

The Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community Publication
Sacaton, Az.



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Tribe to collect \$160,000 in past water bills

Some Gila River Water and Sanitation Department water customers over the past several years have been getting away with not paying for their water, but that's changing with the start of an effort to collect \$160,000 in delinquent payments.

Bill Talbow, director of Gila River Physical Resources, and acting director of the Water and Sanitation Department, said, "Through the years diligent efforts have not been made to get collections or get payments due...as a result there is over \$160,000 due for water and sanitation services."

"We have some single accounts that exceed \$1,000," he said.

"The average accounts are somewhere in the \$200 range, but there are a high number that are in the \$400 to \$500 range," said Talbow.

The water and sanitation department provides service to six of the reservation's seven districts. Only District 7 isn't served by the department.

Even a service cut-off program didn't stem the problem of delinquent payments, he said, because it wasn't administered properly.

"There was a real inequity in the way the cut-off program was managed," he said.

Some customers who were \$600 in arrears kept their water flowing, while others who were \$50 to \$60 behind were cut-off, he said.

Whether or not your water was cut-off if you were delinquent seemed to depend on who screamed the loudest, he said.

The problem with the delinquent payments, said Talbow, are tied to two things.

"Bills weren't sent out promptly and systematically, and unfortunately, the money management wasn't directed toward the highest priority (collecting money)," he said.

See \$160,000 in water, Page 3



OFFICIALLY IN OFFICE—Newly elected members of the Gila River Indian Community tribal council were sworn into office June 1. The individuals won their seats in the May 3 tribal council election. From left: Chief Tribal Judge Renav Peters

who administered the oath of office; Lawrence Enns, reelected from District 6; Daniel Tree, reelected from District 5; Harry Cruye Jr., newly elected from District 1; Nadine Terry, newly elected from District 4.

Hu Hu Kam Hospital dedication is June 18 at Sacaton

A dedication ceremony for Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital will be held June 18 at Sacaton.

Tribal and state dignitaries, and federal health officials are scheduled to attend the event which begins at 8 a.m. with a traditional blessing by the Mathachinas.

Gila River Gov. Thomas R. White,

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, and a representative for Rep. Morris Udall will be the principal speakers.

The dedication of the hospital will be by Everett R. Rhoades, director of the Indian Health Service.

A luncheon and entertainment are planned, and a tour of the new

hospital will be held after lunch.

The \$11 million federally funded Indian Health Service hospital will include dental, X-ray, out-patient and in-patient facilities.

Construction started in August 1987 and has been on schedule ever since.

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

Young community members are promoting Gila River Youth Council

In an effort to establish a Gila River Youth Council that would serve the needs of young people in the community, several young members of the Gila River community have set up an office in the District 3 service center and are planning summer activities.

The group of volunteers calls itself the Gila River Youth Advocates, and is promoting the establishment of the youth council.

One of the first planned activities is a Gila River Youth Rally, Dance and Cook-out June 16 at the Gila River Arts and Crafts Center. Activities will be from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

According to information made available by the group, young people at Gila River ages 14 through 25 make up more than 25 percent of the community's population, yet they have little or no voice in helping to determine the future of the tribe.

And for the most part, young people haven't been asked to help resolve their own problems.

The group says the youth council would serve as a mechanism to provide young people in the community an active, non-partisan voice in tribal affairs, provide constructive activities for young people, and enable young people to help solve problems affecting them.

Some of those involved in the advocate group include Greg Mendoza, Arlene Howard, Mario Torres, Carol French, Tim Gomez, Carlene Myers, Ramsey Moffett, Ira Paul, Emaline Rhoades, Jason Moyah and Adrian Hendricks.

For information or inquiries call the group's office at 562-3334, extension 6.



PULLING FOR A COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCIL—The young people pictured here are part of a group working to establish a Gila River Youth Council that would served the needs of young people on the reservation. From left to right,

Carlene Myers of Sacaton, Ramsey Moffett of San Tan, Gregory Mendoza of Goodyear, Carol French of Sacaton, Mario M. Torres of Sacaton, Arlene Howard of Sacaton, Tim Gomez of Blackwater and Ira Paul of Sacaton.



Carson City, Nevada

June 18 & 19, 1988

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Community Calendar

- June 10—Dist. 4 free video movie "Return." 6 p.m., service ctr.
- June 11—Funeral for Roger Stewart, 9 a.m., Sacaton Flats Presbyterian Church.
- June 11—Dance, fund raiser for Sara Pratt, Dist. 7 service ctr., 8 p.m., with disc jockey.
- June 11—Birthday dance for Arlene Hughes, Santa Cruz at 8 p.m. music by Virgil Jose.
- June 13—Dist. 2 starts Summer Feeding Progm. Monday thru Friday for ages up to 18. Brkfst 8:30 a.m., lunch 11 a.m., recreational activities to 3 p.m.
- June 13—Swimming pool opens, District 3, Sacaton.
- June 13—Dist. 6 starts summer youth activities Monday thru Friday, Gila Crossing gym.
- June 16—Dist. 4 Diabetic clinic, 8 a.m., service center.
- June 16 & 17—Dist. 4 Headstart physicals, 8 a.m. service ctr.
- June 16—Gila River Youth Council youth rally, 6 p.m. Gila River Arts & Crafts Center. Dance at 8 p.m.
- June 18—Dedication of Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, Sacaton.
- June 18—Horseshoe tournament, men/women, Dist. 4 service ctr., 7 a.m.
- June 18 & 19—Baseball tournament, Dist. 6 ballpark.
- June 18 & 19—Little League tournament, Casa Blanca ballfield.
- June 19—St. John's Mission annual feast.
- June 20—Dist. 3 community meeting, 7 p.m. service center.
- June 20—Dist. 4 community meeting, 7 p.m. service center.
- June 20—Dist. 5 community meeting, 7 p.m. service center.
- June 22—Dist. 2 community meeting, 7 p.m. service center.
- June 24-26—Pony League tourney, Casa Blanca ballfield.
- June 26—St. Peter's Mission, Bapchule, annual feast.

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SACATON, ARIZONA

Sacaton School District voters approve \$840,000 budget override

Voters in Sacaton School District approved a budget override of \$840,000 in a May 17 election. Nita May, school district business manager, said voters approved a \$290,000 override of the district's

maintenance and operation budget by a 42 to 1 vote.

The money, she said, will go to salaries and benefits, supplies, property insurance and maintenance contracts.

Because of the voter approval, said May, immediately after the election the district was able to issue contracts to its classified employees—teacher aides, custodians, maintenance employees and others who are not teachers.

Voters also approved a capital outlay override that totals \$550,000 by a 41 to 2 vote, she said.

Capital outlay money generally is used for buildings and grounds improvements, furniture and equipment, and transportation, May said.

With the growing enrollment in the district, part of capital outlay money will be used for classrooms, she said.

The \$840,000 is money the school district has accumulated over the past several years, but needed district voter approval to spend.



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\$160,000 in water bills will be collected by tribe

Continued from page 1

He said there was no misuse of the department's budget, only poor management practices.

He said, "Reorganization efforts are being taken by the (tribal) administration and the Water and Sanitation Board.

"The collection of fees are going to be taken over by the tribal treasurer."

Talbot said the former director of the department resigned in the wake of the problems.

To help customers who are delinquent resolve their payment problems, a hearing committee or review board will hear appeals as soon as the reorganization is completed, he said.

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Lead in drinking water can prove harmful—some things to look for

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that lead is a health concern at certain levels of exposure.

There is currently a standard of 0.050 parts per million (ppm). Based on new health information, EPA is likely to lower this standard significantly.

Part of the purpose of this article is to inform you of the potential adverse health effects of lead. This is being done even though your water may not be in violation of the current standard.

The following questions and answers will provide you with information you need about lead in drinking water.

•Why should I be concerned about lead?

EPA and others are concerned about lead in drinking water. Too much lead in the human body can cause serious damage to the brain, kidney, nervous system, and red blood cells.

The greatest risk, even with short-term exposure, is to young children and pregnant women.

•What is lead?

Lead is a soft metal which is known to cause health problems when it accumulates in the body. People can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources such as air, food, and drinking water.

It was common practice in the U.S. to use lead for water service lines and indoor plumbing until about the 1930's, when copper was more frequently used. Copper pipes were often joined together with lead-based

solder.

Since 1986, the use of lead pipes and lead solder for new household plumbing or plumbing repairs has been prohibited by federal law.

•How does lead get into drinking water?

Lead usually is not naturally occurring in drinking water supplies. Generally, it gets into the water by the corrosive action of the water, causing it to slowly dissolve.

The most common sources of lead are lead pipes in your home or in the water distribution system, or lead solder that has been used to join copper pipes.

•What about my water system?

Although the water supplied to your home from the water system meets the current Federal standard for lead, the water inside your home may not.

Some water suppliers treat the water to make it less corrosive. Usually, this is not necessary, and your water is not treated in this way.

•How do I find out if lead may be a problem in my home?

Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be highest if your home or water system has lead pipes or copper pipes with lead solder, and if the house is less than five years old, or if you have soft or acidic water, or if the water sits in the pipes for several hours.

Lead is a dull grey metal that scratches easily with a screwdriver or key. The scratched surface will appear shiny.

You cannot see, smell, or taste dissolved lead in the drinking water. Look for signs of corrosion such as frequent leaks, rust colored water, or

stained dishes or laundry.

If the water is corrosive and lead pipes or solder are present, then dissolved lead in the water may be a problem.

The only way to tell for certain if there are high levels of dissolved lead in the water is to have it tested by a laboratory.

If you think lead is a problem in your home, you can address questions to the Gila River Environmental Health office, Indian Health Service or the Gila River Water and Sanitation Department.

•What can I do to lessen the amount of lead in my drinking water?

If you think lead may be a problem in your home, there are two ways to minimize your exposure.

First, any time the water in a particular faucet has not been used for several hours, flush the pipes by running the water until it is as cold as it will get.

You can catch this water in a bucket

and use it for watering plants or some other household use.

Flushing may take several minutes, unless there has been a major use of water in the house recently, such as showering or laundry, in which case, it should take five to 30 seconds.

Second, do not cook with or consume water from the hot water tap. Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water.

It is especially important not to use the hot water for making baby formula. If you need hot water, draw it from the cold water tap and heat it on the stove.

•For more information

Contact the Indian Health Service, Gila River Environmental Health office, or Gila River Water and Sanitation Department.

The EPA has a toll free number you can call to receive a pamphlet with more information about lead in drinking water. The number is (800)426-4791.

Sacaton juvenile detention facility gets \$500,000 operating grant

The juvenile detention center at Sacaton is benefiting from a \$500,000 special appropriation from Congress.

Steven Healey of the Gila River law office, said the tribe received the appropriation in February, and it will run through this fiscal year to Sept. 30.

The money is being used to operate the juvenile detention facility, he said.

Up until the appropriation was received, the facility was operated with funds from the BIA's law

enforcement budget, said Healey.

The \$500,000 has been put into the BIA law enforcement budget to be used specifically for operating the juvenile detention facility, he said.

"It's supposed to be a continuing appropriation now. They (the tribe) may have to go back to Congress to get it," he said.

Eventually, he said, the tribe would like to contract with the BIA to operate the facility, but that can't be done until the money becomes part of the BIA agency's base budget.

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GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS
Published by the Gila River Indian Community

Urban L. Giff, Editor Colleen Moyah, Managing Editor

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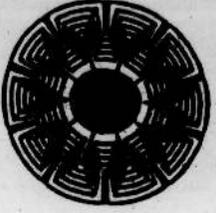
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Sacaton's Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library is open thanks to many people

The Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library is moving to full operation with my taking the position of librarian trainee. I bring to my work a strong commitment and a culturally oriented background.

Like many people in my generation, I saw the end of living the old way for my tribe, and the beginning of a new but difficult way of life in adapting to the white man's culture.

I have observed the uniqueness of other tribes throughout the nation, living by the four seasons, and basing everything around the number four.

A feeling of pride and emotion fills me as I hear songs and chants of my people. My visions of yesterday, of how it must have been, becomes stronger.

I believe my two tribes have always hung onto something religious, otherwise they would not have welcomed the Jesuit priests with an open heart when they first came to Pimiland.

The Pimas and Maricopas were unique in so many different ways. They did not live a primitive way of life. They were far advanced into agriculture.

The Hohokam ancestors of the Pimas developed an irrigation canal system not seen anywhere in the new world by the immigrant Europeans.

What happened to the once happy and ambitious people of a time in the past?

The intrusion of the white man altered conditions on which life had been based.

Although confronted with the pressures and aggressiveness of the non-Indian, the Pima-Maricopa managed to make adjustments to the change.

Today a majority of the people do not speak Pima-Maricopa, or the Yaqui language. This doesn't mean we have completely lost our identity. We know who we are.

We also enjoy the luxuriant life of the non-Indian world with all its modern housing, clothes, and automobiles.

In essence, the culture and traditions we still have go hand-in-hand with the existing lifestyle.

Through the library, the richness and cultural values of both worlds will become more meaningful as we work together in improving the quality of reading materials for everyone.

Remember, this is your library! Together we can find the secret of success in having an effective library.

The books cannot yet be checked out. They need to be catalogued pending receipt of library supplies.

You can, however, come in and read. There are many good books to read. And students taking summer courses can come in to study...a quietness away from home.

I want to say thank you to everyone who volunteered their time in weeding out books with old and torn out pages and covers.

Did you see the library booth at Mul-Chu-Tha? A lot of volunteer work went into that booth.

Our special appreciation goes to Kenneth Hayes, brother to Ira Hayes in whose honor the library was named, for the photographs and newspaper clippings he gave to the library.

Phil Psateri, a high school teacher in El Toro, Calif., also contributed materials on Ira Hayes, and a jar of sand from Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi.

Psateri has done extensive research on the six Marines who

raised the flag on Iwo Jima.

Lastly, our appreciation goes to the Kiwanis Club of Sun Lakes who devoted their time and effort in

renovating the building and donating many good books.

Watch for the date of story-telling hour for children. And also watch for

the date of poetry class for grades four through eight.

by Elinor Whittier
Librarian trainee

Medical Transportation Program is ever ready, on call

The Gila River Indian Community Medical Transportation Program has recently completed 13 years of service to the Gila River and Ak-Chin Indian communities.

The program is divided into three divisions. The Administrative Division consists of a director, secretary, billing clerk and four supervisors.

This division provides daily overall supervision of transportation personnel, maintains financial responsibility for the program's growth, develops duty rosters, insures vehicle availability, orders supplies, equipment when needed and maintains records for services rendered.

The Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS) operates one non-emergency ambulance for interfacility transports, and two emergency ambulances that are fully equipped.

One ambulance is stationed at the Westend covering Districts 6 and 7, and provides back-up service for the ambulance stationed at Sacaton.

Both the emergency ambulances exceed the State of Arizona guidelines and the United States Department of Transportation ambulance specifications.

The EMS staff consists of Arizona State licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Each EMT receives numerous hours of training in anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, assessment and treatment of medical emergencies such as heart attacks,

respiratory distress, strokes, seizures, diabetic emergencies and emergency childbirths, as well as training in CPR, auto extraction, hazardous materials, and disasters.

Each EMT must hold and maintain a current certification from the State of Arizona or the National Registry.

Certification must be renewed every two years. The program's staff currently employs two EMT trainees, eight certified EMTs, and an advanced life support staff of four advanced EMTs, one intermediate EMT, and one paramedic.

The Indian Health Service hospital at Sacaton provides medical direction for all on-duty crews, continuing medical education for all staff, and monthly case reviews.

The program's staff is currently providing home safety and first aid workshops at designated locations throughout the community.

The workshops are held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone interested in attending a workshop is urged to check with their

respective district service center for dates and times.

The Ambulatory Transportation Division consists of three vans and drivers which are used to transport patients to and from referral facilities and nursing homes.

They are also responsible for delivering supplies, medications and X-rays, and have a primary emphasis on the transportation of 30 kidney dialysis patients six days a week.

Two new vans have just been purchased for patient transports this fiscal year, and a third replacement van is planned.

Referrals to another hospital or medical facility are made by appointment through arrangements with the transportation clerk at the Sacaton hospital or Gila Crossing Clinic.

The following are emergency telephone numbers for the community.

by Gary Othole
and Christopher Black

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
SACATON		WESTEND	
Police	562-3361	Police	237-4567
Fire (day)	562-3663	Fire	237-2397
(24-hour)	562-3361	(24-hour)	237-4567
Ambulance.....	562-3329	Ambulance.....	237-2236
(24-hour)	562-3361	(24-hour)	237-4567

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Olberg Trading Post to close June 30 because of lease, water problems

Olberg Trading Post, a fixture in the Gila River Indian Community since 1927, will close June 30.

The closure of the trading post is tied to a lease and water dispute with the tribe.

According to BIA and tribal records, there is no current lease between the tribe and Monte Ellis, who is the son of the trading post owners.

Also, there is no record that rent payments have been made since 1973, though the matter is being further investigated.

And there is no record of a trader's license being in effect for the Ellis' since last December, and no record that a tribal business license has been obtained, though the Ellis' have been

paying the required sales tax.

Bill Talbow, acting director of the Gila River Water and Sanitation Department, said, the tribe and Ellis started negotiating a lease five years ago, but Ellis was adamant about focusing on another issue—water.

"The well that's there and currently supplying water to the lease and the four homes is not up to standard," he said.

The water contains threshold levels of selenium and fluoride, and only marginally meets Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act standards, said Talbow.

The options, he said, are to either pour money into the well to correct the problem, or haul water.

"It would be bad engineering to put a lot of money into that well knowing the quality of the water that's there," said Talbow.

The tribe estimates it would take about \$10,000 to correct the chemical problem.

The Indian Health Service, which Talbow says would ultimately be responsible for dealing with the problem, estimates the cost would be closer to \$100,000, he said.

Even if the tribe were to consider correcting the problem, he said, the amount of income generated from the property makes that option unfeasible.

The Ellis', in published stories, have said they can't afford to fix the well.

A tribal spokesperson said the matter has come to a head after all these years because there is no lease, and the parties can't reach an agreement to resolve the water problem.

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HEALTH:

Diabetes during pregnancy can lead to obese children, diabetes

Problems for both the woman and the developing baby are what you get when diabetes and pregnancy mix.

Diabetes is difficult to control during pregnancy, but careful planning and treatment can help to control most of the problems.

The immediate effects of diabetes on the mother and on the baby during pregnancy and immediately after birth are well known, and have been seen throughout the world in pregnancies complicated by diabetes.

In the Gila River Indian Community the problem for the baby doesn't end when he or she goes home from the hospital.

Although during the first few years of life, these children don't appear to be different from other children, there are differences which are beginning to show up by the age of five.

The first of these is obesity. If a woman had diabetes during a pregnancy, the child from that pregnancy begins to get fat early in life.

By the age of 20, over twice as many of these children are fat as are children of women who got diabetes later. This is true even if the child was not a fat baby.

The second major problem these children have is diabetes. We all know that diabetes occurs in families, so if the mother or father has diabetes, the children are very likely to have diabetes.

There is, however, more to the story than that. If the mother already had diabetes during the pregnancy, that child will be more likely to get diabetes than will his brothers and

sisters who were born before the mother got the diabetes.

By the age of 25, when these children are old enough to be having children of their own, one-half already have diabetes.

If the mother got diabetes later, only one in ten of the children have diabetes by age 25.

At least some of the high rate of diabetes among Pimas can be attributed to diabetes occurring early in women in previous generations.

Why is this? The reason isn't clear, but doctors at the National Institute of Health, which has been studying such pregnancies since 1965, think that some changes take place in children during the diabetic pregnancy and don't go away.

Because the babies always have a very high blood glucose during the pregnancy, they get used to a high blood glucose and don't properly control it later in life.

Will good control of diabetes during the pregnancy prevent this? That isn't known for sure, but it probably will.

If the pregnant woman has a normal blood glucose, then the baby will have a normal blood glucose during the pregnancy and will learn to keep the blood glucose normal.

Controlling the mother's blood glucose during the pregnancy, therefore, will have a beneficial effect not only for the mother and her baby at the time of birth, but will also have a long-lasting beneficial effect for the baby as he or she grows and develops.

This child, if female, will then be less likely to have diabetes during her

own pregnancy, so the benefits will be passed on to the next generations.

A diabetic woman who plans to have a pregnancy should see her doctor and get her diabetes under the best possible control, and then she should get prenatal care throughout

her pregnancy.

The treatment of her diabetes may be the first step in the prevention of obesity and diabetes in her unborn child.

by Dr. David Pettitt
for the Gila River Indian News

Exercise can be good for you, but do you understand why

Everyone seems to know that exercise is good for them, but very few people really understand the reasons why.

The thing to understand about exercise is that there are two types, and they affect your body differently.

Anaerobic exercise is a very vigorous type of exercise used primarily by athletes.

The word anaerobic refers to a "lack of oxygen," which can be experienced when a person works or exercises very hard for short periods of time.

Activities such as weight lifting and running sprints are termed anaerobic. Because you aren't able to supply enough oxygen to your muscles, you get out of breath.

Any exercise can be anaerobic if your fitness is very poor. This type of exercise develops muscle and bone strength as well as speed and power, elements which are particularly important to athletes.

The vigorous nature of anaerobic training is potentially dangerous for older people and those in poor condition.

Aerobic exercise consists of continuous movement done for long periods of time—20 minutes or more.

The exercise is done at a level of effort where you can supply plenty of

oxygen to your muscles.

Though you are breathing harder than normal, it isn't so much harder that you can't talk, or you have to stop and rest.

This type of exercise helps you lose weight, condition your heart and lungs, control stress, lower blood sugar and cholesterol, and generally feel better.

Walking, jogging or running can be an aerobic exercise for you, depending on your current level of fitness.

A highly fit runner can cover a mile every six minutes and be working just as hard as a less fit person who covers a mile in 20 minutes of walking.

The important thing to do is to listen to your body. If you can't continue comfortably for 20 minutes or more, you are working anaerobically, or too hard.

Other exercises which lend themselves to aerobic training include bicycling, swimming, aerobics, rowing, cross country skiing.

Sports such as basketball and volleyball tend to be more anaerobic.

When starting to exercise, begin with aerobic training, particularly if you're over 35, or haven't been exercising in several months.

by George Dallam

Looking for a little peace? Try some of these suggestions

Here are some tips on how to make your home more peaceful.

The information is from the Gila River Department of Health Services, Bio-Behavioral Health Clinic.

- Realize that your family, like all families, is not perfect.
- Keep communication lines open at all times:
- Don't constantly subordinate your needs to those of your spouse and your children.
- Don't dwell on problems from the past—work toward the future without ignoring the present.

- Operate the family according to mutually agreed upon guidelines, but with a minimum of rigid rules.
- Determine which areas of family activity tend to cause problems, and work toward making improvement.
- Determine which areas of family activity minimize happiness, and spend more time correcting these.
- Be optimistic rather than pessimistic in your approach to family problems.
- Don't fall into the trap of comparing your family with others.
- Never hesitate to share feelings with family members.

Sacaton Hospital changing its clinic schedule

Beginning in June Sacaton Hospital will change its clinic schedule.

The Tuesday clinic will be a regularly scheduled clinic day with full physician staff. Under the previous schedule, the clinic on Tuesday was reserved for emergency or urgent care patients.

Thursday afternoon will now be the only "urgent care" clinic, with Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon clinics scheduled both for appointments and walk-in clinics.

Patients are encouraged to make appointments through the appointment desk, 562-3321, extension 22.

Kids Can Cook program starts

A summer program to teach children ages 4 to 12 some elementary cooking skills is ongoing through Aug. 11.

The Kids Can Cook program, sponsored by the Gila River Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Nutrition

Services, will be held Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cooking, activities and lunch will be in the pink Maternal and Child Nutrition trailer south of the hospital in Sacaton.

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LETTERS & COMMENTS

In the money game you don't get second chances, but this tribe got one

Probably we should concede the point straight off: people who live in small towns and people who live on nearby Indian reservations are seldom the best of friends. History has a lot to do with their mutual resentments. So do culture and religion, plus the old bugaboo of the Western world: racism.

Still, rural white folk and rural red folk have to rely on one another, because a local economy divided against itself cannot stand. In Mt. Pleasant, Mich., (population 40,000) residents are discovering that what's good for the Saginaw-Chippewa reservation—jobs, housing, development—can also be good for the town.

They owe that insight largely to a 38-year-old Eastern Cherokee named Rebecca Adamson, and to the work of her nonprofit organization, the First Nations Financial Project, or FNFP for short. As Adamson keeps pointing out, "both economies can benefit when they work together. But it has to be an equal partnership.

First Nations believes in partnerships. Based in Falmouth, Va., it is trying to make business partners of the one million Indians who reside on reservations, and it is hoping to get help from their non-Indian neighbors. Adamson's agenda is tribal development—not those pie-in-the-sky schemes for industrialization that never seem to work, but the kind of slow, steady economic growth that can ultimately make life easier for everyone.

Sometimes, when an old claim against the government finally gets settled, a tribe may receive millions of dollars all at once. Adamson worries about that, too, because the money never seems to make a permanent impact. No one ties a string around it; no one thinks to invest it for the greater good of the tribe.

Instead, with the blessing of Congress and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the income is routinely dissipated through per capita distributions—so many dollars to each tribal member; or else the money disappears into a federal trust fund.

Two years ago...the Saginaw-Chippewas faced that very dilemma. The subject was a familiar one: per capita distribution of windfall revenues to tribes. At issue was the disposition of \$10 million, an award made to the Saginaws in compensation for stolen lands and broken treaties dating back to 1807.

As usual, the BIA intended to divide the spoils individually, apportioning equal amounts to each resident of the reservation and to many off-reservation relatives as well, about 4,000 in all.

But tribal leaders wanted no part of the plan. A few years earlier, they had watched a similar, \$16 million award get squandered.

Kim Sawmick, a young tribal planner in economic development, has recalled the melancholy results: "People spent the money in just a few days. They used it to pay their bills or to buy television sets and things like that. The furniture stores had a field day; they stayed open extra hours just for us, but the tribe had nothing to show for it."

Hoping to prevent a repeat fiasco, tribal leaders got Adamson and her staff to help lobby Congress for a

measure that would preserved the \$10 million for tribal use. The issue was more than money; it ran to questions of Indian dependency versus self-determination.

Some in the tribe brooded about the past: they wanted to honor their forebears, the people who had suffered first from the loss of land. Others fretted about the future: they wanted to husband the tribe's resources for the benefit of generations to come.

Both themes were eloquently evoked in testimony given by the late Ben Quigno, a Saginaw-Chippewa elder, to the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. The BIA's plan, he warned, "would ensure our continued dependency and take away our tribe's last and best opportunity to become self-sufficient."

He speculated on what "our ancestors, who guided their lives by...caring and sharing," might advise the present generation of Saginaw-Chippewas: "Think not about yourselves; put away the compelling urges to indulge your desires for things that will disappear like fog before the morning sun."

On June 30, 1986, Congress gave Quigno and the tribe what they wanted: an act establishing an investment fund to be administered by and for the Saginaw-Chippewa tribe.

The measure was unprecedented. Most other tribes still have nothing to say about how their dollars will be invested. They must leave such decisions to the BIA, which holds an estimated \$1.5 billion in trust on behalf of 269 tribes.

This time no buying binge occurred in the wake of the award. Instead, tribal leaders sequestered the \$10 million in a local institution, Isabella Bank and Trust, where it now generates income for the tribe.

More importantly, they used the nest egg as collateral to secure housing loans to families in desperate need. Isabella holds the mortgages—which by itself is something of a breakthrough. Banks in Mt. Pleasant have customarily withheld credit from owners of houses on Indian land.

The plan was engagingly simple. First the tribe purchased 33 "collapsible" houses from a defunct federal facility, the Kinross Air Force Base in northern Michigan. The price for each three-bedroom unit was \$5,000.

Then after having the houses shipped south, the Saginaws set about making them liveable: new roofs, vinyl siding. Thermopane windows, insulation, carpets, wiring fixtures...the works. The result thus far consists of 16 new homes, each one valued at around \$35,000 while costing the tribe only \$25,000 to buy and rehabilitate. The families, meanwhile, have been able to purchase the houses at cost.

While the tribe has been doing good, lots of people in town have been doing well. Isabella is getting 10 percent interest on its mortgages, and to date, says the bank, there have been no late payments. Suppliers of lumber, siding, windows and the like have all discovered new customers, as have the local utilities; and workers in the area—carpenters, plumbers, painters, electricians—have found a new employer.

The scenario, in short, has gone pretty much the way Rebecca Adamson might have predicted, with the drive for Indian self-sufficiency reinforcing the battle for civic prosperity. Equal partnership begets mutual benefit.

As a bonus, tribal members have begun to feel more hopeful about their own long-term prospects. Cheryl Bennett, who earns about \$300 a week working as a secretary for the tribal police department, typifies the new spirit. She and her four young charges—a daughter, a son and two nephews—were the first to move into one of the new houses.

When the original multi-million dollar award was distributed on a per capita basis in 1984, Bennett got \$3,200. "I bought clothes and bikes for the kids," she recalls, "and some furniture for the place I was renting. The money was a nice windfall, but it didn't last. Then when I heard about the \$10 million, I felt the money wasn't mine. It belonged to the tribe—to the future of our children and their children."

"That's the way my grandparents would want it," she adds, echoing Ben Quigno's testimony. "That's the way I want it too."

from Rural Electrification Magazine
by Richard Margolis

Education is just too important to squander because of management

(This letter was sent to Gila River Indian Community Director of Education Gilbert Innis, and to other tribal government officials. The letter's author said she brought this matter to the attention of tribal officials a year ago.)

Dear Editor,

For almost a year now I have not heard anything about an administrative follow-up concerning ineligible children participating in the Headstart Program.

From what I have learned, procedures were to be implemented to address the following items:

-Reassessment of family income for each child participating in the Headstart Program.

-Separate individual eligible and ineligible children file folders.

-Redesign the program to segregate ineligible children by training period and educational services in order to maintain federal compliance.

-Keep financial records separately for accounting purposes, such as tribal contribution and Federal supplement.

It is important to the tribe to continue this educational program and that the program be funded at the 100 percent level.

Reducing the grant award, as estimated by 25 percent, would severely hamper the operation of the program, disallowing educational services for our children. We oppose any financial reduction in the strongest possible terms.

There are basically two major items that need to be addressed, they are:

1. Appeal the Federal program reduction of 25 percent from the current approved grant.

2. Appeal payment of \$120,204 for year ending Sept. 30, 1985. Take into consideration subsequent program audit of fiscal year 86-87. Obviously there are potentially inherent financial liabilities that pose a threat to our tribal finances.

We were to formulate a plan of action to segregate eligible and ineligible children who are presently receiving Headstart services.

We must ascertain by documented evidence that the tribe will comply with Federal regulations governing the use of HHS funds.

A specific time frame should be included depicting the various tasks that will be conducted to bring the program

back into compliance. Can you assure that these items have been addressed properly and in the specific time frame?

How important is education on Gila River? Education should be priority number one. If we can help our children get a good "Headstart," we have opened the door to an unending experience.

Education is something one can never take from you. When children are encouraged to attend school everyday, especially when they are in pre-school and headstart, they will enjoy school during their early and later years.

All parents should set education as a number one goal when a child is born. With a good education, a person feels good about himself because he can go out and compete in the world.

Without an education, a person can't find a job, can't compete, and therefore is depressed and ends up in trouble.

If we can get our children educated, there won't be a great need for more money for Law and Order, ADAP, Youth Home and other services.

We must correct the problem at the bottom, not at the top. You set a good foundation of life with education, and that begins with our pre-school and headstart.

Of course, we can't leave it all to the staff at school. We as parents need to show our interest at home with the child. Help your child set goals and encourage him in life.

The past three years Gila River Indian Community Headstart has had to payback \$120,204, and was cut 25 percent this year.

We are only hurting our tribe if we don't invest in our future leaders. Last year GRIC took from savings \$270,000 to keep the Sacaton Supply operation—what return are we receiving today?

What can be done to make sure all our eligible and ineligible children get a good headstart?

GRIC should supplement the Headstart program and keep the expenses separated—cost of labor, supplies, etc.—and make sure all our children can attend school. Something needs to be done now so GRIC won't be written up in the audit again, and asked to pay a reimbursement. (It's) time to be proud of educating our children.

Beverly Jones
Resident of District 1
Blackwater Community