Multi-Purpose Building opens in Hashan Kehk

Celebration marks special occasion for District 2

By Annie Gutierrez

It was an emotional sight for District 2 residents when they saw community elders Everett Kisto and Elizabeth Pablo cut the ribbon on the long awaited Hashan Kehk Multi-Purpose Building, Nov. 22. Tears of joy and smiles were among many faces that came out to celebrate the grand opening of the new service center. The evening also marked a special occasion for District 2 residents when they saw District 2 Coordinator and District 4 Council Representative Monica Antone (lieutenant governor) and Elizabeth Pablo cut the ribbon on the new two-story center. The unique light green colored building is comprised of administration offices, a fitness room, and gymnasium with an elevated indoor track. It also has a teen room, a large area with two pool tables, an education room equipped with computers, arts and crafts room, and a large kitchen that will be used to serve homebound meals daily. The outdoor patios also have two grills ready for chumuth making.

Elders were also pleased to see their long wait for an Elder Center was well worth it. They can now feel relaxed in their new home-style center on the first floor complete with a lounge, bathroom, kitchen and healthcare room nearby.

“We are a small community,” says District 2 Coordinator and resident, Jeanne Gomez.

“We wanted it to be functional with our administration, recreation center and elder center...The community has been working on getting a multi-purpose building since late ‘99,” she said.

The District 2 Service Center finally has a home after the many changes over the years. The original service center was an old

Continued on Page 9
Recently GRTI DSL customers were targeted by fake e-mails that appeared to be from GRTI. We will never send e-mails to verify customer account information. If you receive an e-mail or pop-up such as this, we recommend that you do not open or click on it. Instead, delete it. These e-mails are fraudulent and do not originate from GRTI.

For more info or to report a phishing e-mail or pop-up, contact GRTI at 520-796-3333.
Special Thank You from the Bert Rhodes Family

It has been quite some time since we have experienced a loss in our immediate family, with the passing of our brother Her- bert “Bert” Rhodes. The family greatly appreciates all the people who came and gavethe support, prayers, food and assistance for Bert’s journey home to our Lord to suffer no more.

We thank all the Groups and Individuals for your assistance in our time of need:

- St. Peter’s Parish/Father Ed & Sisters for the Beautiful Mass and Songs
- Mr. Lloyd Notah for the Excep-

- tional Eulogy you provided & Family Support
- St. Anne’s Parish-the Rosary Group for the Blessing and Rosary
- Gila River Tribal Council & Executive Office
- Gila River Police Department
- Bryson and Singing Group for the mass at the wake and funeral
- ST. ANNE’S PARISH
- All the Romans Families
- Angela Jose & Families
- Gregory Williams & Apkaw Family
- Mrs. Pamela Johnson
- Mrs. Julia Manuel & Family
- Bertha & Gene Laws
- Mrs. Mary Francis Cruz
- Oleta Brown & Brown Families
- Mrs. Deborah Griffin & Family
- Jeanette Milda & Family
- District 5 Service Center for all the assistance with whatever we needed for the wake and funeral
- Our Relatives from New Mexico
- Rose Waiqui & Christine Marti-

- nez & Families
- All the Choirs
- Pima Express thank you for ful-

- ling his wishes in adding him to your busy schedule!

In Loving Memory Carter Lee Jones

Our beloved Husband, Dad and Father-In-Law it seems like only yesterday we laid you to rest but it will be a year on December 20, 2014 when God called you home. A big part of us went with you as you played a big role in our lives. We have cried our million tears and more. Everything around us reminds us of you. It is very hard to go where we as a family use to go without shedding our tears.

We are told time will heal our broken hearts, but no one knows when that will be. Our home was full of laughter, joking and loving one another, but today it’s not the same. In the midnight hour when all is quiet, I just wish we could talk to you or hear your laughter and silly jokes. All we do is remember and at times it brings a smile.

These upcoming holidays are the hardest, we pretend we are okay but on the inside we hurt and at times we cry. You were such an awesome person, quiet but if only people really knew you it would be a different thing.

The year is coming and we know we must let go, as God said “Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted” we have to rely on our faith and as God’s word says, “Joy comes in the morning”, “Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted” we have to accept it and change the way that we are. The room became a second home.

In the years that we knew you and the years that we have lived without you we have grown to be_{you the people of Gila River and the urban Indian Community as well. I must of all thank you our heavenly father for allowing me to be in this position as I walk close beside Him every day and he guides me. I do not lean upon my own understanding but I allow God to work through me. I will continue to see that justice prevails and do things to the best of my ability.

Thank you again and God Bless You all.

Donna Kisto-Jones

Letter to Community

This is my letter for the MA-

- TRX program from O.A.S.I.S.
- and the group.
- I have lived out my 22 years. I
- had been with you, I was love-
- ly, angry, embarrassed, nervous,
- and disappointed, but how my
- years came to this is remarkable.
- It didn’t feel uncomfortable
- until I heard the people who I had seen
- come in. I was again afraid, ner-
- vous. Disappointment came when
- I would look around the room
- and see the ones that came here
- that have no choice, they’ve worked,
- sacrificed, provided, and they had
- choices, and so did I, so I was
- looking at it through another side.
- Trying to use whatever empathy I
- had. My energy was the same; it
- was put into getting the informa-
- tion and stories I had heard and
- learn from them. The night group
- felt like class and my experiences
- where the lessons and my teach-
- ings. Even though I came in for
- myself, I was also there for others.
- The room became a second home.
- Nights sometimes filled with
- laughter, made it easier to surren-
- der myself to who I was, but
- as said they are there till you
- can accept it and change the
- way you feel about it. It could
- be forgiving, but it wasn’t work
- unless you feel something taken
- from it. A hard to release myself
- was hard, but I understood what
- has got to me. I would like to
- to end this by releasing my positive
- energy out to the negative spaces.

CORRECTIONS

The thank you letter from Bert

- Rhodes family was supposed to run in our November issue. We apologize in the family for the oversight.

To report an error call

- (520) 562-9719 or email
- GRRN@gric.nsn.us
Gila River Indian News December 5, 2014

Gila River Indian News

By Mikhail Sundust

Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

Taylor Antone stands with Richard Rossi, Founder and Executive Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

was nominated by her school and Dr. Connie Mariano of the National Academy of Future Physicians, the CFML host organization. Taylor attended the three-day congress with high school honors students from across the country to hear from physicians and researchers in the medical field. The NAFP puts on the event to encourage students to go into the medical field.

Students networked with professionals and representatives from academic institutions recruiting promising high school students. Many of the leading authorities in the area of science and medicine, Nobel Prize winners and National Medal of Science winners met with the students to answer their questions.

In a prepared statement, Richard Russo, Executive Director of the host organization, said, “This is a crucial time in America when we need more doctors and medical scientists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially.”

For Taylor, it wasn’t luck that she was nominated to represent the state of Arizona and the Community at the congress. Taylor’s nomination is accredited to her exceptional academic performance and ability to demonstrate leadership potential in the classroom.

Dr. Mariano sent a letter to Taylor announcing her invitation. A retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and former Physician to the President of the United States for nine years, Dr. Mariano has contributed most of her time to aspiring students.

The opportunity to attend the congress was an honor for Taylor. “Just the thought of being recognized for my academic accomplishments and being selected to attend the Congress was really flattering and gratifying,” she said.

Her parents, Glorietta and Willard Antone, were equally proud of her.

Her father Willard spoke about the progress their daughter has made throughout her school years. “Taylor has always been really good with academics, we are really proud of her, one of the highlights of her high school years is seeing her go off to Washington, D.C.,” he said.

“I was so ecstatic that our daughter was selected to attend the Congress that I cried tears of joy and pride,” said Glorietta.

As for her plans after graduation, offers from several universities have been coming her way, including from Ivy League schools. Taylor’s dad said she has always been interested in the medical field, but is not sure which specialty to focus on.

“She is still undecided, but hasn’t really set in stone whether she wants to be a surgeon, pediatrician, or in the medical science field,” said Willard.

With assistance from the office of Gov. Gregory Mendoza and District 7 Coordinator Terrance B. Evans, they were able to travel to the Congress. In gratitude for the help, Glorietta said, “Many heartfelt thanks go out to all that made this experience possible.”

“Throughout the three day Congress, I had the opportunity to meet and begin networking with other scholars from every state across the country,” said Taylor.

To make the experience even more unique, students watched a live broadcast of a surgery from Chicago, Ill., while being able to ask questions at the same time.

In summarizing her experience attending the event, Taylor said, “It was amazing how advanced the medical field is becoming and how much we as future medical leaders will help change the world through science.”

“I was able to meet and mingle with Nobel Prize winners and renowned physicians and surgeons of the medical and science field,” said Taylor.

District 5 Youth Elected Co-President of NCAI Youth Commission

By Mikhail Sundust

Gila River Indian News

Tyler Owens, District 5, was elected the 2014-2016 female co-president of the National Congress of American Indians Youth Commission Oct. 30, thus adding a national title to her already impressive resume of elected appointments.

“I am looking forward to working with the nine other youth that were elected to Youth Commission,” said Owens over the phone. “It seems like we have a great group and it seems like we can make a lot of change in the next two years.”

The Youth Commission is made up of 10 young people from various tribes around the nation, including members from the White Mountain Apache Tribe, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, the Mesqoule Nation, the Aleut, the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Owens said there is a lot of teamwork and equality within the group so every one of them contributes and is heard, which makes her job as co-president less about pulling teeth or pushing an agenda and more about opening lines of communication. “Pretty much my duties are just to run meetings,” she said. “We all have the same goals...and different achievements that we want to make.”

One of the changes she and her peers would like to incite is to increase the visibility of the NCAI Youth Commission in the larger congress and the public.

“That was something we really wanted to do,” she said, “present at the general assembly so then people can see exactly [the youth] have to say.”

To achieve this, they plan to organize a specific youth-centric portion of the annual NCAI conference that is more interactive and engaging and they will reach out to tribal communities, encouraging them to send more Native youth interested in politics.

Another thing the group would like to do is use their political influence to help those in need in Indian Country.

The Youth Commission has its sights set on the Ogilala Lolata Nation and helping that tribe’s juvenile detention center fire up the educational program it has been lacking for years due to poor funding.

“One of the guys, Brian Barlow (Cherokee Nation), said that he wanted to see if there was any way that we could lobby on behalf of that in order to get funds,” said Owens.

The Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council sponsored Owens at the 2014 NCAI Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Alexis Pablo, Adrienne Dixon and Daniel Talamantez of the AOPPYC also attended.

Owens, a former Miss Gila River First Attendant, former AOPPYC president, the sitting Inter-Tribal Youth Council of Arizona planning committee chair and sitting AOPPYC vice president is excited about her time with NCAI and is also looking forward to a Washington, D.C. internship with the Department of Justice next spring.

“It’s going to be Jan. 18 to March 15 next year. During the 8-week internship, I’ll be sitting in on hearings about pieces of legislation related to Indian Country and seeing how the Department of Justice operates.” Specifically, she will be working in the Office of Tribal Justice within the DOJ.

She is excited to learn about and witness first-hand the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline: how it would affect tribes, the land that it cuts through and the economy.

“I’m really thankful for [this opportunity but now it’s a matter of raising money.” Owens has a GoFundMe account to raise money to help her pay for living expenses in D.C. Anyone can support her at www.gofundme.com/l2w68; search “Tyler’s DC Internship.”
COMMUNITY UPDATES BY GRIN STAFF

FEIS Comment Period Extended to Dec. 27

The South Mountain Freeway Final Environmental Impact Statement comment period has been extended to Dec. 27 after the Federal Highway Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation issued an amendment to the EIS. The community has received more than 8,000 comments related to the public review period for the South Mountain Freeway (DEIS), which was noted that 10 comments submitted in 2013 were inadvertently omitted from the pipeline, but they have now been incorporated into the FEIS. The neglected comments, or errata, can be viewed at Service Centers throughout the Gila River Indian Community as well as the Ira Hayes Library and Communications & Public Affairs Office in the Governance Center.

Learn more about the proposed South Mountain Freeway at www.azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway.

PRESS RELEASE

Gila River Indian Community Super Bowl Game Day Ticket Distribution

Community members have the opportunity to win Super Bowl XLIX Tickets

Sacaton, Az. – Today, the Community Council approved the distribution process for Super Bowl XLIX Game Day tickets. A lottery drawing will be conducted on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, and will be open to any Gila River Indian Community enrolled member who resides within the state of Arizona, who is eighteen (18) years of age or older. GRIC members who meet the eligibility requirements noted above and have information updated with the Gila River Indian Community (GRC) Enrollment Office will automatically be entered into the drawing. If your information is not up to date, please update your information with GRC Enrollment Office no later than Friday, December 19, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. All updates must be done in person. No phone calls will be accepted.

The winners will be announced at the Governance Center Wednesday, January 7, 2015. The winners will be given until 5:00 p.m. (local time) on January 14, 2015 to accept their prize. Overall, all chances of winning depend on the total number of members per district who meet the eligibility requirements and are entered. Five (5) pairs of two (2) tickets to the Super Bowl XLIX game as part of GRIC’s Sponsorship Agreement with the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee will be made available to all Districts. Four (4) pairs of two (2) tickets will be made available to the GRIC Urban Member Association. The game will feature the AFC and NFC Champions.

The deal between SRPMIC and the Phoenix Suns marks the second significant naming rights deal in the Valley between a major sports team and a local Native American tribe in recent months. E a r l y i n this year, the Gila River Indian Community agreed to a naming rights deal with the owners of Jobing.com Arena, home of the Gila River Coyotes, to rename it Gila River Arena.

SRPMIC Lands Naming Rights for US Airways Center

U.S. Airways Arena will be known as Talking Stick Resort Arena, named after the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, naming and vacation enterprise.

“Like Talking Stick Resort, this venue has become an iconic destination for entertainment in Arizona,” said Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President & CEO John Eno. “We have a shared commitment with the Phoenix Suns in building a sense of community in the Valley and we are honored to help them provide a place for so many people to gather and celebrate.”

The facility’s home to the Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury and Arizona Rattlers, as well as a popular concert venue, has been around since 1992, when it was originally named America West Arena.

The moniker was changed to U.S. Airways Arena in 2006, but the airline announced in September that it would not renew its annual naming rights contract with the facility after it merged with American Airlines and moved its headquarters from Tempe to Fort Worth, Texas.

Visitors can see to expect “like Talking Stick Resort Arena,” post-anything everywhere around the facility and a new sign atop the building by the start of the Phoenix Suns 2015-2016 season. Terms of the deal were not disclosed upon announcement.

“This is an exciting day for Phoenix, and another example of what an incredible partner the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is for all of us,” said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

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Keystone XL Pipeline Bill

The U.S. Senate Nov. 18 failed to pass a bill that would have approved the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. In the end, the bill fell one vote short, getting 59 of the 60 needed for approval and 41 against. Tribes such as the Rosebud Sioux have been vocally opposed to the proposed pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil from Al- berta, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, cutting across Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana and into the U.S. from Alberta.

Last week, after the House of Repre- sentatives passed a bill in favor of the pipeline, Rosebud Sioux President Cyril Scott called Constitutional approval of the pipeline an “act of war against our people.”

Primary concerns of opponents of the pipeline include environmental damage, health impacts, financial strains and the desecration of tribal lands.

Furthermore, Scott lamented the lack of government-to-government interaction. “The U.S. government does not consult us,” he said to the online news site Think Progress.

The Senate vote, however, stopped the oil route in its tracks. For now, it seems, the pipeline will not be built.

Gila River Indian Community Super Bowl Game Day Ticket Distribution

Community members have the opportunity to win Super Bowl XLIX Tickets

An example of your potential donor: A record of decision on the proposed pipeline is still expected in early 2015. In a press release, the Gila River Indian Community announced that they would no longer support or participate in the proposed pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil across Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana and into the U.S. from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, cutting across designated areas. All applicable rules and obligations related to the value of this prize are the responsibility of the winner.

District residency requirements and purchase requirements will not apply.

Ticket winners are allowed one guest who is a member of the Gila River Indian Community and must be eighteen (18) years or older at the time of the drawing. No substitution of prize or transfer/assignment of prize to others or request for cash equiva- lent is permitted.

Winners will be required to sign a written agreement to comply with certain rules and regulations.

If a name is drawn as a Community member out of the Phoenix metro area, the individual’s travel and accommodations are not included – ONLY the ticket(s).

Any travel costs associated with attending the game would be the sole responsibility of the individual winner.

Address Update Forms are available on www.azgila.gov. Go to the Department and Programs tab, click on the Ad- ministrative tab, and the Enrollment & Census section is near the bottom of the page. The forms can be mailed in or hand carried to the Enrollment & Census department located in the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona.

Enrollment Census Office phone number is 520-562-9790. To learn more background.

OTHER NATIVE NEWS

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE BILL

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The Gila River Indian Community, a third of the four O’otham sister tribes in southern Arizona (includ- ing SRPMIC, GRIC and the Tohono O’odham Nation), has a naming rights deal too and lays claim to the Ak-Chin Sky Pavilion.
A’AGA:
Something to be Told
By Billy Allen

In a galaxy far, far away (actually my job before I retired) I fielded questions concerning our land and people. Do you have an Indian name? Why do you work since you get money from the casinos? Why is there a bridge over a dry river bed? What happened to the river?

I would explain that our akimel still runs, but dams prevent it from flowing downstream. The water now flows in canals to the fields. Back to my old job again—I was envious of Gila River Indian Community employees who got an extra holiday in December (Skipray or Gay): Water Day on December 10th. Water Day commemorates the settlement of a decade long court battle to regain water from our river.

Tribal member, Rod Lewis, who served as general counsel of the Gila River Indian Community, led the community’s negotiations that finally resulted in the Arizona Water Rights Settlements Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-451). The Arizona Water Rights Settlements Act was signed by President Bush in 2004 and completed on Dec. 10, 2007. The fight for our water rights never waned and this water-rights settlement returned our rightful share. Mr. Lewis leaned on the shoulders and listened to the stories of the elders to guide him. S-apu Rod.

This time of year, we start to think about gifts and resolutions. Water is a gift to treasure. Henry David Thoreau, an American author/naturalist/philosopher who influenced Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: “Water is the only drink for a wise man.” Maybe a healthy resolution we could all make is to become a little wiser, to drink more water. This could also be seen as a gift of time to our community, for we can never have too many GRIC elders.

In a recent Arizona Republic article, Dr. Oz and Dr. Roizen warned against diet drinks. The article stated 59 percent of Americans sip diet drinks. I think it is higher among Native people. Artificial sweeteners, a key ingredient of such drinks, have been found to cause health problems. Diet drinks do not help us lose weight. Studies show they lead to weight gain. Bottled tea, iced coffee and soda will be one of the taxed items. They’ll have to get money from the casinos? Why is there a bridge over a dry river bed? What happened to the river?

Open 10am-9pm
Open 9am-10pm
Open 1pm-10pm
Open 10am-8pm
Gila River Christmas Toy Drive Underway

The Tribal Recreation Department is gearing up its sixth annual holiday Toy Drive, which will run through Dec. 17.

“The Toy Drive is an effort to get toys for the children that are in...Tribal Social Services, RPY (Residential Programs for Youth) and the Domestic Violence Shelter,” said Recreation Coordinator Merlena Calabaza.

However, they also donate to the Urban Members Association and low-income families with the Department of Community Housing, and they help the Head Start program get toys through the Toys for Tots Foundation.

The Toy Drive has become a staple of the holiday season in Gila River and a lot of effort goes into making it possible.

“It’s not just our department,” said Calabaza, “We have the whole [of] Public Safety behind it and the casinos, the Sheraton, GRICUA, Sand & Gravel, DCH.”

To collect all the toys, Recreation has placed drop-off boxes at all of the fire departments in the Community, at the police department in Sacaton and at GRICUA.

“One of the toy drive drop-off points for the sixth annual Tribal Recreation Toy Drive at the Gila River Fire Department Fire Station No. 423 on the corner of Blue Bird and Seed Farm Roads in Sacaton.

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

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To collect all the toys, Recreation has placed drop-off boxes at all of the fire departments in the Community, at the police department in Sacaton and at GRICUA.

“One of the 18th, we’ll have a big ol’ wrapping party to wrap all the gifts,” said Calabaza. It will be at the Sheraton, who is donating time and space.

When it’s all said and done, hundreds of toys go to girls and boys on Santa’s nice list.

“It’s fun…it’s in the spirit of giving,” said Calabaza. “It’s good to see these kids [and] just to put a smile on their faces.”

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

It is that time of year when everywhere you go people are talking about the holidays! Some families are buying gifts, decorating trees, and putting up lights! However you choose to celebrate during this holiday season, we encourage you and your family to remember this time of year can be about your family and traditions builds bonds among family members and creates a sense of belonging for everyone. Having fun together can be the best gift any family can give or receive. Children enjoy looking forward to annual family traditions. That anticipation for a fun family activity will create a sense of joy and excitement in children and even adults! Traditions can be anything you do together as a family each year. It can be something passed down from elders in your family or it can be something simple like baking cookies together. Each tradition your family has is special and one that will bring family members together, and will create fun family memories. If your family already has traditions this holiday season then enjoy them and know that you are creating opportunities for wonderful memories as a family. If you are looking for new family traditions below are a few fun activities you can do at home with your family. Enjoy!

Author, Heidi Bruder
Teen Parent Case Manger

Simple holiday family fun!

Eat a red and green dinner!
Make Christmas cards!
Read a Christmas story by flashlight.
Make a treat and take to the neighbors.
Call grandmothers and sing a Christmas song.
Make Reindeer brownies!
Supplies: Brownie mix (check required ingredients on box), pretzels, frosting, and mini m&ms.
Bake brownies, cut out cooled brownies into triangles. Use the pretzels for reindeer antlers, brown m&ms for eyes, and a red m&m for the nose. Use frosting as the “glue.” YUMMY!

Smart Parents. Smart Babies.
INVOCATION
Meeting called to order by Councilman Arzie Hogg at 9:17am

COUNCIL MEETING TO DECEMBER 5TH AT 9:00AM

PRESENT: 15 Council Members Present

Executive Officers Absent:

Executive Officers Present:

Lt. Governor Stephen R. Lewis

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

1. June 18, 2014 (Regular)

2. Flood Control Management Task Force Report and Update

3. Gila River Health Care Implementation of Priority Levels for Tohono O'odham Patients

4. Pee Posh Veterans Association - 4th quarter report For FY 2014

5. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 161B)

6. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 461)

7. November 7, 2014 Special Council Meeting

8. Government & Management Authorities To Participate in a One-Time Holiday Authorization (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

9. A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 210A)

10. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 462)

11. A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Certain Allotted Lands Pursuant To The American Indian Probate Reform Act (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Javier Ramos

12. A Resolution Approving The Adoption Of Bylaws Of The Gila River Indian Farms Board Of Directors (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK.

PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTIONS
1. Mayor Galay Barney, Town of Queen Creek
2. Ms. Cheryl Paul, member of the Gila water board

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO NOMINATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ginger Fligger
Tohono O'odham Patients

Scott Butler, Lawrence H. Manuel
Elections Update (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council)

Resolution Approving The Adoption Of Bylaws Of The Gila River Indian Farms Board Of Directors

Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Certain Allotted Lands Pursuant To The American Indian Probate Reform Act

Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 161B)

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Resolution Approving The Adoption Of Bylaws Of The Gila River Indian Farms Board Of Directors

AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

APPROVED AND POSTED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2014

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AFFIRM GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT'S DECISION TO MODIFY THE POLITICAL ACTION FUND ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY PAMELA F. JOHNSON AND LAWRENCE H. MANUEL

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Special Audit Report- Court of Appeals (Executive Session)

2. Executive Summary, Assessment of Written Complaint (Executive Session)

3. Declaration of Vacancy (1)- Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Board of Directors (subject to the Code of Conduct, Advertisement for 60days)

4. Revenue/Internal Audit Department - 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2014 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council)

5. Employee Benefit Trust Letter (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council)

6. Holiday Gift Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO MOVE THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO DECEMBER 5TH AT 9:00AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2014, 10AM

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING NOVEMBER 14, 17 & 18

DISTRICT 1 AMERICAN LEGION HASKELL OSIFE-ANTONE POST 51 VETERANS DAY EVENT, NOVEMBER 11, 2014
Blackwater Youth Attends White House Tribal Nations Conference

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference placed heavy emphasis on the development of Native American youth and education in Indian Country. “The United States shares a sacred bond with our Native nations,” said Pres. Barack Obama at the conference. “We have a sacred responsibility to all our young people, including Native youth.”

The White House Tribal Nations Conference every year invites tribal leaders from all 566 federally recognized tribes to convene and dialogue with the President and members of his cabinet about important issues in Indian Country. It is a tradition Obama started his first year in office and has continued ever since.

This was the first year that the White House in­vited Youth Amb­assadors from those nations. In June, Obama and his wife Michelle visited the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Na­tion in North Dakota. There, he met a handful of youth from that community and learned first hand about the struggles they face every day, from witnessing drug use to the high suicide-rate in Indian Country to the lack of support in their schools.

“And the truth is those young people were representative of young people in every tribe, in every reservation in America,” said the president in his speech. “And too many face the same struggles that those Lakota teenagers face. They’re not sure that this country has a place for them. Every single one of them deserves better than they’re getting right now. They are our children, and they deserve the chance to achieve their dreams.”

Obama sounded informed and sincere in his speech, in which he praised the Native American House of Representatives. “They’re not sure that this country is one of them. This country is for all of us. And the truth is those young people are the future of our country. It was amazing.”

He also got to meet Pres. Obama, briefly. “I actually got to shake his hand. I was so happy. He’s the leader of the country and to me he’s the leader of our country. It was amazing.”

GRIC Gov. Gregory Mendoza nominated Jackson to be a Youth Ambassador at the conference. He was chosen based on his excellent academic record, his community and school involvement and his contact with public-speaking opportunities.

“Darius is a special young man whose talents, passion for his community, and desire to promote change are truly extraordinary for a person of his age. The positive impact that Darius has already made begins at school and with his extracurricular activities,” wrote Mendoza in his nomination letter.

Jackson is the president of the National Honor Society at Coolidge High School, vice president of student government and plays varsity basketball. He is also a District 1 representative and former vice president of the Akimel O’odham-Pee-Posh Youth Council.

Last month, the high school senior got accepted to Arizona State University, where he will start next fall. He is going to study exercise and wellness.

“I want to take that back to our community,” he said, “and learn how we can help the people in my community be more active. And with the Affordable Care Act, I want to know how that affects my community.”

Near the end of the day, Obama announced plans to reau­tonize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determi­nation Act, help tribes struggling to prevent domestic violence, promote economic growth in tribal commu­nities, and to support reservation schools.

“Next year, we will hold the first White House Tribal Youth Gathering,” the president announced. “We’re going to invest in connecting tribal schools to high-speed Internet. We’re going to fill them with the best teachers and principals. We’re going to make sure that children and families get the support they need to stay secure and healthy.”

“And the Department of Edu­cation has launched a new initia­tive with a handful of tribes called the Native Youth Community Projects. The idea is, we’re work­ing with tribes to give schools and students intensive support across a range of areas – from nutrition, to mental health, to culturally rele­vant curriculum.

“We know that learning about the history and language and tra­ditions of one’s people can make a huge difference in a child’s edu­cation. And in the long run, if it is done right, it can help more of them be prepared for college and careers. We want to help make that happen.”

Multi-Purpose Building

From Page 1

adobe building on Hashan Kehk and Sacaton Roads but was re­located after being declared con­demned in 2005. The service cen­ter was moved to a small modular building with an event center nearby. The small space housed many of the service center’s summer feeding programs, afterschool youth pro­grams and recreation activities and dinners. Now that the new multi-purpose building is in full operation, the service center has enough space to continue its ac­tivities, especially for the youth.

“Building this is going to be really good for them,” said Gomez, as she watched young chil­dren tour the facility. “It’s going to benefit them. We have our Hashan Kehk Teen Club and afterschool program. We also get computer donations from the MIS depart­ment – now the youth can get on the internet and type their home­work. It’s just great.”

The distinctive design of the building was the idea of former Community Services manager Berdette Morago, who admired the basic layout and indoor track of the Morris K. Udall Recre­ation Center in Tucson. Members worked together with architects from Oxcutt Winlow to design the 38,000 square foot facility. Ar­chitects also restored and resized old sepia-toned photos submit­ted by community members and displayed them on the wall of the staircase.

During the excavating phase, architects discovered buried items in the building area. The com­munity held a special ceremony to rebury the items in the back of the building. “There were several villages that were here. They had unearthed a lot of whole pottery and black dirt from the finances. We talked with Cultural Resources [Department] and they dated it back to the late 1800s,” explained Gomez about the Hashan Kehk discovery.

Many tribal officials, staff and residents expressed their grat­iude through speech to individu­al and groups who made the building and the funding for the road to the facility possible. They also voiced their optimism about the $10 million facility that will be utilized to serve the needs of members residing in the Hashan Kehk community.

Nearly 500 people attended the grand opening and an over­joyed Gomez expressed her feel­ings saying, “There was so many people who came together to get us funding and helped us get this built. A lot of people came out to our opening and we hope more people come out and use the facil­i­ty. I know it’s not just for us here in District 2, it’s for the whole community.”
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 16, 2014

The Casa Blanca Community School is pleased to announce that it will be holding an election on December 16, 2014 in Districts 3, 4, and 5 on its Board of Trustees. The only polling station for this election will be at District 5 Veteran’s Building and District 4 Service Center. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The BOE’s Board meets at least once per month. Board members are also expected to attend periodic work sessions (usually held over a two day period on the weekend), and to attend various community trainings and conferences. If you are interested in running in the election, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age as of December 16, 2014 (the date of the election);
- Successfully pass a complete background check and drug screen test; 
- Obtain an Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card; and
- Submit a timely petition signed by seven eligible voters from your District.

To obtain a petition to get on the ballot, please contact Krysten Madrid at the School. Ms. Madrid can be reached at 520-315-4866. Petitions must be returned to the School no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.

The following persons are eligible to vote in the election (and sign petitions for Board candidates):

1. Enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community who are at least eighteen (18) and who reside within District 3, 4, or 5 as of October 1, 2014;
2. Parent, grandparent, or legal guardian whose name is on file as the responsible party for a child currently attending Casa Blanca Community School;
3. Persons who are at least twenty-one (21) years of age as of December 16, 2014 and have lived in District 3, 4, or 5 for at least one year prior to December 16, 2014;
4. A high school diploma, or GED.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR THE POST OF RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE

SACATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #18

A Special

December • Family • Meeting

“How to Survive the Diabetic Epidemic”

A Different Way of Dealing with Diabetes

Dear Family, Join Us as Dr. Richard P. Jacoby, a talented podiatrist and nationally recognized foot and ankle surgeon, comes to speak about a different way of looking at diabetes. This terrible disease is an epidemic level in the Community and devastates the lives of many. Here are some key points.

- The Development of Diabetes
- Diet – the paleo diet and the Native American diet compared
- Educated in Ignorance – How the American diet has changed over time
- Understanding Neuropathy – a consequence of diabetes
- The pathway out of the current paradigm

A Ham/Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Dinner will start the evening followed by the meeting presented by the following Community member: Krisy Lyons. Please contact the Department of Housing Development at (520) 562-1983.

RECRUITMENT for 2015 Reserve Firefighter Apprentice Partnership with E&T Dept.

**APPLICATIONS DUE on December 19th, 2014 at the E&T Dept.**

Service, Teamwork, Dedication, and a Concern for Others – these words all describe qualities found in the Gila River Fire Division Reserve Firefighter Apprentice Program. The Reserve Firefighter Apprentice is a part-time position, working an average of 64 hours a month. This is a temporary trainee classification designed to give participants first-hand experience and exposure to regular firefighting duties and responsibilities. Initially under the immediate supervision of a Fire Coordinator, the Reserve Firefighter Apprentice will train for 52 weeks.

EACH RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE WILL EARN THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATIONS:

- Firefighter I & II (PRO Board Accredited)
- State of Arizona Emergency Medical Technician - EMT
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician - EMT
- CPR Certification
- Basic Wildland Firefighting (S130/S190)
- S200, S230, 300, 700
- Certification of Hazards Materials First Responders (PRO Board Accredited)

SEEKING GRIC RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE THAT MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have a high school diploma or the GED equivalent.
- Must be a U.S. citizen age 18 or older at the time of enrollment.
- Must be able to make a reasonable transformation in order to report for training.
- Must be able to pass a pre-employment physical by a physician.
- Must apply a GRC Community Member.
- Must submit to pre-employment drug screen and physical.

EACH RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE WILL BE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH A SELECTION PROCESS ADMINISTERED BY GRFD and E&T Dept.

- Complete Initial & Environmental Health & Safety E&T Department – Work Ethic program.
- Successful completion of a physical agility test administered by E&T personnel.
- Final selection administered by GRFD personnel.
- Successful completion of an oral board examination administered by E&T and GRFD.

All interested applicants call the E&T Dept

Eulondra Martinez at (520) 562-5387/08
OR Email: Eulondra.Martinez@gric.nsn.us

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Native Americans Exempt From Tax Penalty

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) promotes health insurance coverage for all. For income tax year 2014 the ACA requires all taxpayers to report their proof of health insurance or pay a penalty. As a Native American with a tribal affiliation, you are entitled to an exemption from this penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. In order to claim this exemption, you have some options.

Exemptions from the Penalty
You may qualify for an exemption from the penalty for not having health insurance coverage for any of the months during the 2014 calendar year. The law states that you must have minimum essential coverage for all months. This rule applies not only to the tax filer, but must include any of the dependents that are claimed. One day of coverage in the month counts as coverage for the entire month. Here are some of the reasons the federal government will consider you as exempt:

- You are a member of a federally recognized tribe or eligible for services through an Indian Health Services/tribal facility, such as Gila River Health Care
- The lowest-priced health care coverage available to you would cost more than 8% of your household income
- You are not required to file a tax return
- You are a member of a recognized religious sect with religious objections to insurance
- You are incarcerated (either detained or jailed), and not being held pending disposition of charges
- You are not lawfully present in the U.S.
- You qualify for a hardship exemption

How to Apply for a Tribal Exemption
Members of federally recognized tribes, Alaskan Natives and people who are otherwise eligible for services through an Indian health care provider can apply for an exemption two different ways. Gila River Health Care Benefits Coordination Staff would like to assist you with this process.

1. Paper Application
The Benefits Coordinators can assist you with completing a paper exemption application form and mailing it with supporting documentation. You will need to submit documentation of membership in a federally recognized tribe. You must provide one of the following:
- Certificate of Indian Blood
- Tribal Identification Card
- Letter from Gila River Health Care stating you are eligible for services.

Upon completion of this process, the Marketplace will send you an Exemption Certification Number (ECN). The ECN will stay with you forever, similar to a social security number. This number will tell the federal government you are exempt from the tax penalty. Once you receive this number, you would indicate this on your IRS form. Exemptions from this source need to be obtained at the earliest opportunity.

2. Claiming an Exemption on Federal Income Taxes
Remember, when you file a federal income tax return use the IRS health coverage exemption Form 8965. Codes for exemption (A-E) are listed in the instructions. Mark the specific code for Native Americans.

The important things to remember are Gila River Health Care has trained staff at their site in Komatke and Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital to assist with this process. Also you Do Not require health insurance to be seen at any of our facilities. This change in the ACA does not impact your eligibility for care as a Native American at our facilities.
PLEASE DONATE A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY

TOY DRIVE

COLLECTION DATES:
NOV. 11 - DEC. 17, 2014

Drop off locations:

GILA RIVER INDIAN
UTILITY AUTHORITY
6640 W. Sundust Rd.
Ste. 5091 Chandler AZ
520.796.0600

FIRE STATION 429
5002 North Maricopa Road
Chandler, AZ
520.796.5900

FIRE STATION 421
829 Blackwater School Road
Coolidge, AZ
520.796.4510

FIRE STATION 423
599 East Seedfarm Road
Sacton, AZ
520.796.4580

FIRE STATION 426
4793 W. Pecos Road
Laveen Village
520.796.4515

All collected gifts directly benefit Gila River Indian Community Tribal Social Services, Residential Programs for Youth and Community Head Start Programs.

A partnership between Gila River Indian Community Fire Department & Marine Corps Toys for Tots of Pinal County.

For more information or schedule a toy pick-up contact:
Merlena Calabaza at
(520) 562-6024
Merlena.calabaza@gric.nsn.us

Amber Childs at
(520) 562.6176
Amber.childs@gric.nsn.us

WinGilaRiver.com
800-WIN-GILA

Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community