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JOIN
THE
TEAM

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San Carlos Apache Tribe – Laying the groundwork for tomorrow's future.

SCATch UP

to get caught up
SUMMER 2026



CHAIRMAN RAMBLER WITH THE STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS - FORT THOMAS APACHES

Da'go'teeh

Hello. There are many things I am proud of that our Tribe has accomplished over the years.

We are near accreditation for our San Carlos Apache College in Seven Mile. We will be bringing our Elders home as the Long-Term Care Facility will be finished soon in Peridot. We have built new Head Centers for our children in Seven Mile and Bylas. We have built a new clinic in Bylas. We have built a Sports Complex for our youth in Gilson Wash. The next one will be in Peridot.

We are in the feasibility study stages to build a water treatment facility near Talkalai Lake and to bring water from Black River to Talkalai Lake. These two projects will provide more cleaner water to the communities in San Carlos and expand our agriculture and cattle industries. We are part of a study group formed by Governor Katie Hobbs to finally address our long-standing issue of power outages from the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

This year, I am so proud of our Fort Thomas Apache's basketball team as they won the state basketball championship in Phoenix. Congratulations to the team and Damarae Dosela for being honored as the most valuable player.



Our sports teams unite us as one community. And that is what we need at this critical time in our lives – unity. For our Tribe to be united as one. If we are united, we can overcome many of our challenges. We can lay a solid foundation for our youth. We cannot ever forget our youth as they will be our future leaders and caretakers.

I hope you enjoy our 2026 newsletter. God bless the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Terry Rambler

Terry Rambler, Chairman
San Carlos Apache Tribe

Chairman Rambler: Honoring the Past. Building the Future.

Highlighting milestones,
investments, and
community achievements
from 2010 – 2026.

2010

Chairman Rambler Inauguration



Bylas Clean-Up



Bylas Ground
Breaking Incubator

2019



Chairman's Veterans Golf
Tournament donates to the
San Carlos Apache Veterans
Association



Brainstorming
session for Sports
Complex project in
Gilson Wash



Chairman Rambler testifying
before Congress

2018



Chairman Rambler
Inauguration



Community
Meetings



Veterans
New Van



West Point
Graduate

2017



Apache Sky Casino
Grand Opening



Route 6
Grand Opening



Per Capita Checks



Apache College
Grand Opening

2020



Chairman Rambler meeting with
soon to be President Joe Biden
and Vice President Kamala Harris



Chairman Rambler getting
the first COVID shot on the
Reservation



Keeping the people
updated during COVID

2021



Chairman Rambler's
Veteran Golf Tournament
Committee donated
\$104,701.50 to the San
Carlos Apache Veterans
Association



Ground breaking
ceremony for Sports
Complex project in
Gilson Wash



Meeting with Governor
Doug Ducey concerning
wild land fires



Chairman Rambler
meeting Speaker of the
House Nancy Pelosi



Santa Claus came to our
Reservation distributing
\$30,000 cash to needy
tribal members



Fort Thomas Apaches win
state basketball
championship



Fort Thomas Lady Apaches win
state basketball championship

2011



Belvado Park Lights



SCHS Hospital Tour



Bag O Bottle Contest

2012



FTTHS Visit with Students



SCTI Grand Opening



Tour SCIP Lines

2013

DC Meetings



Summer Youth Sports Camp



Meeting with President Obama



2016



TOCC/SCAC Agreement



Elder's Christmas Luncheon



Chairman Rambler & President Obama



Respecting Veterans

2015



Mt. Turnbull Elementary School Grand Opening



Hospital Agreement PL 93-638



Bylas Road Construction



Hospital Grand Opening

2014



New Police Officers



Veterans Cemetery Ground breaking



Chairman Rambler Inauguration



Food Distribution Grand Opening

2022



Chairman Rambler re-elected Chairman for 4th consecutive term



Grand opening of the Michael Noline Activity Center in Peridot



Chairman Rambler community meeting in Gilson Wash



Grand opening of renovated Apache Gold Casino Hotel



Route 6 Ground breaking Ceremony in Gilson Wash

2023



Chairman Rambler advocating for the people in Washington DC



Swearing in ceremony for new Chief of Police Elliott Sneazy



SCAT and US Forest Service enter into Tribal Forest Protection Act Agreement of \$24.4 million



Ground breaking Ceremony for new Clarence Wesley Healthcare Center in Bylas



The beginning of annual Halloween Carnivals in Peridot

continued on next page

Chairman Rambler with Vice President Kamala Harris

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2024



Chairman Rambler shoe
giveaway program for
Head Start children



Ground breaking
Ceremony for a
new Water
Treatment Facility
near Talkalai Lake

US Supreme Court Hearing
Tribe wins case & \$66 million



2025



New Head Start Grand
Opening Ceremony in
San Carlos



Ground breaking ceremony Mt. Turnbull
Elementary School Expansion Project



New Long Term
Care Center
walkthrough in
Peridot

2026



Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament
raises \$286,666



Revitalization of
Tribal Farm



Fort Thomas Apaches win State
Basketball Championship



**CHAIRMAN RAMBLER
DELIVERING THE
WELCOME REMARKS**



**BO GOODE SINGING THE
NATIONAL ANTHEM**



POSTING OF COLORS



JAMES REEDE MC



ROYALTIES HELPING AT THE LUNCHEON



**DANCING. MUSIC
PROVIDED BY BUZZ
SNEEZY**



**COUNCILMAN HOOKE
WITH MISS INDIAN
ARIZONA**



**CHAIRMAN RAMBLER WITH ROYALTY
PARTICIPANTS**

CHAIRMAN RAMBLER HOSTS THE VETERANS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



LUCKY WINNERS



Christmas is an important time of the year to spread holiday cheer and spend time with loved ones. To give back to the Veterans, Chairman Terry Rambler hosted a Veterans Christmas Luncheon at the Apache Gold Pavilion on December 19th, 2025.

In the past, the San Carlos Veterans Association would normally take charge of planning their Christmas Banquet, but this past Christmas, Chairman Rambler asked for the honor of planning the banquet to celebrate the holidays. The San Carlos Veterans Association is an active group that attends to the needs of the community throughout the year. The banquet was a huge success.

This year's banquet served 110 of our San Carlos Apache Veterans and their plus one. The banquet featured a delicious meal and

raffle prizes. The Master of Ceremonies was James Reede, USMC Veteran, and the opening prayer and song was provided by Harold Kenton, US Army Veteran. After the national anthem was provided by community member Bo Goode, Chairman Terry Rambler gave the welcome address.

The event invited special guest speaker Curtis Suttle, USMC Retired, to speak on his experience alongside three other guest speakers: Geraldine Kinsey-Begay, Tribal Liaison for Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (AZDVS); Michael Cellini with Disabled American Veteran's AZ; and Homana Pawiki, Program Specialist at the Office of Tribal Government Relations VA.

The Mix Family provided spiritual and uplifting songs. Pastor John Pechuli of the

World Evangelism Revival Center provided a special Christmas Message. Throughout the day, the band Greywolf provided entertainment for the attendees. The banquet ended on a positive note with a closing prayer by Simon Hooke, Gilson Wash Councilman and US Army Veteran.

One of the most important aspects of this banquet was the inclusion of booths with resources for Veterans, such as the Phoenix VA Health Care System. These resources include Eligibility and Enrollment for healthcare, screenings for toxic exposure, and outreach for mental health resources. This information is vital to the health of our Veterans and the Chairman wanted to ensure that this would be informative and fun for the attendees.

As a gift for all the hard work the Veterans do and for their service, Chairman Rambler gifted each Veteran a gift bag with jackets, cups, and other goodies. Many Veterans gave their special thanks and appreciation to Chairman Rambler for putting on a well-organized and informative event, and making it a welcoming place for Veterans to come together and celebrate. Chairman Rambler thanks the San Carlos Apache Veterans for their service to this country and the San Carlos Apache Tribe.



SAN CARLOS COUNCIL PROVIDING CHECK TO THE SAN CARLOS APACHE VETERANS ASSOCIATION FROM CHAIRMAN RAMBLER'S 2025 VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT.

2025 CHAIRMAN'S VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$280,666

On a cold winter morning on November 7, 2025, while other Veterans Rodeo & Fair Committee were setting up for their weekend events in San Carlos, the Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament Committee (the Committee) was busy helping the We-Ko-Pa Golf Club employees with setting up for the Chairman's 2025 Annual Golf Tournament at 5:00 am in Fort McDowell. The Committee operates this annual event in honor of the San Carlos Apache Veterans.

Cheryl Haozous was the Mistress of Ceremony. Cranston Hoffman provided a spiritual opening prayer. Bo Goode sang an amazing song – the National Anthem. Chairman Terry Rambler and San Carlos Apache Veterans Association (SCAVA) President Anthony Bush, Jr., provided the welcome remarks.



CHAIRMAN RAMBLER WITH AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN GABRIEL LOPEZ

The Chairman's Committee was happy to have raised \$280,666.18 for SCAVA from the Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament this past November 2025. The check was presented to SCAVA the January 2026 regular Council meeting.

Chairman Rambler stated, *"To date, from 2017 to 2025, our Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament has raised over \$1.3 million for our SCAVA. I thank our Council, my staff, volunteers, and all those that donated to make this another successful fundraising event for our Veterans."*

Chairman Rambler continued,
"We were able to use the proceeds for the cost of our tournament, the Veterans Christmas Luncheon last month, and the remaining amount will be used for the operations of the SCAVA organization."

The \$280,666.18 was deposited with the Finance Department to post the Budget in the Finance Department's Finance system. See attached Revenue & Expenditure Report from our Finance Department. The Committee donates these funds to the San Carlos Apache Veterans Association.

The Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament Budget helped pay for the purchase of a 25-passenger van for traveling, provides stipends for Veterans related events, sponsored a Christmas event, and with operating costs.

“

"To date, from 2017 to 2025, our Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament has raised over \$1.3 million for our SCAVA."

I thank our Council, my staff, volunteers, and all those that donated to make this another successful fundraising event for our Veterans."

- Chairman Rambler



VETERANS POSTING COLORS

The San Carlos Apache Veterans Association uses the Chairman's Veterans Golf Tournament budget and two other budgets – San Carlos Council contribution and Run to the Rez contribution to utilize as its annual budgets.

Chairman Terry Rambler stated, *"The We-Ko-Pa Saguaro Golf Course is an outstanding golf course. The management and staff were excellent in working with our committee. Their customer service is second to none. Our committee thanks the Nation and the Golf Course for working with us to continue this most humble service for our most honored Veterans. We are honored to say thank you to our Veterans for helping protect our freedom, our natural resources, our lands, our waters, and our identity as Apaches. The Committee has already reserved this year's golf tournament date at the Saguaro Golf Course."*



SCAHC GOLFERS



GOLFERS PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE VETERANS

The Committee thanks the following sponsors for helping make this event a huge success - San Carlos Council, CKP Insurance, Apache Gold Casino, Freeport McMoRan, Vice Chairman Tao Etpison, Chairman Terry Rambler, R-100 Ranch, BMO, REDW, PDEE, SCAHC, Walker & Armstrong, Tom Kaminsky, Councilman John Antonio Jr, Councilwoman Ina Salter, Primmex Construction, Amerind, Desert Diamond Casino, Town of Gilbert, Bashas, SCATUI, Professional Sales & Services, Lovitt Touché, Key Bank, Matt Smith, SRPMIC, Marsh & McLennan, Stetson Engineers, Sovereign Finance, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, CRIT, Sysco, Davey Coach, Fire Truck Solutions, and Safford Ford.

The Committee thanks all the golfers for participating and for their entry fees. There was a total of 36 teams totaling 144 players.



WINNERS

Chairman Rambler stated, *"I come from a family of Veterans. My dad, uncles, brothers, cousins, nephews, and nieces are Veterans. My great maternal grandfather John Rope was also a Veteran serving as an Apache Scout. I am proud to come from a family of Veterans.*

As Chairman, this motivates me to do what I can to honor our Veterans. I honor and respect all our Veterans that have served in the armed forces protecting our freedom. Some were killed in action. Some came back mentally and physically disabled. We owe much to our Veterans."

Chairman Rambler concluded, "I want to thank our hard-working Committee members and volunteers for having a big heart for our Veterans and putting forth the extra effort to make this year's tournament a huge success."

God bless our Veterans.



HELPERS



CHAIRMAN RAMBLER WITH MISS SAN CARLOS AND VETERANS

Shoes for Youth



In 2025, Chairman Terry Rambler provided shoes twice throughout the year for the students in the San Carlos Head Start and Early Childcare Programs. The first donation took place at the end of the 2024–

2025 school year and the second donation took place in the first half of the 2025–2026 school year.

This donation takes months of coordination with the San Carlos Education Department, teachers, parents, and local businesses to order

the shoes. Education is an extremely valuable resource for our youth and our Tribe, and providing new shoes for growing children ensures that they all have access to a necessary resource—shoes.

The shoes were selected to reflect the trending style of that season to ensure students have access to fashionable and quality footwear that will last them through an active day of learning and play. Chairman Rambler acknowledges some of the hardships that parents in our community face, and young children grow very fast even within the span of a year.

Comfortable fitting shoes allow students to focus on learning instead of pain and put students on equal footing with their peers. A fashionable pair of shoes can also foster a sense of confidence and well-being.



Once the shoes are ordered and ready for pickup, Chairman Rambler and his staff, along with members of the Education Department, visit each classroom to give the students their shoes. The students love meeting and interacting with Chairman Rambler and excitedly kick off their old shoes to put on the new shoes they received. It is always a joy to see the happiness radiating from their faces.

Chairman Rambler plans to implement the “Shoes for Youth” initiative again for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year.

CLASSROOM EXPANSION AT MT. TURNBULL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



This classroom expansion advances our shared commitment to the educational well-being of our youth. Together, we are reducing barriers for families, creating lasting opportunities for our children and building a stronger future for generations to come.

We extend our congratulations to the Fort Thomas Unified School District (FTUSD) for its hard work to meet its ambitious construction schedule and look forward to its ribbon-cutting on Tuesday, August 4th, to celebrate its four new classrooms at the Mt. Turnbull Elementary School (School).

Construction of the School began in 2010 as part of a multi-year master plan encompassing classrooms, a gymnasium, and teacher housing. FTUSD has worked for over a decade to secure sufficient funding to construct these classrooms to meet the growing student population needs.

Thanks to extensive discussions of Chairman Rambler and the FTUSD with the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation of California and a site visit at the School in 2024, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation awarded a \$2.6 million grant for the construction of these four classrooms, which will bring the total number of classrooms to sixteen at the School. This investment will expand local learning space and help more Apache students access quality education and thrive closer to home.

This classroom expansion advances our shared commitment to the educational

well-being of our youth. Together, we are reducing barriers for families, creating lasting opportunities for our children and building a stronger future for generations to come.

The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation also made a generous donation to support the San Carlos Apache Tribe's recovery efforts resulting from the damage and destruction of the 2024 Watch Fire. That assistance during a time of crisis deepened a partnership founded on generosity, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to community.



CHAIRMAN RAMBLER WITH COUNCILWOMAN BARBARA MAY AND VICE CHAIRMAN TAO ETPISON AT ELDERS LUNCHEON

ELDERS LUNCHEON

Barthalow from San Carlos Apache Healthcare, games, raffles, and bingo. The Office invites presenters from various tribal departments and local organizations to speak on topics relevant to elder health, prevention, wellness, and available resources.

Some of the highlights of this event include the Valentine King and Queen, the “Do You Know Your Partner?” game, the Ms. Shiwoyesan and Mr. Shichu-hastin Pageant, and the Halloween Costume Contest. In particular, the Thanksgiving and Christmas Elders Luncheon events receive the highest attendance, with the Christmas event drawing nearly 350 visitors.

On average, the Elders Luncheon welcomes approximately 200 to 250 visitors each month, not including volunteers. The event relies heavily on volunteer support for tasks such as checking in elders, distributing raffle and bingo prizes, and serving food and refreshments. Alongside the Office of the Chairman staff, many helpers contribute their time on a volunteer basis. The Office of the Chairman appreciates the support of all volunteers in helping ensure our elders enjoy their experience. The Office also extends appreciation

for the continued support of local royalty who regularly participate in the event.

Overall, this gathering has become an integral part of many elders’ monthly routines and provides opportunities to learn, have fun, and build connections with volunteers and youth. The event offers many benefits to the elder population and creates an important sense of community.

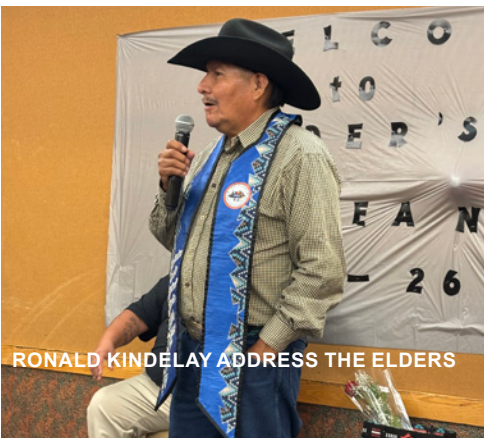
Many elders have shared that they look forward to attending the luncheon each month because it is one of the rare opportunities they have to reconnect with friends they may not see often due to conflicting schedules or health concerns. Socialization plays an important role in supporting elder mental health and cognitive well-being, and the event creates a space for elders to share cultural knowledge and wisdom with younger generations while learning from one another.

The Elders Luncheon is one way Chairman Rambler honors and celebrates the lives of the community’s elders.



LEONARD POLK ADDRESSING THE ELDERS

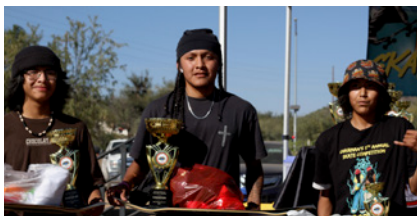
Every month, the Office of the Chairman hosts the monthly Elders Luncheon, a gathering for San Carlos Apache elders. This event provides a safe place to socialize and enjoy a meal with one another. The luncheon is held at the Apache Gold Casino Convention Center with meals catered by the Convention Center. From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the luncheon regularly includes Zumba with Marlo



RONALD KINDELAY ADDRESS THE ELDERS



The Elders Luncheon is one way Chairman Rambler honors and celebrates the lives of the community’s elders.



WINNERS FROM THE SKATE COMPETITION



5TH ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S VETERANS SKATE COMPETITION HONORS SERVICE AND COMMUNITY



Gilson Wash, Arizona — The 5th Annual Chairman's Veterans

Skate Competition returned as a meaningful and high-energy event honoring Veterans while uplifting youth and community spirit. Hosted by San Carlos Apache Tribal Chairman Terry Rambler, the competition has become a respected annual tradition that blends athletic talent with gratitude for those who have served. Each year, the skate competition provides the San Carlos community with an event for local skaters and their families to enjoy as part of the Veterans Fair and Rodeo festivities.

The first skate competition was hosted in 2021 by Chairman Rambler as an initiative to highlight and emphasize the importance of activities geared toward youth and skateboarders in the community. Since then, the annual skate competition has become an

important part of the Veterans Fair and Rodeo Commission festivities and events held each year.

Apache Veterans continue to provide knowledge and inspiration to spectators and local skaters, displaying the importance of honoring Veterans while encouraging younger generations to grow in confidence and athletic ability. Young skateboarders now have an opportunity each year to showcase their growth and dedication to the sport of skateboarding.

This year's competition featured four distinct categories, allowing skaters of various ages and skill levels to compete fairly while showcasing their dedication and creativity. Categories included Male 18 and Over, Male 12–17, Male 11 and Under, and a Women's Division. These categories encouraged broad participation and reflected the inclusive vision behind the event.

Skaters brought intensity and passion to the course, performing impressive tricks as spectators gathered in support, creating an atmosphere filled with encouragement, pride, and remembrance. Veterans were honored throughout the event, reinforcing the connection between perseverance, service, and community leadership.

Not only were skaters able to participate in the competition, but all spectators and community members were also provided meals and free t-shirts. The San Carlos Café provided 200

meals for attendees at the event. A local shirt designer also provided participants with free shirts, distributing a total of 250 t-shirts. Prizes and cash awards were presented to winning contestants.

To conclude the event, organizers conducted a product toss open to everyone regardless of age, ensuring that all attendees left with something to enjoy. The event ended with smiles, laughter, and a strong sense of community spirit.

Chairman Terry Rambler's continued commitment to hosting the Veterans Skate Competition highlights the importance of recognizing Veterans while investing in youth-centered activities. The event stands as a symbol of unity by bringing together generations, honoring sacrifice, and promoting positive lifestyles through sports such as skateboarding.

As the competition celebrates its fifth year, it continues to grow in both participation and impact. The Chairman's Veterans Skate Competition not only provides a platform for skateboarders, but also serves as a reminder of the values of resilience, respect, and community that define the San Carlos Apache Tribe. With strong community support and participation, the event remains a powerful tribute to Veterans and a testament to the Tribe's dedication to uplifting its people through meaningful and engaging programs.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE WINNERS!**

Female 11 and Under

1st – Leila S.
2nd – Kuwahlelela W.
3rd – Reverie A.

Male 12–17

1st – Emica S.
2nd – Hershel T.
3rd – Tyee T.

Male 18 and Over

1st – Jahmal T.
2nd – Jeremy T.
3rd – Mickey A.

Women's Division

1st – Cecely T.
2nd – Soraya H.
3rd – Natrell N.

MY TIME AS MISS INDIAN ARIZONA BY ISABELLA KARA NEWMAN



On October 11, 2024, I was given the tremendous opportunity to represent the 22 Tribes of Arizona as the 63rd Miss Indian Arizona. This was the first time in over 27 years that a San Carlos Apache woman had won the title of Miss Indian Arizona, and it changed my life.

The journey to Miss Indian Arizona started two years ago when I graduated from Dartmouth College. I returned home to San Carlos to figure out the next steps in my career and education when I made the unexpected and life-changing decision to embark on the path of pageantry.

I first ran for and held the title of Miss San Carlos Apache 2023–2024, and I was shaking with nerves the entire time. I had never held a title before and did not know what to expect. Through Miss San Carlos

Apache, I learned what it meant to hold my head high and show the best version of myself as a role model and representative of my Tribe. This role prepared me to take home the Miss Indian Arizona crown.

I spent three months preparing for the Miss Indian Arizona pageant and wanted to show my best and most authentic self. Even though I wanted to win, I was content with any outcome because I was most excited for the experience itself. I wanted to show the best that San Carlos had to offer.

On the night of the pageant, I was buzzing with nerves and excitement. I remember wrapping myself in a thick wool blanket to stop the jingles on my camp dress from making noise because I was shaking my leg so much. Despite my nerves, I prayed and asked for wisdom, courage, and guidance for myself, and that the crown would go where it belonged.

That night, I took home six of the seven total awards given: Miss Congeniality Award, Community Service Award, Best Essay, Best Evening Wear, Best Oral Presentation, and People's Choice. As the 63rd Miss Indian Arizona, I promoted the platform "Achieving Confidence and Success Through Education." Education is one avenue through which Native youth can build confidence within themselves as they learn more and find success in their academics.

This experience gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share my educational journey as a young Native American woman who faced challenges that many other Native youth experience. I promoted my love for reading and the importance

of literacy through my after-school book club. I also wanted to show students that they are seen, loved, and talented individuals capable of anything they set their minds to.

This opportunity gave me so many unique memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. One of my favorite memories was visiting the Hopi Reservation for a book club festival alongside Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills and author Jill Kunstle. Another unforgettable experience was visiting the Havasupai Reservation in the Grand Canyon and staying longer than expected, which gave me the chance to hike down to Havasu and Mooney Falls—a childhood dream of mine.

I remember seeing the waterfalls in my social studies textbooks and wishing that one day I would be able to visit them. Wherever I went, I wore my camp dresses and moccasins with pride and introduced myself as a proud San Carlos Apache woman.

I visited many reservations across the state. The road became my friend, and I loved meeting new people and learning more about the beautiful and unique cultures of this great state.

The most rewarding part of this journey was seeing how my platform and story could inspire people from all walks of life. Everywhere I went, young girls and boys looked up to me and shared more about their lives, interests, and dreams for the future.

Although my time as the 63rd Miss Indian Arizona was brief—lasting only one year—I gained valuable lessons and unforgettable memories. I hope I left a lasting impression on those I met along the way.



"The most rewarding part of this journey was seeing how my platform and story could inspire people from all walks of life. Everywhere I went, young girls and boys looked up to me and shared more about their lives, interests, and dreams for the future."



SAN CARLOS APACHE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM FACILITY

The San Carlos Apache Education Department proudly hosted the Grand Opening of the Early Childhood Program Facility in San Carlos, Arizona, during the fall season of two thousand twenty-five. The new building was developed to serve Early Childhood children, with a particular focus on the Head Start Program, and represents an important milestone in the Tribe's long-standing commitment to early childhood education.

The facility supports children and families through the Early Childhood Program, which includes Child Care, Early Head Start, and Head Start services. It provides a safe, supportive, and culturally grounded learning environment designed to nurture children during their earliest and most critical years of development.

ATTENDANCE AND DIGNITARIES

The grand opening was attended by department staff, parents, consultants, community members, and Tribal leadership. Those in attendance included San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Mr. Terry Rambler; Vice President Mr. Tao Eptison; Bylas Councilman Mr. Ned Anderson; Seven Mile Councilman Mr. John Antonio; Peridot Councilwoman Ms. Valerie Key-Cheney; and Dr. John Bush, Peridot Councilman and Education Committee Board President. Additional dignitaries and invited guests were also present, demonstrating strong leadership and community support for the Early Childhood Program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The event opened with welcoming remarks from San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Mr. Terry Rambler, who spoke to the importance of investing in early childhood education and

the lasting benefits such investments provide for children, families, and the Tribe as a whole.

The featured guest speaker, Dr. John Bush, Education Committee Board Chairman and Peridot Councilman, delivered a historical overview of the Head Start Program. He shared how Head Start began during the nineteen sixties and described how chapter houses across the districts were once utilized to house Head Start classrooms. His remarks reflected on the program's humble beginnings and its steady growth over time.

These program changes required a facility capable of supporting longer instructional days, comprehensive services, and an enhanced learning environment. The completed building now fully supports these requirements and reflects the Tribe's proactive response to changing educational standards while continuing to prioritize the needs of children and families.

Dr. Bush also honored the contributions of past and present Head Start leadership. He recognized the dedication and service of previous Head Start Directors, including the late Mary Bendle, Myra Francis, Angelina Burgett, Vajra Miller, Ms. Jattaberry, Bernadette Kniffin, the late Harrison Talgo, and current Head Start Director Ms. Nolita Noline. His comments highlighted the collective efforts that ultimately led to the completion of the new facility.

Following these remarks, Executive Director of Education Ms. Flora Talas addressed attendees and shared the journey of the project from its early conception through completion. She spoke about the importance of education as a foundation for lifelong success and explained the purpose and federal regulations of the Head Start Program, emphasizing its role in supporting children, families, and communities.

Ms. Talas reflected on how she presented the proposal to Tribal Council several years ago, outlining the growing need for a new facility as program requirements changed. She described how, beginning in two thousand sixteen, blueprints were developed and efforts were made to secure funding for what would become a major construction project. Her remarks underscored the persistence, collaboration, and long-term vision required to bring the facility from concept to reality.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

The Early Childhood Program, which encompasses the Child Care Program, Early Head Start, and Head Start, operates under the



**EFFIE DILLON
& KORA SAGE
HOWARD**



**MARTHA MILES,
EHS TEACHER**



**FLORA TALAS, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**



**BEATRICE LEE & CORDELLA
MOSES FROM THE LANGUAGE
PRESERVATION PROGRAM**



**JAMIE SWIFT HOOKE, PROGRAM
MANAGER OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**



**KORA SAGE HOWARD
STUDENT**



**KIYASHA HARVEY, MISS
SAN CARLOS APACHE**



**DR. JOHN BUSH,
COUNCILMAN AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**



**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE
NEW HEAD START CENTER**

leadership of Executive Director of Education Ms. Flora Talas. The opening of this facility reflects her vision, guidance, and continued commitment to strengthening early learning opportunities for Apache children and families.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FACILITY

Planning and development for the new Head Start facility began several years ago, when the Executive Director of the San Carlos Apache Education Department identified the growing need for a modern and dedicated building. This need arose as Head Start program requirements evolved, including the transition from traditional day sessions to a full-day preschool model for all eligible preschool-aged children.



ONE OF THE NEW CLASSROOMS

These program changes required a facility capable of supporting longer instructional days, comprehensive services, and an enhanced learning environment. The completed building now fully supports these requirements and reflects the Tribe's proactive response to changing educational standards while continuing to prioritize the needs of children and families.

FACILITY CAPACITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The newly constructed Early Childhood Program facility serves Head Start preschool students as well as Child Care children, including infants and toddlers. The building represents a major investment in early learning infrastructure and provides a welcoming, modern, and purpose-built environment for young children and their families.

The facility stands as a source of pride for the community. It is inspiring to know that, for generations to come, families will gather in this space and children will continue to receive quality education and care at an early age, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of the Early Childhood Program Facility was made possible through the collaboration, dedication, and support of many stakeholders who played vital roles throughout the planning, construction, and implementation phases of the project.

As Executive Director of Education, sincere appreciation is extended to KENEW; PIMMIX and CHASE; the San Carlos Apache Tribe Tribal Council; the General Manager's Office; the Finance Department; Administrative Staff; and Homer Management, consultant for the project. Without the collective efforts and commitment of these partners, the successful completion of this project would not have been possible. The facility now stands as a testament to strong collaboration, shared vision, and an unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of San Carlos Apache children.



SAN CARLOS COUNCIL APPROPRIATES \$1.8 MILLION FOR SCAPD 9 PATROL OFFICERS TO BE HIRED

In March, the San Carlos Council made an appropriation of \$1.8 million for the San Carlos Apache Police Department ("SCAPD") to hire 9 new, additional patrol officers to fight crime on one of the most violent Indian Country. The funds for these new patrol officers will come from a long-term, gaming device right lease agreement with the Tohono O'odham Nation. The funding will become available in October this year.

More officers will benefit public safety on our Reservation. These gaming funds are recurring funds, meaning we will continue receiving these funds annually, and these will increase each year for the duration of the agreement. We can now better plan for public safety on our Reservation. This is a great example of Nation-to-Nation building. Through our partnership, the Tohono O'odham Nation and the San Carlos Apache Tribe will use gaming funds to help improve public safety on our Reservation – another example of how Indian gaming is working.

Every additional officer also means quicker response times and a stronger presence in our communities. Our officers work under tough conditions, and this investment helps us move closer to providing the level of safety our community deserves.

The SCAPD patrols 1.8 million acres and needs a minimum of 65 police officers to effectively investigate and reduce criminal activity. The department currently has only 29 patrol officers and has suffered from high turnover with 10 patrol officers leaving last year.

Recruitment and retention of police officers has been a challenge for police departments across the United States. SCAPD is currently one of the lowest paying police departments in Arizona.

The SCAPD has been severely underfunded for years because the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs has not provided adequate funding as required under

the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Federal funding for San Carlos law enforcement in FY2025 was only \$4.5 million – 33% of the funding needed for an effective and efficient police department.

For years, the Council has repeatedly requested Congress to provide additional law enforcement funds. Congress has refused, forcing the Tribe to subsidize the Trust responsibility of the United States. The Tribe will pursue all legal remedies to rectify the federal underfunding.

In addition to the 29 sworn officers, the SCAPD has 11 dispatchers to cover 14, 12-hour shifts per week. The department has seven administrative positions. The lack of adequate staffing comes at the same time the Reservation has been plagued by violence.

In 2022, the FBI reported the San Carlos Apache Reservation was the most violent Reservation in Indian Country with 16 reported homicides. In FY2025, the Tribe suffered 3,986 crimes on the Reservation and 36,823 calls for service. Since the beginning of FY2026, SCAPD reported 14,892 calls for service.

Crimes involving firearms, however, have dramatically increased in FY2026. In the first six months, there have been 761 crimes committed involving firearms compared to 720 the previous year. There have been 640 reports of shots fired across the Reservation. If this trend maintains, SCAPD estimates a 35% increase in firearms violence this fiscal year.

With current levels of staffing SCAPD has been reactive, responding to calls for services. There is little to no ability to perform community policing, crime prevention, or research and evaluation. Now, with these new funds, SCAPD can more actively evaluate the level of violence on the Reservation, undertake community policing, and implement crime prevention programs that are essential to combat the violence. However, clearly, we need more federal funds.

These challenges are even greater for SCAPD due to insufficient funding, low salaries, the rural nature of the Reservation, lack of housing for officers recruited from outside the Reservation, inability to offer signing bonuses and a demanding and grueling call load.

Now, with 9 new patrol officers, SCAPD will respond faster to calls for service. However, the challenge remains. SCAPD still needs at least 26 additional officers. Going back to Congress once again is an option, another may be litigation to address the failure of the federal government to provide sufficient funds.

JOIN THE TEAM

For Applications:
📞 (928) 475-1700
✉️ scapd@scat-nsn.gov



**CHIEF OF POLICE ELLIOTT SNEEZY
AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE
WENDSLER NOSIE, JR.**



NEW CONCRETE BRIDGE INSTALLED ON ROUTE SIX TO ACCOMMODATE FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING



CLEANING FOR INSTALLATION OF NEW GUARD RAILS ALONG ROUTE SIX



AREA ON ROUTE SIX WHERE CONSTRUCTION TOOK PLACE FOR BRIDGE



INSTALLATION OF NEW GUARD RAILS ALONG ROUTE SIX

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

San Carlos Apache Tribe's Department of Transportation (SCATDOT) maintains 1,130 miles of roads administered and supervised by Marvin Mull, Jr., Executive Director, along with his staff: David Thompson, Tribal Roads Inspector currently acting Deputy Director; Hugh Moses, Jr., Financial Budget Analyst; Mary J. Tapija, Secretary, in addition to contracted engineers and consultants which oversee formerly BIA roads now Tribal Roads Maintenance (Pave Roads), Tribal Roads (Dirt Roads) under the supervision of Steve Aday with a crew of five employees.

Funding is received from Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Western Region on an annual basis which equates to \$2 million to \$3 million per year. SCATDOT is contracted through the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (referred to as "638") with BIA and normally the funds are usually not enough to do a complete road job. When Executive Director Mull was hired, after working in SCATDOT department as Budget Analyst for 4 years, a full depth road construction cost was estimated at \$1.2 million per mile, now our Engineers estimates it to be \$2.5 million to \$3 million per mile to do a full depth road construction.

The SCATDOT is always faced with

challenges. Funding is one of its main challenges because funding is not always enough to do a complete full depth road construction job. Right of Way (ROW) is also becoming a challenge because many properties fencing are within the Roads Right of Way. Utilities, if they are within the ROW, is also becoming costly.

Route 170/171, the road from San Carlos to Highway 70 by Bashas, had no ROW designs when it was accepted by the Tribe. Currently, the SCATDOT engineers are at 90% completion of the ROW design, which is being reviewed by BIA office and waiting for their approval and after which the final road design will begin and it may take 12 months to complete the construction. SCATDOT's timeline is 2028 to do start the road construction. Route 170/171 is in dire need of a full depth road construction but when it was accepted there was no inspection done. Critical Path Method (CPM) was not used when Route 170/171 was constructed and given to the Tribe. This means only the asphalt was laid with no attention to the base of the road which causes the condition to be as it is today.

Currently Route 6 is at top of the Tribal Transportation Program's priority list, which was approved by the Tribal Council and the

BIA Western Region. This means Route 6 has to be completed before funds are allocated to any other full depth road construction. There is only 2 miles left to complete Route 6, hopefully it will be completed in 2028 or sooner.

ADOT is installing street lights on Highway 70 from Beverly Hill turnoff to Route 6 turnoff. This was requested by Tribal Council and SCATDOT for the safety of Tribal members because there have been numerous accidents within the area. Please be observant when driving through the construction zone. When you are driving on roads within the Reservation, please adhere to the speed limit and be observant. Please do not put graffiti on traffic and street signs as they are there for your safety. I encourage everyone to not throw trash along the roads, take it home with you and put it in your trash can. Let's be proud of our Reservation by keeping it clean.



ADDING FRESH NEW STRIPES TO THE ROAD

San Carlos Apache Tribe | Summer 2026



CWHC GRAND OPENING – RIBBON CUTTING MAY 2025

CARING FOR OUR PEOPLE: AN UPDATE FROM THE SAN CARLOS APACHE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation (SCAHC) celebrated 10 years of excellence in 2025. Since its opening in 2015, SCAHC has demonstrated remarkable growth across all dimensions. We have seen an increase in patient numbers within our primary care services and have expanded our specialty offerings from 11 to over 20, supported by more than 200 providers dedicated to serving the Apache community. Furthermore, we are establishing ourselves as an employer of choice, with over 800 individuals currently on our staff.

As SCAHC looks to the next decade of serving the Apache people, the Board of Directors and hospital administrators are undertaking new projects and implementing enhanced services to fulfil its promise of creating a strong, healthy community.

CLARENCE WESLEY HEALTH CENTER

In May 2025, SCAHC proudly transitioned healthcare services for the Bylas community to the new Clarence Wesley Health Center (CWHC) – a milestone that represents growth, innovation and a deep commitment to community wellness. The modern 33,000-square-foot facility offers expanded space for both patients and staff, creating a more comfortable, efficient, and welcoming environment that enhances patient flow and supports high-quality care delivery to the community of Bylas.



CLARENCE WESLEY HEALTH CENTER

Hours of Operation for CWHC Services

Primary Care Clinic: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Cardiology Clinic: 2nd Fri. of the month, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.	Laboratory Services: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Walk-In Clinic: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Physical Therapy: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Optometry Services: Mon. & Wed., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Pediatrics: Mon.–Thurs., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Radiology (X-ray/ Ultrasound): Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5 p.m.	Pharmacy (Walk-In): Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Women's Health: Tues., 9 a.m.–4 p.m.		Pharmacy (Drive-Thru): TBD

With its larger footprint, SCAHC introduced new service lines, including on-site cardiology and expanded women's health and imaging services, complementing a full range of existing offerings such as primary care, pediatrics, optometry, dental, physical therapy, laboratory, and pharmacy. These additions ensure that patients can access comprehensive care close to home.

CWHC's focus on nursing-led education, chronic disease prevention, and same-day services is already making a meaningful difference – improving health outcomes, reducing wait times, and strengthening care coordination.

As SCAHC approaches the first full year of operation at this new facility, the progress achieved – particularly for Bylas community members, stands as a testament to the dedication of SCAHC's staff, leadership, and the community it serves.

The Clarence Wesley Health Center embodies SCAHC's unwavering commitment to providing accessible, high-quality, and culturally grounded healthcare. It continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the community, ensuring that every patient receives compassionate care rooted in respect, tradition, and excellence.



CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE SADIE KNIFFIN LONG TERM CARE AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITY

SADIE KNIFFIN LONG TERM CARE AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITY

Exciting transformations are underway at the San Carlos Apache Healthcare, where visitors can see remarkable progress taking shape. Just east of the main campus, Construction is in full swing on the new Sadie Kniffin Long Term Care and Skilled Nursing Facility, a state-of-the-art addition designed to provide compassionate, high-quality care for our elders and patients in need of specialized support; allowing us the chance to bring them home. The project is on schedule for completion in December of 2026; with a plan to open operations mid-year 2027.

Spanning an impressive 136,000 square feet, the facility will include 60 long-term care beds, 20 memory care beds, and 20 skilled nursing beds. Thoughtfully designed with comfort and connection in mind, it will feature welcoming family visitation areas, a peaceful meditation room and modern conference spaces. Expansive storefront windows will frame the stunning natural landscape, allowing residents and their loved ones to enjoy the beauty of their ancestral lands.

Supporting this major development, the Connector Road Project – a key subproject of the new facility – is nearing completion and has progressed according to schedule, meeting all project specifications and quality standards. This project is paving the way for improved access and seamless connection to the growing campus.

FITNESS CENTER

SCAHC's Fitness Center Team is a cornerstone of community wellness dedicated to fostering healthy, active lifestyles through safe, accessible, and culturally meaningful opportunities for physical activity. Their work goes beyond exercise – it's about building strength, confidence, and connection within the community.

The team actively supports a variety of community events and outreach initiatives, including walks, fitness challenges, and health fairs that inspire movement and promote overall well-being. Within the Fitness

Center, they manage facilities, maintain equipment, lead engaging classes, and provide personalized guidance to help individuals reach their fitness goals.

In close partnership with the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI), the Fitness Center team integrates fitness and education to support diabetes prevention. Together, they empower community members to reduce health risks through movement, knowledge, and meaningful engagement.

Looking ahead, the team is preparing to expand its impact with a new state-of-the-art fitness center designed to accommodate larger classes and dedicated activity spaces. New programs are also being developed to reflect the diverse needs of the community – ensuring that tribal members of all ages and abilities have opportunities to stay active, healthy, and strong.

SDPI COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Over the past year, SCAHC's Community Outreach Education (COE) team has continued their inspiring mission promote healthy living and prevent diabetes across the San Carlos Apache Community. Through the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI), the team organized more than 60 engaging events that reached nearly 11,000 community members – each one focused on empowering individuals to take charge of their health and well-being.

From random glucose checks and interactive outreach booths featuring nutrition education and games, to dynamic presentation on diabetes awareness, and fitness, every event was designed to make healthy living both accessible and enjoyable. In 2025, the team hosted 15 community walks including the poplar Monster Dash and the Walk Across the Mesa, along with fun fitness activities such as chair volleyball, 10-minute fitness and Physical Self-Regulation (PSR) fitness.

Through these efforts, the COE team continues to strengthen community connections, inspire active lifestyles, and support SCAHC's commitment to keeping healthy and thriving.



SCAHC SADIE KNIFFIN LONG TERM CARE & SKILLED NURSING FACILITY GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY NOVEMBER 14, 2024



SCAHC FITNESS TEAM – WALK WITH US LUNCH WALK SERIES

LAUNCH OF THE APACHE HEALTH RECORDS PROJECT

Guided by a vision to enhance patient care and streamline clinical workflows, SCAHC embarked on a transformative journey to implement the MEDITECH electronic health record system. This initiative marked a significant step toward creating a modern, integrated platform that empowers providers and supports technology-driven, patient-centered care. The SCAHC IT team worked closely with staff from February through June to deeply understand the organization's culture, values and operational needs before system delivery on June 24, 2025. Through more than 200 immersive sessions and over 350 comprehensive training classes, employees were thoughtfully prepared for the transition – culminating in a smooth and successful go-live on October 1, 2025, allowing SCAHC to improve as the San Carlos Apache Community's medical home.

CONCLUSION

As SCAHC continues to evolve and grow, each milestone – from new facilities and expanded services to community wellness initiatives, reflects a shared vision of health, healing and hope for the San Carlos Apache people. Guided by the Mission to honor traditions, SCAHC remains steadfast in providing compassionate, culturally grounded care that honors the Ndee people. Looking ahead, SCAHC stands proud as the medical home for the San Carlos Apache Tribe – a place where wellness is nurtured, families are supported, and the future of healthcare shines bright for generations to come.



OCT 2025 FLOOD DAMAGE DOZER WORK TO REDUCE COMMUNITY RISKS



EQUIPMENT OPERATORS WORKING TOGETHER TO REPAIR FLOOD DAMAGE



ROCK WORK SUPPORTS ROADS, REDUCES EROSION, AND CREATES EPHEMERAL POOLS

RANGE MANAGEMENT/LAND OPERATIONS

Range Management/Land Operations continues to cover an ever-expanding range of projects, threats, and opportunities to improve conditions within the San Carlos Apache Tribe.



MELANOPLUS SANGUINIPES

In one emerging case, we are working with Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to monitor and control the grasshopper infestation on the reservation, a 25 year long government-to-government relationship. Two species of grasshoppers being managed are the *Melanoplus sanguinipes* and the *Aulocara ellioti*. These are migratory grasshoppers that compete with livestock and wildlife for forage. Their large numbers and ability to migrate freely enable them to consume entire vegetation communities on rangelands, leaving nothing behind for cattle, wildlife, and soil stability. Early spring surveys help to detect and project summer population levels and the necessary control methods to manage populations.

Noxious or invasive plants have the ability to create a monoculture of their own species by out-competing the native plants for water and nutrients in the soil, thus monitoring and treating is critical. This can occur on the rangelands, waters, and along the river corridors.

The most commonly known plant is the Tamarisk, or Salt Cedar, which is found along the San Carlos and Gila River. However, this plant can easily spread, not only through seeds, but as fence stays if the stalks are



TAMARISK, AN INVASIVE PLANT FOUND ALONG THE SAN CARLOS RIVER

not thoroughly dried before it is used. The list of noxious plants monitored within the reservation corridors are spotted knap weed, yellow bluestem, maltese starthistle, sahara mustard, and the giant reed.

In addition, Vegetation Trend Transects and photo documentation are used to monitor long-term changes in plant communities, soil, and ecological conditions over time. These tell us if the system is moving toward or away from the desired condition, along with management impacts, grazing effects, fire ecology, and restoration success.

We continue to assist with wildfires and respond to past wildfires through engagement with post-fire Burned Area Emergency Response teams and funding that creates local jobs and training opportunities. This work evaluates burn severity, and the threat it poses to the public and the environment through loss of habitat, increased flood risk, polluted water sources, and increased erosion. Funds are used to treat invasive species, re-seed areas, repair roads and fences, and harvest water.

The Tribe's Range Management program was

able to purchase several new and used heavy equipment to help with range improvements and watershed restoration via Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) funds and BIA start-up funds. These include 2 dozers, a motor grader, a loader, a backhoe, and a small excavator.

They are now working on National Forest and Reservation lands to combine road rehab and improvement with rock and wood structures built for water harvesting, erosion control, and general habitat restoration. Additional staff has been hired for our Fence, Restoration, and Equipment Operator teams.



A SOLAR ARRAY POWERS A NEW WELL AT R-100

This past summer and fall, Drought Mitigation funds were used to purchase and install a solar array and piping to help mitigate water scarcity for livestock, wildlife and wildfire suppression needs. Five new livestock wells were drilled. These will provide reliable water for cattle and wildlife, but also serve as reserve water sources for emergency firefighting when tanks and lakes are low or too remote.



FULL WATER TANKS READY FOR USE



**EFFECTIVE MACHINES AND TECHNIQUES
REDUCE ROAD MAINTENANCE AND HARVEST
WATER**

For San Carlos, drought was quickly followed by floods, with September and October dumping record rainfalls in the uplands that ransacked our community in many ways. Land Operations immediately sprang into action in support of Tribal Emergency Management to help protect people, homes and other infrastructure until longer-term measures could be initiated.

Soon after the dust settled, we applied for a \$3.3 million grant through NRCS to work in upper Gilson Wash and at Frontline, Sam's Crossing, and the San Carlos bridge to protect and stabilize the channel and community assets.

The TFPA work is coordinated with our own and Forest Service plans to conduct prescribed burns to reduce fire severity, and forest thinning and creation of fuel breaks to increase firefighter safety and improve the land's ability to respond to fires, on a landscape scale and across boundaries. We also continue to collaborate with other neighbors off-reservation on restoration planning and implementation to be sure that ancestral Apache lands are under effective management. These collaborations regularly prove that there are many eyes on our collective work nationwide, providing the San Carlos Apache Tribe an opportunity to show the country how effective and efficient our work and partnerships can be, while setting us up for future success.



**A NEW LOADER FOR RECENT HIRES
MALCOLM AND RYAN**



**EXCAVATORS ENABLE PRECISE
MATERIAL PLACEMENT FOR ROAD AND
HABITAT RESTORATION**

THE TFPA AND THE TRIBE'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The San Carlos Apache Historic Preservation & Archaeology Department has been collaborating with two United States Forest Service (USFS) branches through funding provided by the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA). The TFPA introduces a first of its kind pilot project in the co-management of natural and cultural resources management by the Forest Service and the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Located north of the San Carlos Apache reservation, the Apache Sitgreaves branch and its Forestry staff and the Heritage Resources Protection Staff of the Coronado National Forest, located southeast of the reservation, worked on updating the scope of work (SOW) proposed by both Forests. The SOW provided by both Forests is comprised of conducting archaeological clearances through the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The Tribe's Archaeology Department and the USFS staff have identified timelines for the environmental review process and have updated the schedules for field surveys and field data collection including site file checks, weather conditions, and administration of the funding sources. The discussions have included training opportunities for tribal members who are interested in the protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources located on and off the reservation. The pilot project provides further discussion for the USFS to work with the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office (THPO) to identify the possibility of the decrease in timeline for the final review and final signature clearances to complete these projects. As we work together through the legal and cultural framework, we are learning from one another as we move from one phase to the next, in this partnership.

In addition, the Tribe's Archaeology Department recently completed job descriptions and will be submitting these to the Tribe's Human Resources Department for processing and to hire 3-4 tribal community member trainees using funds identified in the TFPA budget. These trainees will start with basic field activities and a thorough review of the federal, state, and tribal laws and ordinances associated with cultural resource management. A cultural sensitivity training session is also being considered to share with U.S. Forest staff and with the new tribal trainees. More information will be published in the next few months as the Tribe's Archaeology Department looks forward to providing training to tribal members interested in fieldwork and mapping of cultural and natural resources on the San Carlos Apache reservation. For more information, please call the San Carlos Apache Historic Preservation & Archaeology Department @ (928) 475-5797. Goozhoo dolat

TFPA STATUS SUMMARY:

The Tribe has entered into the Tribal Forest Protection Act agreement with the three surrounding (Tonto, Coronado, and Apache Sitgreaves) the agreement funds multiple crews, equipment purchases, projects, and the Natural Resources Youth Practicum (NRYP). The San Carlos Forest and Fire Management program continues to collaborate with Coronado, Tonto, and Apache Sitgreaves Forest Service to discuss projects that are being planned, implemented and completed. San Carlos has assisted the 3-surrounding forest on multiple projects which include; Prescribed burning on Tonto NF, Apache Sitgreaves NF and Coronado NF, Forest and Fuels inventory on Coronado NF, Watershed restoration on Tonto NF, fuel reduction treatments on Tonto NF, and continuous meetings discussing on going projects.

Upcoming plans to highlight we will continue with the hiring process of 15 crewmembers, these positions are funding through the Tribal Forest Protection Act agreement. The Natural Resources Youth Practicum is schedule for this coming Summer and applications are available at the Forestry Office. There will be continued fuels reduction projects in the Point of Pines area starting the second week of April.



2025 SAN CARLOS APACHE COLLEGE GRADUATES

SAN CARLOS APACHE COLLEGE

The San Carlos Apache College uses the ARROW framework based on the College's Mission Statement:

ACCOUNTABILITY: To enable the institution to chart its own course and successfully carry out its unique mission by acquiring independent accreditation, financial self-sufficiency, and management autonomy.

Accreditation Update

The College will host the first visit by a regional accrediting association in October 2026. Additionally, the College has been accepted by the World Indigenous Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) as a candidate for accreditation.

Enrollment

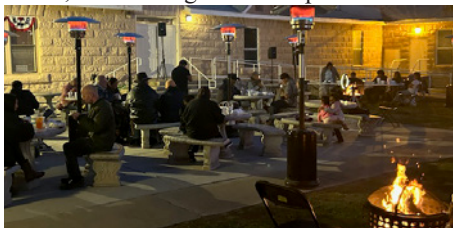
Enrollment by Semester

Fall 2024: 272 Summer 2024: 208
Spring 2025: 319 Summer 2025: 158
Fall 2025: 299 Spring 2026: 273

RESPECT: To provide the Nnee an excellent higher education experience rooted in Nnee bi'at'e.

Graduation Update

In 2025, SCAC graduated 29 students at the San Carlos High School. Chance Rush (Hidatsa) served as graduation speaker. In 2026, we anticipate that 40 students will complete their degree or certificate. Graduation will be held on May 15, 2026 at 1pm at the San Carlos High School. Ms. Sheryl Jo Lewis (Mono), recipient of the 2025 Arizona, Indian Excellence in Leadership award, will be the graduation speaker.



THE APACHE INSTITUTE HOSTED THE 2025 STORYTELLING EVENT OF THE ELDERS



College" in 2025. The College was cited for the ongoing work "Preserving Heritage, Shaping Futures."

SHOWN ABOVE: SAN CARLOS APACHE COLLEGE FEATURED IN EDUCATION INSIDER WITH PRESIDENT, DR. LINDA WARNER, ON THE COVER

RESILIENCE: To rekindle the language, traditions and culture of the Apache People.

The Apache Institute

In October 2024, The Board of Regents approved the establishment of The Apache Institute within the College. In January 2025, Tia Early was named as Director. She was joined in January 2026 by Marcus Macktima as Co-Director. Activities sponsored by the Institute include: Campus Blessings, Seasonal Harvests, MMIW Red Dress Day, A Starry, Starry Night Christmas Program, Traditional Apache Game Family Nights, Cultural Workshops.



THE APACHE INSTITUTE HOSTED A SAGUARO FRUIT HARVEST EVENT WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEARNED TO HARVEST SAGUARO FRUIT

National Recognition

In December 2025, the College was named by Education Insider (www.educationinsider-magazine.com) as the "Best Community



SCAC STUDENT GOVERNMENT, STAFF, AND FACULTY RECEIVING A DONATION FROM FREEPORT MCMORAN IN 2025

OPENNESS: To ensure the institution has the policies, processes, and resources required to maximize the success of every student.

Student Governance

In Fall 2025, The San Carlos students formed the first student government association. The group elected officers including Shyana Stanley, President; Delisa Palmer, Vice-President, Edith Starr, Secretary, Daphne Bolman, Treasurer, Nicole Quintero, White River Liaison. Students drafted a set of By-Laws for the Board's approval. The faculty sponsor for the student government is Emily Lucas.



THE APACHE INSTITUTE AT THE WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND 2025



THE APACHE INSTITUTE DURING THE 2025 WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY HOSTED IN NEW ZEALAND



SCAC STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY ALL AT THE ANNUAL STUDENT AIHEC CONFERENCE IN 2025

Student AIHEC Conference

In 2025, 8 students participated in the AIHEC conference in Rapid City, SD. They participated in competitions in Business, Critical Inquiry, Traditional Plants, Website Design, Speech and Poetry. Jason Slick won third place in Website Design.. In 2026, 8 students will travel to Bismarck, ND, where they will compete for Miss AIHEC, Poetry, Business, Speech, Chess, and Critical Inquiry.



MISS SCAC LORENA COSEN AND CHAIRMAN TERRY RAMBLER WALKING TOGETHER DURING PARADE

Miss San Carlos Apache

In April 2025, Ms. Lenora Cosen was named as the first Miss San Carlos Apache College. She serves as an ambassador for the College and has represented the College in Arizona and New Mexico.

AIHEC Legislative Summit 2026

In February 2026, The College participated with the other 37 Tribal Colleges in the Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. The students were represented by Shyana Stanley and JoAnn Williams. AIHEC focused attention on the reauthorization of the Land Grant College Act.

WISDOM: To achieve educational Excellence through competitive and relevant academic programs as well as innovative teaching methods appropriate for different learning styles.



ROYALTY GROUP PHOTO AT THE 2025 MISS SAN CARLOS APACHE COLLEGE PAGEANT

The San Carlos Apache Press

The Apache Institute will host the San Carlos Apache Press. Titles in progress include the following.

- The Apache Ember: In Spring 2026, the first edition of the literary magazine will be published. It includes poetry, art, short fiction and screenwriting by Indigenous individuals throughout the United States. The journal is open to submission from across the globe and will issue the second call for participation in Fall 2026.
- On Indian Ground: In 2026, the Press will publish two texts in the continuation of the series On Indian Ground. These texts focus on academic articles on education practice and are regional. Previous texts include On Indian Ground: California; On Indian Ground: The Northwest; On Indian Ground: The Southwest; On Indian Ground: The High Plains. This year,



SCAC STUDENTS SHYANA STANLEY AND JOANN WILLIAMS OUTSIDE OF SENATOR RUBEN GALLEGOS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON DC DURING THE ANNUAL AIHEC LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT IN FEBRUARY OF 2026



SCAC STAFF, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS AT THE 2025 FESTIVAL OF TREES

On Indian Ground: Oklahoma and On Indian Ground: The Great Lakes will be released.

Studying Indigenous Leadership

The Apache Institute is sponsoring the 1st Annual "Studying Indigenous Leadership" Conference at the Apache Gold Casino, April 11, 12, 13-2026. The Conference is funded by the Burkehaven Family Foundation and will have representatives from Canada, New Zealand, and the US who focus on primary inquiry/research on Tribal leadership. Details about the conference and registration can be found at <https://apachecollegeconference.org/>



SCAC STAFF AT A STUDENT OUTREACH EVENT WHERE THE COLLEGE PROVIDES DETAILS ON THE COLLEGE AND ASSISTS STUDENTS WITH MAKING THE DECISION TO GO TO COLLEGE



SCAC'S PRESIDENT, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND REGENTS INSIDE OF REPRESENTATIVE ELI CRANE'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON DC DURING THE ANNUAL AIHEC LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT OF 2026



CONSTRUCTION SITE TOUR WITH SCHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONER CHAIRMAN DR. JOHN BUSH, SCAT CHAIRMAN TERRY RAMBLER, AND SPS+ ARCHITECT FIRM XANTHUS REEDE



INDIAN HILLS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN CONSTRUCTION PHASE, SAN CARLOS, AZ



VIEW OF FINAL CONSTRUCTION OF RIDGE VIEW HOUSING COMMUNITY IN BYLAS, AZ

SAN CARLOS HOUSING AUTHORITY UPDATE

The activities currently underway at the San Carlos Housing Authority (SCHA) are the result of an extensive redevelopment of its internal departments, including staff training and ongoing meetings with employees and tenants of the 736 housing units overseen by the Authority.

In June 2024, the Board of Commissioners hired Martha Interpreter as Executive Director to lead the San Carlos Housing Authority toward an improved housing program while maintaining and maximizing available funding sources.

A review of budgetary resources included the development of programs, projects, and activities to utilize temporary funding sources provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES).

Funds awarded under the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) ARPA and IHBG CARES programs were dedicated to relocating the 24 modular housing units previously located at the Skill Center Football Field. Additional funding through the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) ARPA program was awarded to cover remaining costs associated with the modular housing units and the rehabilitation of 10 privately owned homes.

ARPA funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program (BIA HIP) was also awarded to the Authority to provide housing assistance to at least two eligible families based on BIA HIP criteria.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe further committed ARPA funds to support several community improvement projects, including the demolition of abandoned homes throughout the four districts, the purchase of law enforcement housing units, installation

of streetlights in three parks, and the purchase and installation of security cameras and related equipment in the Old Moonbase Housing Subdivision.

The Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health assisted the Authority in utilizing ARPA funds for limited septic tank repairs.

All \$8.3 million in ARPA and CARES funding awarded to the Authority was committed to approved projects before required deadlines, and the majority of those projects have been completed. Through extension approvals from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the ICDBG ARPA activities will be completed by June 2026. The BIA HIP program also approved an extension through May 2026.

A review of the Authority's budget also revealed accumulated annual funding awards totaling \$17.3 million.

Following HUD requirements, the SCHA announced its interest in seeking qualified construction companies to build 23 stick-built homes and install 24 modular homes across all four districts according to housing assignments approved in 2022. Following a competitive application and evaluation process, the Authority recommended Patterson Construction Company of Gilbert, Arizona, for the AZ-11-55D Housing Project.

Construction began in October 2024 under the oversight of Kenew Construction Management and SPS+ Architecture.

The Bylas community's Ridge View Housing Community received 16 stick-built homes and 6 modular homes. The Peridot View Housing Community received 3 stick-built homes and 6 modular homes. The Tulapai Housing Community in Gilson Wash received

8 modular homes. The Seven Mile Wash Community received 2 stick-built homes and 6 modular homes.

On February 18, 2026, the first family signed a homeownership agreement in the Ridge View Housing Community in Bylas. By the end of March 2026, housing units in both the Ridge View Housing Community and the Tulapai Housing Community were occupied by HUD-qualified, Commission-approved families.

To strengthen relationships with residents, the SCHA has developed and implemented updated policies, procedures, and regulations for both rental and homeownership programs. The Authority has also addressed outstanding HUD findings from 2018 through 2024 and has received praise from HUD for its successful implementation of Indian Housing Program requirements.

The SCHA has also strengthened its partnership with the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) through the Tax Credit Program. Regular housing inspections and reporting processes have helped improve program performance. The Authority currently administers seven Tax Credit Housing Programs.

In June 2024, the SCHA had outstanding IHBG program audits covering fiscal years 2018 through 2025. Through partnerships with SJT Audit Firm, REDW Audit Firm, and Walker & Armstrong Audit Firm, the Authority is scheduled to be fully compliant with audit requirements by June 2026.

Looking ahead, the San Carlos Housing Authority remains committed to developing housing programs that serve low-income households while expanding opportunities for no-income households, single individuals, and higher-income families seeking housing assistance within the community.

VOTER INFORMATION

VERIFY YOUR DISTRICT

Before the 2026 Tribal Elections, make sure you are registered in the correct voting district.

Deadline | July 10, 2026

Contact the Enrollment Office

To change your voting district, Tribal members must visit the Enrollment Office in person no later than July 10, 2026.

If you live outside of Arizona, please contact the Enrollment Office for instructions on how to update your district.

Enrollment Office

350 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, AZ 85550,
(928) 475-2689 | Monday – Friday
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (928) 475-2689

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Primary Election *(if needed*)*

- Beginning September 11th, you can request an absentee ballot.
- Primary absentee ballots will be mailed out on September 18th

General Election

- Beginning October 9th, you can request an absentee ballot.
- General absentee ballots will be mailed out on October 16th.

Include the Following:

Legal Name
Copy of State ID or SCAT
Enrollment ID/CIB
Voting District
Phone Number
Return Address
Signature

No group requests will be accepted.

Mail Requests To:

San Carlos Apache Elections

P.O. Box 1265, San Carlos, AZ 85550

*The Primary Election will only be held if more than four qualified candidates file for a Council seat. Write-in candidates are only available for primary election.

ELECTION DATES

EARLY VOTING

September 14-18, 2026

Primary Election (if needed)

October 12-16, 2026

General Election

Voting Hours: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

October 6, 2026

Primary Election (if needed)

November 3, 2026

General Election

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Interested in Running for Tribal Council?

Positions Up for Election

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Bylas District Council Member
- Gilson Wash District Council Member
- Peridot District Council Member
- Seven Mile District Council Member

Candidate Filing Dates

July 6, 2026

Letter of Intent Filing Opens

July 20, 2026

Letter of Intent Deadline, 5:00 P.M.

Required Materials

Notarized Letter of Intent
Authorization for Release of Information Form
Candidate Photo
\$300 Background Check Fee
Cashier's Check or Money Order payable to SCAT Human Resources

Submit Candidate Materials To:

San Carlos Apache Tribe Election Office

P.O. Box 1265, San Carlos, AZ 85550

QUESTIONS?

San Carlos Apache Tribe Election Office

(928) 475-6584, scat.election@scat-nsn.gov

Your Vote. Your Voice. Your Future.





BAILS OF HAY AT CHINATOWN FARM FIELD IN PERIDOT.



FARM FIELDS AT ANDERSON FLAT IN BYLAS

SAN CARLOS APACHE FARM: HISTORY, CHALLENGES, AND MODERN OPERATIONS

BY DAVID COOK, FARM MANAGER

Agriculture has long been a cornerstone of life for the San Carlos Apache people. For generations, farming along the Gila River has provided sustenance, economic opportunity, and a deep cultural connection to the land. The river itself has been the lifeblood of agricultural efforts in the region, sustaining crops in an otherwise arid environment.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe historically practiced agriculture for centuries, relying on natural water sources and traditional knowledge passed down through generations. At one time, mescal, or nadah, was the most important wild food of the year, maturing in It'aa Nách'il (April).

Early farming methods became closely tied to the rhythms of the land and water availability, with crops grown primarily for subsistence. Over time, farming evolved into a more structured agricultural system, incorporating irrigation methods and expanding acreage.

In 1875, according to Superintendent John P. Clum, Apaches cultivated and harvested 9,200 bushels of potatoes, 2,000 bushels of corn, 625 bushels each of wheat and barley, which were largely purchased by the San Carlos Agency.

By 1924, San Carlos Apache had cultivated over 8,000 arable acres along the Gila River in the area surrounding Old San Carlos – what had been Hell's 40 Acres. Cattlemen grew the heifer herd to a peak of 5,500 head. 350 families had cattle, and the first cattle association was formed. The Tribe

constructed a grist mill that operated 365 days a year, all day, all night.

In 1929, the construction of the Coolidge Dam flooded Old San Carlos and the Tribe's farmlands. With that, the Tribe's agricultural economy collapsed. The grist mill was no more, and the town of Old San Carlos moved 14 miles to where it is today. The Tribe began to import hay.

After the construction of the Coolidge Dam, the federal government sued the Gila Valley Irrigation District in federal court to determine the "immemorial" water rights of the former Pima Indians, now the Gila River Indian Community, and other users downstream of the Coolidge Dam, and to manage claim from upstream users, including the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

On June 29, 1935, the court issued the Globe Equity Decree No. 59. The Decree recognized the Tribe's rights as senior to all others above the San Carlos Lake, and allocated the Tribe 6,000 acre-feet of water annually to irrigate 1,000 acres. With the Decree in hand, the Tribe re-started its farming operations. The Tribe and cattlemen persevered. While the farming operations were reduced, it was able to sustain early operations like George H. Stevens' Double Circle Ranch, and the Tribe's R-100 Ranch in 1938.

MODERN FARMING OPERATIONS

Today, the San Carlos Apache Farm continues that legacy while adapting to modern agricultural challenges and opportunities. Farming operations became more formalized,

with increased use of machinery, irrigation infrastructure, and commercial crop production. However, like many agricultural operations in the Southwest, the San Carlos Apache Farm has faced ongoing challenges related to water access, infrastructure limitations, and shifting economic conditions.

The Farm is actively working to strengthen and expand its agricultural production. Current operations include farming in areas such as Anderson Flat, Navajo Point, Black Point, Peridot and Chinatown, where flood irrigation is being utilized to grow crops. Flood irrigation, while traditional and effective in certain conditions, requires careful water management and timing to ensure crops receive adequate moisture without excessive waste.

In addition to these established farming areas, significant efforts are underway to continue to develop the approximate 250 acres of pivot irrigation at the Six Mile area and approximately 200 acres located in Goodwin Wash. Pivot irrigation systems represent a more modern and efficient approach to water application, allowing for better control, reduced waste, and improved crop yields. Bringing these pivots online is a key step toward increasing productivity and sustainability for the farm.

The Farm's current strategy reflects a balance between maintaining proven methods like flood irrigation while investing in newer technologies that can improve efficiency and long-term viability.

WATER: THE CONSTANT CHALLENGE

Water availability remains one of the most critical challenges facing the San Carlos Apache Farm. In agriculture, it is not just the amount of water that matters, but the timing of its application. Crops require water at specific growth stages, and delays or shortages can significantly impact yields.

In the arid climate of Arizona, securing a reliable and adequate water supply is an ongoing struggle. Farmers must carefully manage allocations, monitor usage, and adapt to changing conditions. Infrastructure issues, regulatory considerations, and environmental factors all play a role in determining how much water is available and when it can be used.

For the San Carlos Apache Farm, the challenge is not only about access but also about efficiency—making the most out of every drop while working within the limitations of the system.



IRRIGATING FARM FIELD IN PERIDOT

CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

Like all agricultural operations, the San Carlos Apache Farm faces a range of economic and operational challenges. Farming is inherently unpredictable, influenced by factors that are often beyond the control of the producer.

One of the primary challenges is fluctuating markets. The price of crops such as hay

and other feed crops can vary significantly based on supply and demand, transportation costs, and broader economic conditions. These fluctuations can impact profitability and make long-term planning difficult.

In addition to market volatility, farmers must contend with rising input costs. Expenses for seed, fuel, equipment maintenance, and labor continue to increase, placing additional pressure on operations. Equipment breakdowns and infrastructure issues—such as pumps, irrigation systems, and electrical components—can further complicate operations and require immediate attention to avoid production losses.

Weather also plays a critical role. Extreme heat, drought conditions, and unexpected weather events can all affect crop growth and yields. In a region where water is already limited, these factors can amplify existing challenges.

LOOKING FORWARD

Despite these challenges, the San Carlos Apache Farm is positioned for growth and improvement. The ongoing development of pivot irrigation systems, combined with continued use of existing farmland, demonstrates a commitment to expanding production and increasing efficiency. Our goal is to produce all of the hay needed in the future not only for the individual community members but all of the cattle associations.

By blending traditional knowledge with modern agricultural practices, the farm is working to build a more resilient and sustainable operation. Investments in infrastructure, water management, and crop



CUTTING HAY AT CHINA TOWN FARM FIELDS IN PERIDOT

planning will be key to ensuring long-term success.

Once the Tribe's CAP Water Delivery Project facilities are constructed by 2035 or so, the Tribe will receive at least 12,700 acre-feet of water to the Reservation from the Black River. At that time, the Tribe's Farm will expand beyond its Gila River operations up to 3,000 acres of farmland in total. Annual crop yields will increase to 20,640 tons of alfalfa and 66,690 tons of feed corn, and the cattle sales of 4,185 head. In addition, the Farm can feature a "Dude Ranch", a destination for tourists who can experience Apache cattlemen culture, forming yet another stream of income to the Tribe, as well as a feed lot and meat packing operation. Most important, the Farm, cattle operations and lodging will increase employment on the Reservation by 90 jobs.

Our future Carlos Apache Farm will represent more than just agricultural production, another sector of the Tribe's overall economy. More important, the Farm will also reflect a continuation of Apache cultural heritage, a connection to the land, and a commitment to providing for future generations.

Our future Carlos Apache Farm will represent more than just agricultural production, another sector of the Tribe's overall economy. More important, the Farm will also reflect a continuation of Apache cultural heritage, a connection to the land, and a commitment to providing for future generations.



CUTTING HAY AT ANDERSON FLAT FARM IN BYLAS



SCATUI INSTALLING HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO CONNECT SCATUI TO THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

SCATUI UPDATE

San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utility, Inc. (SCATUI) is currently working on several major projects that will greatly benefit the San Carlos Apache community as well as neighboring Tribal communities.

SCATUI subsidiary, Triplet Mountain Communications, Inc. (TMCI), was awarded a Broadband Middle Mile Grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in 2022. The Tribal Broadband Grant Program was created to support expanded broadband services in Tribal communities.

Because SCATUI receives funding through other sources, it was not eligible to apply directly. However, TMCI successfully secured funding to construct a middle-mile fiber optic network that will ultimately connect with the White Mountain Apache Tribe's broadband infrastructure and support expanded high-speed internet services throughout the region. Construction on the TMCI Middle Mile Project began in November 2024 in Lower

Seven Mile and extended through Hilltop to Black River Crossing. The nearly 40-mile fiber optic route was constructed through the winter and summer months, with all underground construction completed by November 2025.

The fiber optic cable has since been spliced, tested end-to-end, and is ready for service. Completion of the White Mountain Apache Tribe's corresponding project will allow TMCI to provide high-bandwidth circuits capable of carrying multiple forms of network traffic and expanding connectivity throughout the region.

This grant also provided funding to upgrade portions of the TMCI network, improvements that will complement another major project currently being planned by SCATUI.

Through a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service, SCATUI is preparing to address one of the most common challenges affecting customers today by replacing aging copper infrastructure with fiber optic technology.

SCATUI is pleased to announce a new fiber optic construction project that will upgrade all homes currently served by copper telephone lines to fiber optic service. This project will take place across all districts of the reservation and is anticipated to begin in Summer 2026.

Due to the scope of the project, which is expected to pass more than 1,000 homes, construction may take a year or longer to complete. As these upgrades are completed, SCATUI also plans to introduce enhanced internet service packages with increased speeds and improved reliability.

SCATUI appreciates the community's patience as these projects move forward and will continue providing updates through community meetings, public events, and announcements on KYAY Radio.

In addition to telecommunications improvements, SCATUI continues to support community economic development initiatives. The utility is actively assisting with funding opportunities for new EMS and Fire Stations in Bylas, Downtown San Carlos, and Gilson Wash.

As the community continues to grow and evolve, SCATUI remains committed to identifying innovative ways to serve Tribal members. In partnership with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, SCATUI is in the early stages of expanding into commercial and alternative energy services.

One upcoming project includes a solar microgrid installation at the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Center. The project will provide an alternative energy source to support the hospital and increase energy reliability through locally generated solar power.

Additional development plans under consideration include other microgrid solutions, large-scale solar energy projects, and future commercial electric service opportunities.

SCATUI will continue to provide updates as these projects progress and remains proud to serve the San Carlos Apache people through investments in technology, infrastructure, connectivity, and energy independence.



HIGH SPEED FIBER OPTIC CABLE READY TO BE INSTALLED

NAVIGATING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE: A COMMUNITY UPDATE

BY PATRICIA BOWYER, CPA, MBA



FINANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT

I am deeply honored to return to the San Carlos Apache Tribe as Tribal Treasurer. Following my time as CFO for the SCAT Gaming Enterprise and a brief tenure as a tribal CFO in northwest Washington, I stepped back into the Comptroller role in the Fall of 2025 before officially being appointed Treasurer this past January.

I accept the responsibilities of this position with a clear understanding of the work ahead. Restoring full compliance with all of our funding sources is a massive undertaking, but it is a vital one. Like many Tribal Nations across the country, we are navigating a fast-changing economic landscape marked by rising costs, unpredictable federal funding, and the recent government shutdown. Furthermore, past audit delays have restricted our financial flexibility and temporarily blocked access to key funding opportunities.

While these challenges are significant, they also present a powerful turning point. We are using this moment to overhaul our financial systems, strengthen our long-term planning, and build a more independent, secure future for San Carlos.

WHERE WE STAND TODAY

Our financial picture has both strengths and areas where we need to be careful:

- **The Good News:** Our core services and community programs are still up and running, largely thanks to grants and federal funding.
- **The Risk:** Relying so heavily on outside government money makes us vulnerable. Like most households, the Tribe has limited emergency savings. When federal funding stalls, our cash reserves get stretched thin.
- **The Pressure:** At the same time, the cost of running programs is going up, debt payments must be made, and our community's needs are growing.

- **The Reality:** Across Indian Country, nearly 70% of federal funding is “discretionary.” This means it is constantly tied up in Washington politics and annual debates, making it very hard to plan ahead.

WHAT THE FEDERAL SHUTDOWN TAUGHT US

The recent federal government shutdown showed just how much outside political gridlock can hurt us at home.

1. Stalled Programs

Delays in federal money impacted local programs for housing, education, social services, and community development.

2. A Heavier Burden on the Tribe

To keep vital services from shutting down entirely, the Tribe had to use its own limited cash to cover the bills while waiting for Washington to pay us back. This put a major strain on our local budget.

3. Risks to Everyday Services

While emergency services like police, healthcare, and schools stayed open, other helpful services faced delays. This caused worries around community access to food assistance, housing support, and school resources.

4. Hardships for Local Businesses

The shutdown didn't just affect the government. Furloughed workers and delayed payments meant less money circulating in our local economy, hurting community families and local businesses.

Key Lesson: The shutdown proved that we rely too much on federal funding, have too little in emergency reserves, and are too exposed to Washington's political games. We need a fallback plan.

OUR STRATEGY FOR A STRONGER FUTURE

To protect our community and build true financial independence (economic

sovereignty), leadership is focusing on six key steps:

1. Building an Emergency Fund

Just like a family savings account, the Tribe needs a safety net. We are working toward saving enough money to cover three to six months of basic operating expenses so we are ready for the next emergency.

2. Creating Our Own Income

We need to stop relying entirely on Washington. By continuing to invest in our own businesses—like gaming, tourism, energy projects, and new ventures—we can create our own steady revenue.

3. Tighter Budgeting

We are keeping a much closer eye on where every dollar goes. By catching spending issues early and cutting out non-essential expenses, we can make sure community resources are used responsibly.

4. Better Grant Management

We are fixing our internal processes to make sure we catch up on our audits, follow all grant rules perfectly, and get reimbursed by the federal government as quickly as possible.

5. Long-Term Planning

Instead of just budgeting year-by-year, we are looking multiple years into the future. We are creating “what-if” plans so that if another shutdown or economic downturn happens, we won't be caught off guard.

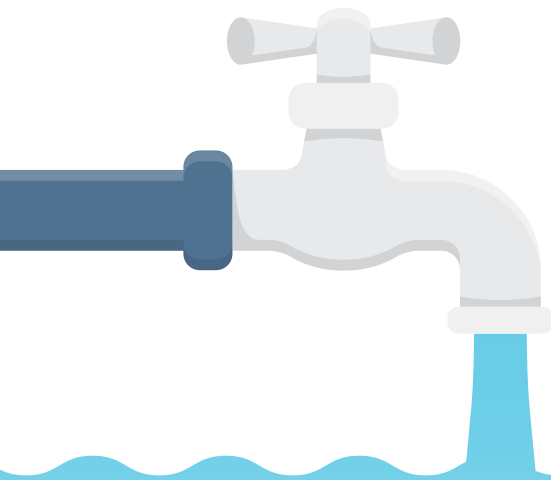
6. Fighting for Our Rights

We aren't just sitting back. Our leaders will continue to join forces with other Tribes to demand that Congress provide stable, mandatory funding that cannot be blocked by future government shutdowns. Washington must honor its treaty obligations.

LOOKING AHEAD

Throughout history, Apache people have shown incredible strength and resilience. We have overcome immense hardships, and this financial stretch is no exception.

By managing our money wisely, saving for emergencies, and investing in our own tribal businesses, we will protect our community and ensure that San Carlos stands strong for generations to come.



SUPPLYING CLEAN, SAFE, AND RELIABLE WATER TO TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND RESERVATION RANGELANDS

The Tribe has several projects currently underway to supply clean, safe, and reliable water to communities and Reservation rangelands. Past newsletters have covered water supply projects for the communities of Bylas, San Carlos (using water from Talkalai Lake), the Tribal Farms along the Gila River, Six-Mile, Peridot, and Goodwin Wash, as well as the future farm using CAP water.

Today, we cover more projects that will soon supply the communities of Peridot, Gilson Wash/Dripping Springs, and the Tribe's rangelands.

PERIDOT WATER SHORTAGE RELIEF PROJECT

In January 2026, EPA announced the award of \$4 million in funding to the Tribe to complete the second of three phases of a major domestic water project called the Peridot Water Shortage Relief Project. The Tribe will use the funding to install a new 500,000-gallon water storage tank at a site along the north side of Highway 70, about a half mile west of Apache Burger.

When the tank runs low, water pumped from a well at Apache Burger will be pumped through a pipeline to fill the tank. When water is needed, water will flow from the tank through the same pipeline, which extends farther eastward along the highway to serve the Lower Peridot public water system.

The pipeline, which was the first of three phases of the project, was recently completed in January.

In the third and final phase, the Indian Health Service will bore beneath and across the San Carlos River to further extend the pipeline for service to the Peridot Heights public water system.

The new water storage tank and pipeline extension are planned for construction later this year.



CONTRACTOR PERFORMS "JACK AND BORE" BENEATH HIGHWAY 70. THIS IS A HORIZONTAL AUGER BORING METHOD WHERE A 24-INCH STEEL CONDUIT PIPE IS ADVANCED BENEATH THE HIGHWAY FOR INSTALLING A PIPELINE CROSSING WITH MINIMAL TRAFFIC DISRUPTION.



CONTRACTOR INSTALLS A NEW PIPELINE FROM THE NEW WATER TANK SITE TO CONNECT TO THE APACHE BURGER WELL ABOUT HALF A MILE AWAY. THIS PORTION OF THE PIPELINE IS ALONG THE NORTH SIDE HIGHWAY 70. A TRENCH IS DUG, THE WATER LINE IS INSTALLED, AND BACKFILL MATERIAL IS INSTALLED AND COMPACTED.

DRIPPING SPRINGS WATER PROJECT

In recent years, about 50 homes located in the Dripping Springs area of the Gilson Wash community have experienced low water pressure and occasional water outages. These problems have been due to the aging electric pressure tank that is needed to pump water up to these homes in the hills, as well as power outages.

When a power outage occurs, water service is disrupted because the pressure tank cannot operate.

In 2025, EPA awarded \$3.2 million to the Tribe to fund the design and construction of improvements to the Dripping Springs public water system that would address these problems.

Design is now underway for two new pumps—one for operation and the other for backup—and a diesel backup generator so the pumps can operate during power outages.

The design also includes a new 240,000-gallon water storage tank and a 1,000-foot-long access road to the tank site.

The tank will be installed in the hills above the homes so that water can flow through the pipes by gravity to serve the homes.

In addition to improving the reliability of the drinking water supply to Dripping Springs, the new tank will provide extra water flow for improved fire protection.

Design plans should be ready for bidding in the spring, with construction planned for later this year.



CONTRACTOR GRADING THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE NEW DRIPPING SPRINGS WATER TANK SITE.



CONTRACTOR DRILLING AND COLLECTING SAMPLES FOR GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS AT THE NEW DRIPPING SPRINGS WATER TANK SITE. SEVERAL BORINGS WERE DRILLED AND TESTED TO ASSESS THE SOIL CHARACTERISTICS TO PROPERLY DESIGN STRUCTURAL FOOTINGS FOR THE TANK, THE PIPELINE BACKFILL MATERIAL, AND COMPACTION REQUIREMENTS.

NEW STOCKWATERING WELLS FOR THE TRIBE'S RANGELANDS

The long-term drought that has impacted the southwestern U.S. in recent years continued in 2025 with severe effects on Reservation rangelands. The Tribe's herds at IDT and R-100 as well as cattle association herds suffered heavy losses of cattle to heat and dehydration. Dry lakes, ponds and springs forced cattle to search for water at windmill wells. But the few windmill wells that can provide water are scattered over the vast rangelands – more stockwatering wells are needed. Freeport McMoRan generously offered help. In consultation with Tribal rangeland managers, Freeport engaged a well drilling contractor to drill new wells and install solar-powered stockwatering facilities at three sites at IDT and R100. The wells were drilled to depths ranging from 160 feet to 600 feet. The wells were completed in August, in time to provide much-needed summer water to the Tribe's thirsty herd. Thank you, Freeport!

In addition to the Freeport-funded wells drilled in summer 2025, the Tribe has also received funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation to drill two more wells and install solar-powered stockwatering facilities at IDT and R-100 in the remote eastern area of the Reservation near Upper Ash Creek and Eagle Creek. Work on building access roads to these two remote well sites is scheduled for the spring with construction of the wells and stockwatering facilities scheduled for the summer.



CONTRACTOR INSTALLING THE WELL CASING AT THE NEW RED BOX CANYON STOCKWATER WELL.



CONTRACTOR DRILLING OF A NEW STOCK WATER WELL IN RED BOX CANYON ALONG CAMP CREEK.



THE NEW STOCKWATERING FACILITIES WILL USE SOLAR-POWERED PANEL ARRAYS LIKE THIS ONE LOCATED IN BLOWOUT CREEK.

WATER RIGHTS, CIVIL LITIGATION AND BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS – A CHANGING OF THE GUARD AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

BY A.B. RITCHIE, ATTORNEY GENERAL

The San Carlos Council established the Tribe's Department of Justice ("DOJ") on July 2, 2018, an effort to create an in-house, unified, professionalized agency that represents the Tribe in all legal matters. The DOJ acts as an arm of the Tribe's government to enforce the Tribe's laws, centralize litigation and business transactions, and ensure public safety, an agency modeled those found in any other sovereign government.

Today, the Tribe's DOJ has 18 employees. For the Criminal Division, there are 4 state bar licensed Prosecutors (2 of whom are also federal Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys, pursuant to the Tribal Law & Order Act) and 1 San Carlos Apache Bar licensed Assistant Prosecutor, supported by 3 professional staff. In the Civil Division, there are 6 attorneys supported by 5 professional staff.

Deputy Attorney General Justine Jimmie, Assistant Prosecutor Audrey Greene, Assistant Prosecutor Christie Talkalai and 4 professional

staff (Civil and Criminal Divisions) are all enrolled members of the Tribe.

CIVIL LITIGATION AND BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

Since 2011, under the Office of Attorney General through to the current DOJ, separate and apart from water rights, DOJ has produced major revenue for the Tribe from business transactions and the settlement of certain lawsuits, which total nearly \$500 million, not counting successive annual benefits.

Notable business transactions total \$349.05 million, and include SW Gas (\$.25 million); El Paso Natural Gas (\$2.6 million); San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation P.L. 93-638 contract and third-party revenues (\$150 million per year); San Carlos Apache College (budget at \$4 million per year); the San Carlos Apache Forest Products Company (budget of \$14 million, consisting of ARPA \$5 million, Water rights \$1 million, NMTC

\$8 million); various other New Market Tax Credit transactions totaling \$5 million; Gilbert CAP water rights lease (\$31.2 million); BOR System Conservation Implementation Agreement payments totaling \$8 million; three COVID-19 per capita payouts (4 distributions totaling \$44 million); and the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation bond for construction of its Long-term Skilled Nursing Facility (\$90 million).

Litigation that has produced significant revenue in settlements totaling \$145.2 million includes *SCAT v. U.S.* (BIA trust mismanagement claim resulting in \$63 million settlement, of which \$1 million went to San Carlos Apache College); Opioid claim settlement (\$5.3 million received so far), *Ramah* claim (\$14.5 million); and currently *SCAT v. Becerra*, a U.S. Supreme Court case that has resulted in two settlements totaling \$62.4 million).

Other litigation includes *Franciscan Friars of California, Inc.* bankruptcy; *SCAT v. EPA* (smelter case); *SCAT, Tohono O'odham Nation v. Haaland* (SunZia transmissions project violations of National Historic Preservation Act); *In Re: Aqueous Film-Forming Products Liability Litigation* (PFAS contamination of the Tribe's public water system); *SCAT v. Rollins* (Oak Flat); *SCAT v. ADEQ* (ADEQ Resolution Copper discharge permit). The DOJ also provides defense against 10 tort claims against the Tribe; and a handful of employee grievances. The most notable civil defense by DOJ was against a \$12.5 million claim by the IRS for alleged outstanding employment taxes, which we settled for \$225,000.

WATER RIGHTS

For some 60 years, the Tribe has relied on outside counsel for water rights litigation, largely represented by the firms of Sparks & Associates and Titla & Parsi. Joe Sparks has been the principal behind the drafting of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-575) and litigation in the Arizona General Stream Adjudication. In 2024, that changed when the Council authorized DOJ to employ Mr. Sparks and his staff of 3 directly as employees of the Tribe – ultimately a cost savings measure because half of their salary is now paid by the federal government through the Tribe's Public Law 93-638 contract with the U.S. Secretary of Interior. By putting water rights litigation under the DOJ, the Tribe also has the benefit of the historic water rights files under the control of the Tribe itself.

Complementing the employment of Mr. Sparks and his staff, DOJ also hired two new attorneys – Bern Velasco and Jana Sutton. Both were top of their law school class and have had distinguished careers with Mr. Velasco writing for the Arizona Law Review (59 Ariz. L. Rev. 234, 2017), Distinguished Scholar (full tuition scholarship), F. Britton Burns Award (co-champion for best oral argument), National ABAL Appellate Advocacy Competition Team, Clerk for Judge Peter Eckerstrom, Arizona Court of Appeals Division 1, and a partner in the firm of Mesch Clark Rothschild; and Ms. Sutton, summa cum laude, Arizona Law Review, Note Award (55 Ariz. L. Rev. 1171, 2013), Clerk for Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch, attorney at the firm of Osborn Maledon, the U.S. District Court Capital

Case Section, and the firm of Mesch Clark Rothschild. Never has the Tribe benefited from such talent in-house.

For the first time in the Tribe's history, water rights litigation – pleadings, negotiations, depositions, and trials – is now undertaken in-house, albeit with Mr. Sparks continued guidance. Steve Titla will continue to advise DOJ on water rights. This move is best described as a “changing of the guard” on water rights, one that allows for a transition away from reliance on outside counsel, while expanding the Tribe's litigation resources with new attorneys whom Mr. Sparks can train and plan for the future handling of the Tribe's water rights.

With the addition of Mr. Velasco and Ms. Sutton, the DOJ Civil Division now has a full complement of attorneys that defends the Tribe against tort claims, pursue environmental issues that threaten the Tribe's members and Reservation, undertake business transactions, and provide representation in intergovernmental relations (lobbying) – all largely without relying on expensive outside counsel that had previously cost the Tribe's General Fund millions of dollars. Instead, now, through Public Law 93-638, half of DOJ salaries get paid by the federal government.

DOJ also monitors Colorado River Water, as related to the Colorado Compact, and certain Arizona groundwater issues that appear in state legislation. Finally, DOJ continues to engage with Freeport McMoRan on settlement of claims.

ARIZONA SURFACE WATER

The Arizona General Stream Adjudication encompasses some 40,000 claimants who have filed over 85,000 claims on the Gila River watershed, including its tributaries, the San Pedro and the Verde Rivers, the Cobre Valley (Salt River – including Roosevelt Lake, Pinal Creek, Pinto Creek) and the Little Colorado River system. The Arizona Supreme Court recently appointed the Honorable Scott Blaney, a Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County to oversee the state's principal water claims, including the Tribe's. Judge Blaney in turn appointed Judge Sherri Zendri as to water master for the General Stream Adjudication.

As Special Master, Judge Zendri holds hearings, manages discovery and oversees technical reports to resolve contested water right claims, in effort to determine the extent and priority of each water right, accepting any previously determined water rights and dates of appropriation in prior decrees, unless the water rights have been abandoned or otherwise forfeited, and then enter a final decree that will include water right abstracts that list water right attributes for each adjudicated water right, including the points of diversion and places of use, the types of water use, the quantity of water use, and the priority of the water right.

Currently, DOJ handles 17 contested water rights cases and issues, as identified by the Special Master, which fall into 5 categories that directly impact the Tribe's rights to water from the surface of the Gila River, and are in active litigation. These include: (1) the St. David Irrigation District Initial Designation Cases; (2) ASARCO's San Pedro water rights cases; (3) the Schoubroek litigation seeking to stop unauthorized pumping of water from the Gila River; (4) the Daley/Howard litigation involving application of the Globe Equity Decree; and (5) related issues of “broad legal importance” certified by the Special Master in the Arizona water rights adjudications.

1) St. David Initial Cases

St. David's stands on the San Pedro River, north of the Town of Bisbee. The St. David Irrigation District, which has dozens of property owners who rely on two wells that have pumped without regulation. In the *St. David Cases*, which amount to a representative sampling of property owners within the District, the Special Master ruled in the Tribe's favor on most issues raised by our DOJ on summary judgment (a court ruling before trial that decides all or part of a case without a full trial when there is no genuine dispute over key facts and that one party is entitled to win as a matter of law), and dismissed many of the water user's claims. Trial in these cases has been delayed so that the parties can explore whether a settlement can be reached to resolve all or most of the hundreds of cases involving the St. David Irrigation District without having to engage in additional discovery.

2) ASARCO

ASARCO has a copper mine operation that extends from Winkelman to Hayden, and

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which also abuts the Tribe's Reservation. The Special Master recently ruled in the Tribe's favor in ASARCO on many of the issues our DOJ raised on summary judgment. For example, the Special Master dismissed all of ASARCO's stock and domestic water right claims. The trial regarding ASARCO remaining water rights claims is scheduled to begin August 24, 2026.

3) Schoubroek

Schoubroek involves four wells that pump water from the Gila River without an associated right under the Globe Equity Decree of 1935, which allocates and appropriates water rights (priorities, volumes and location for diverting water) along the River and its tributaries in settlement of litigation brought in 1935, regarding the rights of the Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, and the San Carlos Irrigation Project. The district court judge ruled in the Tribe's favor and ordered the wells capped. The water users, however, appealed that decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed the decision and sent the case back to the trial court for further proceedings. The parties intend to engage in discovery before filing additional dispositive motions in the spring of 2027.

4) Daley/Howard

The 24 or so Daley and Howard cases, which represent 419 sever and transfer applications filed in 2008 by various parties, including Freeport McMoRan, involve pumping by users in the Upper Gila Valley that stands inconsistent with the Globe Equity Decree. These cases were stayed while the *Schoubroek* case proceeded in the Ninth Circuit because both cases raise similar, overlapping issues. Now that *Schoubroek* has been decided, these cases are likely to proceed. New deadlines have not yet been set. DOJ expects to bring on Steve Titla in this matter.

5) Issues of Broad Legal Importance

In addition to these cases, the Tribe is litigating whether pre-1919 water rights may be forfeited through nonuse. This issue was certified as an "issue of broad legal importance" in the water rights adjudication, as it will impact numerous rights throughout the state. In 2021, the Special Master ruled in our favor on this issue. Judge Blaney of the Arizona Superior Court reversed that decision, which we, along with the Gila River Indian Community and the United States intend to appeal.

6) Colorado River Water

In addition to protecting the Tribe's rights to surface water from the Gila River and other sources, our office has been closely monitoring developments regarding the Colorado River, which is the source of the Tribe's Central Arizona Project ("CAP") rights. The Colorado River Basin hydrology is of grave concern this year after a very warm winter, leading to very little snowpack in the basin. The Bureau of Reclamation has been working on new rules governing the allocation of CAP water between the states, and those rules will have direct, lasting impacts on the Tribe's ability to access Colorado River water and/or receive payments for engaging in conservation efforts. Our office submitted comments on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement prior to Reclamation's recent government-to-government consultation meeting with the Council regarding the Tribe's CAP water rights.

7) Arizona Groundwater

Finally, DOJ tracks litigation, legislative activity, and administrative actions in Arizona related to groundwater. This also includes tracking the state's lawsuit against Fondomonte, a company using tremendous amounts of water in the Ranegras Basin in western Arizona, staying apprised of groundwater data released by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the federal government, and monitoring efforts by the legislature to modify laws regulating the pumping and use of groundwater. At present, DOJ is lobbying the Arizona legislature on S.B. 1287, amending ARS 45-465.03, relating to groundwater; S.B. 1447, amending ARS 45-611, 516.01, amending laws relating to groundwater and the Pinal Active Management Area; S.B. 1559, amending ARS 41-6054 by adding Section 45-580.01, relating to groundwater management; S.B. 1560, CAP, water supply development fund.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Tribe's Attorney General also has the responsibility to provide intergovernmental relations at the local and state governments, and assists the Tribe's federal lobbyist, Mapetsi, with matters involving Congress and the President's Administration. Currently, at the State level, there are 1,966 bills, of which 27 affect the Tribe's interests. These fall into the following categories: **Senate Concurrent Memorial 1006**, urging the State Board on Geographic and Historic Names to designate a portion of U.S. Highway Route 70 as the PFC Michael A. Noline Memorial Highway; **public safety** (S.B. 1055, arrestees, unlawfully present, reporting to CPB and ICE; S.B. 1107, amending ARS 38-884, 41-1822, peace officer certification, alternate pathway for former military police); **funding** (S.B. 1063, Appropriation, U.S. Route 70, Safety improvements from Apache Gold through to Bylas, valued at \$11.1 million); **healthcare** (S.B. 1611, American Indian health program, administration; H.B. 2177, AHCCCS waivers for American Indians; S.B. 1114, AHCCCS, appropriation, behavioral health brokering ban; S.B. 1115, AHCCCS, remote work oversight and accountability; S.B. 1122, AHCCCS, prepayment review and prior authorization for behavioral health services, S.B. 1171, AHCCCS, monthly reviews, enrollment; S.B. 1233, AHCCCS, ADHS, ADES, administrative deficiencies before disciplinary or enforcement actions; S.B. 1346, AHCCCS, fee-for-Service management, claim deficiencies); **Arizona Department of Child Safety** (S.B. 1125, MOU for tribes; S.B. 1126, amending ARS 15-141, relating to education records; S.B. 1172, intake hotline, multiple reports; S.B. 1173, behavioral health, fingerprinting; S.B. 1175, adding ARS 8-5301.10, relating to child welfare, DCS caseworkers, investigations, child photographs; S.B. 1476, adding ARS 13-3619.01, relating to family offense, child neglect, prenatal substance exposures; S.B. 1740, Turquoise alerts, statewide law enforcement training); education (S.B. 1166, amending ARS 15-305, relating to county school superintendents); **voting rights** (S.B. 1570, relating to security, polling places, citizenship); **gaming** (S.B. 1671, relating to Arizona Department of Gaming); and **water** (see list above).



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VERY IMPORTANT
INFORMATION FROM
THE CHAIRMAN

