Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade Commemorates 70th Anniversary
By Christopher Lomahqua
Gila River Indian News

Seventy years has passed since the U.S. Marines first raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. On Feb. 21, veterans groups from across the nation and the state of Arizona gathered in Sacaton to pay tribute to one of World War II’s most famous events.

The Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade and Ceremony honored the service of Gila River Indian Community member veterans, and, specifically, the late Ira H. Hayes from Bapchule, Ariz., in GRIC District 5.

Hayes was one of six soldiers who raised the flag over the embattled island. Joe Rosenthal, a photographer with the Associated Press took the iconic photo of the event on the fifth day of combat on the island.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica L. Antone welcomed the scores of veterans parading down Casa Blanca road in Sacaton. Kenneth Hayes, brother of Ira, and a highly decorated Korean War veteran, was grand marshal of the parade.

Gov. Lewis praised the veterans for their service and acknowledged the sacrifices they made to preserve our freedoms.

“All Community members, they were always the ones to answer the call when our country needed defending,” he said. “This is an event of healing, solemn remembrance and of celebration...for our true heroes.”

This year’s parade brought over 110 entries to the community. Veterans groups came from as far away as North Dakota, Washington and Illinois. Among the procession of WWII veterans, six Navajo Code Talkers came out to support the event. Each of them was showered with thanks from fellow veterans and parade guests.

Gov. Lewis was struck by how widespread the event has become, not only in the Community, but elsewhere. “This event started small, but proud,” he said. “This tradition...has grown beyond the borders of Gila River.” He credited the high turnout, which has grown each year, to the hard work of members from the Ira H. Hayes Post 84.

Later in the day, Post 84 placed wreaths at the different monuments at Matthew B. Juan – Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park to pay tribute to fallen comrades and the sacrifices they made.

Post 84 Commander Urban Giff started off the ceremony saying, “The mission we have here is to give due reverence and recognition for the raising of the U.S. flag on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.”

Giff talked about the hardship, pain and stress that soldiers encounter in combat. He said, Continued on Page 6

GRIC Job Fair a Great Success
By Christopher Lomahqua
Gila River Indian News

More than 340 people showed up to the Gila River Job Fair Feb. 28.

The job fair, which was exclusively for community members, was a part of Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis’ mission to increase the employment rate of enrolled GRIC members working for the community.

At the job fair, people could apply on site to work for the Community, for Gila River Gaming Enterprises or the Gila River Health Care Corporation.

Tribal Human Resources organized the event under the direction of the Executive Office and used it to roll out a brand new online application system, something it has been working on since the tribe installed a new procurement system, MUNIS, last year.

During the job fair the department received more than 200 applications through its new online application tracking system and nearly 50 more in application tracking system and nearly 50 more in

Continued on Page 7

O’odham Tash Rodeo Returns

Eddie Miguel (right, District 4) ropes a calf while his partner Larry Sarafacio (left, Tohono O’odham Nation) aims for the heels. Miguel and Sarafacio placed second in Quad Nation Team Roping.

By Mikhail Sundust Gila River Indian News

Cowboys and cowgirls from the Gila River Indian Community represented their tribe at the O’odham Tash Rodeo Feb. 20-22.

Eight riders – Simon Mohay (District 5), Delbert Johnson (D2), Justin Rhodes (D3), Eddie Miguel (D4) Wahlheen “Bobbie” Riggs (D3), Ronnie White (D3) and Doug and Joker Jones (D3) – participated in team roping events, and one hard-nosed community member, Jalen Joaquin (D4), did Saddle Bronc and Bull Riding.

Penny Mix (D4) and Merlena Calabaza (D2) contributed to the rodeo by performing administrative duties such as checking in contestants and verifying scores, among other things.

Ronnie White placed fourth in the Senior Team Roping category with a time of 9.11 seconds. His header (the teammate that lassos the head) was Alvin Williams from the Navajo Nation.

Eddie Miguel placed second in the Quad-Nation Team Roping competition with his partner

Continued on Page 5
The Gila River Broadcasting Corporation is very excited to share with you the future of broadcasting in the community!

To commemorate our big leap into broadcasting, we invite you to please join us for the GRBC Grand Opening. Entertainment and lunch will be provided!

You Are The Voice Of The Community

Being able to share content through the airwaves is the next step in uniting our community voice.

GRBC is looking for local content and feedback from individuals and groups. If you feel like you have something to share visit www.grbc.tv.

Submit your organizational event calendars, organizational event flyers, community flyers, music, or videos to www.grbc.tv. Your content is the future!

For more information visit: WWW.GRBC.TV
NOTICE:

Casa Blanca Community School, Skyline Middle School, Ira Hayes High School, and District 5 Head Start will be conducting an emergency evacuation drill and relocation drill on March 9th at 9:45AM to approximately 10:45AM. Each site will be closed for a short time during this drill, including the main office. Phones will not be answered at this time, and students will not be able to be reached during this time. Emergency response vehicles and personnel will be on site to assist.

Please feel free to call Officer Rachelle Rodriguez should you have any questions or concerns: 480-772-6630.

FORMER IRA H. HAYES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN REQUEST OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Dear parents community members and former Ira H. Hayes Students

Since last June, we have been communicating and placing news articles about the closure of Ira H. Hayes High School. This past September, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS) did not renew our Charter.

Parents, do not be discouraged about this executive action taken by ASBCS. It was extremely difficult to know about this action last summer, but we are not going to give up. Because of this action, Ira H. Hayes High School became the school of choice for 150+ students this year. Even though we knew we were closing, more parents and students were promoting Ira H. Hayes High School.

We thank parents, local community government, the Education Standing Committee (ESC), Community Council members, the GRIN, Lt. Governor, and Governor for supporting Ira H. Hayes High School. Currently we have three students that have completed all graduation requirements and next week we are adding two more students to the list. Now that AIMS is no longer a graduation requirement, we are expecting 15 to 20+ students to graduate this May. As the school leader for Ira H. Hayes High School, my staff and I truly believe that all students can learn and achieve their goals.

We continue to remind students about the importance to succeed in life. Furthermore, we challenge them to do more so they can become more. GRIC, the Governor and Council are inviting the Community to attend the Education Summit on March 21st. We want to hear your ideas and put them in action. Become part of this change because we can’t change DESTINATION over night, but we can change DIRECTION over night.

To request Official Transcripts, call 520-315-5100 or stop by the front office and speak to Julie or Jason. We will do our best to facilitate and assist you on this transition. Please follow the procedures below for transcripts.

Class of 2000 to 2005
March 5th – March 31st
Class of 2006 to 2010
April 1st – April 30th
Class of 2011 to 2013
May 1st – May 30th
Current Students 2014-15
June 1st – June 19th

March Events
Casa Blanca Community School
March 5th
School-Wide Read-a-Thon
March 6th
21st Century Afterschool Program 3rd Quarter Ends
March 11th-12th
Parent Teacher Conferences
March 13th
Classes In-Service/No School for students
March 16th-20th
Spring Break/No School
March 27th
Attendance Incentive for Good & Perfect Attendance
March 30th
21st Century Afterschool Program 4th Quarter Begins

CORRECTIONS

The GRIN encourages comments and suggestions about content that warrants correction or clarification. To report an error call (520) 562-9719 or email grin@gric.nsn.us

LETTERS & OPINIONS

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

LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters should be limited to 200 words and be to the point. 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. Once 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.

Gila River Indian Community
P.O. Box 459
Sacaton, AZ 85147
(520)562-9715
www.grilriver.org/index.php/news

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Gila River Boys and Girls Club members Taiyne Juan and Ciarra Silvas shined from the podium as they accepted recognition for Youth of the Year of their respective Clubs Feb. 23, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix.

The 23rd annual Youth of the Year Celebration showcased eight candidates from various east valley branches to represent the Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley for the 2015 - 2016 year. Juan and Silvas were recognized for their outstanding leadership, academic achievements, moral character and service to their community and Boys and Girls Club.

Fifteen year old Juan has been an active member with the Sacaton Boys and Girls Club for eight years and serves as a tutor and mentor to other members. A sophomore at Coolidge High School, Juan is constantly recognized for her academic achievements and Honor Roll status. However, her hard work and dedication goes beyond classroom walls.

She is a member of a group called “Tribes” which unites youth to focus on support and improvement within the community. She has also taken an active role by leading highway clean-ups and fundraisers to support local education programs.

“Doing this made me feel proud to represent my community. I am a young O’otham woman getting her education and a scholarship. It makes me happy,” said Juan.

For those considering whether or not to join the Boys and Girls club, Juan said, “You may hear stuff about the club that it is just for children but really it’s not. Talk to the staff, to teens, the kids – it gives you so much things that you wouldn’t have thought you needed in life. Go to the club, have fun.”

At the ceremony, Juan received $1,500 including a scholarship to Chandler–Gilbert Community College where she plans to study art and major in architecture.

From the Westend branch, Silvas’s leadership and positive nature caught the eye of Boys and Girls Club staff to nominate her for the title of Youth of the Year. Silvas has been a member of the Komatke branch for four years and has been involved with many Club programs as well as tutoring and the teen leadership club, Keystone.

“At first, I was like, “I don’t want to do it,” laughs Silvas on being nominated and representing the Komatke branch.

“Over the months it taught me a lot. It taught me how to speak to people, be more social and not to be shy… They (the Boys and Girls Club staff) motivated me to be myself and not act like anyone else. They encouraged me not to give up and to try. It means a lot to me now.”

Silvas is a sophomore at Caesar Chavez High School and is currently pursuing acceptance into the ACE (Achieving a College Education) Program with the Maricopa Community Colleges. She aspires to give back to her community and major in medicine and pursue a career in pediatrics.

The Youth of the Year is an annual recognition and scholarship program for members provided by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and its sponsors.

By Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Head Start Program began in 1965, just a year after President Lyndon B. Johnson declared War on Poverty in his State of the Union address, which led to the creation of the Head Start Program nationwide.

This year Head Start is celebrating 50 years of existence and we want to hear and share your stories of Head Start within the Gila River Indian Community. Whether you are/were a Head Start Student, Parent/Guardian, Community Partner, or Volunteer, please share your story with us. You may choose to submit a written testimony or you are welcome to come into our Head Start centers and share your story with one of our staff members.

Please be informed that all submitted stories may be used in future Head Start publications and we really want to share wonderful things Head Start has done for this Community. Please take some time to share your story with us today!

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Wherever you live... Natural gas is your neighbor.

Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere, even in areas that don’t use natural gas, like all-electric or propane neighborhoods. So it’s important that EVERYONE knows how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak, wherever they are.

A leak may be present if you:

SMELL: An odor similar to rotten eggs, even if it’s faint or momentary.

HEAR: A hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above-ground piping.

SEE: Dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or vegetation, or standing water continuously bubbling.

If you suspect a leak:

- Leave the area immediately.
- From a safe place, call 911 and Southwest Gas at 1-877-860-6020, day or night, whether you’re a customer or not. A Southwest Gas representative will be there as soon as possible.
- Don’t smoke or use matches or lighters.
- Don’t turn on or off electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls, or do anything that could cause a spark.
- Don’t start or stop an engine, or use automated doors.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call 1-877-860-6020.

Ciarra Silvas (left photo) and Taiyne Juan (right photo) receive their recognition awards from Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley representatives.
Gov. Lewis Joins Leaders in Renewed Push for School Choice Measures

By GRIN staff
Gila River Indian News

PHOENIX—Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis joined other state leaders in celebrating School Choice Week with a crowd of roughly 1,000 people gathered at the state capitol.

At the event, held January 29, Lewis voiced his support for school choice measures as a means to ensure Native American students have a variety of educational options capable of affording opportunity and chances of success.

"To have real choices in education, we must make honest assessments about what things stand, commit sufficient funding to make the choices meaningful, and demand clear accountability and responsibility for both academic achievement and financial practices," he said.

Proponents of school choice, which seeks to provide students access to private, charter, magnet and even out-of-district public schools, have long regarded Arizona as a national leader that has helped create meaningful student alternatives for students of all backgrounds.

Native American tribes have created their own traditional and charter schools out of necessity, said Lewis, noting tribes show Tribal student achievement in reading and math have remained relatively flat or even declined relative to the progress of students of other ethnicities.

Sharing the thoughts of many parents, students and education officials in attendance, Lewis stressed the school choice and other policy measures including adequate funding are needed to complement — and not replace — public school systems.

"My message today is that Tribal leaders, like other state and local leaders in Arizona, are proud of the creation of education choice here, but are also fully committed to improving educational choice so that no child or group of children are left behind, and no school is left failing its students," he said.

The event included other speakers, including Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, who has made improving student access to quality schools and education, a key policy goal of his administration.

The National School Choice event at the capitol was hosted by organizations including Arizona for Arizona, the Arizona School Choice Trust, the American Federation for Children, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, the Arizona Charter Schools Association, the Goldwater Institute, the Institute for Better Education, LaBella Q Dance Studio and Americans for Prosperity — Arizona.

Community Science Fair

By Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian News

From "Popcorn Science" to "Ants, Sugar and Cheese" no idea was off limits to the young scientists at the Community Science Fair Feb. 18 – 19. Students from Pre-K to 5th grade tapped into their inner scientist to create unique projects to display before a panel of judges.

This year’s theme was ‘Keep Science Alive.’ Students from three Community schools participated: Sacaton Elementary School, Blackwater Community Day School and Sacaton Head Start.

Projects displayed in the Sacaton Middle School gymnasium were critiqued by 25 judges from the Department of Environmental Quality, Gila River Sand and Gravel donated medals, pins and pencils to give out to students. Classrooms from the various schools formed teams and worked with their teachers to test their hypotheses and record their data on display boards.

For example, Mrs. Mary Katherine Bdle’s Sacaton Elementary third grade class for first place with their project “Soggy Cereal,” in which they tested some of the school cafeteria’s cereals.

“We each got four cereals and two milk,” explained 3rd grader Reina Cassa. “We predict what cereal would get soggy first. We said Cocoa Krispies would get soggy fast and our prediction was right.”

“For everyone, it was a hands-on experience,” Mrs. Biddle said. “We timed 10 minutes for each [cereal] and they were able to judge on their own which one was the soggiest. ... They all participated and helped with the board. It was a total group effort.”

In Hayes High School students Isabella Baquetero and Sahi Antone exhibited projects they completed at the United States Department of Agriculture research facility in Casa Blanca on the effects of nitrates in sprinker systems on cotton fields.

Although the science fair had fewer participants than in previous years, Sacaton Elementary School Principal 6 recently appointed Paul Hanley, Ph.D., as the new school superintendent.

Hanley is a native of Phoenix and has worked in a career in school administration across the state of Arizona. He spent 30-years in education and has served as a superintendent for 20 of those years in various schools.

Hanley is hopeful he can improve the level of education for the GCS’s students. He wants to set goals that can be achieved.

"We need to set high goals that are attainable," he said. "I want to help the situation here and I know everybody wants the best, but most important is focusing on our students’ success.”

Hanley has experience working with reservation schools. He previously worked as a superintendent for schools in Window Rock and Chinle on the Navajo Nation.

Paul Handley: New Gila Crossing Community School Superintendent

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila Crossing Community School in District 6 recently appointed Paul Handley, Ph.D., as the new school superintendent.

Handley is a native of Phoenix and has worked in a career in school administration across the state of Arizona. He spent 30-years in education and has served as a superintendent for 20 of those years in various schools.

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Melvin Natani Named ‘Fittest Kid at School’

Whether on the playground, in the gym or at home, Melvin Natani likes to stay active and encourages others around him to follow suit. His supportive nature and personal drive was recognized by the Sacaton Elementary staff on Feb. 13.

Natani, second grade, was chosen as being the fittest kid in school, for which he was awarded a plaque, a personalized poster and an iPod, donated by School Health Services. Physical Education Coach Shelly Huston picked Natani for his accomplishments.

“Melvin is a true fitness leader,” said Huston. When she was asked by School Health Services to pick the fittest kid in school she said, “Hands down – Melvin. He not only is physically fit, he encourages others.”

The 8-year-old athlete has won the school’s In-Service Run three years in a row and attends the school’s morning Fitness Club regularly. Natani stays very active at home by exercising with his family and participating in 5K runs with his mother.

He also plays ball with teams at the Boys and Girls Club. He is currently playing basketball and is headed to the Boys & Girls Club All-Star Game in March.

Natani likes to see his peers to stay active. He said, “Just keep on running and stay fit.”

Sacaton Middle School Science Fair Winners

Early Childhood

Volcanoes 1st place
Colorful Daisies 2nd place
Static Electricity 3rd place

Kindergarten

Microwave Candy 1st place
Taste Perception 2nd place
Densiy Sink or Float 3rd place
Which Flavor Gum 4th place

2nd grade
Colored Carnations 1st place
Blow Up A Balloon 2nd place
Paper Plane Length 3rd place

3rd grade
Ants, Sugar, and Cheese 1st place (tie)
Soggy Cereal 2nd place (tie)
Floating Egg 3rd place (tie)
Counting Colors 4th place

Rodeo

From Page 1

the Tohono O’odham Nation’s Christopher Tash and he has merged with the Cowboy Days into a two-weekend celebration of southwestern history and culture.
Iwo Jima Parade and Ceremony

From Page 1

“Those of you that have endured this environment while carrying out missions that are assigned to them...they do it for one another.”

He said the families at home also endure the hardships of not knowing the fate of their family member. “We thank you for your courage, and we thank you for your support.”

Giff spoke about the significance of age, because many of the men that fought during WWII were young. “You veterans, you were in your twenties or were teenagers. You put yourselves in those situations and you came back.”

Film actor and First Nations member Adam Beach (Saulteaux) came out to support the event and pay homage to Ira H. Hayes, whom he portrayed in the 2006 Clint Eastwood war film Flags of Our Fathers.

Beach said he was thankful to play the part of Ira H. Hayes. “I’m honored to be here, thank you again everybody,” he said.

Beach closed the ceremonies by talking about his appreciation for service men and women. He said, “Working on this film, I’ve learned that our veterans or new soldiers, they have a lot of courage, but a humble quality.”

GRIC Donates to Chandler Regional Medical Center

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis with President and CEO of Dignity Health Mercy Gilbert and CRMC Tim Bricker (center) and President of Dignity Health Foundation of the East Valley Aaron Peace (right) in the main entrance lobby of the new Chandler Regional Medical Center wing.

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Chandler Regional Medical Center opened the doors to a new hospital wing last month and named the main entrance in honor of the Gila River Indian Community for its $1 million contribution to the construction project.

Dignity Health, a regional health-care provider that operates CRMC, held a reception on Feb. 21, thanking local contributors for the hospital’s expansion.

The expansion project included work on emergency rooms, operating rooms and a 96-bed, five-story tower. The new entrance features a plaque bearing the GRIC tribal seal and the name of the Community.

At the reception, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis thanked CRMC and Dignity Health leadership for the honor.

A growing need for medical services in the East Valley led to the expansion for increased services at CRMC.

At the five-year mark of a ten-year development project, Dignity Health reached out to the Community for financial support.

Aaron Peace, the President for Dignity Health Foundation of the East Valley, said that it wasn’t just a meet and greet with GRIC, but more of an assessment of how the Community can benefit from the improvement of medical care at CRMC.

Cheryl Pablo, Program Administrator for the Office of Special Funding said the donation was a part of the tribe’s state shared gaming revenues. She said helping fund the CRMC project has its advantages.

“The decision to fund it came because we have a lot of patients that go to Chandler Regional Medical Center and the Community has a contract with them for medical services,” she said.

Pablo underscored how the Community and Dignity Health have established a good history together when it comes to capital projects.

The Gila River Indian Community healing garden at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is one example of their history working together.

In 2008 the Community helped fund the development costs of Mercy Gilbert’s second tower.

“They dedicated the healing garden in honor of Gila River because of the contribution we’ve made,” Pablo said.

Mercy Gilbert worked with the Community during the design phase of the healing garden and incorporated plants familiar to the tribe like greasewood and shegoi.

Peace said, “We look to further develop our relationships with the Community.”

He touched on the opportunities that have already been explored, “We are continuing to work with [them] on a clinical side as well, with a lot of community outreach programs.”

Pablo said, “[This relationship] shows that Gila River is making contributions to the state for the benefit of all of us.”

National Nutrition Month
Health Fair
Friday, March 20th
FUN FOR ALL AGES!!!
Ira Hayes Memorial Park
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Join us For:
- Nutrition Information
- Fun Booth Activities; Food Demos

Hosted by Nutrition Assistance Programs- For more information call the WIC office at 562-9698 or Commodity Foods at 562-9233

Enter your best tasting salsa!!
Call for Salsa Contest Details

2 Mile Morning Wellness Walk
- Ira Hayes Memorial Park
- Registration starts at 6:45 am
- Walk begins at 7 am
- Fruit Parfaits
- All ages welcome
- 1st 60 walkers receive t-shirts!!

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Gila River Job Fair

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden spent the afternoon of Feb. 25 touring Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., the Gila River Farms and meeting with local farmers from the Gila River Indian Community.

Anthony Newkirk, Chairman of Board for GRTI, gave her a tour of where the new GRIC Broad-casting station transmits low-pow-er TV to Community members.

“It has really grown,” she said. “So many different things that are happening here started with the seeds of the USDA loan a long time ago.”

The USDA-Rural Development loan, issued to the tribe in the late 1980s, allowed the Community to start its own telecommunications business to serve local farmers from the Gila River Indian Community.

Rodney B. Lewis, who served as General Counsel when the Community was negotiating for use of the lands, said, “So many different things out of the Gila River, we’ve farmed for community. We’ve farmed for the National FFA convention. We were negotiating for a community garden,” she said. “It eliminates constantly filling out papers.”

“For those who are uncomfortable or inexperienced working with computers, Woodie said the HR Department is more than will-ing to help them apply at one of two kiosks they have installed in the Governance Center. “We’re going to make ourselves available,” she said, to help walk peo-ple through the new process.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Visits Gila River Telecommunications and Farms

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The fair was held at both the Governance Center in Sacaton and the District 7 Multipurpose building simultaneously for the convenience of people living on either side of the reservation.

March 6, 2015

CULTURE & HISTORY

Page 7

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden with Councilman Brian Davis at Gila River Farms.

manet will also open up a new for-giveness program, another direc-tive of the Executive Office, to give former employees who were let go for minor infractions the opportunity to try to get re-hired sooner rather than later.

The fair was held at both the Governance Center in Sacaton and the District 7 Multipurpose building simultaneously for the convenience of people living on either side of the reservation.

Rodney B. Lewis, a Community member from D6, said, “I think it’s a good opportunity for [Community members] to see what they can apply for.” He also said the implementation of the new online application system was a “great concept,” he said. “It eliminates constantly filling out papers.”

“It was definitely good for the Community,” said Acting GRIC Human Resources Director Tornicia Woodie.

For those who are uncomfortable or inexperienced working with computers, Woodie said the HR Department is more than will-ing to help them apply at one of two kiosks they have installed in the Governance Center. “We’re going to make ourselves available,” she said, to help walk peo-ple through the new process.

Back in 1901-02, O’otham elder Ka mal tkak (Thin Leather) was asked what March was called. His answer: Kui (the Men’s tournament).  (Sun Devils, ‘nuff said.)

The GRIN published an article about the Charles H. Cook Church in Sacaton. Cook was a Presbyterian mission-ary who came to our reservation in 1870. The two-story adobe church was built in 1918. Matthew B. Juan was laid to rest here for the second time on April 9, 1921. Rever- end Cook was also responsible for the first school, which opened on Feb. 15, 1871. It had a blackboard, two dozen slates, and a Pima dictionary. A stone pillar monument at this school’s location is just west of present-day Sacaton.

The next two are fragile sites, so please be careful and respectful when at these locations. About five miles north of Florence is Poston Butte, the small hill with a protected and sacred site. Snaketown was excavated in the 1930s and 1960s. To get an idea of how it looked, any publica-tion by Emil Haury is recommended. Some Snaketown artifacts are housed at the Hu Hugam Heritage Center. Maybe I’ll see you out enjoying the sights for even if any water to build up behind this dam. Any water that did flow downstream was absorbed into the riverbed.

Either way, the desert comes alive with native life. For us O’otham, March is called a’AGA. Something to be told by Billy Allen

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ACTION SHEET  
Community Council; PO Box 2138, Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729 
CITY OF ORDER  
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Coun-

cil held Wednesday February 4, 2015, in the Community 
Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, 
Arizona, was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor 
Stephen R. Lewis at 9:23am 
INVOCA

Tion by Councilwoman Carol Schurz 
ROLL CALL 
Sign-in Sheet Circulated 
Executive Officers Present: 
Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
Lt. Governor Monica Antone  
Governor Stephen R. Lewis 
Executive Officers Present: 
Governor Stephen R. Lewis 
Lt. Governor Monica Antone  
Presenters: Franklin Pablo, Sr. 
D4-Vacant, Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Franklin Pablo, Sr. 
APPROVAL OF AGENDA 
APPROVED AS AMENDED  
[ADDITION TO AGENDA]  
NEW BUSINESS  
1. Gila Crossing Community School Written Plan SY 2014-2015 (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Aaron Alley, Principal  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE  
PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTIONS  
1. Southwest Indian Agriculture Association Award Presentation  
Presenters: Councilman Brian Davis, Sr.  
TABBED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
2. Three Precious Miracles  
Presenters: Elisa Manuel, Tecumseh Manuel  
MR. MR. AND MRS. ELISA MANUAL PROVIDED HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR PROGRAM AND THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE; VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, GOVERNOR LEWIS, AND LT. GOVERNOR ANTOINE EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.  
REPORTS  
1. Pee Poo Veterans Association 1st Quarter Report FY 2015  
Presenters: Danny Jenkins  
REPORT HEARD  
2. Office Of The Prosecutor – FY 2014 Fourth Quarter Report  
Presenters: Rebecca Plevel  
RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL  
MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2015, 9AM 
APPROVED  
[ADDITION TO AGENDA]  
COUNCIL MEETING AT THE RAWHIDE STEAKHOUSE ON FEBRUARY 19, 2015, 9AM 
NEW BUSINESS  
1. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors Vacancies (2) 
Presenters: Shannon White  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE 2 VACANCIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT  
2. Sacaton Peak - Southwest Ambulance (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs) 
Presenters: Tina Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Antone  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE  
3. GRIC Constitutional Rights Issues (LSC forwards to Council under Old Business to discuss Mr. Perez constitutional rights issues regarding business license) 
Presenters: Pamela Pasqual  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE  
[ADDITION TO AGENDA]  
4. RHP Request for Special Council Meeting 
Presenters: Councilwoman Jennifer Allison  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ADDRESSING THE RHP POLICY  
5. WHPDA Request for Special Council Meeting 
Presenters: Lt. Governor Monica L. Antone  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AT THE RAWHIDE STEAKHOUSE ON FEBRUARY 19, 2015, 9AM  
NEW BUSINESS  
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Presenters: Tina Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Antone  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE  
3. Gila Crossing Community School Written Plan SY 2014-2015 (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Aaron Alley, Principal  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO RESCIND  
13. A Resolution Certifying the Membership Count of the Gila River Indian Community As Of December 31, 2014 (LSC forwards to Council with recommended changes to resolution) 
Presenters: Jane Johnson-Woody  
APPROVED  
ORDINANCES 
UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
1. Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Board of Direc-
tors Appointment (1) 
Presenters: Community Council  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT  
CONTRA B. NELSON-HOLT  
2. GRIC Constitutional Rights Issues (LSC forwards to Council under Old Business to discuss Mr. Perez constitutional rights issues regarding business license) 
Presenters: Joseph M. Perez  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
3. Code of Conduct Motion (Executive Session) (LSC motions to request that Council rescind the original motion made at the January 21, 2015 Community Council meeting and that the matter be made into a separate Code of Conduct complaint, and to go through the Code of Conduct process) 
Presenters: Legislative Standing Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO RESCIND  
THE ORIGINAL MOTION MADE AT JANUARY 21, 2015 AND THE MATTER BE MADE INTO A SEPARATE CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT; AND TO GO THROUGH THE CODE OF CONDUCT PROCESS  
[ADDITION TO AGENDA]  
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Presenters: Lt. Governor Monica L. Antone  
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3. Gila Crossing Community School Written Plan SY 2014-
2015 (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Aaron Alley, Principal  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO RESCIND  
1. A Resolution Recognizing Skyline – Gila River District 5 School (GSMC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval with the proper information that was discussion earlier and forward to the Committee) 
Presenters: Patricia Valenzuela  
DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
2. A Resolution Authorizing The Tribal Education Department To Submit a Grant Application To The United States Department Of Health And Human Services, Adminis-
Gila River Indian News

March 6, 2015

Page 9

Community Council Action Sheets

Wednesday Jan. 21, 2015

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday February 18, 2015, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:19am

INVOCATION

Provided by Lt. Governor Monica L. Antone

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1- Joel Whitman (11:03am), Arzie Hogg; D2- Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4- Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoza, Angela Allison; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Janice F. Stewart, Robert Stone (9:53am), Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Albert Pablo, Sandra Nas- eeyewa
Council Members Present:
D4-Vacant: D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

1. Southwest Indian Agriculture Association-Award Presentation
Presenter: Councilman Brian Davis, Sr. COUNCILMAN BRIAN DAVIS, SR. PRESENTED THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION AWARD OF APPRECIATION TO GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS

REPORTS

1. H.L. Cape-Daile-Antone Post 51 American Legion
Presenter: David Anderson

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Travel Report – 1st. Quarter – Fiscal Year 2015
Presenter: David Anderson

Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

Presenters: Pamela Thompson, Janice Anderson

APPROVED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving An Amendment To The Fleet Management Services Section V. Vehicle And Equipment Acquisition And Disposal Procedure. G. Executive Vehicle Program (GMSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation of approval)
Presenter: Sunshine Whitehair

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite Lease on Allotment 1595-A Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Nancy House-Sanchez

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite Lease on Allotment 4222 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Six Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Nancy House-Sanchez

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite Lease on Allotment 1063 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Nancy House-Sanchez

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Establishing An Interim Owner’s Team For Addressing Preliminary Issues Involving Memorial Airport In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Community
Presenter: Marshall Sunna

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

ORDINANCES

1. A Ordinance Granting The Vintage High School and Vechij Himdag Maschmakud High School (ESC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Thomas L. Murphy

APPROVED

2. A Ordinance Approving The A resolution to Grant the Copper plates as a donation to the Community
Presenter: Marshall Sunna

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:37PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON MARCH 2, 2015, 9AM MINUTES
1. August 29, 2014 (Special) APPROVED
2. September 19, 2014 (Special) TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. October 9, 2014 (Special - 9am) APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS
4. October 9, 2014 (Special - 9am) APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS
5. October 9, 2014 (Special – 1pm) APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

>COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL MEETING REGARDING SHORTENED SCHOOL WEEK, FEBRUARY 5, 2015, 6PM

RETURNED TO AGENDA

>COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL MEETING REGARDING SHORTENED SCHOOL WEEK, FEBRUARY 5, 2015, 6PM

RETURNED TO AGENDA

>COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL MEETING REGARDING SHORTENED SCHOOL WEEK, FEBRUARY 5, 2015, 6PM

RETURNED TO AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pima of Mexico Letters of Invitation (CRSC forwarded to Council to support the letter of invitation, for Governor’s signature) President: Marshal Sunna

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUPPORT THE LETTER OF INVITATION

5. Code of Conduct Complaint Shannon White MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON MARCH 2, 2015, 9AM MINUTES
1. August 29, 2014 (Special) APPROVED
2. September 19, 2014 (Special) TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. October 9, 2014 (Special - 9am) APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS
4. October 9, 2014 (Special - 9am) APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS
5. October 9, 2014 (Special – 1pm) APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>INVITATION EXTENDED TO MEETING WITH SALT RIVER

>NA LCSA TRAVEL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

>NA LCSA TRAVEL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

>NA LCSA TRAVEL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

SPECIAL MEETING.THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015, 9AM AND 1PM

APPROVED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:37PM

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Editor’s Note: Edwin Todechine is photographed above. On my days off I spend a lot of time with the others have grown and are living on their experience for me to be a part of an excel-
ted crew. In my time here at GRICUA I have seen a lot of changes and improvements in the reli-

Featured Employee: Edwin Todechine

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HOW TO APPLY FOR A TRIBAL EXEMPTION

To qualify for a hardship exemption, members of federally recognized tribes, Alaskan Native groups, or other entities that have signed a tribal protocol with the federal government can apply for an exemption two different ways. GRHC’s Benefit Coordination staff would like to assist you with this two-step process.

I. Paper Application

The Benefits Coordinators will assist you with completing a paper exemption application form and mailing it with supporting documentation. You will need to submit documentation of membership in a federally recognized tribe. You must provide one of the following:

- Certificate of Indian Blood, or
- Tribal Identification Card or
- Letter from Gila River Health Care stating you are eligible for services.

Upon completion of this process, the Marketplace will send you an Exemption Certification Number (ECN). This number will tell the federal government you are exempt from the tax penalty. You may qualify for an exemption from the penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. In order to claim this exemption, you have some options.

Exemptions from the Penalty

You may qualify for an exemption from the penalty for not having health insurance coverage for any of the months during the 2014 calendar year. The law states that you must have minimum essential coverage for all months. This rule applies not only to the tax filer, but also to any of the dependents that are claimed.

Exemptions from this source need to be obtained at the earliest opportunity.

II. Claiming an Exemption on Federal Income Taxes

Remember, when you file a federal income tax return use the IRS health coverage exemption form 8965. Codes for exemption A-E are listed in the instructions. Mark the specific code for Native Americans.

The important thing to remember is that Gila River Health Care has trained staff to assist patients with this process at both Komatke Health Care and Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital. You must have minimum essential coverage for all. For income tax year 2014, the AEA requires all taxpayers to report their proof of health insurance or pay a penalty. As a Native American with a tribal affiliation, you are entitled to an exemption from this penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. In order to claim this exemption, you have some options. 

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) promotes health care access for all. For income tax year 2014, the AEA requires all taxpayers to report their proof of health insurance or pay a penalty. As a Native American with a tribal affiliation, you are entitled to an exemption from this penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. In order to claim this exemption, you have some options.
6th Annual Cancer Awareness Day

"Honoring the journey..."

03.28.15

Gila River Indian Community
Hashan Kehk (District 2)
Multipurpose Building

Honor Walk/Run
Reg: 7:30 AM - 8 AM
Start: 8:00 AM

Main Event
Start: 9:00 A.M.
Speakers, Entertainment, Giveaways, Honor Balloon Release

For more information contact:
Devin Pablo (520) 550-8000

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