staff is anxious to move.

He said, "We are in the process of moving some parts of the hospital. Some of the support services, like maintenance and security have moved.

"The clinical side, such as the clinic, pharmacy, lab, radiology and doctors have not moved."

"We're still looking at the start of the fiscal year, Oct. 1, for the official

move," he said.

As for his office, Lewis said he has been splitting time at both the Sacaton and Hu Hu Kam hospitals.

"I am half-way moved. I'm covering both places at once," he said.

Lewis said when it comes time to move patients from one hospital to the other, "We'll probably arrange ambulance service for those who need it in order to be transported up here."

When the move is completed, he said, there will be more employees at Hu Hu Kam Hospital than are now at Sacaton.

"The staff has increased because at the new facility there are some additional positions" allocated, he said.

"We have an authorized ceiling of 130 (positions) allocated for this hospital here, and we have 60 positions at the old hospital," he said.

Though the allocation at Sacaton Hospital is 60, he said, there are actually about 140 people working there. And though the allocation at Hu Hu Kam is 130, there will actually be about 200 people working at the hospital.

The additional people work in programs such as dental and community health nursing, which have funding sources different from the hospital budget, Lewis said.

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Sacaton, Arizona 85247

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Sacaton sewer is nearly completed

Work on the sewer system at Sacaton is nearing completion as a crew from the IHS Office of Environmental Health has finished over half of the 190 individual sewer hookups.

Connecting the individual hookups is the last phase of a three-year project.

The first two phases of the project included the installation of over 5 and one-half miles of eight-inch and 12-inch sewer mains needed throughout Sacaton.

The work, which is being done by a four-member crew, is needed to improve sanitation facilities in Sacaton, according to IHS field

engineer Daryl Melvin.

The crew is made up of Gila River community members Dennis Williams, Rupert Davis, Arnold Charles and Augustine Pablo.

Construction of the individual four-inch sewer hookups has been a slow process for the crew, since it must be coordinated with the telephone and gas locator crews to avoid damage to those underground utility lines.

The crew has also uncovered old construction in its excavation, and has had to work around unusual obstacles, such as pets, including goats and horses, whose pens have been located between the house and sewer main.

Ceremony Aug. 18 will recognize Gila River Arts and Crafts donors

There will be a ceremony Aug. 18 to receive baskets and pottery artifacts that have been donated to the Gila River Arts and Crafts Center museum.

Gila River Gov. Thomas White will receive the items from the individuals in a ceremony that starts at 11 a.m.

Isabell Johns of Sweetwater will donate baskets that she made over 30 years ago, and Ray Hartsock of Mayer will give the museum Pima-Maricopa baskets collected by his late wife.

Dave Halbison, owner of Arizona Traders in Sacaton, will donate a giant piece of pottery.

The pottery was found by the late Reynold Pratt in Upper San Tan in

1963. It was given to Bill Whitney, former owner of Arizona Traders, who in turn left it with Halbison.

The activity at the Gila River Arts and Crafts Center is open to the public.

Family violence is addressed by local program

Family violence—also called domestic violence—is a problem that knows no boundaries within the Gila River Indian Community.

It keeps our families under stress, and neighborhoods in turmoil. It can strike any family member, from newborn to an elderly person, and can take any form from verbal abuse to sexual assault, beatings and worse.

Because of the family relationships, victims of violence in the home usually feel both afraid and embarrassed. Many are convinced that they did something to deserve the abusive treatment, and most feel powerless to change the situation or escape from it.

Often, after a violent incident takes place, everyone wants to believe the assaults are over for good.

But, unfortunately, results show that the violence is likely not only to repeat itself, but become even worse the next time.

It is important to remember that family violence is a crime, and that there is no need to suffer in silence. Having a plan puts you in control and gives you that emotional strength you'll need if the violence happens again.

The Family Violence Project of Gila River Social Services provides emergency and shelter care services when violence in the home has occurred.

The service offers you support and counseling you will need once you've made that stand about your own right to be free from abusive treatment.

The emergency and shelter care services are given to victims or victims of family violence, which may include children.

This temporary shelter gives the victim time to think about the next step they will need to take, whether it's to work at resolving the family matter, or other options that can keep them and the families from further abuse.

Arizona's new Domestic Violence Law applies to household members related to each other, including husband and wife (or ex-spouses), parent and child, brother and sister, grandparent and grandchild.

The Family Violence Project services are given to victims of family violence who are 18 years and over, with or without children.

Victims must reside within the reservation boundaries. Intoxicated victims will not be accepted.

Information and services are provided by the Family Violence Project. Phyllis Thompson, project coordinator, or Garren Manuel, counselor, can be reached at 562-3396 or 899-9565 (Phoenix line) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On weekends notify the Sacaton Police Department, 562-3361.

for the Gila River Indian News
by the Family Violence Project

Sacaton School District classes will start on August 29

Classes will start Aug. 29 for students in Sacaton School District 18 at 8:15 a.m.

Students can register now through the start of school, but school officials suggest they complete registration before classes start.

Many parents are already taking their children to register early.

Students entering kindergarten and students new to the district should register early.

Kindergarten students need a birth certificate and immunization record

in order to register, students new to the district should have a past record of student performance, such as a report card.

Sacaton School District expects about 795 students this school year in kindergarten through eighth grade.

IRA H. HAYES



POST 84



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3. A COPY OF DISCHARGE PAPERS OR DD-214 WILL BE NEEDED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FLAG FOR THE CASKET. MORTUARY WILL REQUEST FLAG.
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Listing of Gila River community standing committees

The following is a listing of the standing committees of the Gila River Indian Community.
EDUCATION— Dana Norris Sr., chairman; Anselm Shelde, vice chairman; Sharon Miles, secretary; and members Rod Dixon, Malcom Eschief and Marian B. Miles.

HEALTH/SOCIAL— Barrington Russell, chairman; Arnold Kisto, vice chairman; Elaine Ramon, secretary; and members Roderick Sunn, Ardell Ruiz and Iva Gazula.
NATURAL RESOURCES— Anselm Shelde, chairman; Carleton Giff, vice chairman; Sharon Miles, secretary;

and members Harry Cruye Jr., Lucius Kyyitan and Glen Juste.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT— Rod Dixon, Chairman; Gerald Sunna, vice chairman; Connie Osife-Miguel, secretary; and members Lawrence Enos, Perry Jackson and Arnold Kisto.
GOVERNMENT & MGMT.— Roderick Sunn, chairman; Perry Jackson, vice chairman; Elaine Ramon, secretary; and members Carleton Giff, Nadine Terry and Emmett White.
LEGISLATIVE— Mary Thomas, chairperson; Daniel Tree, vice chairman; Connie Osife-Miguel, secretary; and members Lucius Kyyitan, Spencer Thomas and Ted Lewis.
EXECUTIVE— Gila River Gov. Thomas White, Education Committee chairman Dana Norris Sr., Natural Resources Committee chairman Barrington Russell, Economic Development Committee chairman Rod Dixon, Govt. & Mgmt. Committee chairman Roderick Sunn, Legislative Committee chairperson Mary Thomas, Tribal Council secretary Doreen Allen.

School District 18 controversy wanes with school year

A controversy that erupted last spring when some parents wanted to pull their children out of Sacaton School District 18, and which prompted a letter from the district's superintendent saying they couldn't, has subsided as the new school year approaches.

Jacob Garcia, Sacaton School District superintendent, said the action by parents last spring seems to have been prompted by several things, and the school board is dealing with those matters.

"The thing that the group wanted...was to have the right to send their children wherever they wanted," he said.

"The thing that we wanted was to know why the parents wanted to send their children to other schools," said Garcia.

Early this summer the school board took action on the matter by agreeing that parents who wanted to send their kids elsewhere could do so, he said.

A published estimate of the students who might leave the district put the number at more than 60, but Garcia said his office has received about 20 requests.

"My understanding is that the receiving school district requests a letter from me," he said.

Some of the concerns that seem to have prompted the action by parents were drawn up by community members, he said.

They include student safety at school, name calling among students, fighting among students, communication to parents about student discipline, academics and student expectations, curriculum, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, student peer pressure, drop outs and attendance.

Garcia said, "Right now the school board is working on the actions that need to be taken on each of these concerns."

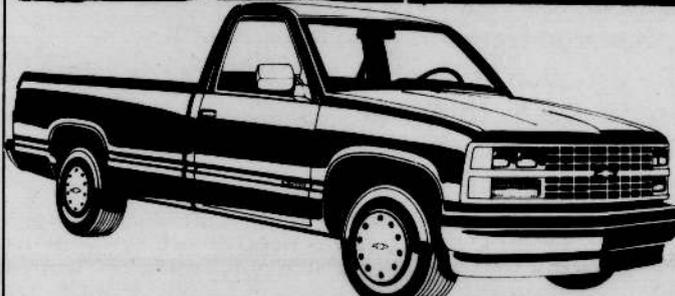


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Health workers are recognized at ceremony

There was recognition aplenty July 28 as the Gila River Department of Health Services presented recognition awards to some of its employees.

Gila River Gov. Thomas White spoke to the department's employees and then presented the awards.

Named outstanding employees of the quarter were Diana Garcia-Smith and Carol Moffett.

In photo at left, some of those who received length of service awards were from left to right, Arlene Johns, Corrine Justine, Muriel Cronkhite, Karen White, Lynn Rusch, Lorraine Laws, Tony Knox and Terri Jackson.

In below left photo, Gila River Gov. Thomas White presents a recognition of outstanding service award to J.E. Dunn, director of Gila River Environmental Health Services. Dunn has worked with the tribe 16 years.



Community Calendar

- AUGUST 12— 2nd annual Akimel O'odham Pee-Posh Youth Conference, Sacaton Elementary School, 8 a.m.
- AUGUST 13— 2nd annual Akimel O'odham Pee-Posh Youth Conference, Sacaton Elementary School, 8 a.m.
- AUGUST 17— Registration for seniors at Casa Grande High School cafeteria, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- AUGUST 18— Registration for juniors at Casa Grande High School cafeteria, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- AUGUST 18— Gila River Arts & Crafts Center, ceremony to receive museum items and recognize donors, 11 a.m.
- AUGUST 19— Registration for sophomores at Casa Grande High School cafeteria, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- AUGUST 19— 2nd annual Memorial Coed Softball Tournament, Blackwater ballfield.
- AUGUST 20— 2nd annual Memorial Coed Softball Tournament, Blackwater ballfield.
- AUGUST 21— 2nd annual Memorial Coed Softball Tournament, Blackwater ballfield.
- AUGUST 22— Registration for freshmen at Casa Grande High School cafeteria, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- AUGUST 23— Registration for freshmen at Casa Grande High School cafeteria, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- AUGUST 29— School starts in Sacaton School District No. 18, kindergarten through 8th grade, 8:15 a.m.

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Colleen Moyah, Managing Editor

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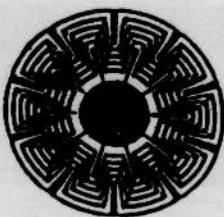
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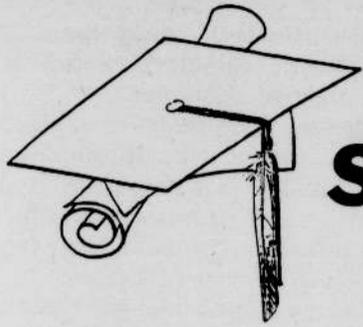


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EDUCATION



STUDENT NOTES

Ten higher education students from Gila River and Ak Chin received a 3.0 to 4.0 grade point average (GPA) during the spring semester.

The were Judy Antone, a sophomore at American Indian Bible College; Dawn (Blackwater) Autaubo, a junior at the University of Oklahoma; Cheryl Jefferson, freshman at Gateway Community College; Michael Mansfield, doctoral student at Utah State University; David Martinez, who graduated with a Bachelors of Philosophy degree from the University of Rhode Island; John McKinn, sophomore at Arizona State University who made the dean's list; Contra Nelson, sophomore at National University; Liesa Nesbitt,

senior at the University of Wyoming; Olen Perkins, junior at the University of New Mexico; and Byron Sanderson, who earned a Master's of Social Work at Arizona State University.

•
Seven students earned between a 2.0 and 2.9 GPA, and another seven earned less than a 2.0 GPA. Three students withdrew during the semester. The remaining students need to order their OFFICIAL transcripts from the college to be sent to Student Services.

•
Fifteen students have been awarded Higher Education grants for the 1988-1989 school year.

Registration at Central Arizona's Signal Peak campus starts Aug. 17

Registration for hundreds of academic and special interest courses available in day and evening classes this fall at Central Arizona College's Signal Peak campus starts Aug. 17.

Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 17 and 18. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 22.

Late admission and registration will be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 22 through 25, and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26. Registration will also be available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 29 through 31.

Signal Peak has been conducting assessment testing, advising and pre-registration for the fall semester for new students and will continue to do so through Friday, Aug. 12.

Appointments for testing, advising and registration can be made by calling 836-8243 or 723-4141, extension 409.

CAC's special rates for part-time, full-time and senior adult students will again be available. Registration fees and tuition total \$19 per credit hour for Arizona residents taking up to six credits, \$24 per credit beginning with the seventh credit hour.

Under the "Two-for-one Plan," students pay \$19 per credit hour for the first three credits, then receive their next three credits at no additional charge, regardless of the number of credits enrolled.

The "Full-timers' Bonus" will again allow full-time students to enroll for 16 through 20 credit hours at no additional charge.

Senior Arizona adult students will also be charged special rates of \$6 per credit.

For more information call CAC admissions at 836-8243 or 723-4141.

Candidates being sought for outstanding Indian youth

Candidates are being sought for the Outstanding Alaska Native and American Indian Youth 1988 award offered by the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).

The council's National Leadership and Achievement Program offers the recognition for outstanding contributions and achievements by

Indian youth, and as initiative for Indian youth to achieve excellence in education.

Candidates must be from 14 to 24 years old, and submit the following:

- 1) A two-page statement of educational commitment.
- 2) Two letters of recommendation, one from a community leader, and one from either a school advisor,

teacher, Indian parent committee member.

3) A list of youth accomplishment (documentation, news clippings, certificates).

4) School transcripts with grade point average.

For information about applications contact Bambi Kraus, NACIE, Washington, D.C., at (202)732-1353.

California graduate program wants Indian students

The University of California at Berkeley, which has one of the more publicized Indian graduate school programs, has seen a rise in Indian graduate student enrollment, and is encouraging even more Indians to attend.

The increased enrollment is tied to financial aid that is being made to qualified American Indian students.

Berkeley has what is described as a dependable financial support program, using a Graduate Minority Program fellowship and other sources to encourage American Indian and Alaska Native enrollment,

both in-state and out-of-state.

Most of the 192 Indian students who have obtained Masters of Public Health degrees through the special public health program at Berkeley received financial assistance from the Graduate Minority program.

Special grants are also available to Indian students working toward a Masters of Social Welfare degree at Berkeley.

An American Indian Graduate Program at the school also provides specialized counseling, advisement, housing and social support to Indian and Alaska Native students.

Requirements for graduate school are: a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university; an acceptable grade point average received as an undergraduate, and; Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken.

Information regarding the various graduate programs and financial assistance can be obtained by calling the American Indian Graduate Program, (415)642-3228 (collect) or writing to: 140 Earl Warren Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Calif., 94720.

Fellowship applications being taken for graduate studies

The Association on American Indian Affairs is taking applications through Sept. 16 from American Indians for a fellowship program.

The Sequoyah Fellowship provides a one-year, \$1,500 unrestricted stipend paid in two installments.

Over the past several years the

association has awarded the fellowship to American Indians pursuing graduate degrees in fields as diverse as anthropology, microbiology, education, law, mechanical engineering, psychology and business administration.

To be considered, a graduate

student must be an enrolled tribal member, and provide the following:

1) A biographical sheet describing his or her background; tribal affiliation and a certificate showing tribal membership; university; year; subject of study; career goals; interests, and financial situation.

2) Two letters of recommendation, Social Security number.

3) The name, address, and phone number of the financial aid officer at the university the student attends.

For information call the association at (212)689-8720, or write Sequoyah Fellowship Program, Association of American Indian Affairs, 95 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Early registration to August 16 at Scottsdale College

Early registration for fall semester classes at Scottsdale Community College is ongoing through Aug. 16 for new, continuing and transfer students.

New students need to apply now for admission to the college, and ask for a permit to register before Aug. 16. During this time only students with permits will be able to register for the fall semester.

Registration by telephone for continuing students will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 15 and 16.

For more information call Scottsdale Community College at 423-6000, or the American Indian Programs at 423-6514 or 423-6531 Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ten members of community earn certificates

Ten members of the Gila River Indian Community received training certificates from the Central Arizona College Skill Center.

Earning certificates in Office Skills/General Secretary were Angela Nathan, Marcella Davis and Sonja Blaine of Sacaton, and Carmelita Miranda and Brenda Cassa of Laveen.

Also receiving certificates in that occupational training field were Louann Enos, Lee Antone and Marcella Narcia, all from Blackwater.

Receiving certificates in Geriatric Training were Valarie Wilson and Crucita Nathan of Sacaton. Wilson and Nathan also received certificates for completing Health Care Skills/Nurse Aide training.

TEACHER for Native American GED class and afterschool youth program. Elementary certification preferred, but not required; versatile; creative; experienced in reading, math, life coping skills. Resume and cover letter to Phoenix Special Programs, 3132 W. Clarendon, Phoenix 85017-4586. LOCATION: GILA BEND.

NATIONAL NOTES

Miss Indian Arizona Pageant at Parker

The Miss Indian Arizona Pageant will be held Sept. 23 during the 16th annual National Indian Day Celebration of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' Irataba Society.

The celebration at Parker, Arizona will run three days beginning Sept. 23. In addition to the pageant, there will be a pow wow, fine arts show, softball and horseshoe tournaments, barbecue, traditional hand games, and games for children.

For information call Mona Fernandez in Parker at 669-9211.

Termination policy finally repealed

A federal policy adopted over 30 years ago that led to the termination of the federal-tribal relationship of several Indian tribes has been officially repealed.

The original termination policy, a resolution passed by both houses of the U.S. Congress in 1953, led to the termination of federal tribal status for several tribes, but more recently has been rejected by Congress.

Though the termination policy has been rejected by several statutes, it has never been officially rejected by resolution until now.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, said, "The Indian nations of the United States can rest easier with the knowledge that termination is no longer even a possible threat. Termination was a doomed policy from its inception primarily because it was both morally and legally indefensible."

Dukakis favored by Native Americans

Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis is favored over Vice President George Bush 83 percent to 14 percent according to a survey taken by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

The survey was mailed to Indian leaders and other NCAI members who responded over an 11-week period that ended in July.

When asked to choose between Bush and Dukakis for the presidency, 83% picked Dukakis, 14% chose Bush, and 3% said neither.

When given the choice between Bush and Jesse Jackson, 75% picked Jackson over 25% for Bush. And when asked to name others preferred for the presidency, the most write-in votes were cast for Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and Daniel K. Inouye, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, and former Tennessee senator and Reagan chief of staff Howard Baker, in that order.

When asked to name their preferred vice president, the two top were Jackson and Inouye.

When asked to write in the top five issues facing Indians, treaty rights protection—which included tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction, federal recognition and maintaining the relationship between the U.S. and tribal governments—was the top priority.

This issue was followed by health care, which included drug, alcohol and substance abuse. The third most important issue, according to the survey, was education.

As for those federal agencies and congressional committees that have responsibilities regarding either Indian rights or services, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs got the highest performance rating,

followed by the Administration for Native Americans.

The lowest performance ratings went to the Reagan White House, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

So you call yourself an Indian artist?

Just how Indian do you have to be to call yourself a Native American artist?

This summer, that is the problem taken on by the Native American Artists Association.

The Santa Fe, New Mexico-based association is concerned with artists who say they are Indian and sell artwork based on that claim, yet who aren't enrolled members of any tribe.

Artists, gallery owners, art collectors, museum curators, government officials and others are wrestling with the issue of who's Indian, who's not, how to prove it and how much difference it should make.

A series of hearings throughout New Mexico are being held that will result in recommendations to the New Mexico legislature.

BIA education report heading into final draft

A report on BIA education, which contains findings that have raised controversy, is heading into its final draft.

"Report on BIA Education: Excellence in Indian Education Through the Effective School Process," a 261-page report, was released in March and circulated for comments.

One of the sections of the report that has raised controversy provides scores from national standardized tests administered systemwide in BIA-funded schools for the first time in 1986.

One of two tests was given to 23,218 of the 38,475 students enrolled in bureau-funded schools at that time. The students who took the test included 4,901 in contract (tribally-operated) schools, and 18,317 in BIA-operated schools.

According to the BIA education report, "The test scores of both BIA-operated and contract schools show that students are falling well behind the mean of other students nationwide in their ability to demonstrate learning of reading, language, and mathematics."

The highest percentile ranking of any grade in BIA-operated schools was 22 percentile.

This means that the test-taker scored as high or higher than 22 percent, and poorer than 78 percent of all students nationwide in the same grade and taking the same test.

For BIA students in grades 2 through 8, the percentile rankings varied from 20 to 22 percentile, and in grades 9 through 12 from 16 to 20 percentile.

The report points out that standardized test scores take no account of the difficulty of educating Indian children. As an example, the report states that BIA schools have many students who enter school already well behind their peers in the typical American school.

And many of the entering BIA students, an estimated 30 percent, don't speak English as a primary language.

BIA education report is called misleading

A Bureau of Indian Affairs report that says students in the Indian education system score much lower on standardized tests than other, non-Indian students has been criticized for containing misleading information.

The "Report on BIA Education: Excellence in Indian Education Through the Effective School Process," was called inaccurate by the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).

NACIE is mandated by Congress to advise the president, secretary of education and the Congress on all issues concerning Indian education.

The BIA report that cites the lower Indian scores on standardized tests included special education students while non-Indian student test scores didn't, said NACIE.

The BIA has acknowledged the student test score computing errors in the final draft report and has given assurances that the figures will be corrected in a final, revised edition.

NACIE has voiced concern though that the first press accounts of the report have created a negative impression of Indian education.

A member of NACIE's executive committee said, "This is the kind of inaccurate information that helped to precipitate the recent statements regarding the state of American Indians in this country that were made by President Reagan during his trip to Moscow. Certainly, if the president and the public do not have accurate data on Indian affairs, it is impossible for them to fully understand our situation."

Indian housing averts close call

A last minute amendment to a U.S. Senate Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill added \$35 million to the amount set aside for Indian Housing in 1989.

A similar bill passed in the House of Representatives provided for 1,000 Indian housing units at \$71.8 million.

The Senate Appropriations Committee agreed with that amount, but before a floor vote was taken, Democratic Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota proposed the amendment.

He actually sought to increase Indian housing by \$71.8 million, but stiff opposition from Republican Sens. Jake Garn of Utah and William Proxmire of Wisconsin resulted in the lesser negotiated amount of \$35 million.

BIA employees will undergo random drug testing

About 5,000 of the BIA's nearly 14,000 employees have been placed in the Interior Department's drug "testing designated positions" list and will be random tested for the use of illegal drugs.

A memorandum sent to the Interior Department's 70,000 employees outlined the testing program, which implements President Reagan's September 1986 executive order establishing a policy prohibiting the use of illegal drugs by federal employees.

Included among those positions that fall in the "sensitive" position

category are top management, law enforcement, vehicle operation and administrative positions.

BIA head Ross Swimmer said, "In addition, BIA has many employees whose jobs include responsibility for students and others temporarily within their care, and must be placed in the drug testing category."

Those positions include teachers and dormitory aides, bus drivers and heavy equipment.

Said Swimmer, "We must do everything within our power to insure that our employees are not using illegal drugs, especially those

entrusted with the care and training of impressionable young people. We want it known that the use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated in the work place."

The drugs to be tested for are marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and phencyclidine.

Indian trust funds earn respectable 7.4%

Indian trust money invested by the BIA earned an average of 7.40 percent in interest for the fiscal year that ended in September 1987.

The approximately \$1.7 billion principal amount in trust money held by the BIA for Indian tribes and individuals earned \$127.7 million in interest.

The largest category, \$1.1 billion in 334 tribal accounts, earned \$88.6 million with an average interest of 7.31 percent.

The most accounts, individual Indian monies (IIM) with 295,326, earned an average interest of 7.74 percent, to bring a year-end balance of \$467.4 million.

BIA and IHS join in AIDS education

In an effort to educate Indian youth in kindergarten through high school, as well as their families, about how to prevent the spread of AIDS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service have joined to begin a curriculum in the upcoming school year.

The two agencies are working with the American Red Cross and the Centers for Disease Control to use their educational materials in the program.

The plan will involve informational workshops provided to Indian schools about what steps they must take to provide regional training programs for school administrators, teachers, other school employees and board members.

The plan is to create a cooperative effort to prevent the spread of AIDS in the schools and Indian communities.

The approach of IHS is not to suggest one specific curriculum, but rather to recommend that specific education concepts be taught at each grade level, and that resources needed to present the concepts be made available.

The education to be provided at the differing grade levels will be based on the community's values and morals, and include parental support and participation. The program will become part of the existing health and self-esteem building curricula already in place in bureau's elementary schools.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Four health studies are planned using Pimas as subjects, participants

Several new studies related to health problems of members of the Gila River Indian Community are being planned by the National Institute of Health Clinical Research Center at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center.

These studies are designed to find out more about diabetes, obesity and gallstones. Each has been discussed with the tribe's Health Advisory Board, the Gila River Tribal Council and its Health and Social Standing Committee.

Each volunteer eligible to take part and be accepted for these studies will be paid to compensate for the time and effort that they spend participating.

Gallstones

It is thought that the chemical composition of bile, secreted by the liver and stored in the gall bladder, determines the formation of gallstones.

The precise composition of bile

was assessed in 66 Pima Indians 10 years ago.

This follow-up study is to look for the possible presence of stones in the gallbladders of these subjects, using a non-invasive, harmless and painless procedure—ultrasonography. The procedure will be done at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center.

Skeletal muscle and metabolic rate

In previous studies of Pima Indians, we have found that a low rate of body metabolism is a risk factor for becoming overweight.

This was the major breakthrough. We now need to understand what controls the body's metabolism rate.

We believe that the way skeletal muscle burns calories may be an important determinant of the whole-body metabolic rate.

To test this, we want to measure the metabolism rate of the whole-body as compared to the muscle of the arm.

To do this we will measure oxygen

uptake rates in the whole-body and from the forearm, and in addition will take small pieces of muscle from the leg to analyze them in the laboratory.

If you volunteer for this study you will come to the fifth floor research ward of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center for approximately one week.

Stress and body metabolism

Stress has been known to have large effects on the body's metabolism, and in particular, on the blood pressure and blood sugar.

Some people, however, seem to have worse stress effects on the body's metabolism, both in Caucasian subjects as well as among Indian volunteers.

Each subject will be given a mild stress by asked to perform a series of arithmetic problems.

During this, we will be measuring the body's blood pressure responses, changes in blood sugar levels as well as blood hormone levels.

If you volunteer for this study, you will be asked to come to the fifth floor research ward of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center for approximately one week.

Effect of modern versus traditional diet on sugar metabolism

The Pima Indians, like many other native populations in the world, have a greatly increased risk of getting diabetes.

The reasons why native peoples are more likely to get diabetes remains unknown.

One possible explanation is that the change from a traditional diet to a modern diet has ill effects on the sugar metabolism of native peoples.

This study is designed to compare the effects of a traditional Pima Indian diet with that of a modern diet on the sugar metabolism of the body.

Volunteers will be admitted to the fifth floor research ward of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center for periods of four weeks during which they will eat a traditional, high-carbohydrate, low-fat, Pima diet for approximately two weeks, and then for another two weeks eat a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet.

At the end of each diet phase, many tests of the body metabolism will be completed. (See related story on this page)

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How does traditional Pima diet versus modern diet affect diabetes?

How much of the increase in diabetes among the Pima Indians over the last 100 years is due to a change in diet?

That question is one currently being investigated by researchers at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Phoenix.

It is known that there is a strong genetic basis for diabetes, but it is environmental changes which bring out the disease.

In a sense it is like a seed that remains a seed until water is added.

The best known "water" for the diabetic seed is obesity and the excess intake of calories which accompanies it.

Obesity and diets high in fat significantly reduce the ability of the body's own insulin to keep the blood sugar normal—so called "insulin resistance."

Insulin resistance is probably the first change in the development of diabetes, and therefore is the center of much of the research into the cause of diabetes.

In a new NIH study, an attempt will be made to reproduce the changes in the Pima diet over the last 100 years, and to see if those changes cause a metabolic shift towards diabetes.

Two different diets will be used. One representing the diet of 100 years ago, and another representing a modern day diet.

After two weeks on each diet, the effects of the diet on the body's metabolism will be examined.

The traditional diet is as close as can be obtained to what was eaten on the reservation before the turn of the century, when diabetes was rare.

At that time, almost all of the food was grown, gathered or caught, with corn and wheat being the staple crops.

Animal protein came not only from jackrabbits, mule deer and other

animals, but the Gila River and the irrigation canals undoubtedly provided a plentiful supply of fish.

Even when the river was low and partially underground, pools would remain with enough fish to act as a breeding reservoir until the waters rose again.

With the help of people on the reservation and Dr. Gary Nabhan from the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix, supplies of traditional foods such as tepary beans, mesquite flour, corn and squash have been obtained for the traditional diet.

This diet is very low in fat—about 16 percent—and very high in carbohydrate.

Notably absent are so-called Pima foods such as fry bread and refried beans, which are not true traditional foods, and only date from the introduction of fat into the Pima diet this century.

High fat foods are a major part of the modern diet, which is about 50 percent fat.

The average fat intake on the reservation approximates that of the U.S. population, which is about 42 percent, so that the modern diet for this research study represents the intake of the above-average fat eaters.

A major difference between the two diets is the amount of food needed to maintain weight over the two weeks.

Because fat is so densely packed with calories, the modern diet is much smaller in volume than the traditional diet.

Consequently, the feeling of fullness after a high fat meal is less than after a high carbohydrate meal.

This research, which is aimed at identifying how the change to modern foods have contributed to the development of diabetes among the Pimas, may also help to point the way to reversing the trend.



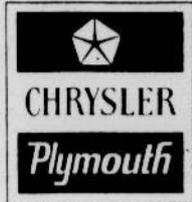
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