

Printed in the April 4, 2007 edition of the Moccasin

Visions By Vice Chairman David Reede

Greetings San Carlos! This week I was honored to have been a part of many events and activities that were both productive and community oriented. The week began on Tuesday morning with my community breakfast. I enjoyed the opportunity to share the first meal of the day with friends. This event brought together over 70 people from the Bylas and San Carlos communities. The attendees were able share their thoughts, ideas and concerns regarding local affairs. The topics of discussion that morning included law enforcement, trash control and highway safety. There was also a comment about the loss of faith in our government. I was eager to hear the good and bad. It has always been my philosophy that constructive criticism is necessary to spark change and progress. This gathering also provided the community with an opportunity to just sit and talk with one another. That morning, I looked around the room and saw old friends catching up and new friendships being formed. These gatherings are the first step in restoring community bonds and elevating community pride.

I would also like to recognize the Chairman's Sports Awards Banquet. The banquet recognized the efforts of our local high school athletes. All too often we hear about the negative occurrences in our community without any regard to the positives actions that happen in San Carlos everyday. With that in mind, I commend the Chairman for bringing one of the many positives to the forefront by highlighting the commitment of our young athletes. This event marked yet another step toward strong community pride.

In Midweek, I traveled to Phoenix to attend a San Carlos Water Board Meeting. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss the acquisition of the Black River Pump Station. During this meeting the discussion centered on the collaboration between the tribe and the Bureau of Reclamation to establish a timeline for the pump station operation to come under full tribal control. The Chairman, Council and I also attended the Apache Gold Casino's Annual Update Briefing. I would like to applaud the Casino Commissioners and staff for their work toward creating a healthy gaming enterprise thereby creating a strong economy for the reservation. I was especially impressed by the creativity and ingenuity that has been put into bringing in more casino patrons. It isn't easy to maintain a casino operation that is located in a rural setting such as Apache Gold. I am glad to know that Casino management has stepped up to the challenge and is working hard to compete with bigger, urban gaming establishments. If you are interested in learning more about the operations of Apache Gold, please contact the Casino Manager at (928) 475-7800 ext. 3254.

The week closed with two very spirited events. I would like to personally extend my appreciation to Mr. Douglas Miles and the staff of the tribal administration for hosting two very important events. Mr. Miles Skate Blast 2007 was a very exciting and positive event aimed at recognizing the talents of our young Apache skate borders. This well attended event made a statement about the hobbies and interests of our youth. Therefore, I hope to work closely with the Diabetes Program and the Boys and Girls Club to maintain a safer and youth friendly skate park.

Last but not least, the Tribe's Easter Celebration was a great success. Tribal Administration staff worked tirelessly to organize this extravaganza. I would like to also

acknowledge the National Honor Society members of San Carlos High School for their assistance in making this event memorable for the community.

Finally, from my office to your homes, I wish you and your families a very safe and Happy Easter weekend.