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**Visions
by
Vice Chairman David Reede**

Greetings San Carlos! I would like to thank all those who came to join me for breakfast yesterday morning. I appreciate your interest in the activities of government and I look forward to seeing you all next month for another "Breakfast with the Vice Chairman."

Last week our local students enjoyed time off from school during their Spring Break. In preparation for Spring Break, the Boys and Girls Club with the assistance of the Diabetes Program planned a full week of activities designed to teach character development and healthy lifestyles. I stopped in to the Boys and Girls Club and took the opportunity to talk about government with our young tribal members. During my visit, I spoke to children ranging in age from 6 to 14. After offering a few words about my work, I asked the children if they had any concerns that they wanted to share with the tribal government. Without hesitation the little ones stated that they are concerned about drugs. They had all reported seeing pictures of drugs on T-shirts that are sold across the street from the Boys and Girls Club. They also reported that garbage was everywhere and they didn't like the mess. Another comment included concerns about guns and in their words, "too much drinking," happens here in San Carlos. I was surprised at their quick observations and it was another reminder to me that as adults we are responsible for the environment we create for our children. In response to the children's comments, my office will begin looking at the type of merchandise that is allowed to be sold on the reservation. It is important that all vendors sell only items that are appropriate and safe for purchase by the public. Additionally, my office will be working with the Boys and Girls Club to create a curriculum focused on learning the basics about the role of tribal government and the importance of becoming responsible citizens.

This week marks the release of the second issue of my newsletter, the "Community Stronghold". Inside of this month's edition you can find new regular sections on our tribe's history and upcoming projects. The Community Stronghold Newsletter is available at the tribal administration office.

I am pleased to announce that the Vice Chairman's Community Comment Line is now a reality. I have long been concerned with methods to encourage and solicit efficient public involvement in government. I truly believe that elected officials, including myself, need to know our constituents' opinions before we vote on resolutions or take other actions. From the other side, the people want access to their elected leaders. They want quick and easy ways to make their views known, even if few actually ever do so. To help improve the communication between the public and the Office of the Vice Chairman, I have established this comment line to serve as another avenue for the voices of the public to be heard. The line will be available for comment 24/7 through a voice mail system. Community members can dial 475-3000 and leave a message containing your comments and/or questions. I look forward to receiving your comments. Call 475-3000 to let your voice be heard.

In the spirit of community, I encourage you to be the change that you want to see in your world.