

The Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community Publication
Sacaton, Az.



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Land lease negotiations for local stadium could mean major league ball

The owner of the Phoenix Firebirds baseball team, Martin Stone, is negotiating with the Gila River Indian Community to lease land for a stadium that could someday draw a major league team to the reservation, Paul Klores, Gila River tribal Economic Development director said.

The reservation is one of many sites Stone has considered, with Phoenix seemingly at the top of the list depending on whether it decides to build a stadium.

As the city's progress toward a decision on the sports facility has slowed, Stone has looked at other sites.

But Klores said he believed the tribal site is being seriously considered.

"No place can provide a better location for parking and convenience," he said.

Noting that the Gila River Indian Community is right on the Interstate between Phoenix and Tucson, Klores said the reservation is an ideal location to draw sports fans from both metropolitan areas.

If he selects the reservation site, the

Firebirds owner is not only interested in bringing in a major league baseball team, he and a partner also have plans to develop a hotel and theme park near the proposed stadium, Klores said.

Stone bought the rights to the Phoenix area for a big-league expansion team when he bought the Firebirds.

While, unlike Phoenix, Gila River wouldn't build a stadium, Klores said leasing is an advantage the tribe can offer.

"If he was buying land it would require a much bigger investment. Leasing is less expensive," he said.

Stone is looking at leasing 500 acres—150 acres for the stadium and an additional 350 for other developments such as the hotel and theme park.

The lease would be a long-term one, and the longest term the tribe could offer is 99 years, Klores said.

Klores declined to discuss specific dollar amounts but said revenue to the tribe from the lease would be significant.

"If a major league team was
See Negotiations over land... Page 2

\$1.4 million federal appropriation allows Gila River Farms to diversify

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee has approved more than \$1.4 million that will allow the Gila River tribal farm to continue to diversify its cash crops in fiscal-year 1990.

The appropriation is part of a six-year project aimed at increasing the number and variety of cash crops grown by the tribal farm.

Over the six-year period, the tribe will receive approximately \$10 million

to begin growing citrus, olives, and other cash crops, Ardell Ruiz, Gila River Farm Board vice chairman, said.

"Diversification is our key. Sometimes the market for one item is down. But we still survive because we have something else going," he said.

When the farm first started in 1968, Ruiz said it received no government funding, but instead relied on banks

See Gila River Farms...Page 2



WORDS OF WISDOM—If ever someone would know about education, it likely would be Carolyn Warner, former superintendent of state education for Arizona, and now head of Carolyn Warner & Associates. Warner, above photo, spoke to higher education students from Gila River during a July 28 college orientation in Chandler. In top photo, Janice Blackwater, Central Arizona College, and Arron Moffett, Gateway Community College seem to enjoy what they heard.

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

Youth conference starts August 10 at Sacaton

The Third Annual Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Conference scheduled Aug. 10 and 11 will feature workshops, a youth talent show, an honors banquet, teen dance and a variety of recreational activities.

The aim of the event, which will be held at Sacaton Middle School, is to promote leadership skills, communication, interaction and cultural awareness among Gila River youth.

Keynote speakers will be Monte Larson, youth coordinator for United National Indian Tribal Youth of Oklahoma City, Brad Smith of the Chickasaw Nation, and Mary Bell, president of the Wind River Youth Council in Wyoming.

With the theme, "Let Our Voices Be Heard," conference workshops will be geared toward developing leadership skills, bettering self-image, learning to communicate and interact with others, and learning more about motivation and decision-making.

The importance of cultural awareness and making use of education opportunities will also be discussed.

Lecture topics will include culture, education, sex education, parenting, satanism, and substance abuse.

Planned recreational activities include basketball, volleyball, swimming, and a cook-out.

The conference is set to begin with registration at 8 a.m. on both days. For more information call Greg Mendoza or Melissa Gomez at 562-3334.

Aug. 11 election for Youth Council representatives

Seven new representatives to the Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Council will be elected Aug. 11 during the council's third annual youth conference in Sacaton.

Representatives will be elected from each of the reservation's seven districts.

Youth council representatives whose terms are up this summer are: Mary Marrietta, District 1; Maraya Acunia, District 2; Donald Williams, District 4; Loren Johns, District 5; and Brennagean Evans, District 7.

There are currently vacancies in District 3 and District 6 and representatives for those seats on the council will also be elected.

The oath of office will be administered Oct. 14 to those winning seats during the August election.

The president and vice president of the youth council will be elected in October.

For more information call Greg Mendoza or Melissa Gomez at 562-3334.

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Overdue books are trickling home, but lending them out is still on hold

Overdue books are slowly but surely finding their way back to the Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library, but, currently, the library doesn't have enough books to circulate, so lending has stopped.

While you can't check a book out of the library, it's still open for studying and reading.

The library also receives the "Casa Grande Dispatch" and "The Arizona Republic" daily.

Staff members say they wish to thank and acknowledge readers who've returned long overdue books on Native Americans.

However, they say parents still need to remind their children to return overdue books.

It's now time to show appreciation for the reservation's first and only library, and for the hard work of the Kiwanis of Sun Lakes who repaired the library building, and this can be done by returning overdue books, staff member Elinor Whittier-Pasqual said.

Many of the books are expensive and the library wants to avoid the need to bill for them.

If books are lost or damaged, the library should be notified immediately, she said.

Currently, the library has begun a cataloging process with the assistance of Connie Richards from the Pinal County Library.

This summer two youth workers, Joni Kyyitan and Gale Witson, also worked hard to keep the library well-organized and well-kept.

Free summer music festival set August 12 in Sacaton

A summer music festival is scheduled Saturday, Aug. 12 in Sacaton from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and admission to the event is free.

The dance group Mathachinis is set to perform, and scheduled bands are Apache Spirit, Cafe Society with Keith Secola, Pima Express, Molina's, Bad Lands, and Country Nights.

Food booths and arts and crafts booths are also planned. The event will be held behind the tribal employment and training building and those attending should bring their own lawn chairs.

Organizers ask that no drugs or alcohol be brought to the festival.

For more information call Lavina Marrietta, 562-3721, Joyce Hughes, 562-3396, Carlos Moyah, 562-3354, or John Flores, 562-3661.

Native American women artists invited to exhibit work in Tucson

Native American women artists are invited to apply for inclusion in an exhibit at the Tucson Museum of Art that will highlight the work of American Indian and artists from Arizona and New Mexico.

Known as, "Primavera: Women In The Arts," the exhibit is scheduled March 17 to May 15, 1990.

It's open to all media. Artists should submit slides, a current resume, and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of slides to: Tucson Museum of Art, 140 North Main Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701, Attention: Emily Elias.

Deadline for entries is Nov. 1, 1989.

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Indian Agriculture Association conference set Sept. 14 in Chandler

The second annual Southwest Indian Agricultural Association Conference is scheduled Sept. 14-16 at the Sheraton San Marcos in Chandler.

The conference theme is "Indian Agriculture in the 1990's," according to Ardell Ruiz, Gila River Farm Board vice chairman and conference chair.

Three basic subjects will be covered at the three-day event: financing for Indian agriculture, water for the future, and agricultural education for Indians, Ruiz said.

"In this case, agriculture means both livestock ranching and crop farming," he said.

Conference registration will begin in the afternoon of Sept. 14, followed by a business meeting. The pre-registration fee is \$50; registration at the door will be \$75.

The informational sessions on financing, water and education will be held Friday, Sept. 15 and during the morning Sept. 16. Friday's program will also include a luncheon and dinner-dance.

Speakers asked to appear on the program include: BIA director Eddie Brown, Arizona Governor Rose Mofford, Senators Dennis DeConcini and John McCain, President of the Intertribal Agriculture Council, Robert Miller, and Eugene Sander, dean of the University of Arizona College of Agriculture.

Elliot Booth, vice chairman of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and president of the Southwest Indian

Agricultural Association, said the association which sponsors the conference, is primarily for tribes and individual Indians who are involved in agriculture on Arizona reservations, and those that border Arizona.

Indians from tribes elsewhere and non-Indians interested in Indian agriculture are also invited to the conference.

More than 100 people attended the first conference last year, and Booth

said he hopes to double that figure this year.

For further information contact Ardell or Ramona Ruiz, P.O. Box 1251, Sacaton, Ariz. 85247, or call (602)836-2671.

Pima-Maricopa Arts Festival poster deadline Aug. 11

An Aug. 11 deadline has been set for entries in a poster contest to promote the annual Pima-Maricopa Arts Festival scheduled Nov. 3-4.

First prize in the competition is \$125. Second prize is \$50 and third is worth \$25.

Winning artwork will be used for publicity and advertising, and will be displayed at the arts festival, which will be held at the Gila River Arts and Crafts Center.

The event is a celebration of the arts and cultural heritage of the Pima-Maricopa.

Only artists from tribes with Pima-Maricopa heritage may participate in the festival. These tribes include Gila River, Salt River, Ak-Chin, and Tohono O'odham.

The festival will provide a showcase for Pima-Maricopa artists to share their talents with members of their own Indian community and other Arizona residents, as well as visitors to the state.

To be eligible to participate in the poster contest an artist must be an enrolled member of any of the Pima-Maricopa tribes.

Poster themes may be traditional, contemporary, or a combination of both. Any medium or combination of media may be used.

Each entry must be on 18-inch by 24-inch poster board used either horizontally or vertically. Entries become the property of the Gila River Indian Community.

Artwork will be judged by the Gila River Tribal Council, and the finalists will be screened by the tribe's health and social committee.

For more information call Esther Juste at 562-3311 in Sacaton.

BIA head Eddie Brown takes oath from O'odham judge

New BIA head Eddie F. Brown took the oath of office from Tohono O'odham Chief Tribal Judge Hilda Manuel during a June 26 ceremony held in Mesa.

The ceremony took place following a meeting of Phoenix area tribal chairmen, and it was witnessed by tribal leaders from Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

According to the Phoenix Area's BIA Tribal Newsletter, the ceremony goes down in the history books for a number of firsts.

Brown is the first assistant secretary for Indian Affairs to be sworn into office outside Washington, D.C., the first to be sworn in by a tribal judge, and the first Arizonan to hold the top Indian post.

A Tohono O'odham-Yaqui and a native of Ajo, Brown said he would work closely with tribal governments, and outlined several key objectives: to improve Indian education, economic development, tribal community infrastructure, trust

responsibility, natural resource management, and administrative accountability.

In a meeting with news media following his confirmation, Brown vowed to spend his initial days in the Bush administration visiting and talking to elected tribal officials to get their views on improving tribal and federal intergovernmental relationships.

"I want to hear firsthand the directions tribal governments are going to be taking in the future, and what role they want the Bureau of Indian Affairs to play in those plans," he said.

Indian culture has long advocated preventative health as a way of life

The idea of wellness, the active promotion of optimal health, not just the absence of illness, is a relatively new concept to the traditional practitioner of medicine in the Anglo culture.

Just as modern society trashes the environment, disregarding the long-term consequences, the new Americans trash their bodies, justifying their behavior with the belief that medicine will develop a cure for their ills.

Consequently, the vast majority of health care dollars are spent in reacting to disease, rather than preventing it, and certainly not in promoting optimal health.

Unfortunately, the increase in disease produced by today's sedentary lifestyles is creating an increasingly heavy burden on an already overtaxed health care system, and so we see a new idea, wellness, the prevention of disease through the promotion of health.

Indian culture, on the other hand, has long advocated to "walk in beauty and harmony with the environment," concepts that demonstrate a concern for self and the natural adaptability of man to his surroundings.

Many Indian cultures incorporated daily running, a natural and by necessity varied diet, and a heavy emphasis on intergenerational sports involving endurance, agility and fun, well before mainstream medicine was forced to go preventative.

The health destroying abuse of substances such as alcohol, tobacco

and fast food, as well as a materialistic, driven outlook on life are gifts from the highly stressed and supposedly more civilized mainstream culture.

Native Americans have traditionally emphasized the unity of spiritual and physical, unlike the segmented systems approach of today's modern medicine, where you go to see a psychologist for your head, a cardiologist for your heart, and to still other doctors for anything else that ails you.

Indians have long recognized that the human being is more than an organic machine, and so they have traditionally sought the support of the spiritual as well as the physical healer.

Mainstream medicine has certainly eradicated infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, which reached epidemic proportions in some Native American tribes, although interestingly enough, not until they were forced to reservations.

At the same time, however, behavioral diseases such as diabetes and alcoholism, unheard of among Indians 100 years ago, have become rampant, largely as a result of lifestyle changes adopted from the so-called dominant culture.

As has often been stated, "the runner is the message." To see a positive future, look to combine the lessons of the past with the best of the present.

by George Dallam



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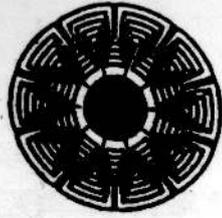
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Gaming commission delays are hurting Indian bingo operations

Indian leaders nationwide are calling on President Bush to make immediate appointments to the new Indian gaming commission, saying the delay in selecting commissioners has hurt tribal bingo operations.

Tribal representatives say there is a lot of confusion about new legislation regulating gaming on reservations, and since a commission has yet to be appointed no authority exists to answer questions about the new laws.

A three-person commission was created last August as part of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a bill that has been criticized by Indian leaders as a threat to tribal sovereignty.

For example, the law requires state approval of electronic games, including video bingo, and that, tribal leaders say, opens the door to state interference with tribal gaming businesses.

Federal legislators created the bill because of fears that organized crime was becoming a part of Indian bingo operations, and concern that managers hired by tribes were abusing their contracts.

At least two of the gaming commissioners must be members of an Indian tribe.

The president must choose the commission's chair, and that appointment must be approved by Congress. The interior secretary selects two associate commissioners.

The delay in making the appointments has hurt reservation bingo operations because many tribal officials don't know the new rules, and there's no one available to answer their questions, said Wendell George, a tribal councilman from the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington State.

Minerals Management rejects outside contractors for royalty audits

The federal Minerals Management Service has rejected the use of private sector contract auditors to conduct royalty management audits and will instead enhance in-house auditing capabilities.

The question of whether to do audit work with government auditors or outside contractors has been of some concern to Indian groups and states who receive royalty payments.

The agency decided to use government auditors in a stepped-up auditing program aimed at streamlining the auditing process.

The decision specifically affects audits of company records of federal and Indian leases for the 1983-1989 time period.

The purpose of the new auditing initiative is to have royalty underpayments and overpayments discovered and resolved in a more timely manner.

In April 1988 MMS decided to undertake a one-time effort to catch-up certain prior audit periods so that in the future it could be more current in its auditing of company records.

"We are committed to a rigorous royalty audit program to ensure that Indian allottees, tribes, states and the

federal treasury get the full amount they are due as quickly as possible," MMS director Barry A. Williamson said.

Congressman proposes national Indian museum

U.S. Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell has introduced a bill to build a National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The aim of the proposed museum is to highlight contributions of Indian people to American history and culture, and to celebrate living tribal traditions.

The museum would be managed by the Smithsonian Institution and would be built on the mall between the National Air and Space Museum and the National Botanical Gardens. It would house the Heye collection of American Indian artifacts.

The bill formalizes a recent agreement between the Smithsonian Institution and the Heye Foundation of New York to transfer the collection to the Smithsonian, but maintain a lending arrangement by which New York City will retain rights to display portions of the vast collection.

A Northern Cheyenne chief and the only Native American serving in Congress, Campbell said, "Indian people have a vision for the museum as a living memorial, not a dusty collection of artifacts."

Noting that the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landfall on this continent will be celebrated in 1992, Campbell said the time is right for Americans to rediscover and remember the numerous contributions of Indian people to the development and success of the nation.

"Despite the indisputable and invaluable role played by native peoples in building our diverse society, there is to this day a disturbing lack of pride and identity in Indian country," Campbell said.

"The establishment of a living Indian museum and the quincentenary celebration of Indian contributions will provide a big boost in self-esteem for many young Indians," he added.

Indian grave protection and reburial bills become law in Kansas

Three tribal grave protection and reburial bills recently became law in Kansas, including legislation to rebury 146 deceased Indians who have been put on public display at a roadside tourist attraction near Salina, Kan. called the Indian Burial Pit.

Under the new laws, these deceased Indians will be properly reburied at state expense and, in future, unmarked Indian graves will be legally protected from unnecessary disturbance.

The laws are a result of extensive efforts led by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) on behalf of three Indian tribes from Kansas.

They are the Pawnee Tribe, the Wichita Tribe, and the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold Reservation.

In February, the three tribes negotiated a reburial agreement

called the Treaty of Smoky Hill.

The agreement stipulates that the state of Kansas will purchase the Indian burial ground for \$90,000 and properly maintain it in the future as an historic cemetery.

In addition, the Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act will protect unmarked burials on a state-wide basis from unnecessary disturbance, and prohibit unregulated display of human remains.

Indian families sue town of Parker over shooting deaths

The town of Parker, Ariz., and several municipal officials have been sued for approximately \$20 million in U.S. District Court by the families of two Colorado River Indian Tribes members who were shot to death in 1987.

The suit was filed on behalf of the relatives of Matthew Scott who was shot on a Parker street on May 17, 1987, and Byron Webb, shot by a Parker police officer on Sept. 11, 1987.

In addition to the city, Parker's current mayor and council members, the town manager, former police chief and four former police officers are named as defendants.

Group again proposes dam that would flood Fort McDowell

A group known as Water for Arizona's Growing Economy (WAGE) is proposing construction of a dam at the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers in central Arizona that would flood much of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation.

The structure, then known as Orme Dam, was first proposed in 1981 and was stopped after environmentalists and Yavapai Indians from Fort McDowell voiced strong objections to the plan by former secretary of the Interior James Watt.

Clinton Pattea, president of the Mohave-Apache Community Council at Fort McDowell said that although the tribal council hasn't yet discussed the new dam, he is sure his people would refuse to sell their land for the dam just as they refused in 1981.

Writing in the editorial pages of the Arizona Republic, Richard Lessner called the project "a non-starter. It would require federal approval, and it would mean inundating a good share of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation. In neither case is Congress likely to go along."

A staff member of the House Interior Committee told the Arizona Republic, "The hurdles in front of this thing are huge."

Tohono O'odham win battle with IHS over health contract

A federal judge has ruled that the Indian Health Service didn't have just cause to take away the Tohono O'odham Health Department's psychological services contract in 1988.

The rescission was the first time IHS had ever ended a tribal contract without first holding an appeals hearing.

The administrative law judge ruled that there was no immediate threat to the safety of the program's beneficiaries, a claim IHS made in taking away the contract.

The dispute began in August 1988 when IHS took away the tribe's Public Law 93-638 contract, citing problems in the tribe's Psychological Services program that IHS said posed an "immediate threat to safety."

But Tohono O'odham Health Department assistant director Andrew Lorentine said the claims weren't valid, and an IHS investigative team's report was inaccurate.

For example, IHS cited a lack of 24-hour emergency care as a serious problem, yet the 638 contract with IHS never required the tribe to have such a program, he said.

After the contract was rescinded the tribe continued to operate its own psychological services program using its own funds.

Meanwhile, IHS offered similar behavioral health services at the Sells Hospital.

Commenting on the judge's decision, Charles Erickson, acting director of IHS Tucson program area, said the judge "didn't feel that a clear threat existed. Obviously we did."

He said the decision still must go before the IHS appeals board since it never relinquished its jurisdiction.

The board, however, almost certainly will accept the judge's decision, he added.

But Lorentine said he didn't agree that the decision still must go before an IHS appeals process.

"The word we got was that the judge's decision was accepted as final," he said.

The tribe will be seeking the remaining contract funds it lost for fiscal-year 1987-88, as well as legal costs it incurred fighting the rescission, he said.

In addition, IHS failed to approve the tribe's 1988-89 psychological services contract, and that decision is in the process of being appealed, he said.

And now as the 1988-89 fiscal year is ending, the health department is also preparing to apply for a contract for the coming year, he added.

But it is likely the tribe will have its IHS behavioral health contract back in the very near future.

"We always knew sooner or later the contract would return to the tribe," Erickson said.

Supreme Court limits tribal zoning laws

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling has limited the power of Indian tribes to control, through zoning laws, the use of land owned by non-Indians within reservation boundaries.

In a 5-4 vote, the Justices said tribal governments may be forced to share zoning power with state or county officials.

They ruled that the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Indian Nation had the authority to regulate and zone fee or privately owned land on about 800,000 acres of its Washington state reservation.

But the court ruled that the tribe had no such power to regulate some 500,000 acres of the reservation owned by non-Indians.