



The Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community Publication
Sacaton, Az.



VOL.5 NO.2

FEBRUARY 9, 1989 PAGE 1

Dam near Globe is called a danger to Gila River

Signs of physical stress in Coolidge Dam, whose flood plain cuts across the Gila River Indian Community, has prompted a federal report to label the dam one of the five most hazardous in the U.S., and has started the tribe drawing an emergency evacuation plan for residents.

William Talbow, director for the Gila River Physical Resources Department, said a recently finished report shows some problems with the dam, which is located about 80 miles east of Gila River near Globe.

As part of the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act, Coolidge Dam was

examined in 1980, and a report issued in 1984. A more recent study, this one finished last year, said the dam is showing signs of deterioration.

As to the danger element, Talbow said in the report the dam is classed as a facility that poses "eminent danger," one that is below an

acceptable level of safety, and susceptible to failure on a clear day.

Talbow said the problems outlined in the report involve several things.

He said, "The dam is beginning to show some physical stress in its structure...which is made of thin shells of concrete reinforced by steel."

Also, floods in 1983 showed that there can be more rainfall than what was anticipated when the dam was designed. Coolidge Dam was completed in 1928.

The third problem, he said, is that seismic or geological shifting in the soil, particularly at the dam's left abutment, could create subsidence, or settling.

Such subsidence, Talbow said, is what has created huge cracks in the land's surface near Picacho and Eloy.

And in the case of Coolidge Dam, there are cracks in the rock that supports the dam, and there is some slippage in the rock.

These cracks, called fissures, are allowing water leakage, which contributes to further deterioration of the rock.

"Seventy-eight percent of the (reservation's) residents live in the flood plain area. That means 78 percent are at risk," he said.

The water level behind the dam is monitored to keep it at a level considered less stressful on the dam's structure, and periodic checks on the expansion of cracks in the dam are made when the water level changes.

As for the evacuation plan in the event the dam ruptures, "Basically it's a plan to evacuate people living in the flood plain to move to higher ground in both directions...and not across the river," Talbow said.

At this point people would have to be notified either by radio, or by a house-to-house messenger system, he said.

A system of sirens could be a possibility in the future, he said.

The Gila River Human Resources Department and the San Carlos Indian Irrigation Project are working on the evacuation plan.



EMINENT DANGER—Coolidge Dam near Globe, whose flood plain cuts across the Gila River Indian Community, poses eminent danger to the community, according to a recently completed report by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Tax controversy prompts tribe to reduce retail tax rate

Following several months of controversy over a tax break given to one reservation smoke shop, the Gila River Tribal Council amended the tribal tax ordinance to temporarily reduce the privilege tax for all reservation retailers.

Mary Thomas, chairperson of the council's Legislative Committee, said the committee recommended the action taken by the council at its Feb. 1 meeting in Sacaton.

"We recommended that an interim amendment be made to the tax ordinance. And the amendment was

to temporarily reduce the privilege tax from 4 percent to 2 percent, and the elimination of the tax on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products," she said.

The alcohol and tobacco tax was another 2 percent in addition to the 4 percent privilege tax.

The interim amendment will be in effect from Feb. 1 to Aug. 1 of this year, Thomas said, and will affect all retail businesses on the reservation, including tribally owned, non-tribal and non-Indian retail businesses.

Thomas said the tribal council

agreed to the amendment "because it was unfair to give a privilege to one (business) and not to others."

The controversy started last August when the tribal council granted Akimel O'otham Smoke Shop a reduced tax rate.

The smoke shop's owner, Gila River Lt. Gov. William Rhodes, at that time told the council that without the reduced tax rate he likely would be forced to close the store and lay-off its seven employees.

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

Trash pick up by tribe is slowed by fire that destroyed trash truck

Trash pick up by Gila River Water and Sanitation has been slowed since a fire destroyed a \$100,000 trash truck Jan. 12.

William Talbow, head of the tribe's Physical Resources Department, said because of the fire, "We're having a terrible time trying to pick up trash."

He said the tribe is looking to buy a 2-year-old trash truck to replace the one that was destroyed.

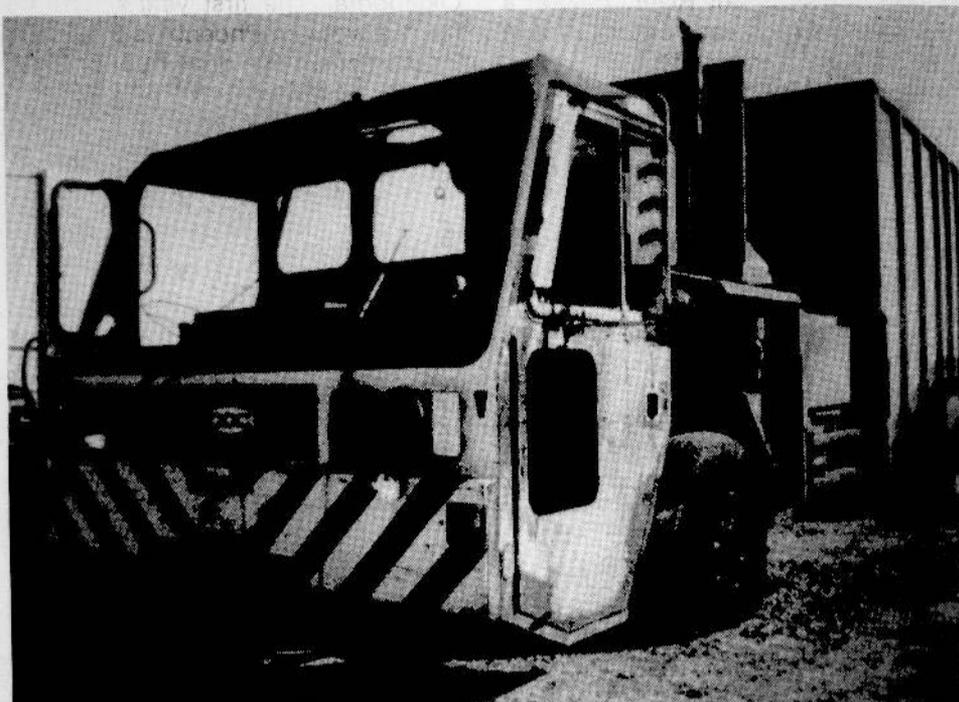
That could be about three weeks away, he said, but in the meantime, crews are picking up trash by hand,

which is taking much longer.

Talbow said residents can help until the replacement truck arrives if they would put their trash in plastic bags. This will speed up the pick up of trash.

The plastic bags will be supplied by Gila River Water and Sanitation at Sacaton, he said.

Talbow said the fire occurred at the landfill when a hydraulic fluid line burst, spraying fluid on the hot engine, starting the fire.



Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 11 — Akimel O'odham/Pee Posh Youth Council meeting. Begins 9 a.m., Sacaton tribal council chamber.

FEBRUARY 11 — Dance, KZZP, 7 PM to midnight, Sacaton exhibit building, \$3.

FEBRUARY 15 — Reception for Silver Congressional Award winners Sean Soatikee and Jeff Martin, 9 a.m., Gila River Tribal Building. Public invited.

FEBRUARY 17 — O'Odham Tash, Casa Grande.

FEBRUARY 18 — O'Odham Tash, Casa Grande.

FEBRUARY 19 — O'Odham Tash, Casa Grande.

FEBRUARY 21 — Small Business Bookkeeping Workshop, 9 AM to 4 PM, Gila River Arts & Crafts.

FEBRUARY 22 — Small Business Bookkeeping Workshop, 9 AM to 4 PM, Gila River Arts & Crafts.

FEBRUARY 23 — Outdoor Co-ed Volleyball tournament, Blackwater ballfield. Call 723-4471.

FEBRUARY 24 and 25 — Outdoor Co-ed Volleyball tournament, Blackwater ballfield. Call 723-4471.

FEBRUARY — All month, Dental Trailer will be at Casa Blanca School. Call 562-3321, ext. 419.

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Examinations for "Strong Heart Study" scheduled to start in April

Examinations of tribal members at Gila River and Salt River, part of a study of heart disease among Native Americans, will begin in April.

The "Strong Heart Study" began last October and will run through October 1991. It is funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

It involves other tribes in Oklahoma. The first year's funding for the work in Phoenix is \$103,246. Research is being done by Medlantic Research Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Betty Jarvis, coordinator for the project, said work now being done includes the review of medical

records and death certificates to find out how many tribal members may be suffering from heart disease, and how many deaths may be attributable to the disease.

The records of about 2,500 at Gila River are expected to be reviewed.

She said the physical examinations, administered preferably to tribal members 45 to 74 years of age, will include residents from each of the community's seven districts. It is estimated there are about 1,500 Gila River members in the age range.

Those who volunteer to be examined, said Jarvis, will each receive a \$30 stipend.

The exam will include body measurements, such as height, weight, skin fold, and measurements

of the hips and waist, she said.

Body fat will also be measured using an impedance meter, which gauges body fat by the length of time it takes minute electrical impulses to move through the body, she said.

There will be a check of a person's blood circulation, an electrocardiogram will be administered, heart and lung sounds will be recorded, a urinalysis check and a check for diabetes, Jarvis said.

The data compiled in the study will help to plan preventive programs to reduce heart disease.

Though the examinations won't start until April, tribal members who meet the age requirements and who want to volunteer to be examined may call Jarvis in Phoenix at 263-1628.



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Fifty-seven students at Gila River are getting spring college funding

Forty-one continuing students and 16 new students have been funded for the spring semester by Gila River Higher Education.

John McKinn and Anthony Garcia, both juniors at Arizona State University, made the dean's honor list for the fall semester.

Eight students earned a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher in the fall. Twenty-two students earned between a 2.0 and 2.9 GPA, and 10 students received below a 2.0 GPA.

Anyone wishing to apply for tribal and/or federal funding for the fall semester should file the ACT or CSS application for federal financial aid as soon as possible.

Check with the college or university you will attend to see which form is required.

Application packets for tribal funding are available in the Gila River Student Services office in Sacaton, or in each district Service Center.

Ira H. Hayes Library builds collection to help young people in education

Since the opening of the Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library last March, the number of people using the library has grown steadily.

One of the library's main objectives is to build a collection of good, quality reading materials that young people can use in their education.

Over the past hundred years, the language, the dress, and the industriousness of the Pima farming tribe, as well as many other tribes, has almost been lost.

With this in mind, efforts are being made to acquire a collection of books and materials on the Pima, Maricopa, Yaqui tribes as well as other American Indians.

The library is open to the community. It is a quiet, comfortable setting for reading enjoyment. It is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Penny Warwick from District 1, and Elinor Whittier-Pasqual are available to assist library users. Janelle Thomas from District 4, who is a student at St. Peter's Mission School, also works in the library.

The library staff asks that library users please return long overdue books. There is a list of names of persons who have books out.

Because of a limited budget, the library can't buy more than one set of books, and there are requests for books that are still overdue.

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American Legion plans memorial at Sacaton

Efforts to build a veteran's memorial in Sacaton's Veteran's Park, and to raise a clubhouse are ongoing by the Ira Hayes Post No. 84 of the American Legion.

The projects by Post No. 84 will require about \$50,000 and lots of work, so the post is asking for help from the community, either in the form of donations or help working on the projects.

It is anticipated that the memorial will be completed by next October, then work will start on the clubhouse.

For information or to make a contribution, write Ira Hayes Post No. 84, P.O. Box 186, Sacaton, AZ 85247.

Tribal council temporarily reduces tax rate for local retail businesses

Continued from page 1

Shortly after the council's action involving Akimel, Renay Peters, owner of Sacaton's MTO Smoke Shop, protested that the tax break was unprecedented and unfair to other reservation retailers.

The council responded by directing its Legislative Committee to review the matter.

In a letter to the committee before the Feb. 1 tribal council meeting, Peters again appealed for immediate action on the matter.

In the letter he reiterated what he called the unfairness of giving a tax break to a single business.

He also wrote that he posed to officials from nearby municipalities

the question of whether or not their governments have ever granted tax breaks such as the tribe had, and he got a resounding no.

When queried about his feelings on the amendment, Peters said, "It wasn't so much that I got what I wanted, they (council) had several choices...and this is the one they chose."

"This decision affects all retail businesses on the reservation—while before, it affected only one, and adversely affected all the rest," said Peters.

The reduced tax rate will mean less money for the tribal treasury.

Thomas said, "The projected loss would be about \$45,000, which

comes to about \$7,500 a month" for the seven-month period.

"There are some projects in the making that could offset this," she said.

They include what she called "unanticipated revenue" from sources such as rights-of-way, Docket 228 money when it becomes available, and extra tax revenue from increased sales prompted by lower

prices.

She noted that this is something that reservation consumers should notice—a price reduction because of the lowered tax.

In seven months the tax question will again face the tribe, Thomas said, so in the meantime, the committee is looking into ways of broadening the tribe's tax base, and looking to other ways of creating revenue for the tribe.

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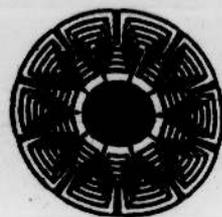
Urban L. Giff, Editor Colleen Moyah, Managing Editor

The Gila River Indian News is published once each month. Issues are available at public places and places of business on the Gila River Indian Community and near its boundaries.

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

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.82 SPECIAL BOND ELECTION & SPECIAL BUDGET OVERRIDE ELECTION

On Feb. 14, 1989, Casa Grande Union High School Dist. No.82 of Pinal County, Arizona will hold a special bond election and special budget override election. The purpose of the bond election is to permit the qualified electors of the District to vote on whether the District shall be authorized to sell \$3 million of general obligation bonds to purchase a school lot within a one-mile radius from the intersection of Peart Road and Cottonwood Lane in Casa Grande, Arizona, to purchase school buildings and utility systems, to equip school buildings, and pay all legal, financial and other costs associated with the bond issue. The bonds will bear interest not exceeding 10 percent per annum.

At the special budget override election the qualified electors of the District may vote on whether to approve a maintenance and operating fund budget exceeding the aggregate budget limit permitted by law for the District's budget year by \$628,923.

Absentee ballots, a list of polling places, and other details about the elections can be obtained by contacting the district office at 616 East Tenth St., Casa Grande, Arizona 85222 or calling 836-8532.

LETTERS & COMMENTS

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Support for override

Dear Editor,
The Casa Grande Union High School District will have two ballot questions for the Feb. 14 election. The voting precinct at Sacaton is located at District 3 Community Building, Canal and Church Streets in Sacaton.
The (school) district is requesting the replacement of a 1985 budget override so it can continue to provide lower pupil to teacher ratios, a freshman interscholastic athletic program, and specialized programs to provide individual assistance and help to our at-risk students.
Without passage of the budget override, 15 teachers and support personnel will be laid off over a two-year period.
The district is limited by law as to what it can publicly do to support the budget override issue. A public

information pamphlet on the budget override election, however, will be mailed to each household in the Sacaton community.
The second question on the ballot is a \$3 million bond issue to purchase land for a new high school, site development, architectural fees and the purchase of four portable classrooms for our overcrowded existing campus.
With your support all of the district's children, including those from the Gila River community will be the big winners.
*Clark A. Stevens, Superintendent
Casa Grande Union High School Dist.*

Get out and vote yes

Dear Editor,
Our children need for the people of Gila River to vote "Yes!" The Feb. 14 bond election will be the third attempt in three years to address the (Casa Grande) high school's facilities' problems.
Voter approval to purchase land for a new high school will be the first step toward what the district hopes will be a new Casa Grande Union High School.
The educational needs of our children in today's society can no longer be ignored. Our high school students need to have the same educational facilities and opportunities that are available in most high schools in Arizona.
The charge of public education is to provide all students with the best possible opportunities for growth and development. The very survival of this country depends on their abilities to explore the world and seek solutions to the problems facing it.
If you are concerned about our young, and providing them with the tools they will need to prepare for the future, I urge you to invest in your children with your "Yes" vote Feb. 14.
Darlene Soatikee

Iva Gazula left a legacy of dedication

For 30 years Iva Gazula gave her time and her energy to the Gila River community, and on Jan. 21 she was buried near her home in Lower San Tan.
Gazula, 59, died at her home Jan. 12, but not until after she left a legacy of dedication to the community.
She was involved in health and community affairs, and served on the Gila River tribe's Health Board for 30 years. Most of her work she did as a volunteer.
She has been recognized by the Gila River tribe for her commitment to the community, and more recently she received the highest award given by the National Indian Health Board for dedicating her life to the community.
She is survived by a son Shelton, daughters Dawn Lewis, Lawanda Parson, and Lela Dixon Gazula, all of Lower San Tan, and daughter Lavonne Flood of Casa Blanca.
Other survivors are a brother, Ivan Gazula of Lower San Tan, and sisters Cora Lewis of Tucson, and Ethel Pelky of Phoenix.

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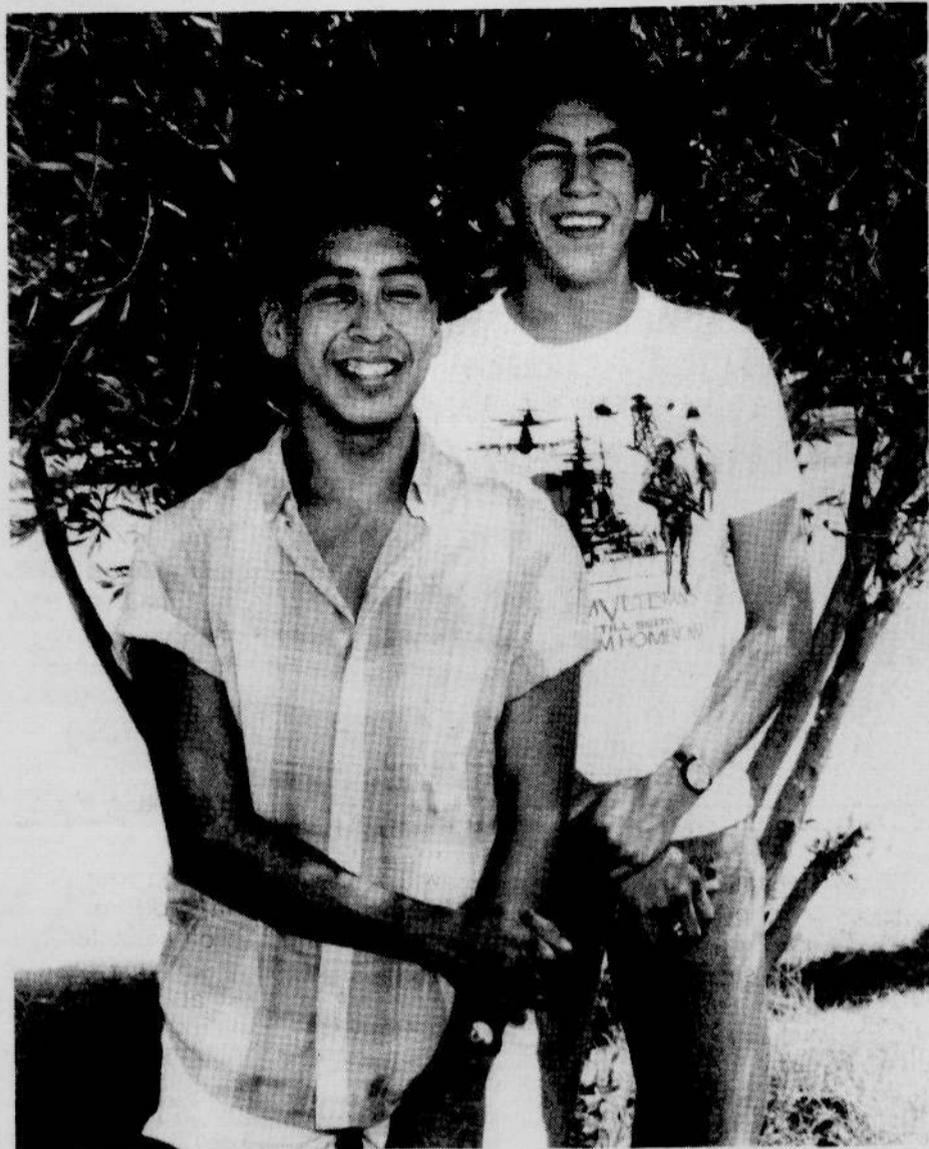


Gila River Arts and Crafts Center, I-10 and Exit 175

PEOPLE



GETTING IT RIGHT—Ruth Giff smooths the top of a food storage basket she made for the Gila River Arts and Crafts museum. Giff, 78, is from St. John's in District 6. She said the basket for the museum is much smaller than the ones she used to see her mother make. They were used to store wheat, corn and mesquite beans outdoors. The basket pictured here, as with the ones used years ago, is made of arrow weed and straw. The original versions usually were twice the size of the one shown here, she said.



DESERVED HONORS—Sean Soatikee, left, and Jeff Martin, will receive Silver Congressional Awards in a ceremony Feb. 11 in Tucson. The awards are based on voluntary public service, social development and physical fitness, and are the only awards given by the U.S. Congress for youth achievement. The two will be presented their awards at a Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson in activities that began at 2 p.m. And on Feb. 15, the pair will be recognized by the Gila River Tribal Council with a reception that starts at 9 a.m. in the Gila River tribal building at Sacaton. Miss Indian America is scheduled to attend the activities in Sacaton. The public is also invited. Soatikee is a senior at Casa Grande High School, Martin is a freshman at Arizona State University.



VANISHING FEW—Pedro Estrella Tanori, shown above with Gila River resident Sally Pablo when he was a guest of the tribe last November, died Dec. 16 in Mexico. Estrella Tanori, from Onovas, Mexico, was one of the few remaining speakers of the Pima language in Mexico. Pablo befriended Estrella Tanori during trips to Mexico to find out more about the Pima speakers in Mexico.



ON TO WASHINGTON—Gila River assistant general counsel, Steven J. Heeley is taking a position with Arizona Sen. John McCain on the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. His final day with the tribe is Feb. 10. Heeley will be the Minority Deputy Counsel with the committee. He was the tribe's assistant general counsel for two years. Before that he worked with Four-Rivers Legal Office in Sacaton.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Training will curtail appointments at Hu Hu Kam Hospital

Because of special training from Feb. 27 through March 2, no appointments will be scheduled during those days at Hu Hu Kam Hospital in Sacaton, however, walk-in patients will be seen, and the emergency room will be fully staffed.

The training is designed to help the

hospital's staff to streamline clinic and hospital operation. It will include methods aimed at reducing waiting time for patients, while upgrading the health care.

The training will be provided by the Indian Health Service, and the Sacaton hospital staff will be joined

by doctors and nurses from IHS facilities at Keams Canyon, Schurz and Yuma.

Other than the interruption in scheduled appointments, it is expected that business as usual at the hospital will be conducted during the training period.

Local survey of eating habits needs men

A survey of diet habits among Gila River residents to see if and how they relate to incidences of diabetes and kidney disease is in dire need of men.

Cynthia Smith is the research dietician for the study, which is funded by the National Institute of Health, and is being conducted by the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Smith said since work began six months ago, over one-half of the 600 interviews planned for the study have been done.

Of the number interviewed, however, two-thirds are women, she said.

As of the last week in January, 236 women and 106 men had been interviewed, she said. The study wants to involve an equal number of men and women, said Smith.

Volunteers aren't taken, she said, but rather selections are made randomly by a computer, she said.

When a name is selected, Kathleen Knox, van driver for the survey, approaches the person and asks them to participate. Each person is paid \$15 for the interview.

Smith said Knox will be recruiting men exclusively from here on out, and urges men who are approached to say "yes."

Evening and Saturday interviews in Sacaton can be arranged, said Smith.

When the diet survey is completed and data evaluated, she said, information will be given to the tribe in an effort to help prevent the diseases.

When it comes to good health, you need support

You decide you're going to lose weight, so you go out to the track alone and run laps, huffing and puffing like a steam engine. Three days later you've quit.

Then you decide you're going to "diet", so you give up all the foods you like and start eating salads. Two days later you've given that up too.

Sound familiar?

Changing established health habits can seem impossible. Many people make the mistake of trying to rely on willpower alone to make changes in their lifestyle.

When those same people ultimately give in to the need to eat or tire of dreary exercise, they often see themselves as failures.

They are, however, really winners for having the fortitude to even try depriving themselves of food, or forcing themselves through difficult exercise programs without help from family or friends.

Unfortunately, even with all the discipline in the world, they are unlikely to be able to carry through with these changes.

Not because it's impossible to develop healthy habits—millions of people are doing it everyday—but because they aren't aware of several basic techniques which make behavior change easier and more permanent.

1. Make small changes over time, not big ones. Giving up your meat and tortilla diet to become a vegetarian is a big change.

Instead try substituting low fat milk for whole milk. Then later try lean round instead of hamburger, and so on and so on...

Make one change at a time, and allow ample opportunity to make it a habit.

2. Find out the facts about which behaviors affect your health and which don't. Regular moderate exercise, a balanced diet, and avoiding smoking and heavy drinking will do more to lengthen your life than all the spirulina, rolfing, mega-vitamins and fish oil capsules in the world.

3. Take a look at your environment—family, friends, job and school. These influences determine much of your behavior.

Establishing new behaviors which your environment won't support is very difficult, if not impossible. Try to change those factors in your life which will support behavior changes.

For instance, if you want to start exercising, then involve other members of your family as well. Tell them what you want to do and why. Let them know they can help you.

Take the opportunity to make new friends who share the same concern for their health that you have.

Recognize that some of your friends will unconsciously try to sabotage your efforts. People often feel threatened by changes in you.

4. Make a commitment to change. Establish a commitment by setting goals for yourself and your family.

Try to make your goals realistic and achievable. Trying to lose 30 pounds in three weeks is not realistic. Trying to lose one to two pounds per week is more like it.

Write these goals down and share the responsibility for achieving them. Reward yourself for positive behaviors.

5. Reward yourself for positive changes. Often you are the only one who will see improvement in yourself. Your friends may be positive at first, but you can't expect that to continue forever.

Provide your own rewards, like buying something you want but don't need, or indulging in some leisure activity you normally wouldn't.

6. Remove the stimulus for negative behaviors. For instance, if you want to drink less, than keep alcohol hidden or remove it entirely from the house.

If you want to eat less, keep food stored where it can't be seen, and stay out of the kitchen.

7. Use what works for you. Not all of these techniques will work for you. Try to choose what does, then expect changes to take a long time.

Anticipate backsliding as well, just don't interpret that as failure.

Even something as simple as wearing seatbelts more consistently can take a long time to adapt as a habit, however, once you do, it will become a regular part of your life.

by George Dallam

It's not only how much you eat, but also what you eat that affects health

Despite the fact that Pimas and Papagos have a genetic susceptibility to diabetes, there was almost no diabetes in the Gila River area 100 years ago.

Since that time the genes of these people haven't changed, but their lifestyle has changed considerably.

The general term "Western lifestyle" has been used to describe the collection of factors associated with living in an affluent, modern industrial society.

Of course, the move from agricultural subsistence to a "Western lifestyle" encompasses a large variety of changes.

These changes all tend to happen at the same time—traditional, high-carbohydrate foods are replaced by foods high in fat, cholesterol and sugar; more calories are eaten; fewer calories are burned up as people exercise less; and more drugs and alcohol are taken.

When this change from subsistence to affluence brings with it all the western diseases like diabetes, obesity, heart diseases, and certain cancers, it is difficult to know which

lifestyle factors have been important in causing the disease.

In the case of diabetes, all of the lifestyle changes mentioned above have been suspected of contributing to the world-wide rise in the disease, but it has been difficult to determine how much each individual factor influences the disease.

In a recent study at the National Institutes of Health in Phoenix, Boyd Swinburn, a visiting researcher, looked at diet as a lifestyle change, and asked the question, "Does a change in diet composition push the body's metabolism towards diabetes?"

Dr. David Mott, a research biochemist at NIH, had previously shown that overeating produced insulin resistance—that is where the body's insulin doesn't lower the blood sugar level as well as it should.

Swinburn's study looked at the effect of a change in the type of food rather than the amount of food eaten.

He wanted to mimic the changes in diet that have occurred among the Pimas over the last 100 years.

To do this, Vicky Boyd, NIH

dietician, worked to obtain the foods and recipes for the traditional Pima diet.

The foods used were corn, cornmeal, tepary beans, mesquite bean flour, prickly pear pods and juice, non-fat tortillas, pinole and chia seed drinks, rabbit and fish, and squash when it was available.

Some so-called traditional Pima foods like fry bread and refried beans, which are high in fat, are more recent introductions to the Pima diet, and therefore, were not used.

Volunteers ate this diet for two weeks, and then for another two weeks they ate a high-fat, modern diet similar to what is eaten on the reservation today.

At the end of each diet period, tests were done to examine the metabolic effects of the diets.

The change from the traditional diet to the modern diet had a number of consequences.

As with Mott's overfeeding diet, Swinburn found that insulin resistance developed when people went on the modern diet. This decrease in insulin's effectiveness

means that higher insulin levels are needed to get the sugar out of the blood and into the liver and muscles.

This in turn means that the pancreas has to work harder to produce more insulin to achieve those higher insulin levels.

This increased production, however, didn't happen. Swinburn found just the opposite—that the pancreas becomes less sensitive to these demands.

These two factors—an increased demand for insulin because of resistance in the liver and muscles, and a decreased sensitivity of the pancreas—meant that the glucose tolerance got worse, and the people were closer to diabetes.

Swinburn concluded that the change from the traditional Pima, high-carbohydrate diet to the modern, high-fat diet adversely affects the liver, the muscles, and the pancreas, thereby pushing the body's metabolism closer to diabetes.

by National Institute's of Health

for Gila River Indian News

AHCCCS says it no longer will foot the bill for treatment of Indians

Saying that the Indian Health Service is responsible for health care for Indians, the state's Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System will stop paying health care costs for Indians.

The decision by AHCCCS to stop paying will start March 1, and will mostly affect medical bills of reservation Indians who are referred to non-IHS facilities for specialized medical treatment.

As an example at Gila River, if a tribal member were in need of a brain scan or CAT scan, he or she would be referred to a non-IHS medical facility for the treatment, since IHS doesn't have the equipment for the procedure.

Lance Lewis, hospital administrator for the IHS Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital at Sacaton, said normally the IHS Contract Health program would pay for the treatment, however,

if the patient is either unemployed or has a limited income, IHS has recommended they apply for AHCCCS benefits.

And if the patient qualified for the AHCCCS benefits, the state, rather than IHS would pay the bill.

Next month, all that will stop. And in addition, the state has filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking the return of about \$15 million it has spent over the past six years for

Indian health care.

Lewis said the decision by the state undoubtedly will cost IHS money.

"Whenever there's an alternative resource (such as AHCCCS) that's no longer available, yes," it's going to cost IHS more money, he said.

The cost could be substantial, Lewis said, since "about 50 percent of the people who require contract health service are either on AHCCCS or advised to apply for AHCCCS."

"We have about 3,000 contract health care patient folders, and each of those patients probably averages three or four referrals away from this location—referrals out to specialized care of some sort," he said.

And AHCCCS is the major alternate resource that pays for this care, others being the Veteran's Administration, Medicare and private health insurance, Lewis said.

The IHS Contract Health program likely won't be in jeopardy of running out of money, Lewis said, since it can apply for additional funds.

There will, however, likely be restrictions in the treatment for which the program will pay, he said.

"We might not pay for elective procedures. We might only pay for emergency procedures," said Lewis.

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Notice of 1989 General Election

The 1989 general election is scheduled as follows:

May 27, 1989 - GENERAL ELECTION - for offices of Representatives to the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council and to the District Councils.

CANDIDATES

Candidates for the offices of Representatives to the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council or to the District Council must submit their nominations at a meeting of their respective District or Community Councils which must be held prior to April 27, 1989.

VOTERS

Members of the Nation may register to vote with their respective District Councils at any time. Unless, however, your name appears on your District's 1987 List of Registered Voters you must register at your District office prior to March 28, 1989, in order to vote in the General Election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Any registered voter who is ill or physically disabled, or who may be absent from the Nation, may request an absentee ballot upon forms provided by the Election Board in Sells. Such written request must be filed with the Election Board prior to May 5, 1989.

All requests for election information or forms should be addressed to:

ELECTION BOARD
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, Arizona 85634

Military flights are subject of Feb. 16 meeting

There will be a public meeting Feb. 16 in Sacaton to hear comments community members about low altitude flights by the military over parts of the Gila River Indian Community.

The meeting will start at 3 p.m. in the Gila River Tribal Council chamber at Sacaton.

The U.S. Air Force has contracted with a firm to do what's called a generic environment impact statement of low altitude military overflights at Gila River.

So far the flights have been by unmarked planes in the areas of Memorial Air Field and Chandler's Stellar Air Park.

The flights have been sporadic, about three days a month, and over unpopulated areas.

There have been some flights over Sacaton by Air Force A-10's and A6's on their way to Davis Monthan Air Force Base at Tucson.

St. John's festival will be March 5 at the school

St. John's Indian School Festival will be March 5 at the school from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There will be bingo; carnival rides; tethered balloon rides; a rummage sale; Indian arts, crafts and jewelry; Indian, Mexican and American food; cake raffles; and cash drawings with a first prize of \$600.

There will be a crowning of the festival queen at noon, and Indian dances will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds from the festival go to the operation of the parochial school. For more information call 237-2400.