

Star Valley supports Tonto redistricting map

Tribe's plan to redraw district lines for the board of supervisors has backing of both SV and Payson

BY PETE ALESBIRE
 ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

The Star Valley Town Council on Tuesday lent qualified support to a plan to redraw county supervisor district lines proposed by the Tonto Apache Tribe. Flustered by a lack of details and conflicting reports, the council nearly tabled the motion to get more information — until Councilor Vern Leis suggested the council support the Tonto Apache plan “conceptually.”

The Tonto Apache Tribe's map would shift about 200 tribal members and the whole precinct that includes the tribe from District 2 represented by Michael Pastor to District 3, represented by Shirley Dawson. The Tonto plan would then even out district populations by moving Hispanic voters in Winkelman and Hayden into Pastor's District.

The Payson Town Council has already endorsed the Tonto Apache map, largely because it would result in a north county supervisorial District 1, a south county supervisorial District 2 and a District 3 that fits north instead of south. Such a map would reflect population shifts in the past decade, but it could also shift political power to the north.

The Tonto Apache argued that their map would increase the clout of Apache voters in District 3 as well as the clout of Hispanic voters in District 2 — although both districts would still have a majority of white voters.

However, consultants hired by Gila County to evaluate the maps said the Tonto Apache plan would reduce the percentage of minority voters in District 3 from about

52 percent to about 45 percent. As a result, the Tonto Apache map might run afoul of Department of Justice guidelines. The DOJ must determine whether district maps in Arizona and a handful of other states violate the Voting Rights Act.

However, the consultants have also said that the Justice Department has never had to rule on the key issues raised by the Tonto Apache map.

The tribe argued that they should not be lumped together with Hispanics in calculating the impact of changing district lines — and said their map would increase Apache clout in one district and Hispanic clout in the neighboring district — and therefore should satisfy the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

The discussion about the impact of the percentages of minority voters in drawing district lines punched Councilor George Binney's anti-federal-government button.

“I know how politics works,” said Binney, “but if we're ever going to be one nation under God, we have to stop talking about race all the time. It doesn't matter which map we support — they're all corrupt. It's just one man, one vote. If you don't like where you live, then move. It's just gerrymandering and gerrymandering is part of the problem with this country. It's all wrong. Just divide it by the numbers and draw a line across it and be done with it.”

However, the discussion got muddled by confusion about what a county-appointed redistricting committee did last week. The committee forwarded to the board of supervisors three maps adjusting the boundaries of the three supervisorial districts — including the map submitted by the Tonto Apache. The consultants told the committee the Justice Department might object to the Tonto Apache map because it reduced the percentage of minority voters in District 3, even though it increased the number of Apache voters.

Speaking from the audience Shirley Dye

told the council that the committee had “disapproved” the Tonto Apache map on the advice of the consultant.

However, she noted that both the Tonto Apache map and another map that moved the Tonto Apache reservation into District 3 without also shifting Hispanics out of District 3 in the south “will have the same effect, which is great for all the people in the north.”

A mostly low-key argument between north and south has dominated Gila County politics for much of the last decade. Advocates for northern Gila County complain that the south controls two of the three seats and as a result the north hasn't gotten its fair share of county spending, facilities and services.

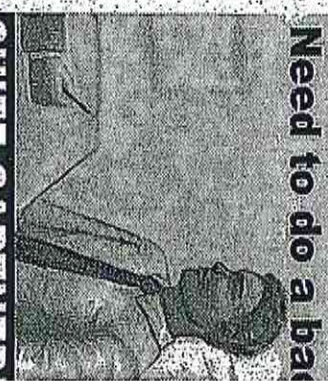
Advocates for the south say current district lines adequately reflect the population and that county spending is concentrated in the south because many county programs serve the low income and minority residents who form such a large percentage of the population in the Globe/Miami area and on the huge San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Initially, Dye's intervention seemed likely to prompt the council to put off making a decision, although Town Manager Tim Grier warned councilors the board of supervisors might adopt one of the maps before the council could take a position.

“We can take a position,” said Leis, “and look like we don't know what we're doing — which we don't.”

Councilor Barbara Hartwell said “the one thing we don't want to do is to be silent, because silence implies consent.” Mayor Bill Rappaport said “my feeling is that we should approve it.”

Leis then offered the winning language that drew unanimous council support. He moved that the council support the Tonto Apache map “conceptually” while leaving the door open to minor adjustments in the boundary to ensure Justice Department approval.



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WELCOME BACK STUDENTS

August 10, 2011

Supervisors to decide Community College District lines

BY LINDA PEARCE
Staff Reporter

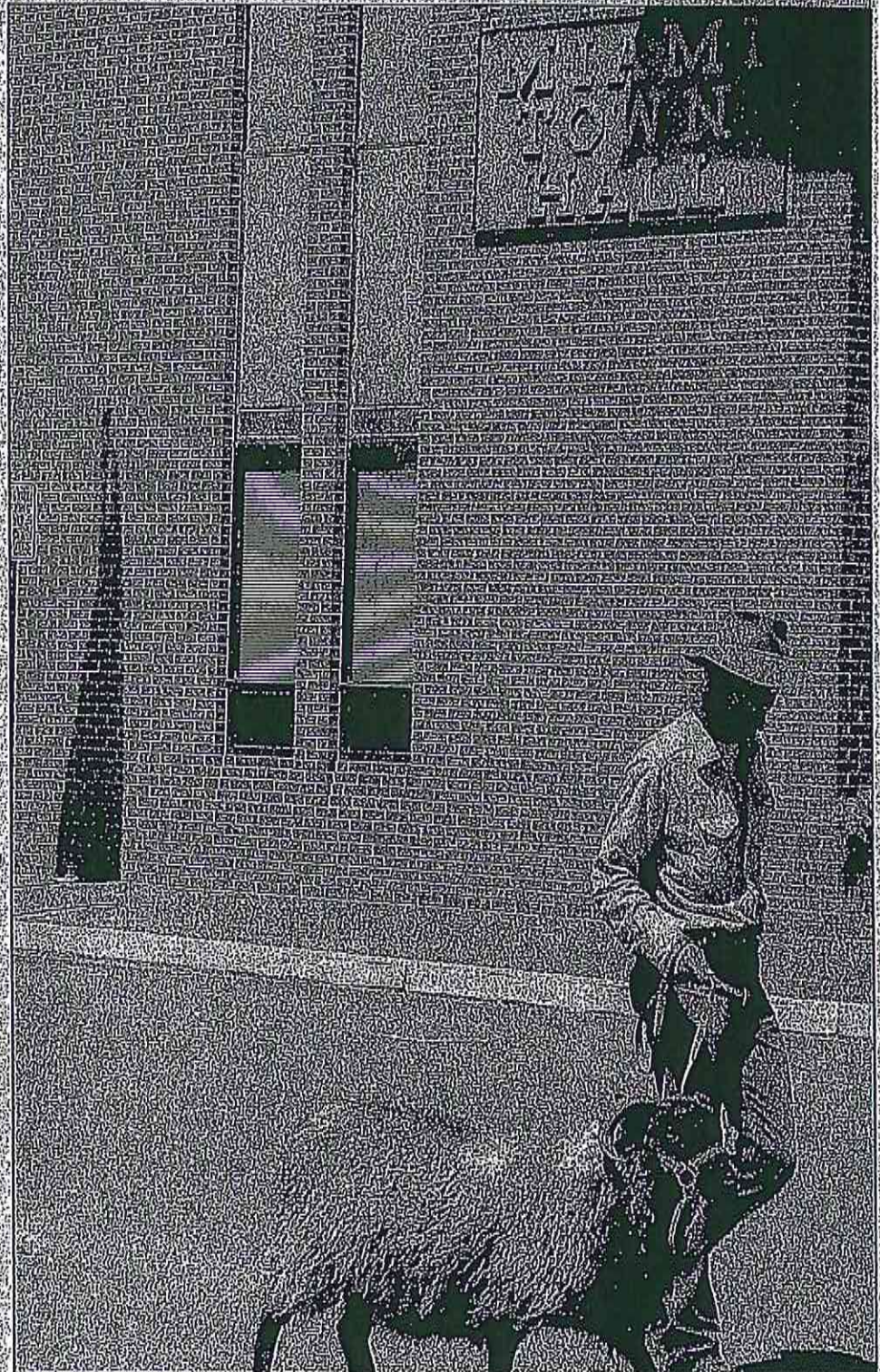
The Gila County Board of Supervisors will be choosing from three proposals recommended by the Gila County Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) to determine the boundaries of the Gila County Community College Districts. They will be studying the proposals at the Aug. 15 work session.

The boundaries will be in effect for the next decade, until new census figures come about in 2020.

AZ Bandit and K Freezor were citizen proposals. Bandit's plan places the Tonto Apaches in one of the same districts with the San Carlos Apaches. Moody is a member of the committee.

The "ideal" number per district is 10,719. Three of the recommended plans place the deviation at less than 4.4 percent, with Freezor's being as low as 3 percent. Currently Districts 1, 2 and 5 shoot way above the ideal, whereas Districts 3 and 4 are far below.

Freezor's plan initially has lower numbers in Districts 1 and 5, but District 1 is likely to have the most growth in the next decade, so numbers will equal out or increase.



Zenada Webb/Courtesy photo

Luke, a Shetland Sheep originally from Flagstaff, Ariz. visited downtown Miami over the weekend. He met a lot of friendly people who wanted to visit and take pictures with him. A proposed ordinance came before the Miami Town Council Monday night that

ona sold

IRON DYNAMICS DONATES BACKPACKS

A new \$650 million gold open pit mine now owned by Freeport-McMoRan and Gold. In 2008 when officials of Eastern decided to purchase Clifton Subdivision in Pacific Railroad. The subdivision serves the mine near Clifton, Arizona changes with Union Pacific near Lordsburg, N.M. In December 2008, the company weekend excursion named the name Copper. It began operating to the Apache Gold mine near San Carlos operate four daily round-trip through the winter and Thursday through Sunday service is currently on hiatus through November. It freight commodities shipped by the Arizona East are sulfuric acid, copper concentrate, copper anode and copper rod and other processing materials. The also handles minerals, building supplies and



Andrea Marcanti/Arizona Silver Belt

Eastern also offers a Cynthia Beall and Gina Contreras of Iron Dynamics donated 73 backpacks

Supervisors to decide Community College District lines

Continued from A1

The racial balance in all of the proposals seem to be equal and comparable to what is currently in place; however, in order to achieve this in Moody's map, District 3 has to wind all the way up and around the top of the county. However Moody's plan is the only one that leaves the local area alone. Other plans move Claypool 2 and Central Heights over into District 3. This would make it a hard district to represent due to travel by that college board member.

In all plans Globe and Miami are confined to pretty much one representative, with the Freezor plan including the Hayden/Winkelman area as part of our area also.

In all plans District 3 will have the biggest changes regardless of which plan is chosen.

The supervisors' selection is just the next step. Plans still have to be approved by the Department of Justice. They may send them back for fine tuning, or they may accept them the way they are.

It is doubtful that any state redistricting will change college district lines.

Star Valley plans to fix Moonlight, Pinon

BY FRANK ALKESHIAN
MICHIGAN CITY REPORTER

Star Valley will spend \$240,000 in federal grant funds to make flood and safety improvements on a portion of Moonlight Drive and in upgrading Pinon Drive.

The council on Tuesday shuffled its priorities for spending of the federal money and dropped flood control improvements on Quail Hollow Drive to the bottom of its priority list.

The Community Block Grant Development funds are intended to help cities and towns help low-income residents. Payson generally spends its block grant money on things like rehabilitation of low-income housing and reducing neighborhood blight.

However, Town Manager Tim Griser assured the council during its meeting that the town remains free to use the money on things like street improvements, since most of Star Valley qualifies as a lower-income area under the federal guidelines.

The council made a roughly \$100,000 project to improve a 4,000-foot-long stretch of Pinon Drive in the Diamond Point area its top priority. The money would pay for paving, widening, and improvements to remove the deep ditches on both sides of the curbless road.

The council made the \$125,000 project to pave, widen and improve about half of Moonlight Drive its second highest priority.

Griser said that with the completion of those two projects, Star Valley will have paved 90 percent of the dirt roads it inherited from Gila County when the town incorporated six years ago.

Several council members wondered aloud whether it was a good idea to spend the federal low-income grant money on street repairs. Normally, the town uses gas tax highway user revenue fund (HURF) money passed along by the state to fund road improvements.

However, the state reduced HURF payments to cities and towns by about 18 percent this year and is diverting a growing percentage of the gas tax money to providing money for the state Department of Public Safety.

Griser said "HURF is declining and it looks like a continuing trend — the robbing of HURF money for cities and towns. (The Legislature) used to apologize as they picked your pocket, but now they go longer do."

The council wrestled with setting the priorities, since Quail Hollow also suffers from erosion and flooding problems in heavy rains.

"We could be rather surprised ... You could get halfway up the road and say 'oops' gotta make this eight-foot jog"



Vern Lels

However, Griser and the town engineer insisted that narrow, heavily-trafficked Pinon should remain the top priority.

"This is the most important road in terms of the danger factor and erosion," said Joe Janusz, town building official.

Councillor Vera Lels asked whether the \$100,000 cost estimate included research on easements and property lines along the road.

The engineering consultant said "that's opening a can of worms" and that the bid made the assumption that the road easement included the whole stretch between the fences on each side of the existing roadway.

Dul Lels objected to that assumption. "You can't go from an eight-foot-wide road to 10 feet and have all the fences be equivalent. We could be rather surprised when we start doing construction. You could get halfway up the road and say 'oops' gotta make this eight-foot jog."

The council ultimately approved the priority list, but said the town should spend the several thousand dollars necessary to do a little search along the right-of-way.

"That's probably money well spent," said Councillor George Blaney of the right-of-way title search.

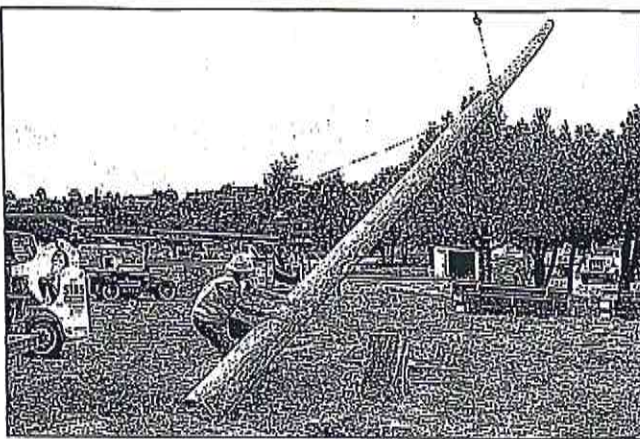
The council also debated whether to remove Quail Hollow from the priority list and replace it with one final flood-prone crossing on Moonlight Drive.

However, Griser said the town hadn't done the necessary studies needed to get that Moonlight Drive crossing added to the approved list of projects prior to the federal deadline for committing the funds.

Besides, he said, the town needed a backup project on the approved priority list like Quail Hollow in case the bids came in low or something prevented the town from going forward with one of the higher priority projects.

"You can't add a new project at this point and there's no strategic advantage to leaving Quail Hollow off," said Griser.

In the end, the council approved the priority list unanimously.



Adam Selvidge steadies one of the poles that were recently set up on the future rope course currently being constructed on the Payson High School campus. The rope course won't be ready for students for weeks, but will provide a challenging new form of exercise once completed.

Redistricting maps go to supervisors

Aug. 23 work study session planned to discuss options

BY MICHELLE NELSON
MICHIGAN CITY REPORTER

Gila County's Redistricting Advisory Committee officially accomplished its mission when it handed over maps of voting districts to the board of supervisors at its meeting on Aug. 16.

Now the job of narrowing the field and submitting redistricting maps to the Department of Justice for the Gila County Board of Supervisors and Gila Community College lies with the supervisors and the public.

"Our goal was to submit at least two maps of each district but we ended up with three," said Robert Sanchez, chairman of the advisory committee.

"Copies of these maps have gone to the tribal council, towns, and political parties. We want maps together by the presidential election in January of 2012," said Linda Eastlick, director of Gila County elections.

Despite a diverse mix of members both locally, polit-

ically, and from different geographical areas in the county, the committee found the experience anticlimactic, said member David Freshick.

Not the job wasn't easy. Out of 21 maps submitted for the supervisor districts, 20 did not meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. The maps for the community college district fell closely within guidelines, said Sanchez.

The committee worked hard with consultants analyzing submitted maps to find acceptable deviations of population and minority voting block numbers to pass DOJ requirements. The committee held 11 meetings from March 22 until July 29, traveling from San Carlos to Pima and Strawberry, reported Sanchez.

At the end of the committee's presentation, the board of supervisors thanked members and voted to dissolve the committee.

The next redistricting map meeting will be held at the board of supervisors work session in Globe on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 10 a.m.

For members of the public from northern Gila County, the meeting may be attended at the offices of Supervisor Yvonne Morin, 660 E. Highway 269.

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GILA COUNTY REDISTRICTING WORK SESSION ANNOUNCED
Globe August 18, 2011 - The Gila County Board of Supervisors will conduct a Gila County Redistricting Work Session in the Hearing Room of the Gila County Courthouse at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. During this meeting the Board will be discussing mapping alternatives received from the Redistricting Advisory Committee as well as other public input that has been received to date. The workshop is open to the public and will be conducted via ITV in the Payson Administration Building Conference Room.

Important future Redistricting dates are:

Date	Time	Event
8/23/11	10:00 AM	Board of Supervisors Work Session - Board discusses public comments received and evaluates alternative mapping ideas received to date
9/6/11	10:00 AM	Board of Supervisors Meeting - Board finalizes which redistricting mapping alternatives will go out for comment during the second round of public meetings to be held throughout the County
9/18-19/11	TBA	Second round of public meetings. A series of public meetings will be held in order for the public to comment on the various County redistricting alternatives
9/20/11	10:00 AM	Board of Supervisors Work Session - Board discusses public comments received and evaluates alternative mapping ideas received to date
10/4/11	10:00 AM	Board of Supervisors Meeting - Board selects final Supervisorial and College District maps

The public is encouraged to attend meetings and make comments on the various Redistricting ideas being proposed. Comments may be made (1) in person at the meetings; (2) via the Gila County Website www.gilacountyaz.gov; click on the orange and yellow Gila County Redistricting banner and follow the "Public Input & Redistricting Maps" to the "Internal Public Comment Form" tab; (3) by sending a letter to the Gila County Elections Department, 5515 S Apache Ave., Suite 900, Globe, AZ, 85501; (4) by contacting a member of the Board of Supervisors. Questions can be directed to the Gila County Elections Department at 928.402.8709.

AVISO DE REUNION DE TRABAJO SOBRE LA REDISTRIBUCION DE DISTRITOS DEL CONDADO DE GILA
18 de Agosto, 2011 - Una reunión de trabajo sobre la redistribución de distritos del condado de Gila se llevará a cabo en la Sala de Audiencias de la Junta de Supervisores el día martes 23 de agosto de 2011 a las 10:00 am. La Junta discutirá las mapas entregadas por el Comité Consultivo de Redistribución de Distritos; así como las sugerencias recibidas por el público hasta la fecha. La sesión de trabajo estará abierta al público y será transmitida por televisión interactiva en la sala de conferencias del edificio administrativo de Payson.

Fechas a notar para la redistribución de distritos:

Fecha	Horario	Evento
8/23/11	10:00 AM	Sesión de trabajo de la Junta de Supervisores - La Junta discutirá los comentarios provenientes del público y evaluará las diversas propuestas de mapas recibidas a la fecha.
9/6/11	10:00 AM	Reunión de la Junta de Supervisores - La Junta determinará las propuestas de mapas del proceso de redistribución de distritos que serán discutidas durante la segunda ronda de reuniones públicas a convocarse en el condado.
9/18-19/11	TBA	Segunda ronda de reuniones públicas. Durante estas reuniones el público podrá discutir diferentes propuestas de redistribución de distritos del condado.
9/20/11	10:00 AM	Sesión de trabajo de la Junta de Supervisores - La Junta discutirá los comentarios proporcionados por el público y evaluará las propuestas de mapas recibidas hasta la fecha.
10/4/11	10:00 AM	Reunión de Junta de Supervisores - La Junta elegirá el mapa definitivo del distrito del Colegio Comunitario y del distrito de Supervisores del Condado de Gila.

Se invita al público a participar en las sesiones de trabajo así como a proporcionar comentarios sobre las diferentes propuestas de redistribución. Puede proporcionar sus comentarios (1) en persona, durante las reuniones; (2) a través de la página de la red del Condado de Gila www.gilacountyaz.gov; pulse en el aviso amarillo con el título "Gila County Redistricting" y busque el enlace "Public Input & Redistricting Maps"; después pulse el enlace "Internal Public Comment Form"; (3) enviando una carta al Departamento Electoral del Condado de Gila, 5515 S Apache Ave., Suite 900, Globe, AZ, 85501; (4) comunicándose con un miembro de la Junta de Supervisores. Si tiene preguntas llame al número telefónico 928.402.8709 del Departamento Electoral del Condado de Gila.

OPINION

4A FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011

OUR VIEW

So how many lawyers can dance on the head of a pin?

Big Brother knows best. So don't bother your poor little brains. Just leave it all up to the U.S. Justice Department. That's the gist of the advice the Gila County Board of Supervisors received this week as its consultants explained the strange logic they believe grips the apparently rigid minds of federal civil rights lawyers.

Now, we're fans of the Voting Rights Act.

Congress enacted this farsighted law in 1965 as the nation grappled with institutionalized racism that deliberately denied basic civil rights to millions of Americans.

But now we must fast forward half a century — and consider the issue before the Gila County Board of Supervisors, charged with redrawing district lines to ensure each district has an equal number of voters.

The current district lines divide the Hispanic voters in south county between District 2 and 3. District 3 also includes the San Carlos Apache Reservation — which means minorities make up 52 percent of the district's population. However, the Tonto Apache Tribe remains nestled in the overwhelmingly white, north county District 1.

The Tonto Apache have submitted a proposed map that would move the 200 reservation voters and the surrounding precinct into District 3 — putting the Tonto and the San Carlos Apache in the same district. To balance out the populations, the Tonto Apache plan would move Hispanics in the Winkleman area from District 3 into District 2.

The net effect would increase the Native American voting bloc in District 3 as well as the Hispanic voting bloc in District 2. It would also increase the total percentage of minority voters in District 2 modestly. However, it would also reduce the combined percentage of minority voters in District 3 from about 52 percent to about 44 percent.

That's a non-starter with the Justice Department, say the county's consultants — one of whom used to work for the Justice Department.

Now, that strikes us as downright patronizing — especially since it appears some leaders of the Hispanic community in south county like the Tonto Apache plan as well.

So, let's get this straight: To protect the rights of minority voters in Gila County the Justice Department wants to ignore the views of those same minority voters?

Really? That's the horse you want to ride? Won't you look kind of silly putting that saddle on backwards?

PAYSON ROUNDUP

FRIDAY | AUGUST 26, 2011 | PAYSON, ARIZONA

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Debate about minority rights still drives redistricting debate

Supervisor clashes with consultant seeks fine-tuning of Tonto Apache plan

BY MICHELE NELSON
ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

A citizen's plea to respect the differences in voting patterns between Native American and Hispanic voting blocks set off a debate between consultants and Gila County supervisors at a redistricting work study session on Tuesday.

The discussion centered on the map the Tonto Apache Tribe submitted to draw new boundaries for the three county supervisor districts.

The Tonto Apache want to move the North County precinct that contains their reservation into the same supervisorial district that contains the San Carlos Apache Reservation and balance out populations by shifting a

group of Hispanic voters into another district. The county's consultants have argued that the Justice Department might reject the Tonto Apache map because it would reduce the total minority population in one district.

"I'm beginning to get some indication Hayden-Winkelman agrees with the Tonto-Apache map. What would Justice say if in fact the two minorities are in favor of what the Tonto Apache are doing?" said Supervisor Tommie Martin.

"Whether people support that map, it's not enough for Justice. The DOJ (Department of Justice) will still do their own investigation (into Section five violations of the Voting Rights Act)," said Bruce Adelson, a Washington D.C.-based consultant.

Both the Payson and Star Valley councils have formally endorsed the Tonto Apache map, which would effectively create a southern district and northern district and a swing district that

▶ See **Consultant**, page 11A

Consultant, supervisor clash

From page 1A

leans north.

Currently, two of the three county supervisor districts are dominated by voters from South County although a majority of the people in the county now live in the north.

Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in 1965 to address grave inequalities in minority voting rights. Section 5 of the VRA requires nine states — Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia — to gain approval from the attorney general or a Washington, D.C. federal court before changing any voting requirements or redrawing district lines.

Adelson referred to the Native Americans and Hispanics in Supervisorial District 3 as a "coalition voting bloc" able to vote for their candidate of choice. He therefore concluded this "coalition voting bloc" could not be split.

However, the Tonto Apache map would move Native Americans into one bloc and Hispanics into another. In doing this, the tribe reduced the total minority percentage in District 3 by about 7 percent, too large a discrepancy for Section 5 according to Adelson — even though the map increased the minority percentages in neighboring District 2.

A citizen of Hayden-Winkelman called Martin to question the Department of Justice's definition of a "coalition voting bloc." This citizen didn't believe the Hispanics and Native Americans voted together at all.

"He would like proof they were a coalition. What it did for me was to make me read more to understand. The language for coalition voting comes from a Sandra Day O'Connor decision. The Voting Rights Act turns this decision on its head," said Martin.

Adelson said "Congress overturned Georgia vs. Ashcroft. There is no numerical majority-minority definition. If the minorities have voted for their candidate of choice they are a voting bloc that has occurred in District 3. Once a minority has determined a voting pattern, that district has a coalition," said Adelson.

Unlike the other two supervisorial district maps under consideration by the board of supervisors, the Tonto Apache map had remained virtually untouched by the consultants. Consultant Tony Sessions tweaked the other two maps to conform to DOJ requirements by shifting individual census blocks from one precinct to another to even out populations without decreasing minority percentages.

When Martin asked why the Tonto Apache map had not been changed to bring it more in line with VRA requirements, Linda Eastlick, director of elections for Gila County responded that they were waiting for direction from the board.

"We need direction on what you'd like us to reanalyze on the maps and in the next meetings you will adopt maps," said Eastlick.

Supervisor Mike Pastor said, "I would agree with you Tommie for the consultants to look at the Tonto's map. Why don't we go ahead and make adjustments ... take a look at the fine-tunings of all six maps and come back on Sept. 6."

A redistricting committee had forwarded the maps showing new boundary lines for the supervisorial districts and three others showing new boundaries for the Gila Community College board.

The remainder of the meeting was spent looking at the details of both the maps. The Gila County Board of Supervisors will meet again to vote on the maps at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 6 before releasing the final maps to the public.

Archive for Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Lawsuit will not stall Gila redistricting

State challenges federal review of voting rights of minorities

September 6, 2011

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Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne has filed a lawsuit in federal court to overturn sections of the Voting Rights Act, but the lawsuit will not affect redistricting in Gila County this year, said local officials.

"The portions of the Voting Rights Act requiring preclearance of all voting changes are either archaic, not based in fact, or subject to completely subjective enforcement based on the whim of federal authorities," Horne said in a statement.

Local officials said the lawsuit would not affect redistricting plans suggested by an independent citizen committee.

"This case will take years to resolve. It will be long after the 2012 elections that Gila County will see the effects," said Bryan Chambers, chief deputy county attorney for Gila.

In effect, Horne wants to get Arizona off probation with the Justice Department, which has challenged the impact of past redistricting plans on the rights of Hispanic voters. Those problems mean Arizona has to get "preclearance" before adopting a redistricting plan.

Due to past problems in some districts, the Justice Department now reviews every single redistricting plan statewide, said Chambers.

Preclearance allows the federal government to involve itself in the minutia of decision making from the way precinct committee members are appointed, to how many members may sit on a fire district board, to how schools run transportation districts, said Chambers.

If Horne's lawsuit succeeds, Arizona would no longer need preclearance — but would still have to protect the voting rights of minorities.

"Without preclearance, the state would still be subject to the Voting Rights Act," said Chambers.

Passed in 1965, the Voting Rights Act bans any state from creating a voting practice or process that denies or reduces a citizen's ability to vote based on race or color.

In 1972, the federal government put Arizona on its list of states requiring preclearance because the state did not have bi-lingual ballots. Since then, the DOJ has held that some district lines have limited minority voting rights and so the state has remained on DOJ's list.

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Currently nine other states require preclearance from the DOJ, Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Arizona has since fixed the bilingual ballot issue, but the government continues to refuse to release Arizona from the intense scrutiny of the DOJ, thanks largely to questions raised about the impact on Hispanic voters of past redistricting plans in Pima and Maricopa counties.

Gila County could "ball out" of the preclearance requirement, but only if the county, its cities, districts and any adjacent counties manage to avoid upsetting the DOJ for at least 10 years, said Chambers.

"It's a very interesting lawsuit, but if they (Gila supervisors) don't follow through with preclearance requirements, the board will be in trouble with DOJ," said Chambers.

Asked for comment, board members agreed with Chambers:

"Until we see direction (from the county attorney's office), we will proceed as normal," said Supervisor Shirley Dawson.

"I don't think it will affect anything we are doing at this time. I would think that once there is a decision, things will be different," said Supervisor Mike Pastor.

"It will be years before a decision, but I think it's important they begin now," said Tommie Martin of District 1.

That means the county will finish work on district plans for the board of supervisors and the Gila Community College board.

A redistricting committee recommended six alternative maps. The supervisors will settle on a redistricting plan for each entity, then seek Department of Justice approval of the maps.

So far, most of the controversy in the process has focused on the districts for the supervisors, which currently has one north county district and two districts dominated by south county.

The Tonto Apache Tribe has proposed a map that would move the precinct that includes the reservation into a different district. This proposed plan would affect both minority percentages in two districts and the political balance between north and south county.

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF

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Volume 1 Number 14

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

THE APACHE PEOPLE

Peridot Chronicle

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Tonto Apache- On Tuesday at a redistricting work study session, a debate began between the Gila County supervisors and consultants about the voting patterns between Native Americans and Hispanics voting blocks. The Tonto Apache Tribe proposed a map with new boundaries for the three-county supervisor districts. The proposed map has Tonto Apache and the San Carlos Apache Tribe in the same district and balances out populations by moving some Hispanic voters into a different district. But county consultants believe there is a possibility

the Department of Justice will reject the Tonto Apache map because it will reduce the minority population in one district. The councils of Star Valley and Payson both officially approved the Tonto Apache map and which could effectively create a southern and northern district and a swing district the leans north. There are two other district maps in consideration by the board of supervisors that have been revised to fit the Department of Justice requirements with the Tonto Apache map remaining untouched by the county consultants. The Gila County Board of Su-

pervisors will meet on September 6th one last time before releasing the final maps to the public.

Redistricting maps now up for public comment

BY MICHELE NELSON
ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

The Gila County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to let the public, between now and Oct. 3, have a chance to comment on the redistricting map proposed by the Tonto Apache Tribe and others, despite the qualms of its own consultants.

In a 2-1 vote, supervisors agreed to let the public comment on four proposed revisions of the boundaries of the three county districts, including both the original Tonto Apache map and a version of that map "tweaked" by its consultants, which they think will

make it more attractive to the U.S. Justice Department. The Justice Department must review all changes to voting districts in Arizona due to past problems in complying with the Voting Rights Act. The board also approved maps proposed by citizens K. Feezor and T. Moody.

The supervisors also approved for submission to the public three proposed revisions of the Gila Community College district lines, which have provoked far less controversy. People can see the maps by going to <http://co.gila.az.us/elections/Redistrictinfo.html>.

► See **Public**, page 12A

Public gets to review maps

From page 1A

"I don't see a problem with all four (supervisor) plans floating ... then we make the hard decision (to vote for one plan to send to the Department of Justice) after comments from these four plans," said Supervisor Tommie Martin.

The Tonto Apache map drew the surprising support of Supervisor Shirley Dawson, although her comments made it likely she won't vote for the plan already endorsed by the Payson and Star Valley councils.

"I will not vote for something that will get thrown out by Justice," said Dawson.

Supervisor Mike Pastor voted against even seeking public comment on the Tonto Apache map, which would make significant changes in his district.

He cited comments by the county's consultants who advised that federal civil rights lawyers would not approve district lines that reduced the percentage of minority votes in Pastor's or Dawson's districts, both dominated by south-county voters.

"I think the Tonto Apache map would not fit into the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ)," said Pastor.

The redistricting map the Tonto Apache originally submitted created a 6.94-percent increase in voting-age Hispanics in Pastor's District 2, while lowering the percentage of voting-age Hispanics in Dawson's District 3 by 7.14 percent. At the same time, the map increased the amount of Native American voters in District 3 to 68 percent while dropping the percentage by .53 percent in District 2.

The Tonto Apache Tribe asked to be moved from Dawson's District 2, over to Pastor's District 3 to be united with the large San Carlos Apache Reservation in south county.

However, the Tonto Apache wanted to include in the shift the rest of the north-county precinct in which the 200-person reservation sits, and even out populations by moving Hispanics living near Winkelman into Pastor's already heavily Hispanic district. The shift would consolidate Apache voters in Dawson's district and Hispanic voters in Pastor's district, but lower the overall share of minority voters in Dawson's district.

The original Tonto Apache map balances the voting districts between the north and the south county by creating a northern District 1, a southern District 2, and a District 3 equally balanced between the north and the south voting interests.

The other two maps continue to divide the county into a northern and two southern voting districts, just like the current boundaries.

If the supervisors did adopt the Tonto map, 47 percent of the District 3 voters would live in the north and 53 percent in the south. About 89 percent of the District 1 voters would live in the north and 11 percent in the south, according to an analysis by Max Feezor, a member of the now disbanded Citizens Redistricting Committee.

The supervisors, consultants and public agree that joining the San Carlos, White Mountain and Tonto Apache tribes into one voting district makes sense. Currently the Tonto sit in District 2, while the other tribes vote in District 3.

The controversy comes in the Tonto plan to move heavily Hispanic Hayden-Winkelman voting districts from District 3 to District 2.

"I have talked to several Hayden-Winkelman people. They feel very isolated. They don't believe there is a reason to move into District 2," said Dawson.

That shift would increase the Hispanic voting block in District 2, but would reduce the total number of minority voters in District 3 — which the consultants said might provoke a rejection of the plan by the Justice

Department. However, in the version of the Tonto map "tweaked" by the consultants, only the Tonto reservation itself shifted, which made so little difference that south-county voters would have continued to dominate two of the three districts — even though a majority of the county's population now lives in the north.

"Before our workshop, I had a call from a (Hayden-Winkelman) lady and man who wanted to be moved to District 2," said Martin.

Complicating the issue of what the voters want was the extremely low public attendance at prior meetings the Citizens Redistricting Committee held in Hayden-Winkelman, said Dawson.

Once the board opened Tuesday's meeting to the public, Tonto Apache Tribal Council member Vivian Burdette said that the views of such a small number of voters in Hayden-Winkelman wouldn't convince her people to abandon the map the tribe had submitted. She requested the public consider the original Tonto Apache map to give people in Hayden-Winkelman a chance to weigh in on which voting district they would prefer to join.

"I would like to know the concerns down south," said Burdette.

When it came time to vote, Pastor voted against submitting all four maps to the public for comment, while Martin and Dawson voted together.

"I think we're beating our heads against the wall with such a huge difference (in voting minority blocs)," said Pastor.

The way the vote split surprised members of the public who attended the meeting.

Bob Dalby, a former member of the Redistricting Committee, felt Pastor would have voted with Martin due to his district being relatively unaffected by redistricting plans.

"Shirley's could be up for grabs," said Dalby.

The supervisors unanimously voted to seek public comment on three alternative community college voting district maps. The community college board has five districts which did not face the same problems juggling minority-voting blocs.

None of the three maps caused a significant decline in minority voting blocs — but a three maps would effectively shift the political balance of power to the north — which reflects population growth in the past decade.

The Gila Community College Board had been all but immobilized by north-south divisions the past several years, with three of the five districts oriented toward the south.

The supervisors will vote on final maps to submit to the DOJ on Oct. 3, said Linda Eastlick, director of Gila County Elections.

Redistricting maps draw variety of comments

BY MICHELE NELSON
ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

About 30 people debated how to respond to Gila County's population shift to the north-dominated conversation at the second of six public meetings on redistricting last Thursday, Sept. 8, in Payson.

Much of the debate last week centered on the Tonto Apache map, now labeled as Draft Plan D. That map would move the Tonto Apache Tribe from District 2 to District 3, increasing Native American clout in that district.

However, the map would also move a block of south county Hispanic voters from District 1 to District 2, increasing the Hispanic block in District 2 — but decreasing the total minority population in District 3.

"The whole intent of the tribe is to make District 3 a swing vote, District 2 a Democratic vote and District 1 a Republican vote," Shirley Dye said.

Dye, reported that at a previous public session in Tonto Basin, one participant called her a "segregationist" because she supported a map proposed by the Tonto Apache Tribe that would lower overall minority percentages in one district, but increase minority percentages in a neighboring district.

Much of the discussion focused on whether the Justice Department will insist on lumping together Hispanic and Native American voters in its analysis of whether any given map dilutes minority representation.

"From my research, a minority group has the same culture and language," she said. "Mixing the two distinct minority groups, Hispanic and Native American and claiming they had any similar patterns had no precedence in any of her research."

Dye didn't feel it right that the board of supervisors 10 years ago combined Hispanics and Native Americans in their analysis in drawing the current district lines.

However, the county's consultants said they believe that the Department of Justice (DOJ) will lump those groups together in any analysis.

Mac Feezor wondered if a meeting had happened in Hayden yet to ask if Hispanic

voters in the Winkelman area wanted to shift into a Globe-based district that already has a big Hispanic population.

"Has anyone come up with case law or something they want to stay away from?" he said.

Linda Eastlick, director of Gila County Elections, responded the Hayden-Winkelman-Christmas meeting would be held on Monday. However, she said that the San Carlos tribe has already told her office that they didn't understand why the Hispanics in Winkelman would be split from the tribe.

She reiterated the Department of Justice would have to examine the plans and the federal guidelines would determine what the county could do in redrawing voting lines.

Kay Miller wanted to know if comments would be sent to the DOJ along with the maps selected by the Gila board of supervisors.

"All comments go as part of the submission," said Eastlick.

Dye wanted to know whether the public could submit their own, additional plans if the board of supervisors rejected the Tonto Apache map.

"Will a separate submission be allowed? No. (The board of supervisors) have the legal right to make the submission," said Eastlick.

Eastlick said the board would take public comments into consideration at its Sept. 13 work session.

The public is welcome to attend. If one map doesn't satisfy the board, the supervisors may want to look at redrawing a map to submit, she said.

Nancy Gartner said that the maps should reflect population shifts that mean about 60 percent of the population now lives in the north — although south county voters dominate two of the three districts.

"The ideal population of each supervisor district is 17,000 plus. It all depends on what you call north and we cannot reduce the minority voting population," said Eastlick.

Peter Morgan said, "My issue is honesty and integrity and I don't see it."

After fielding comments on the supervisorial district, Eastlick moved on to the community college maps.

Dye preferred the Plan 1 map because it

was contiguous and balanced. She felt Plan 2 and 3 "did some weird stuff with lines."

Christine Harrison agreed with Dye that Plan 1 seemed more, "elegant." She asked if the community college maps had to follow the same rules about deviation as the supervisor maps.

"As far as total population deviation, the general rule is a 10 percent deviation," said Eastlick, which is to say 5 percent above or below the ideal average.

Feezor said prior to redrawing voting lines, the community college districts had started with a 25 percent population difference.

Larry Stephenson, Star Valley resident and Gila Community College board member thanked Eastlick, her staff and the citizen committee for their work.

"I think all three community college maps are acceptable. I know the committee felt the college map process was an easier time than the supervisor maps," said Stephenson.

Harrison joined Stephenson in thanking Eastlick for being gracious when at times the process got "hairy."

"We might not all agree with everyone, but we need to hear each other," said Eastlick.

The public may make comment by mail submitting comments at Supervisor Tommi Martin's office or through the Gila County Web site: <http://co.gila.az.us/index.html>.

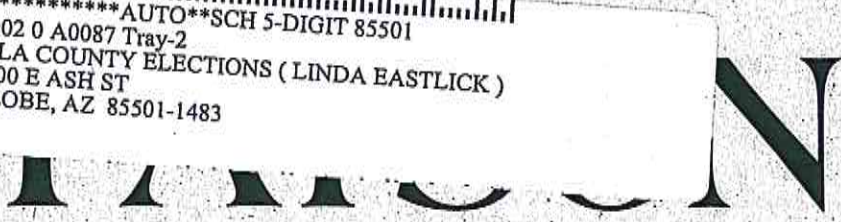
The last day to submit public comment will be Friday, Sept. 16.

The board of supervisors will have a work study session on redistricting Tuesday, Sept. 20. The public may attend and make comments either in Globe or the Payson Gila County offices at 610 E. Highway 260.

The Gila County Elections Department hosted the forum at the Payson Best Western. Eastlick opened with a summary of the details of the seven district maps, four for the supervisors and three for the Gila Community College.

For the next two weeks, the county will gather public comments to help the supervisors choose which maps to send to the U.S. Department of Justice to analyze according to the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

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FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 23

RY'S NEWS SOURCE

ROUNDUP

3, 2011 | PAYSON, ARIZONA

Redistricting committee frustrated with map plan

BY MICHELE NELSON
 ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

The Gila County Board of Supervisors Tuesday rejected the widely supported redistricting plan proposed by the Tonto Apache Tribe and instead agreed to focus on three supervisorial maps that will make only minor changes in current district boundaries.

Ironically, while rejecting any change that would reduce the number of Hispanic and Native American voters in the supervisorial districts, they also agreed to make additional changes in district lines for Gila Community College that resulted in "packing" too many minority voters in a single district.

The vote left many frustrated members of the Gila County Redistricting

Advisory Committee who wondered aloud why they'd spent months laboring over maps all rendered meaningless by the legal limitations on redistricting.

"This whole process was a waste of time," said Mac Feezor, one of the committee members who spent months studying alternative maps.

"It's just politics," said Supervisor Tommie Martin.

On Tuesday, the supervisors had one more look at proposed maps for the board of supervisors and the Gila Community College District before deciding which maps to submit to the Department of Justice.

Consultant Bruce Adelson, a former lawyer for the Department of Justice,

► See **Redistricting**, page 10A

Redistricting process frustrating to committee members

From page 1A

advised the supervisors that the voting rights act's protection of minority voting rights will take precedence over the constitutional mandate to make the population in each district the same.

Retroggression is the legal term for reducing minority voting strength by shifting voters from one district to another. For example, cases based on racial gerrymandering in the South have established that once a district has more than 50 percent minority voters, new boundaries can't take the total number of minorities below that 50-percent line.

The Tonto Apache map would have reduced the overall minority percentage in District 3 from 50 percent to about 44 percent. Any reduction of minority percentages would prompt the Justice Department to reject the change, said the consultants.

Both the Payson and Star Valley town councils had urged the board of supervisors to adopt the Tonto Apache map, mostly because it would more accurately reflect the shift of the county's population to the north.

But the county's consultants determined in their analysis of the voting patterns in the three supervisor districts that because of the minority voter blocs in District 2 and District 3, the existing boundaries must remain essentially unchanged.

"It's (retroggression) like a 30-foot concrete wall — you can't get past it," said Adelson.

That advice sharply limits any changes in existing district lines, said Linda Eastlick, director of elections.

Eastlick offered a list of requests for the board to consider in settling on which maps to submit to the Department of Justice.

First, District 2 has to gain population as a result of the 2010 census.

Second, the supervisors should address the Tonto Apache request to move from District 2

into District 3, which already includes the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache tribes.

Third, the current minority voting strength in Districts 2 and 3 must remain the same and not be reduced.

Fourth, supervisors must maintain the Hispanic and Native American voting blocs in District 3.

Due to voting retroggression, Eastlick said the board cannot accommodate the request of the Tonto Apache to move their ancestral homeland of Gisela into District 3 along with the reservation land.

With those details on the table, the board examined the four alternative supervisor district maps on which they had gathered public comments from a series of six meetings over the first two weeks of September.

Complicating their discussion, members of the public had also introduced four additional maps to the mix. Feezor created three new maps taking into consideration all of the factors Eastlick had described and the population shift to the north.

Supervisor Mike Pastor immediately suggested setting those three maps aside because it "will be difficult for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make a determination."

The supervisors ultimately declined to submit Feezor's maps because the consultants declared them illegal.

Marin asked them to explain how the maps were illegal.

"The standard is a comparison of the benchmark of the number of majority-minority voting districts. You may not have less minority-majority districts, and all three of these maps do that," said Adelson.

David Cook, a resident of Globe, also sent in a map. In his public comments, Cook echoed the frustration the members of the Gila County Redistricting Advisory Committee had.

"When I submitted my maps, one of the

comments I received from a supervisor was, 'It's a little late in the game, but it's hard to play the game when it keeps changing.'"

Supporting Cook's maps was Ed Dawson, husband of Supervisor Shirley Dawson and a judge on the San Carlos reservation, who said that since the population had shifted to the north, the redistricting maps should reflect that shift. He did agree, though, that he could live with the maps tweaked by the consultants.

The supervisors declined to submit Cook's map.

After deciding that supervisor district maps A, B and C presented viable choices, the board agreed it would settle on one of the three maps on Oct. 3.

Turning to the much less contested community college maps, the consultants advised there was a "packing" issue with District 5.

Packing occurs when district lines concentrate overly large percentages of minority voters in a single district, which judges have ruled unconstitutional.

In District 5 of the community college maps, approximately 70 percent of the voters are minorities — most of them (about 60 percent) living on the San Carlos Apache reservation. Hispanics comprise about 10 percent of District 5. That concentration creates a "packed" district, said Adelson.

"What my advice would be is to move some District 5 Latinos to District 3 or 4 ... to increase their ability to vote for their candidate of choice (in those districts)," said Adelson.

The supervisors closed the meeting by voting to move supervisor plans A, B and C forward without any additional tweaking and to adjust the existing community college maps to reduce packing.

The next meeting the Board of Supervisors will have on redistricting is scheduled for Monday Oct. 3 at 10 a.m.

OPINION

4A FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

OURVIEW

Redistricting: The fix is in

Once again, politics and legalisms seem poised to trump common sense and the public good. On any given day, that sums up developments in Washington, D.C. Sadly, today it applies to Gila County.

This week, two members of the Gila County Board of Supervisors signaled their willingness to play politics behind a smokescreen of lawyers. Specifically, the board rejected a redistricting map that would reflect population shifts in favor of a lopsided gerrymander.

But thanks to the tortured rationalizations of the county's hired consultants, the board majority hopes to blame it all on the Voting Rights Act.

Nonsense.

Granted, some lawmakers a decade ago did try to manipulate the redistricting process to marginalize Hispanic voters. That's why Arizona ended up on Voting Rights Act probation. So now even Gila County has to listen to demeaning lectures by Justice Department lawyers munching on their \$16 muffins.

Supposedly the Justice Department now has rigid rules to protect minority voting rights from abuse at the hands of white politicians. As a result, the Justice Department will supposedly automatically reject any change in the minority percentages in two of the three supervisorial districts.

So despite significant growth in population in one part of the county nothing changes. The rule of one-man-one-vote is ignored. One of the county's consultants said the Voting Rights Act takes precedence over a constitutional mandate to make the population in each district the same. How does a law passed by Congress overrule what is in our Constitution? And politicians wonder why the Tea Party movement gains new members every week.

How convenient for the defenders of the status quo, which ensures two of the three supervisors will spend most of their time placating south county voters, although Rim Country now has a narrow majority of the voters and pays the bulk of the property taxes.

As a result, the county barely pays attention to things like protecting forest communities from forest fires, securing water rights for unincorporated communities and providing equal access to county services.

The board's majority staged an empty, two-month-long charade to reach its pre-ordained conclusion, wasting the time of a dozen dedicated committee mem-

The county supervisor-appointed redistricting committee, made up of volunteers from throughout the county, is frustrated with the process and the result. This group spent hours and hours in meetings, reviewing maps and listening to public comments on how the county supervisor maps should be amended.

But for what? The hired consultants overruled the committee of citizens and their map selection. Why have the citizens committee if the supervisors are just going to ignore their recommendations?

Frustrating process

One of the committee members who spent months studying the alternative maps, said "This whole process was a waste of time."

North county supervisor Tommie Martin said "It's just politics."

The board of supervisors ignored their own committee of volunteers and went with the paid consultants, who don't live here.

So the board rejected a plan proposed by the Tonto Apache Tribe that would have protected the political clout of Apaches in one district and Hispanics in another while also reflecting the distribution of population between north and south.

That's why both Payson and Star Valley supported the tribe's map.

But this week the board majority protected their own seats by casting the Tonto Apache map aside. The consultants said the Justice Department would flip out because the plan would reduce the total minority percentage from 50 to 44 in one district — while increasing minority totals by a similar percentage in the neighboring district.

We don't believe it for a minute. No one knows for sure how the DOJ would respond to a map that protects both Apache and Hispanic voting rights, while also reflecting population shifts.

We should find out — especially given this county's worthy and honorable history of electing Hispanic supervisors even in majority white districts.

Alas, the board majority seemingly cannot resist playing politics if the lawyers give them cover. The fix is in.

PAYSON ROUNDUP

Supervisors vote for Tonto Apache map that creates north-south swing district

BY MICHELLE NELSON
ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

After months of controversy, the Gila County Board of Supervisors Monday agreed to move the Tonto Apache Tribe into a different supervisorial district, which will shift political power to the north.

The board's vote capped a long struggle to ensure the new district lines reflect a shift of the population to the north.

The new alignment will produce one northern district, one solidly southern district and one evenly balanced swing district.

Right up to the last minute, it appeared the board majority would opt for virtually no change in district boundaries to avoid waving a political red flag under the nose of the

U.S. Justice Department by changing minority vote percentages.

However, a last-minute move by the San Carlos Apache Tribe to support a map based on a plan submitted by the Tonto Apache Tribe created a political realignment.

The Board of Supervisors voted to submit to the Justice Department Plan A, which was a version of the Tonto Apache map tweaked by the county's consultants.

The supervisors also voted to send Draft Plan 1 of the Gila Community College voting district maps after the consultants tweaked district 5 to correct a lopsided concentration of minority voters.

Supervisors Michael Pastor and Shirley Dawson had indicated on Sept. 20 that they preferred Supervisor map Plan C, which left voting lines virtually unchanged. However, the San Carlos Apache Tribe then voted to support Plan A.

"I agree with Supervisor Pastor on Plan C (he said the lines were more contiguous), but I believe Plan A is the best compromise. I

move the Supervisors support Plan A," said Dawson.

"As much as I see Plan C would be a better way to go, I will second the motion," said Pastor.

The existing districts feature an entirely North County District 1 — and two other districts heavily dominated by south county voters.

However, the latest census shows that the majority of voters now live in north county.

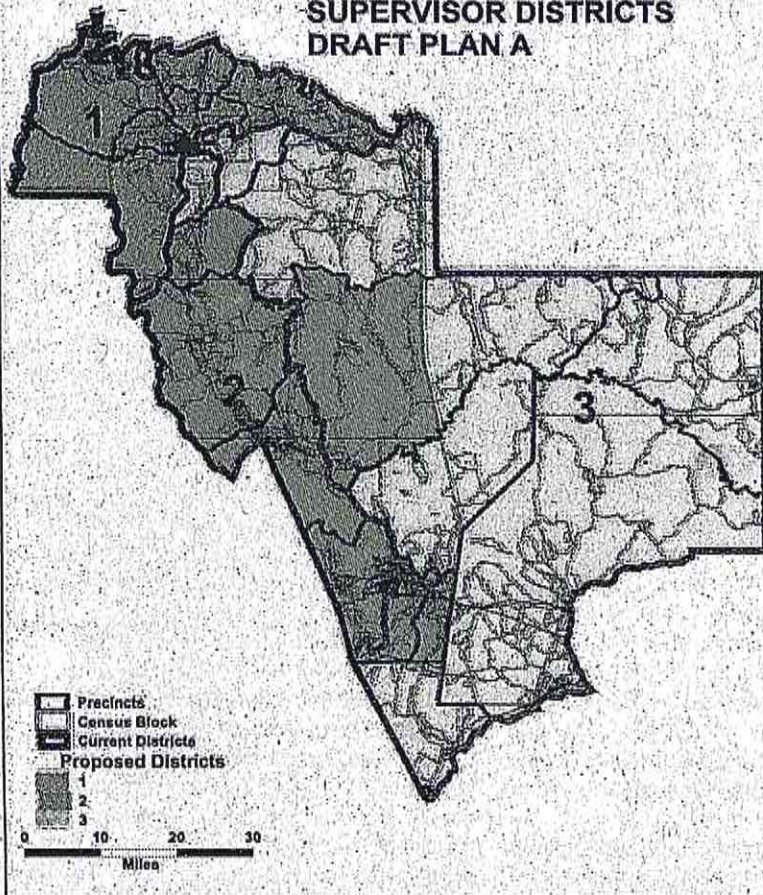
The big change in Plan A involves Dawson's District 3. Previously, it had three times as many voters in the south as in the north. The new lines will leave it almost evenly balanced between north and south.

Meanwhile, Pastor's District 2 will now have twice as large a share of southern voters as it did before, according to an analysis by Mac Feezor, a member of the redistricting committee.

Plan A moves Payson District 2, which includes everything east of Highway 87 and

► See **County** page 12A

GILA COUNTY
SUPERVISOR DISTRICTS
DRAFT PLAN A



10/4/11 pt. 2

County adopts plan

From page 1A

south of Frontier Street then continues out Granite Dells Road. The communities of Round Valley, the Tonto Apache Reservation and the Payson Regional Medical Center sit in this area, while the former Frontier Elementary School sits just north of the district line. Star Valley stays in District 3.

Moving Payson District 2 changes both total population and minority percentages in Supervisor District 2. To fix that, the consultants moved Globe #8 and Globe #2 into District 3. They also split the Sierra Ancha district between Pastor's District 2 and Dawson's District 3.

Supervisor Dawson praised the committee and Linda Eastlick who put in hours of work on the process despite comments made by the media. She also objected to stories and editorials in the *Roundup* focused on whether the supervisors would adopt a plan that would ensure the district lines reflected population shifts that have moved the population center of the county to the north.

"For the *Roundup* to make comments that this is just a political exercise is unfair. I feel that we did what we did to the best of our ability. I wanted the public to know that," said Dawson.

"I feel we were damned if we did and damned if we didn't. Yes, there is a question why we formed the committee, but I wouldn't have done it differently," said Supervisor Tommie Martin.

The approved maps, along with public comments, now move on to the Department of Justice. The DOJ will review the two maps for the next 90 days to make sure the submitted maps accurately reflect population changes and adhere to the Federal Voting Rights Act requirements. If the maps pass the DOJ review, the county recorder will make any voter registration changes required by the board- and DOJ-approved maps.

Prosit Oktoberfest fans!

Continued from A1

Foundation President Jerry McCreary was very pleased with the event, saying "We had a great turnout and great weather and it was supported greatly by the community. It was a good time!"

McCreary went on to add, "We want to thank all of our sponsors and everyone who helped make this event a success. What I love about this community is that when you have an event for a good cause, everyone gets behind it. It's just amazing how everyone helps out."

McCreary also had special praise for this year's chairman, Ron Carnahan.



Alora Whipple, 5, gets a bright rainbow painted on her face.

New sanitary district sets terms for members

Continued from A1

They will not have to run again until 2014. These names and terms will be sent to Linda Eastlick, Director of Elections.

Several of the members have been attending training sessions now that the board is getting down to specifics as to what will be needed in the way of financing and construction. Zach and attorney Bill Clemmens attended a the Rural Water Association's conference in Chandler in September. The rural Community Assistance Corporation is presenting a free sanitary board training in Prescott

in October. Since most of this is uncharted territory, members are learning weekly about the process from the Project Manager Darin Mills, Financial Advisor Leo Valdez and County Water Treatment Director Jake Garrett.

Mills of AMEC presented the board an 869-page engineering study concerning the available capacity of the new Miami wastewater treatment plant that Tri-City is planning to connect to.

Financially Valdez has been keeping the board up to date on the status of the applications for funding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Rural Development. In the same vein, the

Board of Supervisors designated the district a Colonia which makes it easier to gather funding.

The deeper the board gets into the actual process, various items come up that are unique to this board. For example, Miami High School, Walmart, AM/PM and Miami Gardens are already on the Miami sewer, but they are also within the boundaries of the new district. There will have to be a legal decision as to which district they will be in and to whom will they pay their sewer bill. Other issues include both sides of the highway and the hospital which are actually in the Globe City limits.

Even healthy people get flu—get your shot now

Continued from A1

months of January and February, but it isn't really over until April or so.

What is the difference between a cold and the flu?

There is usually a fever with the flu, but rarely with a cold. There is headache, severe general aches and pains, and fatigue or exhaustion that can last two or three

weeks.

If you have a stuffy nose, sneezing, and sore throat without the preciously mentioned symptoms, it is probably a cold. Complications of a cold can lead to sinus congestion and/or earache. But flu complications can be life threatening and include bronchitis and pneumonia. Sartin concludes, "A visit or call to your physician would be in order if you have flu symptoms and are not responding

to 'over the counter' treatment. There are anti-virals that they prescribe if indicated."

One of the best prevention methods, in addition to the flu shot, is to wash hands for at least 25 seconds after being in the public. To prevent spreading it in the house, wash your hands immediately upon entering after being in the public and wipe doorknobs and faucet handles, etc. that others have touched.

Supervisors decide on redistricting map

BY LINDA PEARCE
Staff Reporter

Supervisory map Plan C was chosen by the Gila County Board of Supervisors to be sent to the Department of Justice for approval. This plan is the one of the three requiring the most voter registration changes. Before the next elections, 6,500 voters will have some sort of change based only on the supervisor districts. This does not take into consideration what changes the state is in the process of making with legislative and congressional redistricting. The County Recorder's Office will have its work cut out to get this all done between final approval by the DOJ and January.

According to the Recorder's Office, the most pressing need will be for city and town candi-

dates who need signature limits for their elections. Petition circulation usually starts in March.

Supervisor Dawson in response to an article in the *Payson Roundup* newspaper calling the redistricting nothing more than a political activity stated, "We did what we did in the best way possible." Chairman Martin said, "In my cowboy style, we were damned if we did and damned if we didn't."

Supervisor Pastor said other county supervisors did the redistricting themselves but Gila County chose the more democratic way and that was to have citizens present plans and the supervisors chose the best plan that met DOJ criteria. He said he actually preferred Plan A, but could see Plan C as the best compromise for the majority of the citi-

zens in the county.

In other business, the Board approved the adoption of a resolution which authorizes an intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation for pavement marking to areas of Wheatfields Road, Main Street/Golden Hill, Russell Road, Ragus Road/Railroad Avenue, San Carlos Drive and several areas in northern Gila County.

The thermoplastic striping will be good for about seven years according to Public Works Director Steve Stratton.

The Board also approved a Power Purchase Agreement between Tioga Solar Gila, LLC and the County for Tioga to provide for privately owned solar photovoltaic energy generating systems to the County.

Miami council spends quality time with sewer project partners

BY LINDA PEARCE
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — The Miami Town Council seemed to be having a "Come to Jesus" moment regarding their sewer plans on Monday.

Councilman Mike Black voted no on all five items related to making payments to various companies for sewer work. Councilman Robert Baeza voted no on two of them, abstained from voting on two items and agreed with the majority on one. He explained to Ben Barcon of ADM and Ron Hilgart of Hilgart-Wilson, "I don't mean to disrespect you, but I am worried about paying for everything since the U.S. Department of Agriculture has not approved any requested loans yet." He indicated he will be going to a meeting in Phoenix on Wednesday to get more information.

Councilman Black was also concerned. He said he couldn't ap-

prove more spending when he doesn't know if loan money is coming to pay back what has already been spent.

Even Mayor Castaneda said, "Coming from the banking world, I am used to hearing 'approved or declined' regarding loans and we haven't heard anything from USDA."

Barcon assured her and the council that "USDA is committed to loaning the town the money, we just don't know how much or when." He said that is why USDA requested and ADM and Hilgart have planned the sewer project in five phases.

Phase one, the grit separator is 100 percent complete. Phase two, the trunk line design is 100 percent complete. Phases three through five are 60 percent complete but are on hold pending approval of more funds. Phase three is one to two weeks away from being 90 percent complete.

Hilgart spend a great deal of time informing the council, who seemed hungry for specifics, about where the project stands financially as well as physically. He assured them that there is \$732,000 left of the 3.2 million WIFA bridge loan. A bridge loan is given to get a project started that USDA has generally agreed is a needed project. Because USDA is a federal agency and because the federal government's fiscal year begins in October, they are waiting to hear the amount. Both Barcon and Hilgart felt the loan is a sure thing and there is enough WIFA money left to finish the design phase.

After a question from Baeza as to why he was hearing two figures for a final cost, Hilgart summarized the amounts. He said the final estimate for construction was originally \$7.8 million but several amendments were added including a pump station, grit separator and public works office.

Thus, the cost rose to 21 million. Then there were soft costs added which brought the total at this point to 26.2 million for the entire project.

Barcon said this final figure may actually be lower and in that case money will be given back to USDA. USDA had requested figures that included the worst case scenarios including such things as the mountainous terrain, weather hold-ups, and other issues that could happen. He felt this was a smart way to go, as the Town will not be close to the end of the project and then have to wait for more money from somewhere else because they hadn't planned on adverse conditions.

As to the treatment plant this project will connect to, it is presently being leased to the Town rather than owned by the town because A+ effluent is still not being produced and the Town does not want to take ownership until everything is working properly.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TAX NOTICE

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes 42-18051, the assessment and tax roll of Gila County for the year 2011 is now in our possession for collection on one half of the taxes on all personal property secured by real property and one half on ALL REAL PROPERTY due and payable the first day of October, 2011. UNLESS the total amount is ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS or LESS, in which case the full amount of the taxes are due and PAYABLE on October 1st, 2011.

The first half taxes become DELINQUENT AT 5:00 P.M. on November 1st, 2011. Interest will be added to the first half taxes at the rate of one and one third (1 1/3) percent per month, increasing the first day of each month.

The remaining one half of such taxes, if any, will be due and payable on the first day of March 1, 2012, and become DELINQUENT on May 1, 2012, at 5:00 P.M., and interest will be added in the same manner as the first half.

ALL TAXES may be paid at the time the first installment is due and payable, but unless paid prior to November 1st, 2011, interest will be charged on the first half as stated above.

FULL YEAR TAX, if paid on or before January 3, 2012, no interest will be charged per A.R.S. 42-18053.

NO OTHER DEMAND FOR TAXES IS NECESSARY. Every person subject to taxation shall pay their taxes before they become delinquent to the Treasurer of Gila County.

Payments can be made at the office of the Gila County Treasurer, 1400 E. Ash, Globe, Az. or mail to Gila County Treasurer, P.O. Box 1093, Globe, Arizona 85502.

Any question relative to the authority for property taxation, the definition of taxable property or the criteria in determining the classification and extent to which it is taxed should be directed to your State Legislative Representative.

Any question regarding the name and address, legal descriptions, on your tax statements or questions relative to appraisal techniques should be directed to your Gila County Assessor, Mr. Dale Hom, at (928) 425-3231 ext. 8710.

Any questions relative to the amount of taxes should be directed to the Governing Bodies of the State of Arizona and its political subdivisions (State, County, School Districts, Cities, Fire Districts, and Improvement District, etc.)

Any questions relative to the manner in which the property taxes are collected, and subsequently distributed or invested should be directed to the undersigned.

You can also go to www.gilacountynaz.gov, click on Treasurer, on the far right under links, Gila Parcel info. Search by name or parcel.

DEBORAH SAVAGE
GILA COUNTY TREASURER

Gila Community College Request for Proposal CLARIFICATION

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS
Gila Pueblo Campus in Globe
BID CALL 090811-2

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS
Payson Campus
BID CALL 090811-1

In the advertisements for the above bids, the deadline was published as Wednesday, October 10, 2011. The actual deadline is Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 3:00 pm. If you have any further questions call the GCC Procurement Group at 928.425.8481.

Notice of Intent to receive bids

Gila Community College Intends to receive bids for preparation of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 financial statements as outlined by the Auditor General of Arizona. Interested bidders can obtain RFP NO.: 100111-2 by requesting same by calling the Fiscal Coordinator at 928.425.8481. The bid deadline shall be on October 24, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. by sealed bid delivered to the GCC Gila Pueblo Campus Administration Office. Faxed bids will not be accepted. Only responsive and responsible bids shall be considered for the award of the project. Bids will be opened on October 25 at noon at the Gila Pueblo Campus in Globe.