Sacaton teen named Miss Gila River

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Lucia Antone of Sacaton was crowned as the 2014-2015 Miss Gila River at the 51st Annual Miss Gila River Pageant, March 8.

Antone, 19, is a senior at Sherman Indian School in Riverside, Calif. Her parents are Troy Antone, Sr. and Cynthia Satala. She will be graduating this May and plans to start her college education at Central Arizona College this summer. After that she will pursue her dream of going to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.

The contest was held at the brand new Vah Ki Service Center Multipurpose building, where hundreds of Community members packed into the gymnasium to support four of Gila River’s brightest and bravest young women.

The ceremony opened with a traditional dance featuring all four contestants and then-reigning Miss Gila River Lisa Hohokim Hendricks in a demonstration of grace and unity.

The pageant is made up of traditional talents, contemporary talents and impromptu questions. Individual interviews with the judges and written submissions from the contestants are considered the day before the pageant.

This year’s crop of Miss Gila River hopefuls included Antone; Anissa Garcia, representing District 4; and Annie Gutierrez, representing District 3; and Lucia Antone, D3, was crowned Miss Gila River 2014-2015 March 8.

Antone is a senior in high school and with her crown hopes to represent the Community in a positive way. “Sacaton is where I lived, that’s where I grew up and when I left it was really quiet.” But now, she said, “there’s a lot of gang activities and things like that that shouldn’t even be in our Community.” She hopes to combat that by injecting culture and history into the lives of Gila River youth.

When she heard her name called, Antone said, “I felt blessed, joyful, and delighted to be crowned.”

As Miss Gila River, her number one priority is “to be more involved in bringing our youth and our elders together [to promote] our language, our ways and traditions and the songs and the dances.”

No more bumpy rides for visitors to St. Peter

By Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

They say the road of life has its share of bumps and potholes. Well, the driveway to St. Peter Indian Mission School had more than its share. For parents and busses driving back and forth to the school, the rocky trip would give you more of a jolt than a strong cup of coffee.

Sister Martha Mary Carpenter, St. Peter’s principal, said she would try to fix the potholes with rocks from the playground to little avail.

Continued on Page 5

Mul-Chu-Tha time: Annual celebration hits GRIC with fair, parade and rodeo

See page six for more Mul-Chu-Tha photographs.

Culture Sharing, Page 4

Art Show Flyer, Page 5

King of the Skills, Page 11
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
Sign-up to Help the Limited Contract Health Services Funding

Gila River Health Care (GRHC) continues to devote resources to signing up individuals for the insurance benefits available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Why obtaining private health insurance is so crucial at this time is because of the limited funding that is available under the Contract Health Services (CHS).

Prior to the ACA contract health dollars had to be used for Gila River Indian Community members that had no insurance and did not qualify for the state Medicare program, called AHCCCS (Access). Now our patients have an alternative, they can obtain insurance through ACA.

With more of the community covered with some form of health insurance, contract health dollars will be available to provide care to the most vulnerable patients. Insurance coverage through ACA allows patients to have resources to access the important healthcare services both at GRHC and in the Phoenix area. For those individuals that cannot sign up for ACA, there will be more CHS dollars for the services they need and the entire community will benefit.

“We are seeing many of our patients interested in the Affordable Care Act, asking questions on the marketplace (where you sign up for coverage), and how they can enroll, premiums, their costs, what health benefits will be covered,” says Ginger Fligger, Chief Financial Officer of GRHC. She also stated “we are dedicated to providing assistance to our patients and providing that face-to-face conversation with one of our certified assistances.”

Gila River Indian Community tribal members, please come into our Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital campus or Komatke Health Center campus and speak to one of our Benefit Coordinators who will assist with the process of determining all your available options. In many cases GRHC may be able to pay your monthly premium and ensure you have health insurance for you and your family members.

For more information, please contact:
Cathy Mejia 520-562-3321 x 1251 or 602-528-1251
cmejia@grhc.org

Roberta Alvarez 520-562-3321 x 1311 or 602-528-1311
ramendariz@grhc.org

Marie Lewis 520-562-3321 x 1204 or 602-528-1204
mkhendricks@grhc.org

Stella Sanchez 520-562-3321 x 1493 or 602-528-1493
stellas@grhc.org

Armida Molina 520-562-3321 x 1122
armidam@grhc.org

New clinic, parking lot and new look!

Women’s Health Clinic
Her Journey...

A woman’s journey to good health is important. The GRHC Women’s Health Clinic specializes in providing compassionate and culturally competent care for Native American women. We invite you to experience your journey to good health.

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital:
520.562.3321 Ext.1400 or 602.528.1400

A career at Gila River Health Care puts you in the center of one of the most sophisticated and industry-leading health care systems in Native country. We are recognized nationally for creating real value for our Native American patients.

If you are serious about joining a team of engaged professionals, apply online at: WWW.GRHC.ORG.
LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters should be limited to 200 words and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer’s true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper. Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling and content.

Write to:
Editor, GRIN
P.O. Box 459
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Published letters or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community.

Letters & Opinions

GILA RIVER... LET YOUR DENTAL INSURANCE SEND YOU ON A SHOPPING SPREE!

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Business Matters on the Rez
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Tues., April 8th, 2014
D5 Service Center
Multipurpose Bldg.
5:30pm

Food Provided
All Questions to:
D5 Employment & Training Dept.
520.562.9888
O’otham teachers believe in the power of language at culture sharing in Ak-Chin

By Joshua Jovanelly

Preserving O’otham culture is a top priority for the four tribes that share O’otham heritage. As times change and elders age, the task falls on culture teachers to carry on this legacy to the younger generations.

Teachers from the four sister tribes came together March 14 to share ideas and strategies during a full-day session of presentations and culture sharing at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino. More than 100 members of GRIC, Tohono O’odham Nation, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Ak-Chin Indian Community packed the conference rooms to participate in the annual Culture Teacher Gathering. It was Ak-Chin’s first time hosting the event.

The centerpiece of O’otham culture is its unique language.

“We’re all promoting what we understand about our language because our language is the very foundation upon which all of our knowledge and understanding is derived from,” said Dallas De Lowe, a cultural specialist with GRIC’s Head Start program and the keynote speaker at the gathering.

Presentations were held throughout the morning. Phillip Miguel, an instructor at Tohono O’odham Community College, and Andrea Ramon presented on the importance of sharing the language through education. Maria Garcia and Alice Manu-el, who work with Salt River’s Cultural Resources Department, taught basic O’otham words and phrases through a hand game taught by De Lowe.

Anthony Gray of GRIC’s Head Start described efforts being made to train Gila River’s youngest members, while Joyce Hughes, culture coordinator for GRC’s Tribal Education Department, led a demonstration in fun teaching of the Akimel O’otham alphabet.

Attendees’ fluency in O’otham ranged from fully fluent native speakers to those that could understand but not speak to those that understood little at all. Yet when it came to the cause of preserving the language, nothing was lost in translation.

“I’m so happy that all of you are here, that you’re teaching language, that language is interesting to you and that it’s strong,” Manuel said before the hand game activity kicked off. “It feels really good to come to the morning session and hearing people speak in O’otham.”

After picking non-speakers out of the crowd, Garcia led the hand game song, getting participants to sing along and play a guessing game that incorporated learning the O’otham words for right (sio’omko) and left (o’higg).

Many of the culture teachers from across the sister tribes are familiar with one another. The day was filled with smiling faces and outbreaks of gleeful laughter. “I think for all of us it was a re-union,” said Hughes, who guided her group through pronounced difficult consonants.

“We had loads of O’otham laughter.”

O’otham culture teachers can’t go to a typical teacher store to get their materials. Events like the Culture Teacher Gathering are key for exchanging ideas and building relationships.

“It’s important “that we share what we do in teaching,” Hughes said. “We share our ideas, we form partnerships so we have someone that we can call or email for lesson plans. We become mentors to each other in teaching our Way of Life and Language.”

Before his speech, De Lowe told me about the challenges of compensating for the “ generational gap” the current parent generation that mostly didn’t not grow up speaking the language but the assimilation efforts. “More or less it became a neglected language,” De Lowe said.

The charge of De Lowe and his fellow cultural experts is to bring the younger generations back up to speed, while encouraging the past to learn right along with them.

There are many unique qualities that distinguish each O’otham tribe and even villages within each tribe. There are slightly different words or slightly different customs. De Lowe encouraged Community members to embrace these distinctions and not let them hinder the teaching or sharing process.

“That’s the wonderful aspect of our hikmad: the differences,” Delowe said.

De Lowe is a strong believer in the power of language; he believes the words we say create the reality that we live in. He knows there is no quick fix to the challenge of language preservation among the four tribes, he affirms that events like the Culture Teacher Gathering are getting the tribes one step closer.

“That’s what I see right now with what we’re doing here with the gathering: it’s this revitalization,” De Lowe said. “It’s a continuing process. It is some-thing that is not going to take a year or two. It’s going to be a very lengthy process. And it’s going to involve a lot of work, a lot of dedication and a desire on one’s part to pass along the knowledge.”

Governor’s Employees of the Month

January Employee of the Month, Candida Muñoz

February Employee of the Month, Gregory Lewis

Submitted by Marsha Chischilly
Human Resources Dept.

Candi is a tremendous asset not only to the Finance Department but to the Community as a whole. We commend her for an excellent job well done and congratulate her for receiving employee of the month.

During Candi’s time with payroll, the payroll department has gone through many changes such as moving from manual timesheets to electronic timesheets and time clocks, developing policy and procedures, and just around the corner, implementing a new in-house payroll system. As a result, Candi and her staff work long hours, weekends, and even holidays to ensure that each and every employee is paid every two weeks.

Candi is a tremendous asset not only to the Finance Department but to the Community as a whole. We commend her for an excellent job well done and congratulate her for receiving employee of the month.

Submitted by Marsha Chischilly
Human Resources Dept.

Greg donates his time to the seniors' preferred monthly bingo caller.

Greg continues to overcome physical challenges and still comes to work every day pushing himself beyond his medical limitations. Greg is an outstanding employee who rarely complains, he never comes to work with a negative attitude.

One senior shared with me that Greg is the person that deals with his problems at home and never brings it to work, which is another rare quality that makes him a perfect candidate for an all around special employee and deserves more.
Interior Announces More Than $100 Million in Purchase Offers to Nearly 16,000 Landowners with Fractionated Interests at Pine Ridge Reservation

By Stephanie Way
Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations U.S. Department of Interior

WASHINGTON, DC – In another step to fulfill President Obama’s commitment to strengthen Indian communities, the U.S. Department of Interior today announced that the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) has sent purchase offers to nearly 16,000 individual landowners with fractionated interests in parcels on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Totaling more than $100 million, these offers will provide landowners the opportunity to voluntarily sell their fractionated interests, which would be consolidated and held in trust for the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

According to Sister Martha, Martínez, Sister Martha expressed her concerns about the driveway. According to Sister Martha, Martínez contacted the tribe and the request was passed on to Gov. Gregory Mendoza. Supervisory Road Maintenance Technician Jimmy Garcia from Gila River Department of Transportation was familiar with that particular driveway and by the time he got the word from DOT Director Tim Oliver to check in to it, he knew that the surface badly needed repair. “We all felt that it was a safety concern for the kids and those busses,” said Garcia. The plan was to fix the driveway during the Christmas break, but the crews were diverted to fix damage from the severe winter storms that hit the Community. Once Garcia’s men were available, they started on paving 400 feet of brand new driveway. The project started in January and Garcia said it took about a month to finish. In addition, to the length of the driveway, Garcia and his men included a cul-de-sac with enough room for buses and fire trucks to make easy turns.

The new driveway is a big hit and when Sister Martha was asked about the response from parents and students she said “They love it.” Garcia also said this project carried with it special satisfaction knowing that it was for the safety of the school children. “My crew was very happy to go out there and do that job,” said Garcia.

The Pine Ridge Reservation is one of the most highly-fractionated land ownership locations in Indian Country. The vast majority of landowners with purchasable interests have received offers and have been located in 46 states across the country.

Interior has worked cooperatively with the Oglala Sioux Tribe over the past several months to conduct outreach to educate landowners about this unique opportunity, answer questions and help individuals make a timely decision about their land. Many owners have already been paid in response to offers delivered in December 2013. Early purchases from willing sellers at Pine Ridge have resulted in the consolidation of thousands of acres of land for the tribe and in payments to landowners exceeding $10 million. While the amounts offered to individuals have varied, some owners have received more than $100,000 for their interests. On average, payments to individuals have been made within seven days after Interior received a complete, accepted offer package. Purchase offers are valid for 45 calendar days. Owners must accept and return current purchase offer packages for fractionated lands on Pine Ridge by May 2, 2014.

For information about outreach events at Pine Ridge where landowners can gather information in order to make informed decisions about their land, contact the Oglala Sioux Tribe’s Buy-Back Program at 605-867-2610. Landowners can contact their local Tribal Trust Officer or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 888-678-6836 with questions about their purchase offers. More information is also available at: http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/landowners.

Sellers receive fair market value for their land, in addition to a base payment of $75 per acre, regardless of the value of the land. All sales will also trigger contributions to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund. Up to $50 million will go into this fund to provide scholarships to Native American students. These funds in addition to purchase amounts paid to individual sellers, so contributions will not reduce the amount paid to landowners for their interests.

The Scholarship Fund will be governed by a board of trustees and administered by the American Indian College Fund in Denver, Colo., with 20% going to the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

Interior holds about 56 million acres in trust or restricted status for American Indians. The Department holds this land in more than 200,000 tracts, of which about 93,500 – on nearly 150 reservations – contain fractionated interests available for purchase by the Buy-Back Program. There are more than 245,000 landowners, holding more than 3 million fractionated interests in parcels, eligible to participate in the Program.

Individual participation is voluntary. A decision to sell land for restoration to tribes does not jeopardize a landowner’s ability to receive individual settlement payments from the Cobell Settlement, which are being handled by the Garden City Group.

Community Updates

Here are some regular updates on the on-going issues pertaining to the Gila River Indian Community.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Gila River Indian Community Council has declared the following Board vacancies:

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Résumé to the Community Council Secretary’s Office by the deadline date, (include your address and phone number). See the Governor/Authority Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Résumé to the Community Council Secretary’s Office located at the Government Center, 50 West Guadalupe Road. Deadline date is April 4, 2014, 12:00 noon.

Gila River Indian Community presents

HEMAYO
Gila River Indian Art Fair

Saturday, March 29, 2014
6pm-9pm

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Résumé to the Community Council Secretary’s Office by the deadline date, (include your address and phone number). See the Governor/Authority Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Résumé to the Community Council Secretary’s Office located at the Government Center, 50 West Guadalupe Road. Deadline date is April 4, 2014, 12:00 noon.
Long before the Mul-Chu-Tha was established our He:kiu O’otham have been conducting social games and festivals at their large villages. Through archaeology we are able to discover that every major Hohokam village had a Ball Court where games and social gatherings were held. We do not know exactly how the games were played, but on a clay effigy unearthed at Snaketown body armor on thighs and arms are easily recognized. We can imagine the players coming to Snaketown Ball Court from other villages to play winter games. During the winter months all the plants go dormant, even the common crops of corn, beans and squash. This would make the ideal time for the games and social gatherings. Over the years, Calendar Stick Keepers recorded social events during the years 1875 to 1898. During 1901-1902 the Anthropologist Frank Russell recorded the following accounts from his research of our O’otham.

1. 1875-76 Blackwater: For a short time the Pimas were free from enemy attacks, and they ventured into the mountains to gather mescal. While there, a race took place between a man and a woman, in which the woman won. Later in the season there was a general gathering of the villages to witness a race with the kicking-ball.

2. 1876-77 Gila Crossing: In the spring of 1877 the Gila Crossing Pimas and the Gila Maricopa villagers were pitted against each other in a relay race, the first between the two tribes. Footnote: Tcĕříkŭs, one of the Maricopa runners, afterwards won a six-day race in San Francisco and was a close second in a similar race in New York.

3. 1883-84 Gila Crossing: The Salt River Pimas went to a fiesta at Gila Crossing.

4. 1886-87 Salt River: The Medicine-man Staups gave a great dance at San Tan, which was accompanied by races and other ceremonies which attracted many visitors, among whom were a Yuma and his wife.

5. 1888-89 Gila Crossing: A prosperous season enabled the Salt River people to hold a dance festival.

6. 1888-89 Blackwater: A Papago who knew the bluebird series of songs sang for the San Tan people during the festival held by them.

7. 1889-90 Gila Crossing: The Hi’atam villagers who formerly lived at Akŭtcĭny, south of Maricopa station, went to Gila Crossing to join in the dance festival held there.

8. 1897-98 Gila Crossing: The Rśâni-kam people went to Akŭtcĭny to dance and run a relay race.

In her book ‘A Pima Past’ Anna Moore Shaw describes a ‘Name Calling Dance’ conducted by the O’otham of Santa Cruz village (pp.74-76). O’otham and Pee Posh have always been active people with an established legacy of being great runners and athletes. Since time immemorial we still enjoy our social gatherings, feasts, dances, and races. Now that spring is rapidly approaching, we encourage you to get out and be active. It’s always good to see community members out and about enjoying some sort of activity on the ball courts, ball fields, wellness centers, and running or walking along the roadside. This month’s Word Match will focus on O’otham games and competition. We encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives.

O’otham Games & Competition Word Match

- gin:ns
- thoka
- shoñgivul
- visil vu:p’da
- chuchul bebe
- thola cheg gia
- e’ vo:poichuth
Health & Wellness

One day Coyote was walking by the pond and he was very hungry. While he was walking, he came upon a family of ducks who were playing in the water. He decided he had to catch one for dinner and so he made a plan.

The Coyote started to sing a song and the ducks heard the singing in the distance. The ducks stopped playing and listened. The song was so beautiful that they followed the sound. As the ducks walked, they got closer and closer. Coyote continued to sing softer and softer until the ducks reached him.

When the ducks reached the Coyote, they said, "Coyote, please teach us your song." The Coyote responded by saying "Okay, but first you must build me a house, I cannot sing my song outside because it will escape into the air and someone will steal it."

The ducks agreed to build a house for the Coyote. When the house was finished they all went inside. The Coyote said, "You must do what I say or I will not teach you the song." The ducks replied by saying "We will do whatever you say." The Coyote told the ducks, "You must dance with your eyes closed while I sing." So the ducks closed their eyes and danced while the Coyote was singing.

While the ducks were dancing, the Coyote started to put a spell on them to make them fall asleep. As they fell asleep, he picked them up one by one and put them into his bag. Since the ducks had their eyes closed, they did not see him putting the spell on them. When the coyote was not looking, one of the ducks opened his eyes and saw coyote putting his friends in the bag. The duck yelled, "Open your eyes, open your eyes, wake up, wake up, run and fly away!!" The ducks woke up and fought to get out of the bag. All the ducks eventually got out and flew away before they became duck stew.

The moral of the story is, we all need to be a voice of warning for one another because the Coyote is always waiting to lead us or distract us from our true path.

The Gila River Health Care BHS Prevention Program is a voice of warning for the Community for education and to provide information about alcohol, drugs, meth and suicide. For more information please contact the Gila River Health Care BHS Prevention Program for more information on trainings and community presentations at 520-562-3321 ext. 7157/7031.

Communication
Activities to Learn and Grow!

Your toddler and preschooler enjoys being with you. They are learning new words and ways to communicate very quickly. At this age, children use languages more often to let you know their wants, needs, ideas, and feelings and are starting to carry on a simple conversation. You may hear them talking to themselves or pretending, to have conversations with their dolls or stuffed animals. They can follow simple directions, love to read books, and even probably like to hear the same book over and over again! While reading to your toddler and preschooler, start asking questions such as, "What are they doing there?" and, "What do you think will happen next?" These questions will allow your child to problem solve, think creatively, and promote cognitive skills and memory. Your child will also enjoy an interest in simple turn taking games. Below are a few ideas on games/activities you can try at home!

Active Ideas!
1) I Spy: In the car or while on a walk, you can play "I Spy". You say, "I spy with my eye a green truck." Then your child tries to find what you spied. Now it is their turn to spy something. Remember to "spy" things your child can see in the car from their car seat. You might also try, "I hear with my ear." Listen for sounds such as a bird chirping, dog barking, or horn honking.
2) What's that Sound?: Turn off the TV and radio and listen with your child to the sounds around your home. Listen to the refrigerator motor running, a clock ticking, other people talking, or fans oscillating. Ask your child to tell you what they hear. Try this at night outside and listen to the evening sounds too.

A Voice of Warning

By Arvis Dosela
Gila River Health Care
BHS Prevention Program

One day Coyote was walking by the pond and he was very hungry. While he was walking, he came upon a family of ducks who were playing in the water. He decided he had to catch one for dinner and so he made a plan.

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Tribal Ed. taking a stand against “R” word

By Joshua Jovanelly
Gila River Indian News

All too frequently, the “R” word is hurled on playgrounds, in casual conversations and when goofing around with friends. Perhaps because of how easily the word has entered the common vernacular among both kids and adults, people often overlook how damaging that the “R” word is.

Members of the Gila River Tribal Education Department are making efforts to spread awareness about why we should eliminate the hurtful word — “re-tarded” — from our everyday vocabulary. The department has joined a national effort called Spread the Word to End the Word, which takes the form of an online pledge at r-word.org where people of all ages can make a promise to stop using the “R” word.

Nearly half a million people have made the pledge. Spreading the Word to End the Word, now in its fifth year, was observed March 5.

Christopher Smith, a student behavior specialist at TED, brought the awareness effort to the department’s attention. TED Director Mario Molina thought it was a great idea and ordered shirts for the staff. An “R” word awareness day in the schools is potentially in the works to coincide with next year’s anti-bullying week.

“We’re trying to get the awareness out that the word ‘retarded’ [or ‘retarded’] is hurtful, it’s derogatory, it’s demeaning, and it’s just pretty much despicable just like any other racial euphemism or epithet that’s out there,” Smith said.

Starting this re-education in the schools is a top priority for ending the word since so many of the students’ enthusiasm made it a no-brainer to make Career Day an annual occurrence.

“The best thing was that before we started this, when we asked children what they wanted to be when they grow up, they shrugged their shoulders or [said] I don’t know,” Rollins said. “And now…they can list things that are dreams.”

Rollins expects the seeds that were planted during the presentations to blossom into future goals.

“We may have changed somebody’s life today,” Rollins said.

The distinction “mentally re-tarded” entered common vocabulary in the mid-20th century as a medical term to describe people with developmental delays. (The new preferred phrase is “cognitively impaired.”) The word somehow morphed into a put-down tossed around in schools, workplaces and homes to describe someone who is acting foolish or idiotic.

People who use the term in this way may not realize that even when the word is not directed at people with disabilities, its use implies that the cognitively impaired lack worth.

“[H]ere we are with our kids with disabilities and they’re not losers, they’re not regrettable mistakes, they’re not stupid, they’re not dumb, they’re not ridiculous,” Smith said. “And there are thousands of other words that you could use for what you’re trying to describe…”

Smith has been with TED for six years and worked as a special education teacher prior to that at Mountain Pointe High School in Ahwatukee. His connection to the community and the world, according to a Down syndrome advocacy website. The day encourages participants to “Rock Your Socks” by wearing outlandish socks to draw attention from passersby, to whom participants can spread awareness.

Regardless of the specific developmental disability, casual use of the “R” word hurts these communities and lessens their ability to have an equal chance at a fulfilling life. The cognitively impaired have much to offer their families, their communities and the world.

“Kids with special needs can go to college, they can get married, they can do whatever as long as they have the chance to do it and the support to do it,” Smith said. “And that’s what all these awareness days are saying.”
March 21, 2014

**Community Council Action Sheets**

**ACTION SHEET**

**Community Council, PO Box 2138, Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729**

**CALL TO ORDER**
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, March 5, 2014, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairwoman Greg G. Mendoza at 9:17 a.m.

**INVOCATION**
Provided by Leatrice Celaya

**ROLL CALL**
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:
- Governor Greg G. Mendoza
- Lt. Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Council Members Present:
- D1-Cynthia Antone, Azzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz;
- D3-Dale G. Enos, Carolyn Williams; D4-Monica Antone
- (2:01), Norman Wellington, Barney Enos, Jr. (11:00);
- D5-Annette J. Stewart, Janice F. Stewart, Robert Stone,
- Franklin Padlo, Sr.; D6-Anthony Villarreal, Sr., Albert Padlo,
- Terrance E. Evans; D7-Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
- D4-Jennifer Allison

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
APPROVED AS AMENDED

**OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY**
1. Jacqueline Ziliou, Court of Appeals Judge
   - Presenter: Chief Judge Anthony Hill
   - CHIEF JUDGE ANTHONY HILL ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO MS. JACQUELINE ZILIOU

2. Rosal Schrioder, Department of Public Works Director
   - Presenter: Division Manager Noel Hoover
   - DIVISION MANAGER NOEL HOOVER INTRODUCED MR. ROSS SCHROEDER. MR. SCHROEDER PROVING A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND AND HIS PLANS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

3. Elizabeth Francisco, Boys & Girls Club-Komatke Branch
   - Youth of the Year Presenter: Chilo Figueroa
   - MS. ELIZABETH FRANCISCO INTRODUCED HERSELF AND PROVIDED HER YOUTH OF THE YEAR SPEECH.
   - COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND WELL WISHES

4. Miss Gila River Lisa Hendricks – Farewell Address
   - THE 2014-2015 MISS GILA RIVER CONTESTANTS CHEYENNE JACKSON, LUCIA ANTONE, ANISSA GARCIA, AND ANNE GUTIERREZ INTRODUCED THEMSELVES. MISS GILA RIVER LISA HENDRICKS PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCES OF HER REIGN. MISS GILA RIVER EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE, WELL WISHES AND AN O’ODHAM SONG (15-minute reception to follow in the lobby)

**REPORTS**

1. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Allocation 1st Quarterly Report
   - Presenter: Philip Bonds
   - REPORT HEARD

2. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation 1st Quarterly Report
   - Presenter: Jacquie Bradley
   - REPORT HEARD

   - Presenter: Rebecca Martinez, Jason Jones, Chilo Figueroa
   - REPORT HEARD

4. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority FY 2014 First Quarter Report
   - Presenter: John Lewis, Leonard Gold
   - REPORT HEARD

5. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority FY 13 Audited Financial Statements
   - Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold
   - REPORT HEARD

6. New Residential Program for Youth Status Update – FY17
   - Presenter: Division Manager Nada Celaya
   - REPORT HEARD

7. Pinal County Records - Voter Registration/Election Services
   - Presenters: Mica S. Deulio
   - REPORT HEARD

8. GOVERNOR MENDOZA CALLED FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF LUNCH BREAK
   - RECONVEMED AT 2:01PM

9. MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
   - J. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. – Monthly Report
   - January 2014 (Executive Session)
   - Presenters: John James, Kenneth Manuel, Board Of Directors
   - REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

   - Presenter: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah
   - REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Gaming Internal Audit Department – 1st Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2014 (Executive Session)
   - Presenter: Elizabeth Bohnee
   - REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. Treasurer’s Report – FY 14 1st Quarter (Executive Session)
   - Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller
   - REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community To Plan For The Temporary Housing Of Inmates During Emergencies Situations (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; LSC concurs)
   - Presenters: Tana Fitzpatrick, Randy Tracy
   - APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving The Application To The Western Area Power Administration For Boulder Canyon Project Allocation For The 2017 Resource Pool And Designating The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority As The Entity Responsible For Preparing The Application (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concurs)
   - Presenter: Leonard Gold
   - APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Continuation Of GR-22-80 For A Homeownership Agreement For Janet Haske Located In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 30510-0304 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Nancy L. House-Sanchez
   - APPROVED

4. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 2264-A On Allotted Trust Land In District One Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 2238 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District One Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/ Home Site Lease On Allotment 2238 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District One Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 1494 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - APPROVED

8. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 1445 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - APPROVED

9. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 1149 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - APPROVED

10. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 751 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - APPROVED

11. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-transferable Fifty Year Residential/Home Site Lease On Allotment 1514 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenter: Dean Howard
   - APPROVED

12. A Resolution Rescinding GR-178-01 And GR-206-01 Which Approved Fifty (50) Year Homestead Assignment Agreements For Nolene Norm And Virgil Molina Jr., Respectively, And Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homestead Assignment Agreement For Virgil R. Molina, Jr., Located In District Two Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 30213-0640 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval for the correction in the title)
   - Presenter: Pamela Pasqual
   - APPROVED

13. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The Enrollment Of Gary Lee Anderson, Jr. Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenters: Francis Oslee, Enrollment Department
   - APPROVED

14. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The Enrollment Of Vanessa Machakuy Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenters: Francis Oslee, Enrollment Department
   - APPROVED

15. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The Enrollment Of Kelly-Aaron Harris Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenters: Francis Oslee, Enrollment Department
   - APPROVED

16. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The Enrollment Of Cheryl Ann Cook Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
   - Presenters: Francis Oslee, Enrollment Department
   - TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

17. A Resolution Approving The Removal Of Troy Benedict Molino AKA Molina From The Gila River
   - Continued on Page 10
**Action Sheets From Page 9**

River Island Community Membership Roll (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Francisco Osle, Enrollment Department

APPROVED

**ORDINANCES UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*1. Gila River Gaming Commission And Gila River Gaming Enterprise Proposal Reporting (G&M forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Deborah Griffin

MOTION MADE, SECOND AND APPROVED TO Table the item for future meeting.

*2. Call Before You Dig

Presenters: Gabriella Reitz, Gila River Indian Community Department of Transportation

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE item as is.

*3. River Island Home Inspection

Presenters: Sam Hine, David Kunz

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE item as is.

*4. Export of Firearms

Presenters: Bria Ramon, Alayna Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE item as is.

*5. Revenue Internal Audit Department

Presenters: Robert G. Keller

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE item as is.

*6. Risk Management

Presenters: Bria Ramon, Alayna Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE item as is.

**Gila River Indian Community Authority Utility Authority**

On February 18, 2014 GRCUA hosted a Washington County Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The reunion brought together past Washington County Tour students and interns to mingle and share experiences with the current Washington County Tour interns and Ronald in these programs in 2012 and 2013 and we are proud to see these programs grow to 10 alumni.

Front Row Left to Right: Ronaldo Martinez, Alex Paito, Karinda Anton, Bria Ramon, Alayna Thomas, and Bria Ramon. Back Row Left to Right: Bria Ramon, Alayna Thomas and Jay Johnson.

**GRCUA Meter Tampering**

GRCUA takes meter tampering and theft of service seriously. Meter tampering puts you at risk as well as violating GRCUA’s Rules and Regulations For Electric Service. GRCUA reserves the right to report such actions to the Gila River Police Department and to pursue criminal proceedings against you for fraud and theft.

**GRCUA Budget Billings**

You don’t need to guess to predict your future energy bills. GRCUA’s Budget Billing is a no cost program that balances your seasonal highs and lows of your bill to make your payments predictable each month and enhance your family’s budgeting. Call (520) 562-0600 today and learn about this new budget billing program.

**Feature Story Kurt Polingyowma**

Kurt Polingyowma started in a temporary position in April 2012. He was hired as a fulltime employee on April 20, 2012. Kurt works in the GRICUA Warehouse. He lives in District 4 and has one daughter, Ellayna Polingyowma. She just turned 15 in February. When he is not working, he spends most of his time fishing or going to concerts, fishing or just finding something fun to do.

**10 Spring Energy Saving Tips**

1. Install ceiling fans and use them. Ceiling fans can make your rooms feel a few degrees cooler and circulate air to keep you more comfortable.

2. Get a new air conditioner service contract. This is one of those vitally important tasks a lot of us just forget to do. But making sure your A/C is in peak performance is integral to extending its life and saving you money in the process.

3. Cut the grass to keep up with gaps around windows and doors. Weatherstripping is inexpensive and easy to find. Make sure your home hotter and cause your A/C to work harder.

4. Clean your refrigerator coils. Like air conditioner filters, clean refriger- ator coils make your fridge work not as hard and prolong its life.

5. Install low-flow shower heads. Low-flow shower heads reduce the amount of water you use every time you shower, saving you big on your water bill.

6. Replace burnt out light bulbs with energy-efficient CFLs. CFLs last seemingly forever and actually saves you all year, but let’s face it, there is a finite life to them.

7. Save heating-chores for night time to avoid making your home unnecessarily hot during the day. Your home is already hot enough. Don’t add to the heat by maneuvering showers, ovens, clothes dryers, and the like. Run those appliances at night or early in the morning to minimize the impact of the heat.

8. Turn down your hot water heater. This actually saves you all year, but it’s less like you could definitely afford to save a few bucks by turning down the water heat a few notches.

9. Dress appropriately. Just like you add layers in the winter, wear, cool, breathable clothing to prevent body heat overheating in the spring and summer. Doing so reduces your dependence on your A/C to kick into high gear.

10. Do some spring cleaning. Get rid of excess clothing, old furniture, books you’ve already read, and unused applian- ces to save some space in your house and keep you cooler.

**Reminders**

**GRICUA District Days 2014**

**Public Notice**

**Notice In The Court Of The
gila River Indian Community**

**Court Date Notice**

To: Ronaldo Nunez

Docket Number: DC-2013-019

This case has been scheduled on the 30th day and time of the day of March, 2013 and said court hearing is being held in accordance and a warrant will be issued for your bond hearing judgment in favor of the other party or trial may

**Public Notice**

**In The State of Arizona**

**Notice Of Public Hearing**

You don’t need to guess to predict your future energy bills. GRCUA’s Budget Billing is a no cost program that balances your seasonal highs and lows of your bill to make your payments predictable each month and enhance your family’s budgeting. Call (520) 562-0600 today and learn about this new budget billing program.
By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Walking across the Vah Ki ball field two Fridays ago, the sweet smell of the evening grass rose from the earth and filled the air. The sun slinked slow over the Estrella Mountains to the west, dyeing the sky pink and gold. Near the outfield wall covered in black plywood, the cool desert air mingled with the strangely seductive scent of spray paint. A breeze caught the racket and hiss of the ball field two Fridays ago, the breeze caught the rattle and hiss of the billboard. At Valley Metro Stop 52 on 51st to Dust Devil, go to Gila Crossing School.

Graffiti used to be a big problem in District 5. “We were getting tagged on our concession stand like every weekend with gang signs,” said DS Recreation Coordinator Erika Hernandez, who created and organized the King of the Skills event. She decided to fight fire with fire. “I said, ‘We should throw an event and maybe that’ll stop it because we gave them a place to do it.’”

The King of the Skills invites graffiti artists from all over to Casa Blanca to showcase their spray paint skills in a friendly, community environment. An eight-foot-high wall of black plywood lined the fence of the ballpark March 7, all the way from left to right field and became a canvas for more than 40 graffiti artists.

This is not a typical Community-sponsored event. Starting it was a big risk, Hernandez admits. Would the Community approve? What would the elders say? But the King of the Skills event, now in its third year, has been a huge hit. “Now, District 5, our elders, they support [it]. They see it and now they know that it’s artwork.” Hernandez said. The community even requested that the ballpark stay up longer than it did last year.

Graffiti is slowly becoming a widespread accepted art form, boasting its beauty from the streets to the billboards. These aren’t just gangsters throwing up stuff. A lot of them have gone to art school, including local artists “Technik” and “Lokey.” Most of them have full time jobs and families, this is just what they love to do.

“There’s a lot of gang graf-fiti out there,” said DS6 artist D5, aka, â€œTechnik,â€ he said also “started of writing” as it is times teenager. Living on the rez, there wasn’t much to do… “Back yard, my mom’s house, you know, we’d paint it, the storage in the back, she let us practice on there and just paint.”

As I got older, in my mid-20s, I parted a lot and I forgot about my talent. I got drowned out in the partying and the world and just got lost in it until one day I snapped out of it.” He said, “I got back to 26; he had a kid and realized it was time to pick himself up.” “I said, ‘Man, I gotta do something with my life…God gave me this talent. I’ve got to do something with it’.”

He got into Collins College, where he honed his artistic abilities. And where he met his wife. “She encouraged me a lot,” he said, “So I got back into graffiti, doing little odd and end things like my brother’s house, just getting permission somewhere to do wall versus going out and tagging up the community.”

Now he and his wife have their own art and design business called D&D Design and they keep an art class every Wednesday at their church in Tempe. “We try to teach the kids at the church…...the positive aspect, fundamentals of graffiti, not the vandalism part but the art aspect of it.”

When she began working on the King of the Skills, Hernandez had only an idea. She didn’t know where to start so she turned to her friend Jaime Jackson, another GRIC employee, who writes under the name “Lokey.” Hernandez knew of Jackson’s event coordinating abilities from a similar event he started in Sacaton in 2007 called Expo of the Elements.

On top of work and family obligations, “He helped organize,” Hernandez said. “He’s the guy that’s in the background. He tells me, ‘This is what you need,’ and I make it happen. He helps us, do-nates his time building the wall, deejaying, everything.” He’s also the artist DS5 reached out to to put up a banner for its concession stand and in its new Service Center. Hernandez has gotten a lot of positive feedback on her unique service from Community members as well as non-Community members. “They come up, shake our hands and thank us for taking the time,” he said.

And non-members are welcome. King of the Skills is for everybody, which helps Community artists network and befriend other artists that they may have only known of through the grapevine or on social media apps like Instagram. About half of the artists there this year were non-members. In the past three years, artists from Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, New Mexico, California, even Hawaii, have come to Gila River just for this.

But has it helped reduce tag-ging at all?” “Oh yes, definitely!” Hernandez said excitedly. “They don’t touch any of the stuff that they did the murals on. They’ll tag here and there, the little small stuff… the dumpsters…but other than that, they leave it alone. They still haven’t tagged on our concession stand; we [put a mural] on that three years ago and they haven’t tagged on it ever since.

King of the Skills has become a family event. “It brings all age groups,” Hernandez said. “You hardly ever see teenagers at events and that’s what I’m proud of because it brings out a lot of teenag-ers.”

Gila River is known for its artists and beautiful art work. For Community members like Cecil Allison, who also does traditional art with gourds, it’s nice to see for because it brings out a lot of teenag-ers.

While he admits that tagging and vandalism is far from prob-lems solved, Miles said, “There’s a lot of good talent out here on the rez.” The King of the Skills has given them the opportunity to demon-strate that.
151st Annual
FIVE TRIBES TREATY OF PEACE
CELEBRATION

A REMEMBRANCE OF THE HISTORIC TREATY THAT FIVE TRIBES MADE TO ENSURE PEACE THROUGHOUT THE NEW MEXICO TERRITORY.

*Everyone Welcome, Family friendly free event.
*Traditional Entertainment, Bird Dance Competition, Social Pow-wow, Tournaments, Vendors, Chicken Scratch, more information to come!
*No Alcohol, Drugs, Weapons

THIS IS A FREE ADMISSION, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT WITH SOMETHING TO DO FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THE TOURNAMENTS, THEY FILL UP FAST!

General information please call District 7 Recreation at (520) 430-4780

Gila River Indian Community’s District 7 Park
8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen AZ 85339 (83rd Avenue, South of Baseline)

Gila River Indian Community, District Seven, Gila River Commissioners, and Event Committee & Volunteers shall not be held responsible for bodily injury, or theft, or damages incurred during the Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration.