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## **VISIONS**

**By**

**Vice Chairman Reede**

We have so much to be proud of in San Carlos...beautiful land, great people, but most importantly a future full of endless possibilities.

With that in mind, I would like to thank our local schools and students for sharing the accomplishments and activities of our community youth with my office. It is always a pleasure to read constituent letters about young people who are taking on leadership roles in their homes and schools. In an effort to continue to foster youth leadership in our community, I am proud to announce the exploration of a professional Tribal Government Internship Program. The purpose of the Internship Program will be to provide opportunities for college students, recent college graduates and others interested in public service to gain firsthand knowledge of the way a Tribal Government office operates on a daily basis; to observe the legislative process at the tribal and federal levels; and to develop leadership and research skills related to public policy. A program as such could offer limitless opportunities to develop future tribal leaders.

As an elected official of this tribe, it is my intent to create a reservation in which community members are empowered to participate in the creation and direction of our government. In my last article, I shared one of the first steps toward community involvement by announcing my Taking Action Listening Sessions. These sessions were designed to provide an opportunity for the community to share ideas, opinions and thoughts regarding the initiatives of my office. I urge you to come out and share your views. Earlier this week, these sessions occurred in the Bylas and Peridot communities. Upcoming dates include: February 14—Seven Mile Wash/Rice School Cafeteria, and February 15—Gilson Wash/Apache Gold Casino Convention Center. All sessions will begin at 5:30 p.m. Don't let this opportunity pass. A great example of the power of listening to our people came recently in Bylas. I would like to acknowledge the Bylas District for their informative and interactive community meeting held on January 29. The discussion and community involvement at that meeting was inspiring.

In an effort to make our tribal government more accessible to the public, I am pleased to share that my office will soon launch the Vice Chairman's website at [www.scavicechairmanreede.com](http://www.scavicechairmanreede.com). My online office will allow for an easier exchange of information and access to public documents such as the Tribal Constitution and Resolutions.

Finally, I want every tribal member – every child – to have a chance to get ahead. To support this goal, this month will mark the beginning of the Vice Chairman's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity. The mission of the Task Force will be to facilitate the creation of a public/private partnership to effect institutional, social, political, and economic change to enable the citizens of the San Carlos Apache Tribe to achieve economic security, which in turn will lead to greater overall community prosperity. This Task Force will focus its work into four key areas:

- Tribal Livable wage

- Access to affordable and quality childcare
- Access to quality healthcare
- Affordable housing

This task force is currently in the formation stage. I anticipate that the first meeting will occur in the first week of March. All meetings will be open to the public.

Together, both citizens and government will set a new course for San Carlos.