

**Printed in the February 21, 2007 edition of the Moccasin**

**VISIONS**

**By**

**Vice Chairman David Reede**

Congratulations to the Fort Thomas Apaches and the San Carlos Braves! I am inspired by the teamwork and effort put forth by our local high school basketball teams. Win or lose, you have made your community proud. I challenge both teams to let the lessons you have learned during your winning seasons, transfer into your life. Always remember that discipline and hard work will take you far on and off the court.

This past week marked the beginning of the Taking Action in San Carlos listening sessions. My office kicked off these meetings on Monday, February 12, in the Bylas community. I had the opportunity to spend the evening hearing about the issues facing tribal members living in Bylas. Many subjects were discussed, but what seemed to be foremost to those present was the great hazard posed by speeding semi-trucks and other traffic through the center of the community. Other issues included the lack of a police dispatch center, the need for quality healthcare and a strong transportation system. I appreciated the community's comments and I welcome the opportunity to join forces with the Chairman and the Council to find solutions and answers to questions raised by the community. I also look forward to reporting our progress through my newsletter, "The Community Stronghold" and this weekly column.

Unfortunately, last week's evening power outages resulted in the postponement of the Peridot, Seven Mile Wash and Gilson Wash sessions. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those of you who showed up to these meetings, despite the power loss. I am pleased to announce that those sessions were rescheduled to allow the community an opportunity to participate. The rescheduled meetings will include a session tonight, February 21 at the Peridot Chapter House (Head Start building) and tomorrow night, February 22 at the Apache Gold Casino Convention Center. I urge you all to come out and share your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

Finally, in an effort to strengthen the bridge between the community and government, I will soon launch a community comment telephone line. This phone system will allow citizens to share your thoughts regarding policies, tribal services and government. It is my goal to make our tribal government more accessible to you.

As a part of this effort, in the month of March the Administration will host an Open House to invite the community into our offices. This event will foster informal discussions with community members in addition to providing the community with a chance to mingle, network and reconnect with other friends and neighbors.

The time has come to get involved. Without your voice and active participation in tribal government there can be no solutions.