Community Council members sworn in

By GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

Seven Community Council members took the oath of office at the first regular monthly meeting of the Community Council on June 4. Held in the Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, the ceremony was officiated by Chief Judge Anthony Hill as the winners of the 2014 Council election swore to “promote and protect the best interests of the Gila River Indian Community.”

With strong backing from family and supporters, the newly elected and re-elected Council members begin a three year term to serve the Community.

Of the seven, two are incumbents. Jennifer Allison (D4) and Janice Stewart (D5) were re-elected in last month’s vote.

Three of the inductees are returning members who have previously served on the Council. They are Rodney Jackson (D3), Christopher Mendoza (D4) and Brian E. Davis Sr. (D5). Meanwhile, Joely Whitman (D1) and Sandra Nasewytewa (D6) are new to Council and serving their first terms.

Being nominated for the Council member position by her district “was totally unexpected,” said Nasewytewa, who credited her family and fellow Community members for her election.

Nasewytewa has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business. She has experience working in public service having served as the secretary for the District 6 Community Housing Board.

A large contingent of supporters filled the Council chambers for Whitman’s swearing in. He said he is “eager and excited” to be on Council.

Whitman is a young military veteran and an involved Community member who has volunteered his time with the Veterans Serving Veterans group and various other community organizations.

Cancer Awareness Day focuses on health care and prevention

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Few trials in life are as stressful and grueling as living with cancer. It places an enormous weight on the patient and their family emotionally, financially and spiritually. But the gift of fellowship lightens the burdens of the weary and the shield of knowledge gives everyone a fighting chance, which is exactly what Gila River Cancer Awareness Day celebrates.

“We planned it just to kind of raise the awareness of cancer because cancer is becoming a bigger issue here in Gila River, and to honor those that are affected by cancer,” said Devin Pablo at the event last Saturday in District 5.

Pablo is a member of the Westend Health Committee, the group that has organized the special event five years in a row.

For Amanda Barrera (Cheme-huevi Tribe), a council member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, May 31 is a day of remembrance, “I was married to a [Gila River] tribal member, actually from this district,” she told the audience at the Vah Ki Multi-Purpose Building. His name was Antonio Barrera and “today makes four years that I lost him and he lost the fight to cancer.”

Barrera lauded the Gila River Indian Community health programs and Gila River Health Care, saying she believes it helped her husband’s battle with cancer better than it might have been elsewhere. “You have an awesome system here. I commend you guys.”

A lot of her family members and friends have struggled with cancer. “Cancer in my family has a long history,” she said, “I lost my daughter, unfortunately, one year ago today to her fight with thyroid cancer.”

It’s been tough, she admits, but Barrera said, “It’s made me stronger. It’s made me very vocal in my community when it comes to our fight for our health.”

Barrera’s system for maintaining her health starts with preventive care. “What I do every year, as a birthday present to myself, is I start calling for appointments,” she said and recommend ed for everyone else to do as well.

One month before her birthday, she schedules examinations for blood work, a mammogram, vision and dental checkups. “Whatever [checkup] they can give me, I want it,” she said. “Give your self a birthday present.”

Barrera encouraged people to get checkups as soon as possible for themselves and their children. Barrera herself had a bout with cancer at a young age. She had breast cancer at age 14 and needed surgery. “Fortunately for me, it was confined and I went into treatment,” she said. But she reminded the audience to help their children learn about proper care early on. “Start now. Start with your babies,” she said.

Cancer Awareness Day began early in the morning with a 10K run/walk and lasted until after noon. It included entertainment, a balloon release, live music and a free lunch.

As always, the Gila River Cancer Awareness Day was run entirely on donations. Contributors included the Gila River
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GRTI is partnering with Qualia, a marketing research group to help enhance our services for you. You may hear from us by phone, email or see us in the community conducting surveys and interviews.

Please take the time to participate in our survey and interviews as it will benefit you and GRTI.

As a thank you to those who participate in our in person or online surveys, we will be giving away Google Chrome books to 5 randomly selected participants and one lucky participant will have the opportunity to win an iPad!

Unable to attend? Fill out a survey online, and YES you will still be entered into the raffle!

http://goo.gl/duM3JQ
Letter to District 4

Dear District 4 Community Members,

Through this writing I send my appreciation to you for providing your support in the recent Council election and re-electing me as one of your Council Representatives.

I enjoy working for our Community. The work is fulfilling, especially when success prevails over the many injustices against the Community and/or our Community members.

Many concerns were brought to me by Community members, from District 4 and other districts requesting assistance, and I hope I’ve provided solutions to their concerns. I could not have given the assistance were it not for the cooperation of many, such as my Council member colleagues, attorneys, treasurers Council Secretary Office staff and the Executive Office. I think at times finding the answers to problems are all in the timing and prayers, but it’s also the policies and funding that provides a way for clarity and solution.

I appreciated the working relationship with former Community Manager David White and also the current working relationship with Community Manager Tina Notah. In working together with these Community Managers.

It is my wish to see continued progress happen in all areas of our Community’s businesses, departments and our centers that serve our members.

I am again, very thankful for your support. Respectfully, Jennifer Allison, District 4 Council Representative

Sincerely,
Joshua Michael Jovanelly

Letter to Gila River

Dear Community members,

It is with the heaviest of hearts that I begin this letter of farewell to the readers of the Gila River Indian News. During my nearly two years working as a community reporter for this spectacular newspaper, I was only beginning to scratch the surface of the beautiful aspects that define your culture and your tribes. I learned enough to last a lifetime, mostly in places I never expected. Thank you for being open to the flash of my camera and the buzz of my microphone. But, especially, thank you for allowing an outsider a welcoming window into your way of life.

I will miss driving along Casa Blanca Road into Sacaton every morning and feeling the power of a people rising. I will miss the constant sense of community and family that is the foundation of every gathering. I will miss driving home in awe of the expansive desert and the all-encompassing blue sky that has been home to your ancestors since time immemorial.

Mainly, though, I will miss you: the people of the Gila River Indian Community, many of whom I will regard as friends for the rest of my days.

Sincerely,
Joshua Michael Jovanelly

Thank you

The staff at the Elderly Nutrition Program would like to recognize Elaine Patrick, Manager of Elderly Nutrition Program for her 23 years of service with the Community. We feel it is worth recognition for her dedication and hard work to her program and her staff. We are very proud to be a part of her journey.

Congratulations

My Congratulations to my two beautiful daughters, Anayaa Lynn and Alyssia Mae Preston.

Another school year concludes. You handled the end of the school year with grace and perseverance.

Sincerely,
Mikhail Sundust

Thank you from Pahona, Perchero family

On behalf of the family of Kevin Brian Pahona, we would like to thank the Gila River Indian Community for assisting with donations, funeral services and arrangements.

Kevin Pahona, born Dec. 31, 1969, served as a Hopi police officer for 2 years and moved to the Gila River Community as a corrections officer for 12 years. He recently ended his career as a Gila River court bailiff.

Growing in wisdom, lessons from the buzz of my microphone...
By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

New power poles going up on Sacaton Peak

On May 29, 2014, Governor Gregory Mendoza and the Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Michael Connor, announced a Memorandum of Agreement between the Community and the Interior Department to facilitate the purchase of individual interests in fractionated trust lands located within the Reservation. The agreement was a part of the nationwide Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, the purpose of which is to consolidate ownership of fractionated lands. Under the Program to date, the Interior Department has made nearly 20,000 purchase offers to owners of fractionated interests and has restored the equivalent of more than 177,000 acres of land to tribal governments.

"We are encouraged by the growing enthusiasm for the Buy-Back Program across Indian Country, and the increased engagement by tribal nations to participate in its implementation," said Deputy Secretary Connor, who joined Governor Gregory Mendoza and other tribal leaders at a May 29 signing ceremony. "As part of President Obama’s commitment to help strengthen Native American communities, we will continue to implement the Program as transparently and aggressively as possible, but we believe that it will succeed only through Nation-to-Nation cooperation. Our partnerships with these Tribal Nations will be critical to ensuring that individuals are aware of this historic opportunity to strengthen tribal sovereignty by supporting the consolidation of tribal lands."

Land fractionation is a serious problem on the Community’s Reservation and across Indian Country in general. As lands are passed down through generations, they gain more owners. Many tracts now have hundreds and even thousands of individual owners. Because it is difficult to gain landowner consensus, the lands often lie idle and cannot be used for any beneficial purpose.

"The Gila River Indian Community is looking forward to participating in the Land Buy-Back Program," said Governor Mendoza. "Our reservation is one of the most fractionated in the country, and is uniquely positioned to use the Program to advance tribal energy and economic development opportunities that will benefit our entire Community.”

The Community will have access to $60 million of Program funds to purchase fractionated interests. Under the Memorandum of Agreement the Community will dedicate a portion of this funding toward the purchase of allottee interests in lands affected by the Salt River Project’s (SRP) proposed utility corridor in District 4. Program funds will also be used to purchase lands from Community members in other districts who have applied to sell their interest under the Community’s land consolidation program.

“This federal money will help address the problem of fractionated lands on our Reservation but it is only a start and $60 million is not enough to buy all these interests,” said Governor Mendoza. “Council has decided to dedicate much of these federal funds to facilitate the Price Road utility corridor.”

The proposed Price Road utility corridor includes the development of a 230kV transmission line that would benefit the Community, GRICUA and members in a number of ways. The following highlights some of the benefits the project could provide:

- The 230kV structures could be built to accommodate additional GRICUA lower voltage lines that could serve substations in District 4 and the Community.

The ability to underbuild GRICUA lines on the SRP towers could allow GRICUA to increase its reliability, reduce blackouts, and expand service on the Reservation.

- Partnering with SRP will allow GRICUA to provide the above benefits at a far less cost than if GRICUA were to build these electrical connections on its own.

An expanded GRICUA system could also provide the power infrastructure to allow the Community and allottees to expand commercial development in the future along Route 101, Route 202 and at the Memorial Airfield Site.

Allotted landowners would receive monetary compensation either from the Program (if they decided to sell their interests) or for the right of way across their land (if they decided to retain ownership of their interests).

Power demand is anticipated to triple in the Price Road corridor within the next 20 years due to economic growth.

“I will continue to work with Council to seek additional federal funding as well as fund Community funds to add our own land consolidation program,” said Governor Mendoza. “Because one third of our Reservation is allotted, $60 million is a great start but it does not come close to addressing all the fractionated lands in the Community.”

The Communication station atop Sacaton Peak is getting a much-needed infrastructure upgrade to its 80-year-old power poles and power lines in an effort to bring improved stability and the latest in wireless technology to the American community in the Unit- ership Verizon has with a Native American tribe, the Gila River Indian Community in the United States. The station provides communication services to a number of clients including Verizon Wireless, Telemundo and all of the public safety operations on this side of the Gila River reservation.

The renovation project is something that the Community had planned long ago but never got off the ground until now. The major motivating factor this year was a newly proposed Verizon tower.

Verizon will be installing a new 4G LTE tower on Sacaton Mountain later this year to replace the 3G network tower currently in use. It will need the improved power lines, as well as a new fiber optic cable to maintain the high-speed network. “This will be able to give 4G to the Community,” said Antone. She added in an email, “This is the only partnership Verizon has with a Native American community in the Unit- ed States.”

The communication station is an important source of revenue for the Community so the upgrade was urgent.

“The poles were just deteriorating,” said Antone. In the late 1930s, it took a lot of men, a lot of mules and a lot of time to install the 20 poles that run up the steep, short mountain on the South side of State Route 387, said GRICUA Operations Director Kathy Galloway. The poles were so worn down they could be lifted by hand. But today it’s all being built with just a handful of workers and a small helicopter and it should be completed in less than six weeks. The new poles are treated and grounded.

"A 3,000 foot tower makes the construction process very efficient. It’s still really steep and really imprac- tical to get the equipment up there,” using trucks, said Gal- loway. Using the helicopter “lessens the environ- mental impact on this mountain,” because they don’t have to destroy any of the natural habitat to make way for large vehicles.

San Carlos Irrigation Project and contractors RP Construction Company and Wilson Construc- tion Company also contributed to the project.

On May 15, 2013, the Community Council enacted the revised Criminal Code effective January 1, 2014, which includes enhanced sentencing under the Tribal Law and Order effective May 1, 2014. There are a total of 103 criminal offenses in the revised Criminal Code: 56 are misdemeanors, 8 are felonies and 39 that can be charged as a misdemeanor or a felony.

District 5 water infrastructure update

The Department of Public Works has undertaken a project to install a 16" waterline along the east side of Casa Grande Highway, south of Sacaton. The contract has been awarded to Redpoint Contracting.

The project will increase flow volumes and pressures in District 3 and provide additional storage to meet future needs in District 3, and also provide a redundant storage facility in the event that the old existing tank would have to be taken off line for repairs or rehabilitation. The target date for completion of the waterline is the summer of 2014. The new water tank shall follow and is anticipated by the winter of 2014.

Right: View of the Department of Public Works project on Casa Grande Highway south of Sacaton.

Cancer Awareness Day

From Page 1

Cancer Support Group, District 5 Recreation Department, The Southern Scratch Band, Siloam Baptist Church, Diana Johnson Catering, all the special guests and the Southwest Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Major contributors included Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., Gila River Casinos, Rawhide Western Town and Steakhouse, Gila River Sand & Gravel, el, the Shenton Wild Horse Pass and Gila River Health Care Corp.

"Gila River Health Care felt it was important to play a role in the event and really demonstrate our care for the Community and our commitment to the Community and health," said Daryl Lynn Jay of the GRHC public relations department.

GRHC had booths lining the west wall of the gym offering Community members a plethora of services ranging from cancer treatment centers to personalized case management to public health nursing and more.

"We try to build the healthcare system so that there's no barriers," to prevent people from getting help, said Jay.

One major free health service is GRHC's mammogram bus, which it acquired through a partnership with Allied Health. The bus is typically available twice per month, once in Sacaton and again in Komatke. "They do mammograms. They're completely free. That's a huge service because mammograms can cost anywhere between $400-$800," Jay said.

"The health of our people is everything and ensuring a healthy community is very close to my heart," said Gov. Gregory Mendoza. "I want to encourage all our Community members to be active participants in their health care by making healthy, informed choices about diet, exercise and preventative care."

Gov. Gregory Mendoza is another tribal leader who can speak of cancer from personal experience.

He was diagnosed in August of 2009, when doctors found a cancerous tumor in his chest. Before long, the tumor was removed but Mendoza, always a strong independent person, someone who chose to move out and take care of himself immediately after graduating high school, was humbled by the recovery process.

"There were times when I believed I wasn't going to live," he said. "But thanks to my family, my church, my community and prayer, I am here today."

After hearing the diagnosis, he said, his parents made him return home. "Can you imagine that? My mom and dad would tell their 45-year-old son, 'You're coming home to live with us.' [So they could] take care of me."

The ironic thing about all of that was that when my parents were taking care of me during my recovery, I ended up taking care of my mom, and I think that was a wonderful blessing…to be there, with my mom, especially during those last days." Sadly, Mendoza's mother lost her fight with cancer.

Mendoza stressed the importance of spirituality, prayer and family. "We draw our strength from prayer," he said. "My uncle was [there] with me. My uncle is Phillip Mendoza…he is also a cancer survivor."

Phillip, 80, is a 25-year survivor of stomach cancer. He was at the Cancer Awareness Day as a representative from the Gila River Cancer Support Group. "We all got together, we went to visit him while he was in the hospital," he said regarding his nephew.

The group, which was started in 2001, meets every third Tuesday of every month at the elderly complex in District 4. June 17 is the next meeting.

Sometimes they share stories, sometimes they meet to pray, said the elder Mendoza. "We invite [people] over or we go to their homes and pray for them...It's more just about coming together."
The more things change, the more they stay the same. I’m turning into one of those old GRICsters who cast scowling glances at young ones with wires connected to their ears from their latest greatest iPads/smartphones, watching their thumbs fly across the screen. But I have to confess that as a child, if I had a way to saddle up on a horse and tote our TV around with me, I surely would have done it. Television was a strong influence during my youth and continues to be to this day. Couple it with air conditioning, it has really spoiled me.

During the weekends and especially during the summer, as soon as breakfast was over, the TV went on. I remember the black and white movies that set the scene for our outside play. Big trees became jungles as we tied ropes together and swung around just like Tarzan, or they became a scary mansion for Franklin, Wolfman or Dracula. The internment camp was less than three miles south of our place, so we would saddle the horses and go play army. Sometimes we would take a lunch and off we would go, three on a horse.

In my retirement, I now have the luxury of watching the old movies of my youth once again. Once, I was watching a movie on mute. Someone asked how I knew what was going on. I replied I had seen the movie so many times that I knew the plot, music, and dialogue. Some movies have a connection to us. “Arizona” was a western released in 1940, and the Old Tucson western movie set was built for this movie. As the movie begins, a wagon train pulls into Tucson. One man asks the scout if the people he sees are Apache Indians. The scout says no, they are Pima and they hate the enemy more than anyone. In all probability they were Tohono O’Odham since many of them worked as extras in the movies filmed there. “The Sands of Iwo Jima” was released in 1949. Ira Hayes, Rene Gagnon and John Bradley take orders from John Wayne to raise the flag on Iwo Jima. They were the surviving members of the original six flag raisers. To this day it still has an emotional scene. “Hell’s Gate” was released in 1952 with the setting being a prison carved in a mountain in the desert. When the warden is laying down the law, he says if the desert heat doesn’t kill them, then the Pima will kill them for the bounty. A couple of mean looking Indians are up on the hill. I don’t know for sure, but I can guess which district those mean looking Indians were from. “The Outsider,” also known as the Ira Hayes story, was released in 1961. The scenery is what I enjoy: Nelson Road as a dirt road—no freeway overpass—and Ira’s home. I remember the house and the vacto. The scenes outside of Bapchule Traders are bittersweet; I recognize many of the O’Odham sitting on the bench. That was what the old men did after checking the mail: sit, watch, talk. My first summer job was being the carry out/gas attendant/interpreter at the store. The scenes in and out of the tribal building in Sacaton are also poignant. I recognize many of the tribal members who served as extras and knack and chuckle when voting instructions are given in O’Odham. I understand most of the instructions. The big wooden structure was demolished to build the District 3 community center.

I bemoan the youth for their connection to electronic devices, but I realize I am not much different. I just can’t carry mine around.

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**SOMETHING TO BE TOLD OR TALKED ABOUT**

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**MONSOON STORM SAFETY**

During monsoon storms severe wind have the potential to cause power outages throughout the Community. Power and communications outages can be widespread and last for some time. Strong winds may topple utility poles and snap tree limbs causing them to fall on power lines and disrupt electrical service.

**Outage Safety**

1. Be extra cautious when you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm. Downed or dangling wires can be hidden by trees or debris, and could be energized.
2. Do not walk or drive near the downed wires or limbs and keep children and pets away from them.
3. Always assume that it is dangerous to touch a live wire.
4. Do not touch anything power lines are touching.

**What to do during an outage:**

- Always check your fuse and/or breaker box first.
- Check with a neighbor to see if their power is out.
- Turn off lights, close and angling major appliances and electronics to prevent overloading when the power is restored. Leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Only replace the ice maker filter and fresh water filter if both doors are left closed.
- Turning off and other emergency power should be on by family, friends, elders and persons with disabilities.
- Never use charcoal cookers to cook or heat food. A charcoal cooker can be deadly.
- If you’re under a medical condition that is impacted by a power outage call 911.

**Power Outage Safety**

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**Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority**

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for Summer Student Interns to learn about how an electric utility operates. These internships will be selected for individual three (3) week internships.

The students will rotate through various departments at GRICUA, learning about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.

**OPPORTUNITY:**

- Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday for a three-week period.
- Pay will be $7.30 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage)
- Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday for a three-week period.
- Students should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets.
- Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at http://www.gricua.net/employment.html.
- Deadline for filing applications is May 28 at 4:00 p.m.
- Applications will be evaluated upon receipt and interviews may be scheduled before closing date.
- Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 480-452-1429 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6640 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226.

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**Raffle Prizes**

- Water Games
- Music
- Gift Cards
- Family Resource Info.

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**SUMMER STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2014**

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) is seeking applicants for the 2014 summer internship program. The program is designed to provide opportunities for high school seniors and recent graduates to gain work experience and learn about the roles and responsibilities of the utility industry. The program will be held from June 2nd through August 1st.

**OPPORTUNITY:**

- Students will work a fixed 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
- Pay will be $7.30 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
- Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday for a three-week period.
- Students should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets.
- Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at http://www.gricua.net/employment.html.
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June 6, 2014

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Crisis Response Team comes to Gila River

By Joshua Jovanelly

Gila River Indian News

In the midst of a tragedy, Cheryl Walker found herself pondering the question of where the blankets came from.

At 6 a.m. on a frigid morning a few years ago, Walker rushed out to find that her nephew, a young man in his 20s, had been killed. She had dressed quickly and haphazardly grabbing clothes as she sped out the door.

When Walker arrived, fellow family members were there covering blankets that seemed to have materialized out of nowhere. Then Walker noticed that the Phoenix Fire Department had responded to the scene and that a tall young woman from the Phoenix Fire Crisis Response Team was sharing information with the family. The woman had passed out blankets to Walker’s family, bringing what little warmth comfort can provide against the numbing emptiness that comes when a loved one unexpectedly departs.

“I don’t really remember much else about that tragic morning but I do know that the Phoenix Fire Crisis Response Team were where the blankets came from,” Walker, 45, wrote in an email. Despite her pain, she found comfort in the gesture. “You don’t think about that when you wake up in the morning, you just throw whatever on,” she added in a phone interview. “It’s cold out in our desert, you know.”

Now that Walker, who lives in District 7, knows where the blankets came from, she is preparing to pay it forward. She will be part of the Gila River Crisis Response Team, the first of its kind in Indian Country, which is expected to begin operations within the next few months. The group of about 20 initial volunteers will provide resources and assistance to families affected by emergency situations.

The Crisis Response Team is a group of volunteers who provide what are called connector services for families following Traumatic events and emergencies. Fire, police and medical personnel must handle the most urgent activities in any given emergency quickly so they can get back into service as soon as possible. The Crisis Response Team is there to fill the gaps after the first responders leave.

The Crisis Response Team in Gila River is a group of volunteers who provide assistance to Community members during traumatic events.

Walker, who has worked with CR teams in other fire departments, has put each volunteer, almost all of whom are Community members, through a rigorous training regimen that amounts to an entire public safety hiring process, including drug testing, background checks and panel interviews. Gila River’s CR team members have been sent to regional trainings and attended an all-day Sunday training session in May.

Ashton and his volunteers have dedicated a lot of time to setting up this resource for the Community.

“The Crisis Response Team is basically Community volunteers assisting their own community,” Ashton said.

The team will operate a van based out of Fire Station No. 423 in Sacaton and be in radio communication and under the command structure of Gila River emergency services. The program gained a boost in development through the Community’s Alcohol Tax, allowing the fire department to purchase the necessary equipment and outfit 2 special-purpose Crisis Response Vans.

The two-person teams will work in 6 to 24 hour shifts, and Ashton hopes to one day offer Community-wide coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. What services the Crisis Response Team ends up providing will vary from situation to situation, but its main goal is to serve as a go-to for Community families in need.

The team could transport family members who need a ride to the hospital to be with their loved ones, arrange shelter for families and their pets after a house fire, offer important phone numbers to connect families with much-needed resources or simply provide the necessary presence in the middle of hardship.

Harry Williams, 66, another volunteer from District 6, is a retired nurse. He believes the creation of the team to be a landmark for the Community. “With the amount of training we’re receiving, the Community will receive us very well,” he said. “I’m excited for the challenge. I can’t wait to get started.” All of these services will be optional to Community members’ families.

The team understands that emergency situations can be quite personal and difficult for families to process. Its intention is simply to offer support and help to families who decide they want it.

Walker, who holds two jobs and volunteers in other capacities, said this is a big step for Native American communities. “It’s taking off running and it’s really exciting to think that this is going to be the first team of its kind in Indian Country on a reservation,” she said. “It will just be our people taking care of our people.”

If you are interested in joining the Gila River Fire Department’s Crisis Response Team please contact the fire department at (520) 610-1780 or by email at gilarivercrisisresponse@gric.nsn.us.

Gila River Women’s Wellness Camp

Are you looking for ways to kick start your physical activity, make healthier food choices & reduce your stress?

Here is a sneak peak:

• Create balanced meals
• Reduce hunger cravings
• Safe and effective workouts
• Health goals & journaling
• Support groups

Camp Days and Locations:

All camps are held on Saturdays from 9:00am—3:00pm

• June 14 - District 5: Casa Blanca Rd, Bapchule
• June 21 - District 2: 18474 N. Shigeh Rd, Blackwater
• June 28 - District 3: Sacaton
• July 12 - District 4: Indio Route 68, Sacaton
• July 19 - District 5: 7820 W Baseline Rd, Laveen Village
• July 26 - District 2: Sacaton Flats Rd, Mishki
• August 2 - District 6: 5230 W St Johns Rd, Laveen 85339

Call 480-461-3888 or Regiser at FitnessFest.org/GRIC

Enrollments must have a wait size of 36* or more and be larger than size 14. If you do not meet these requirements, you CAN still register as a Women’s Wellness Mentor.

Funding provided by the Gila River Indian Community Tobacco Tax Grant, administered through the Office of Special Funding and Community Services Department. We will also offer follow-up workshops, support groups and help to keep you on track!

This is absolutely FREE for you, so call or register to learn more!
Gila Crossing promotes eighth grade class

By Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

Eighth grade students, draped in gold graduation gowns, shared one last special moment before they were promoted from Gila Crossing Community School. District 6 gave the eighth grade class a fitting send off with cheers, balloons and flowers to celebrate the achievement.

The promotion ceremony, held at the Boys & Girls Club – Komatke Branch on May 28, brought out a large crowd of supporters to watch the students mark an important milestone in their education.

Principal Ruben Gonzalez said this particular class had great energy and personality. “We’re giving the students a stepping stone to move forward,” he said. This was Gonzalez’s first year as principal.

Keynote speaker Jacob Moore, whose grandfather was from Gila Crossing, stressed to the students that promotion from eighth grade will lead to more accomplishments if they work hard. “Enjoy this moment of accomplishing something that took hard work because you’re going to need to keep that inside because you have future successes waiting for you,” said Moore.

Members of the Gila Crossing Community School Board of Trustees also spoke, including Charles Goldtooth, Priscilla Antone and Robin Fohrenkam.

Valedictorian Kiona Allison said that she would always hold on to her memories as a Gila Crossing Eagle. “I will never forget about my time here at Gila Crossing Community School,” she said.

Valedictorian Lehua Doseala walks to the podium during the Gila Crossing Community School eighth grade promotion.

Grads leave St. Peter for ninth grade

Father Greg Rice said the students were blessed to have had a Catholic education that went beyond standard academics and taught them the “treasure” of biblical “truth and goodness.”

“As you go out today, you are carrying a treasure,” he told the youths. “You have the opportunity to take this wonderful treasure and spread it to all of the places that you go…Every life that you touch will reflect the kind of person that you have become.”

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June 6, 2014

Gila River Indian News

Is your water safe?*

This report is a snapshot of your water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Why are contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain low levels of some contaminants. This is because drinking water originates from many different sources. The occurrence of contaminants that do not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity including:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential use; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes Regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Table

The tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of certain contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Other otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Health Effects Considered:

Total Coliforms

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential health problems.

Some people who drink water containing coliforms may experience nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and stomach pain. Coliforms do not cause long-term health effects.

Special Education Statements:

Additional Information for Arsenic:

While your drinking water meets the EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Recent health studies have found that some populations who drink water with arsenic levels exceeding the EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

*If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. PWS system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/leadfactsheet.html.

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**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are a group of chemicals formed during disinfection of drinking water. TTHMs are the by-products of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives and runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from electronic production wastes; leaching from glass and aluminum factories; runoff from land or through the ground, it discharges from industrial manufacturers; treatment of the steel, pulp, and paper industries; and discharge from manufacture of hardener.

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ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT 6

The protest and to certify the election results for District 6)

to Council with recommendation to reject the protest and to certify the election results for District 6.

2. Housing Owner’s Team Executive Director Benefits

Item discussed in Executive Session

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ADDRESSED UNDER COUNCIL CONCERNS IN LITIGATION TEAM UPDATE. PRESENTER MR. LINUS EVERLING and #4 ELDERLY FOLLOW UP, PRESENTER COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item discussed in Executive Session

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PETITION FOR REENROLLMENT, AND PROVIDE THEIR DECISION TO THE LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FINAL ACTION FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL AND ON TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL. A ACTION IS WARRANTED

MINUTES

1. March 19, 2014 (Regular)

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

2. May 3, 2014 (Special)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND WELL WISHES TO COUNCILMAN TERRANCE B. EVANS, COUNCILWOMAN CYNTHIA ANTOINE, COUNCILMAN DALE G. ENOS, and COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE J. STEWART

COUNCILWOMAN CYNTHIA ANTOINE, COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE J. STEWART, and COUNCILMAN TERRANCE B. EVANS EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND WISHES OF LUCK TO COUNCILMAN DALE G. ENOS, Speaker, "I want to thank him for his service, his hard work, and his dedication to our community."

EVANS EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND WELL WISHES TO COUNCILMAN TERRANCE B. EVANS, COUNCILWOMAN CYNTHIA ANTOINE, COUNCILMAN DALE G. ENOS, and COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE J. STEWART.

VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND WISHES OF LUCK TO COUNCILMAN TERRANCE B. EVANS.

8.00AM

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS ORIENTATION FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2014, 9:00AM

AGITATION TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014, 8:00AM

LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE RHP WORK SESSION FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014, 9:00AM DISTRICT 1 MULTIPURPOSE CENTER

DENISE PANCOTT FUNERAL SERVICES WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014 DISTRICT 2 & THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014 DISTRICT 2 AND 3 MULTIPURPOSE CENTER IN RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:44PM

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Gila River Casinos invites Gila River Indian Community Members to join us in commemorating 20 years of gaming. A ceremony will be held with a program featuring Community leaders and Gila River Indian Community Members.

We look forward to having you as our guest and hope that you can join us for this special commemorative occasion.

**Gila River Casinos 20th Anniversary Ceremony for Gila River Indian Community Members**

*Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino inside the Ovations LIVE! Showroom*

*Continental breakfast*

*June 14, 2014 at 9:00am*