Mary Vivian Thomas  
1944-2014

The Gila River Indian Community remembers one of its most dynamic leaders and strongest voices.

Former Gov. Mary Thomas Passes Away at the Age of 70

By Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

Mary V. Thomas, the first female governor in the Gila River Indian Community’s history, whose tireless efforts and resilient leadership set the course for the Community’s opportunities in gaming, health care, water rights, public safety and education, passed away on Aug. 21 at the age of 70 of undisclosed causes.

Upon her passing, GRIC Gov. Gregery Mendoza released a statement that read in part, “Governor Thomas played a pivotal role in the shaping of the future of our Community. She indeed was a committed and accomplished leader. Governor Thomas leaves a legacy of public service and professional integrity.”

With the advent of gaming, Thomas was a central figure in bringing the Community to the forefront on many critical issues during her two terms as governor.

She served from 1994-1999. Thomas was a pioneer in GRIC politics as the first woman to hold office as governor. Prior to being governor, Thomas was lieutenant governor and a District 3 Council Representative.

Friends and colleagues of Thomas quickly responded to her passing. Many compassionate notes and messages put into perspective how influential Thomas was during her career.

Mary Rose Wilcox, former Maricopa County Supervisor, said in a statement: “The passing of Gila River Indian Community governor Mary Thomas is a big loss. She’ll be remembered as a leader who always cared for her community. I’m privileged to have been able to call her a friend.”

State House Speaker Andy Tobin said, “Her impact on the people of the Gila Indian Nation...Continued on Page 4

Community-Wide Procession and Memorial Services Mark the Passing of GRIC’s Former Governor

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

On Aug. 27, the Sacaton Middle School Gymnasium was the center of activity as members of the Community filed into the building to pay tribute to one of Gila River’s most iconic governors. The bleachers and floor were filled to capacity as many watched the projector screen, streaming a live feed from the O’otham Ha Ki Chambers (old Community Council chambers) during the lie-in state service for Mary V. Thomas, a woman of strength and determination, was an advocate for various issues facing the Community and Gila River’s first female governor.

The life of Thomas was celebrated through testimonies from colleagues, family and friends. Each person touched on her many accomplishments, accolades and what a pleasure it was to be around Thomas. For the majority of these remarks, it was clear Thomas was a humble person and always had a smile or words of encouragement in her service to the Community.

Thomas was instrumental in establishing the Aikim O’otham/Peo-Posh Youth Council, knowing the future of the Community lies with the youth. “She had faith in our youth; she wanted them to become our future leaders,” said District 4 Council Representative Monica Antone.

Lt. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, in his expression of gratitude for Thomas said, “Mary left a legacy. Though she had no children, she saw all of the Community as her children.”

During her time as Governor, Thomas invested a majority of her efforts to improve the level of education for the children of the Community. “She dedicated her life to these institutions to bring out the best and the strongest of the Gila River Indian Community,” said Lewis.

After the lie-in-state, Thom- as’s remains were transported to the gymnasia for a public memorial service. To formally start the memorial service the Matachini dancers led by Edward Miguel took to the floor, performing a traditional dance to honor Thomas.

Shortly thereafter people formed a line leading to the remains of Thomas located at the foot of the stage. Among the procession of attendees, people from all walks of life paid their respects to the family of Thomas giving hugs, handshakes, smiles, and laughs of comfort.

Continued on Page 4

District 7 Showscases New Multi-Purpose Building

By Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

It’s not hard to quantify how much of an impact the new District 7 Multi-Purpose Building will have on GRIC’s Maricopa Colony. If you simply look at their current facility and compare it to the new one, you can easily judge the new two-story building to be superior by any measure.

Presently, District 7 operations are managed at an old facility, which was previously a rest home. The previous service center, built in 1976, was the Posh Posh Veterans Memorial Center, which housed district operations and at one time the Head Start, according to District 7 Council Representative Devin Redbird.

The other way to determine how much of an upgrade the new multi-purpose building is, would be by the look in people’s eyes when they toured the facility during the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 16. “A lot of them were in shock,” said Redbird.

When a new facility opens in the Community, especially a service center, a place that centralizes services for a district, it comes...Continued on Page 4
Are You Saving $20.70?

Lifeline Awareness Week September 8-12, 2014 promotes the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) Lifeline and Link Up telephone consumer support programs. GRTI would also like to remind you to renew your Enhanced Lifeline benefit for 2015.

What is Lifeline?
Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounted phone service to eligible, low-income consumers. Eligible consumers may receive one benefit per household. All consumers must prove their eligibility to enroll and subscribers must re-verify their eligibility every year.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?
To qualify for Lifeline, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in a qualifying federal, state or Tribal assistance program.

Have you signed up for Enhanced lifeline?
Please contact GRTI Customer Service at 520-796-3333 to sign up or renew your lifeline.

Are You Correctly Listed?

GRTI is currently in the process of preparing the Directory for 2015, we are asking all customers to please update their listings to make sure it is current and correct.

Updated listings occur when:
• Opening a New connect
• Account holder is deceased
• Name change on the account
• Number change
• Moved locations where the address is changed

How do you want to be listed?
• Listed - Your name and number will be listed in the telephone directory, there is no charge to you.
• Unlisted - Your name and number will not be listed but can be given out by an operator; there is no charge to you.
• Non published - Your name and number will not be published or released a $1.00 per month fee will be added to your phone bill.

If you need to find out your current listing status or need any account changes contact one of our Customer Service Representatives at 520-796-3333 and they will gladly assist you.
A Story to Remember

On August 12 it started to rain and the neighborhood kids were starting to play in the street. My family and I gathered under the carport to enjoy the rain. After about 10 minutes outside, the rain started getting heavier with rushing winds. We had to move closer to the walls to get out of the heavy rain, but were able to still enjoy it. About 20 minutes later my son, Shane Soza, 17, and his cousin, Steven Save, 18, came home early from their daily jiu-jitsu training at the District 6 Fitness Center because rain was seeping into the building where they were practicing, so they had to cancel the training.

The rain was getting worse by this time and the boys were revved up about going outside and running around in the rain. We saw that the wash on Second Circle on Tsa-dash-iqu Road was actually getting full! So they went to the top of the wash to take pictures.

Not even six minutes later, the two boys came running in the house yelling for me to call 911 because there were two boys, ages 12 and 13, who were yelling for help in the wash. Shane saw the youngest boy go under the water twice and looked like he was getting tired from trying not to drown. The older one was holding on to the thorny trees on the side of the wash trying to reach the younger one. My husband Albert Perez, 54, grabbed a long orange 55 foot long extension cord and gave it to me while I was running down the street. We ran after Shane and Steven who were already running down the wash to grab the 12 year old who was drowning. His cousin Steven threw the orange extension cord to Shane so he could pull them out. Albert grabbed the cord and helped with pulling Shane and the youngest boy out of the wash.

Johnny ran down stream from the wash and jumped in to catch the other boy who was barely holding on to the thorny branches up the wash. They were able to get the 12 year old boy to safety and the orange cord was thrown out again to get the older boy. We found out one of the boys was our neighbor’s kid and the other was his friend. The mother came and hugged my boys and husband for saving her son and his friend. To me, my sons Shane Soza, Johnny Valenzuela their cousin Steven Saves and my husband Albert Perez are heroes. They saved two boys who might have been a statistic during this bad monsoon weather if nobody heard them. My son and his cousin were in the right place at the right time. Thank you for saving the boys, Steven Johnny and Albert. I love you all.

Roldina Perez

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

With the passing of former Governor Mary V. Thomas, I re-emit upon how she had a profound effect on my life in the world of tribally owned newspapers.

January 1998, the former Governor Mary V. Thomas established the first tribally owned newspaper operated and printed in the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC).

Previously, the Gila River Indian Newspaper (GRIN) had been owned and published by an outsider somewhat than GRIC. Mary listened to the requests of tribal members and departments who requested to establish their own tribal newspaper with content that was specific to the Gila River Community that was accessible to all tribal members both on and off the reservation. Carol Jackson hired me as a temporary Editor with the GRIN. Mary thanked us repeatedly for our hard work. The decision to make the GRIN distributed as a free newspaper was to let everyone have access to the tribe’s news media. Mary encouraged us to recruit advertising to pay for the printing of the newspaper. She developed a Kids Korner in each GRIN issue where an article or piece of art work was published from the children from GRIC schools. The best job I ever had was working as the Editor at the Gila River Indian Newspaper. I worked hard and many late hours to get the newspaper to press. It was difficult to educate the people why the newspaper had to be fair and reporting stories. My work was fun and I am grateful for the foresight and efforts of Mary Thomas.

I would like to give thanks to all who knew Sherwin, who weren’t thanked personally. I would like to thank the community, family, friends and all who were there in our time of need.

Thank you for the flowers, the food, words you spoke of him, your prayers, the comforting words each family member, sister, his children and parents.

Sherwin will be missed. But the memories live on for each of us. You all have the memories… his laughter, smile, the talks and his silly dance. I remember three weeks before his passing he was at the doorway with the music playing. He started to move, dancing. He looked at me and said, “Ibhe, one day we will dance.” I said to him, “I know”. And I know we will, when we see each other again.

So, all who knew Sherwin, keep the memories as will I. He will be missed, I miss him daily. My prayers and thanks to every one.

Thank you, Dionne M.
Mary Thomas, first female governor of GRIC

From Page 1

A video montage illustrating the life of Thomas was shown showcasing various moments in her life. Among these moments was her childhood growing up on the reservation and some of the most notable events in her political career.

Later, Gov. Gregory Mendoza addressed the audience regarding Governor Thomas’s service to the Community.

“We are here to celebrate the life of Governor Mary Thomas,” said Mendoza. He highlighted Thomas’s two terms as governor and the numerous accomplishments her administration achieved. “Thomas’s career has been characterized by integrity and devotion to her people and inspiration she gave others to lead,” said Mendoza.

“Mary has always been a strong supporter of education and secured funding for scholarships for many of our students for higher education,” he said. Gov. Mendoza spoke of Thomas’s leadership in the building of the Hu Hu Kan Memorial Hospital, and the development of the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa.

There were many good things to be said about Thomas as the evening drew to a close, and her life she lived and how much of an impact she has made on the Community and its people.

Mary Thomas services

From Page 1

PER CAPITA CORNER

2014 SCHEDULE

Deadline September 15 (Monday)

Payment October 31 (Friday)

KEEP YOUR STATEMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE

The PCO does not verify income. Your stub/statement can be used to verify income. Therefore, save your stub/statement document in a safe place.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The PCO is open to the general public Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. You may also contact the PCO during the above hours at (520) 562-4790 for more information.

WAIVER: YES OR NO?

We urge you to continue with the benefit administrator that a waiver to stop per capita is required to keep benefits coming in. The PCO has had cases where a waiver was submitted when I was discovered that it was not necessary. When a waiver is submitted and processed, it cannot be revoked until after four payments are held back (one year). Please...check with your benefit administrator first and get the information in writing.

Gila River Indian News September 5, 2014

District 7 Multi-Purpose Building

From Page 1

The opening of the Pee-Posh Michaelchek (The Peoples Gathering Place) was no different. “The service centers are a place where we come together as a community,” said Gov. Mendoza during his remarks.

The grand opening was an all day affair starting at 10 a.m. with a flag raising by the Pee-Posh Veterans Association and Haskell O'fele-Antone Post 51, followed by a catered meal and remarks from Redbird, Gov. Mendoza, Lt. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Pee-Posh veteran Dan Jenkins. District 7 staff and District 7 Recreation were on hand all day handing out informational material.

“It’s a beautiful facility. It’s fitting for the people of District 7, for the Maricopa, Pee-Posh people,” said Lewis.

Elders, youth, District 7 staff and Redbird lined White “down for the official ribbon cutting. Once the ribbon was cut, the large crowd filed into the building and toured the facility getting a first glimpse at the results. Elders played chair volleyball in the gym and youth swam in the pool. The district hosted a bingo game and the evening closed out with a performance by chicken scratch band Papago Warrior.

Lewis also said that the only thing that the building was missing was the people. “It’s the people that make this place come alive,” said Lewis.

Although they got to see the building and use it for a day of events, the actual date when it will be fully staffed and operational will not be until mid to late September according to Senior Project Manager Benny Dixon of Tribal Projects Development. The main thing the district is waiting for is a federal inspector to check the elevator. Once the elevator passes inspection, the center can get a certificate of occupancy, said Redbird.

It’s been a long road for District 7, especially if you consider the planned date back to 2007-2008. The groundbreaking was on Sept. 20, 2012 with December 2013 as a target for completion. Redbird said there were issues with the building contractor, West America Corporation that led to the termination of their contract, after which, Sage Construction and Real Estate assumed control of the project.

Redbird said that through it all, District 7 persevered. “I just can’t praise the district enough for being patient.”
West Valley city officials from Peoria and Glendale, and Tohono O’odham Nation leaders broke ground on the controversial West Valley Resort and Casino in Glendale Aug. 28.

The Nation estimates the West Valley Resort and Casino will cost $400 million and take 18 months or more to build. The tribe has faced opposition from the state, city of Glendale, other Valley municipalities and a majority of Arizona tribes since it first announced its plan to build a casino in the West Valley in 2009. In recent months, though, the project has found a foothold of support in the Glendale City Council.

In a statement, the TON said, “Construction of the West Valley Resort will create thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in positive economic impacts, at no cost to taxpayers. Build-out will occur in phases over the course of approximately three years.”

Additionally, the tribe has agreed to pay Glendale $25 million over the next 20 years in gradually increasing annual installments.

The project has faced a number of legal battles in the last five years and was just recently granted reservation status on its Glendale parcel by the Department of Interior. It still faces Congressional legislation supported by both Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake that could block the casino.

Active Assailant Demonstration

At the Phoenix Premium Outlets, the Gila River Indian Community conducted an Active Assailant Emergency Medical Support (AAEMS) demonstration. On Aug. 23, GRIC’s Public Safety Division staged a scene that mimics an active assailant incident, where an armed person uses deadly physical force on another person(s) and continues to do so while having access to additional victims.

Build-out will occur in phases of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in positive economic impacts, at no cost to taxpayers. Build-out will occur in phases over the course of approximately three years.”

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Reporting Illegal Dumping

Submitted by C-TERC
Gila River Indian Community

The dumping problem on the Gila River Indian Reservation is not a new one; it has been happening for several years now. People see it as a fast easy way to dispose of their unwanted garbage and so they throw it out in the desert area where it does not belong. These types of dumping are known as wildcat dumping. The individual(s) will move in and out of the area very quickly.

The dumping problem not only affects Community members, but also affects the environment as well. Trash now has a longer half-life, meaning it stays in the environment a lot longer and may be more hazardous.

Over the past several years, our Community has been a victim to illegal dumping. This has included construction debris, household trash, old furniture, household appliances, etc., all the way to barrels of used oil. It is our right to report this kind of activity in order to stop the act of illegal dumping. If you witness illegal dumping, immediately call the Gila River Police Department.

Gila River Police will determine whether the Gila River Fire Department should be called to the scene depending, or determining the substance of what has been dumped in that area. Don’t endanger yourself and others by dumping your own in a way.

You never know what you might come across.

Gila River Police are aware of what needs to be done in these types of situations when the Community calls in a report. The appropriate agencies are notified that play a key role in the specific type of dumping that occurred.

Effective investigations will help in the future to keep illegal dumping from happening in our Community.

What can you do? Please immediately report illegal dumping in your area. If you do notice any illegal dumping occurring, please attempt to get as much specific information as possible. This would include vehicle descriptions, color and type of vehicle, license plate numbers and any identifying marks on the vehicles such as a company name. Please contact Gila River Police Department at 562-4511 or 562-4512.

The Gila River Indian Community Council has the following Board vacancy.

Board/Committee
Community Judge

Number of Vacancies
One (1)

Deadline
September 15, 2014
12:00 noon

Community members interested in serving as the Community Judge on the Court of Appeals, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Resume to the Community Council Secretary’s Office by the deadline date, (include your address, phone number and email address on your resume). Community Council Secretary’s Office is located at the Governance Center, 52 West Gila St., mail address P.O. Box 2138, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Phone: (520) 562-9720.
take a cue from Cookie Monster and label popovers less often, it would be a good health is in our hands. If our hands held a popular stance. To a great degree, our American plates. Back in January of 2005, there is a controversy about whether pop- Pancho’s – more sopapillas, s-hottam! – elder GRICsters loved to raise that flag at the ones over there) have bhatoora and items similar to popovers/fry bread. Javajo “Long Walk” for inspiring the inven- in a lot of sites crediting/blaming the Na- Internet search about fry bread will result are not really traditional food. Wheat flour pany joined in the treat.

would salvage what he could; scrape off the popovers/fry bread, you have to pop it away. Other young men from his com- mother would mail him popovers. He told Vietnam, letters (snail mail) were the only immediate bite the head off. In the late Kids’ table etiquette demanded that we would make breakfast popovers. A hot on a chilly morning was when ñ je’e – white or red? Red chile or green chili? Lard or oil? Other food debates: menudo milk or not? Bluebird or La Piña flour? popovers. Recipes also differ: powdered – at least on the south side – we sprinkled sugar on popovers. In Vahki/Casa Blanca say potato, I say babas.

Some say posol, others say pozole. You – red chile or green chile? Lard or oil? Other food debates: menudo milk or not? Bluebird or La Piña flour? – white or red? Red chile or green chili? Lard or oil? Other food debates: menudo milk or not? Bluebird or La Piña flour? Somewhere along the line they became over allowing the other side to turn brown. (According to the Saxton-Enos dictionary, oam refers to brown, orange or yellow.) When you fry the popovers/fry bread, you have to pop it over allowing the other side to turn brown. Somewhere along the line they became popovers. Recipes also differ: powdered milk or not? Bluebird or La Piña flour? Lard or oil? Other food debates: menudo milk or not? Bluebird or La Piña flour? – white or red? Red chile or green chili? Lard or oil? Other food debates: menudo milk or not? Bluebird or La Piña flour? Antone, being well aware of the high need for people with experience in explor- Antone stressed the development of the area requires volunteers with the experience and resources that can be donated. “The chal- lenges are in the volunteers needed to help develop the area around [M’ Mountain],” said Antone, noting that a horse corral, shad- ing for the youths and other conveniences need to be built to accommodate projected activity.

The group meets the first Saturday of each month at “M” Mountain located near the intersection of State Route 347 and Casa Blanca Road. Antone stressed the development of the area requires volunteers with the experience and resources that can be donated. “The chal- lenges are in the volunteers needed to help develop the area around [M’ Mountain],” said Antone, noting that a horse corral, shad- ing for the youths and other conveniences need to be built to accommodate projected activity.

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As far as being at ‘M’ Mountain, that depends on the amount of vol- unteers we get to be able to host our activities,” said Antone.

Each time the Trail Riders host a gathering, individuals are invited from various disciplines with one goal in mind: sharing lessons that were all taught to youth to make positive choices in their lives. The guest instructors teach on a vari- ety of topics from health to moral stories rooted in culture and how to be responsible individuals.

The use of horses, along with the introduction to basic horsemanship skills, allows the kids to interact with other youths, enabling them to build communication skills.

“It’s a form of healing for the kids and it breaks the fear because unlike peo- ple, the horses aren’t going to get mad or yell at them,” said Antone.

On the financial spectrum of things, the goal is to see the Trail Riders achieve 501 (c)(3) status to become a non-profit organization. What is also important is the need for people with experience in explor- ing funding and what processes are neces- sary to obtain it. “We need more knowl- edgeable people who know the business side of things, so we can look for grants,” said Antone.

Currently, the group receives grant aide that is distributed from the Gila River Health Care Behavioral Health Services department, where they have established a good rapport with the leadership. Antone acknowledges that it may need to seek additional sources of funding to keep the group in operation to expand its capabil- ities.

The main goal for the Trail Riders is for the children to have a better life.
Suicide Prevention Bike Ride

Suicide continues to be a growing epidemic in society, especially among Native Americans. With numbers increasing in Native Country, Michael Chingman of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the Eastern Shoshone Suicide Prevention Program plan to raise awareness on the issue by hosting a suicide prevention bike ride across Wyoming from Sept. 8 – 14.

Chingman, a Boys & Girls Club employee and daily bike rider, decided to use one of his favorite pastimes to raise awareness about a sensitive subject that is dear to him. In collaboration with Chingman, the Eastern Shoshone Suicide Prevention program and the tribe’s Health Youth Diabetes Program plan to journey together from the Idaho-Wyoming border thirty miles out of Jackson Hole, Wyo. to the Wyoming-Colorado border outside the city of Laramie.

“I believe this bike ride will open the hearts of our native people,” said Chingman in an email. Along the way, riders will stop to tie ribbons to reflector poles for families who have lost someone to suicide. During the week, the Eastern Shoshone tribe will be hosting a walk and community cookout event as riders travel through the Fort Washakie community. When bike riders reach the Wyoming-Colorado border on the 14th, the suicide prevention program will close the event with a traditional ceremony.

“We are always looking for companies or families who would like to donate anything to this suicide prevention ride,” said Chingman. “We can take donations such as water, Gatorade, food or even if there’s other tribal programs who would want their shirts worn on the ride.”

To honor the Gila River Indian Community, former Gila River Health Care employee and Healthy Active Natives creator Waylon Pahona will be joining Chingman and others on the bike ride across Wyoming. “I would like to raise awareness for Gila River and ride for the Community,” he said.

Prior to the bike ride, Pahona will be hosting a three-mile walk in Gila River and encourages Community members to join him on Sept. 6 to pay tribute to loved ones who have fallen victim to suicide. The walk will begin at 7 a.m. in Sacaton and will end at the Ira Hayes Memorial Park. In addition to the walk, ribbons will be carried by families who lost someone and will be collected by Pahona to take with him on the bike ride through Wyoming.

If anyone is interested, has questions or would like to make a donation to the Eastern Shoshone Suicide Prevention Bike Ride Across Wyoming, contact Michael Chingman at (307) 349-7290 or via email at mcbuck2th@hotmail.com.
ACTION SHEET
Community Council, PO Box 2138, Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (502) 562-9720; Fax (502) 562-9729
CALL TO ORDER
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday August 20, 2014, in the Common
Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chair-
Chairman Governor Gregory Mendoza at 9:04 a.m.
INVOCATION
Provided by Councilman Robert Stone
ROLL CALL
Sign-In Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:

Governor Gregory Mendoza
Lt. Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Council Members Present:
D1- Joe Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-
Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4- Monica Antone,
Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis,
Sr., Janice F. Stewart (9:20), Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo,
Sr.; D6- Anthony Villereal, Sr. Albert Pablo, Sandra Nas-
eyewewa; D7- Devin Redbird (1:50)
Council Members Absent:
D4- Norman Wellington, Sr.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED
PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
1. River Of Dreams
Presenter: Cheryl Pablos
MS. CHERYL PABLO INTRODUCED MR. MARK ST-
ODDIO (LSC) AND MS. ALISA CHATINSKY. MR. STODDLA
PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DARLING AD-
VENTURES PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED WORDS OF
GRATITUDE. MS. CHATINSKY PROVIDED FURTHER
INFORMATION OF THE PROGRAMS BENEFITS TO ITS
CLIENTS + NEW PROGRAMS.
2. Lorrie Henderson, CEO Gila River Health Care
Presenters: Myron G. Schurz, GRHC Representatives
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
REPORTS
*1. Gila River Indian Community- Arizona Department of
Transportation PARA Grant - Multimodal Pedestrian Safety
Study
Presenter: Michael Lumakema
REPORT HEARD
2. Gila River Indian Community Sponsorship Benefit
Arizona Cardinals Away Game Drawing & Ultimate Fan
Contest
Presenters: Zuzette Kisto, Shannon Redbird
REPORT HEARD
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REFER TO
NEW BUSINESS #5
[GOVERNOR GREGORY MENDOZA CALLED FOR A
15-MINUTE BREAK
RECONVENED AT 10:35AM]
Update
Presenters: Derek White, Charles Miller, GRTI Board Of
Directors
REPORT HEARD
Presenter: C. Eugene Franzoy
REPORT HEARD
5. Hardee Consulting Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report
Presenter: James E. Hardee
REPORT HEARD
6. Peter Mock Groundwater Consulting, Inc. Fiscal Year
2014 Annual Report
Presenter: Peter A. Mock
REPORT HEARD
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER
EXECUTIVE SESSION
7. Curry Law Office. PLC Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report
(Executive Session)
Presenters: Andrea Curry, Esq., Thomas L. Murphy
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
(Executive Session)
Presenters: Mary J. Streitz, Linus Everling
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
9. Gaming Internal Audit Fiscal Year 2014 Third Quarter
Report (Executive Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT
EXECUTIVE SESSION
[GOVERNOR GREGORY MENDOZA CALLED FOR AN
HOUR AND A HALF LUNCH BREAK
RECONVENED AT 1:15PM]
RESOLUTIONS
*1. A Resolution Requesting That The Gila River Indian
Community Election Board Set An Election On The At-
ached Proposed Constitution-Amendments Pursuant To
Article XVII Of The Constitution And Bylaws Of The Gila
River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with
recommendation to approve)
Presenter: Javier G. Ramos
DEFEATED
2. A Resolution Approving The Amended And
Restated Stored Water Recovery And Central
Arizona Project Water Exchange Agreement Between
The Gila River Indian Community And
Arizona Public Service Company (G&MSC
forwards to Council with recommendation of
approval; NRSC concurs)
Presenter: Thomas L Murphy
APPROVED
3. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving A
Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity For The
Limited Purpose Of Arbitration And Enforcement
Of Any Arbitration Award Between The Gila River Indian
Community And The Gila River Farms As Lessors
And AGCO Finance, LLC. (G&MSC
forwards to Council with recommendation of
approval)
Presenter: Tiffany Turner
APPROVED
4. A Resolution Approving The Intergovernmental
Agreement Between The Arizona Department Of
Water Resources And The Gila River Indian
Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with
recommendation of approval; NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Linda Sauer, Jason Hasting
APPROVED
5. A Resolution Approving The Gila River
Gaming Enterprises Inc. Operating Budget And
Capital Budget For Fiscal Year 2015 (G&MSC
forwards to Council with recommendation of
approval)
Presenters: Janice Ponziani, Kenneth Manuel,
Board Of Directors
APPROVED
6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An
Investment Consulting Agreement Between The
Gila River Indian Community And UBS Financial
Services, Inc. (G&MSC forwards to Council with
recommendation of approval)
Presenter: Treasueror Robert G. Keller
APPROVED
7. A Resolution Approving A Lease Agreement
Between The Gila River Indian Community And
Gila River Health Care Corporation (G&MSC
forwards to Council with recommendation of
approval; NRSC, H&SSC & EDSC conc)
Presenter: Elizabeth Antone, Ronald Rosier
APPROVED
8. A Resolution Authorizing The Community
Services Department To Submit A Grant
Application To The United States Department Of
Health And Human Services, Administration For
Children And Families, Office Of Community
Services, Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with
recommendation of approval; with the corrected
dollar amount)
Presenter: Ann Manuel
APPROVED
9. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-
Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite
Lease On Allotment 1801 Located On Allotted
Trust Land In District Three 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/Homesite
Lease On Allotment 2255 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
APPROVED
11. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-
Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite
Lease On Allotment 3190 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
12. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-
Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite
Lease On Allotment 3432 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
13. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-
Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite
Lease On Allotment 3432 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
14. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian
Community’s 2014-2015 Tribal Membership And
Designating Delegates In The National Congress
Of American Indians
Presenter: Shannon White
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DELEGATE,
COUNCILMAN RODNEY JACKSON,
COUNCILMAN JASON WEAVER,
COUNCILWOMAN SANDRA NASHEWETWA,
AND COUNCILMAN BRIAN DAVIS, SR
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADD
COUNCILWOMAN CAROL SCHURZ TO THE
DELEGATION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
[GOVERNOR GREGORY MENDOZA CALLED FOR A
10-MINUTE BREAK
RECONVENED AT 4:11PM]
ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER
EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Elections Update (Executive Session) (G&MSC for-
wards to Council)
Presenter: Scot Butler
ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT
EXECUTIVE SESSION
2. Litigation Team Vacancy (1) (Litigation Team and
G&MSC forward to Council to declare one (1) vacancy
with recommendation of appointing Councilman Rodney
Jackson)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas L. Murphy
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT
COUNCILMAN RODNEY JACKSON
NEW BUSINESS

Continued on Page 9
**GRICUA Mentor Program**

**Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority**

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) is an enterprise of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC or Community). GRICUA was established by GRIC Council resolution in 1999. GRICUA is governed by a Board of Directors that reports to the GRIC Council. GRICUA has a staff of 97 that provides electric services to over 2,200 residential and commercial customers within the Community.

The GRICUA Board of Directors has set a goal of: "Having the General Manager of GRICUA be a qualified Gila River Indian Community Member. The GRICUA Board recognized that to achieve this goal requires planning and development of a mentoring program to provide the appropriate levels of training for potential qualified GRIC Members."

The first step to achieving this goal is to identify qualified interested members of the Community who would be interested in being considered for participation in this program. To register to be considered for participation in the Mentoring Program, please send your letter of interest and resume to 6640 W. Sundust Rd Box 5096, Chandler, AZ, 85246 or email at gricumanp@gricua.net.

**Utility Management Training Program**

- Must be a member of the Gila River Indian Community.
- Must possess a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering, Accounting, Finance or Business.
- Successfully complete the 2-5 year Utility Management Training Program.

For now, GRICUA is in some way of a pre-screening phase. "We were getting ready to lay it out to GRICUA members locally and worldwide that if you have an interest in acquiring the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to reach management level status in the energy industry and you want to work at home in the Arizona desert, sign up to be a candidate in the GRICUA Utility Management Training Program."

"Whether they end up working here or work somewhere else," said Gold, "it’s the experience [and] the training that we’re going to provide, which will give anyone some great background to go anywhere."

The board hopes the program will have an additional, widespread benefit to the community. "Having a [Community member] in the general manager position, I think, would be a good role model for kids to kind of start [them] looking for careers in math and science," said board treasurer Neil Bankertewa.

"Plus it’s long-range," said Nelson. She said, in the past, the Community has seen a lot of non-tribal members in positions of power but that trend is changing. "It’s good to see the direction and the focus [going] into educating Community members. It’s good just to see the younger people, like John, sitting there [as chairman]."

Bringing the conversation back to the training program, GRICUA Board Chairman John Lewis said, "I think the long-range goal is, obviously we want a Community member in a management position…If not general manager, they may be the CFO if they have the right type of [experience and knowledge]."

The power company is going to great lengths to reach Community members everywhere.

"It could be a guy who works for an accounting firm locally…like in Mesa or something, or it could be an electrical engineer in the Army and he’s stationed in Germany and he’s about ready to retire," said Lewis. "[GRIC members] are spread out all over."

So how do I get into the program?

GRICUA is asking people to submit their notice of interest online at www.gricua.net. The company has created a form to submit their notice of interest online and [found] there is no existing database that we,” could draw from, said General Manager Leonard Gold. The purpose of the training program is to give Community members a hands-on learning opportunity and work experience being a manager for a power company.

"Having a [Community member] as the CEO of our company has a huge impact on our decisions and now GRICUA is putting out so many positions and now GRICUA is putting out so many positions to give them a background to go into any company," said Gold, “it’s the experience and the training that we’re going to provide, which will give anyone some great background to go anywhere."

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The Dallas Cowboys will be gunning for another 8-8 season. Wide receiver Dez Bryant is going to have another big season, and if quarterback Tony Romo is healthy, he’ll put up huge numbers. But when those guys don’t play defense...

The New York Giants are looking to get quarterback Eli Manning right. They have a significant drop off in his play last year. His 27 interceptions make you wonder if he can still be the guy he was before he was hopped in those commercials.

The Philadelphia Eagles come into this season as contend-

ers. However, no one has won consecutive NFC East titles since the Eagles won four in a row from 2004-2008. Look for the Eagles to get knocked off the perch in a tight race for first place. Division Winner: New York Giants

NFC South

The Carolina Panthers were tops in the NFC South last season. You wonder about their weapon on offense which hurts their chances in the long run.

If the New Orleans Saints could take their Super Dome grizzlies with them on the road, they mightn’t lose a game—all their problems happen away from the Big Easy. If they get home-field advantage in the playoffs, watch out.

The Atlanta Falcons are trying to work their way back from a dismal season, but it’s going to take more than an appearance on Hard Knocks to turn things around.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers shuffled the deck this offseason after posting four wins. I’ll give them a few more victories than last year but not much more than that. Division Winner: New Orleans Saints

NFC North

Last season, the “Black and Blue” division was a few shades lighter than expected. The Green Bay Packers won the NFC North with an 8-7-1 record. With a new head coach, Mike McCarthy, this team can go as far as they want to in 2014.

The Chicago Bears have another year under head coach Marc Trestman and if they play up to their potential, they’ll be in the mix for a playoff spot.

The Detroit Lions. The right coach could bring this team to life. I’m AFC in the big.

The Minnesota Vikings hope to make a splash if rookie quar-
terback Teddy Bridgewater can be the franchise guy.

Division Winner: Green Bay Packers

NFC West

The Seahawks won’t have a Super Bowl hangover, but I do think they will have a Super Bowl head. The first step is a good season. If the first step, they will still be better than most teams out there.

The Niners are eager to re-

cover from a long, and the Ravens are one of the second team in the West and capable of another playoff run. But the New York Jets will

Division Winner: New England Patriots

AFC South

The Indianapolis Colts out-

could have a star in the making but

Division Winner: Indianapolis Colts

AFC North

The Cincinnati Bengals and

AFC East

Super Bowl

Could this be the year a team wins the big game on their home turf with Super Bowl XLIX at University of Phoenix Stadium? We’ll put that dream on hold for a while.

The Broncos are looking for kickoff will be the Green Bay Packers and the Indianapolis Colts. We know Aaron Rodgers has, but he’s going to have a wait another year. It will be raining brats and cheddar and the Packers will be defending their Lombardi Trophy back to Titletown.

Super Bowl Champion: Green Bay Packers
By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Police Department welcomed four new officers into its ranks Aug. 15. Officers Larry Chavez, Anthony Cortez, Charles Johnson and Jesus Salomon.

“The significance of today’s ceremony cannot be [understated],” said Gov. Gregery Mendona at the swearing-in, standing before a courtroom full of proud family members and Community leaders at Sacaton’s Loditha Ku Ki.

“Today the officers will be sworn in and receive their badge,” he said. “It is a visible sign that the wearer of the badge is a person of integrity, character and courage… On behalf of the Executive Office, on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, I want to say congratulations to each of you and welcome to the Gila River Indian Community.”

Officer Johnson has been a police officer for seven years. He made the move from the Good-year Police Department to find a more rural setting in Gila River.

“I’m originally from Kentucky so I like being out in the country and off the paved roads,” he said. “On behalf of the Executive Office, on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, I want to say congratulations to each of you and welcome to the Gila River Indian Community.”

Officer Johnson is a Correctional Officer with seven years of experience. He is one of the officers that joined the department from the Sheriff’s Office.

“Goodyear is a great town but it’s more than suburban policing,” he said. “That appeals to me much more. I’m more than suburban policing, that’s not just based on location but it’s based on history and culture. That’s pretty cool to me.”

Johnson hopes to one day become a Ranger in the GRPD. He has three children and a wife of 11 years named Heather.

At 37, Officer Salomon enters his new career as a police officer with the energy, motivation and optimism he would have at half his age.

Salomon put himself through school at the Glendale Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy while working as a correctional officer in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. He is grateful to his wife Leticia and his two sons for supporting him.

All four of the candidates mentioned how welcomed they felt making the transfer to Gila River.

“This community has been embracing us since day one,” said Salomon. “I felt the warmth…it’s very welcoming. I am blessed for the opportunity the Community’s given me and I’m ready to go out there and protect and serve, as I’ve sworn to do.”

Likewise, Officer Chavez said, “They’re so accepting…you really feel like family from day one. That’s one of the greatest things, I feel it and it’s genuine, and I appreciate that. I feel I can have a successful career here.”

Chavez has a wife, De-nise, and an 11-month-old son named Aiden. He worked for six years as a detention officer in the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office before at last pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming an officer of the law. He signed on with GRPD, who contracted him and sent him through the police academy.

“My dream was to become a police officer,” he said. “Gila River opened their doors and I’m more than grateful to them for that.”

Officer Cortez experienced the police academy along with Chavez. “I was born here in Sacaton but my mother’s T.O.,” said Cor-tez. After graduating high school, he spent 26 years as a field artilleryman in the U.S. Army.

Cortez and his wife Priscilla Granado have two children and one granddaughter. When he retired from the military, he felt his duty to serve had still not expired.

“I thought, ‘What better way to continue serving [than to] go back home and be a police officer in the community I was born in?’ So I’m glad they gave me the opportunity.”

“Officer”}

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**NOTICE OF LAND AVAILABLE TO BID**

**Property Type:** Agricultural

**Acres:** 760 Tribal Farmable Acres

**Features:** Farmed 10+ years

**Electricity/Power:** Still not expired.

**Water – Well:** West of State Highway 347 & Riggs Road

**NOTICE OF LAND AVAILABLE TO BID**

**Location:** Highway 347 & Riggs Road

**BIDS MUST BE SEALED AND SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 6, 2014 AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DAY (5:00 P.M.)**

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**As Governor, I plan to:**

- **Be proactive in deciding the future of our Community regarding gaming**
- **Establish an agriculture plan to utilize and protect our water**
- **Evaluate the top heaviess of all departments of our tribal government**
- **Continue to support our Culture and language and widen the scope of current programs which will invigorate our language through cultural activities**
- **Evaluate and work with the Tribal Council, Committees and Boards to lessen threats to our Community such as drug trafficking, illegal dumping, and violence in our Community**
- **Stand firm on the 202 No Build issue**
- **Promote healthy activities and support athletes to compete in all sports**
- **Work cooperatively with local, Tribal, State and National governments**
- **Produce a plan that will enable and support our students to excel and our schools to receive better school grades from ADE**
- **Strengthen our Social Services Department to protect the vulnerable**
- **Support our Community members and the programs available for them.**

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**VOTE JENNIFER ALLISON FOR GOVERNOR OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**

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Officer Larry Chavez and Anthony Cortez were sworn in as Gila River Police Department officers by Chief Judge Anthony Hill Aug. 15.
O’ODHAM VETERANS CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 6, 2014
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
Salt River Community Building
1880 N. Longmore Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85256
contact Pacer at 480.362.7490 or
edward.reina@srpmic-nsn.gov

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014
Gila River Indian Community | Boys & Girls Club, Dist. 6
51st Ave & Pecos Rd, Komatke, AZ

0530
Blessing & Cleansing Ceremony

0800
Registration & Celebration

0900-1500
Opening Ceremony, Posting of Colors, Guest Speakers, Veterans Benefits & Health Information, Entertainment, Arts & Crafts Booths, Free Lunch, DOD Distribution to All Veterans, Door Prizes and Much More!
contact Gary Rodriguez at 520.251.1292 or rodriguezgary@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014
Tohono O’odham Nation
Desert Diamond Casino
1100 W Fima Mine Rd, Sahuarita, AZ
contact Ron at 520.383.1900 or
ronald.homewytewa@tonation-nsn.gov

OCTOBER 11, 2014
Solomon, AZ
Lopez-Hernandez American Legion Post #95
2256 S 3rd Ave Solomon, AZ 85551
contact Ray Apodaca 928.965.8785

WinGilaRiver.com
360-WIN-GILA

GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.
Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community