GRIC Accepts the Generation Indigenous White House Leaders Challenge

By the Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

Future leaders got an exercise in critical thinking and community development last weekend, thanks to Pres. Barack Obama’s Generations Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative.

The focus of the event on Saturday, May 9 was to create a positive program for the Community. The Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council hosted the event, which put GRIC youth and tribal leaders together for a two hour brainstorming session.

The session started off with some icebreakers to warm everyone up and get them ready for critical thinking. Once everyone was warmed up, the group did individual brainstorming, then paired people up to discuss their ideas. The pairs then joined groups to continue the discussion and select the best two ideas per group. Each medium-sized group provided a presentation to the entire large group. After the presentations, the groups then met again and added more detail to their proposed programs.

The entire process is being documented and will be put in a report, which will be submitted to the White House as a part of the Obama Administration’s Gen-I Initiative.

The purpose of Gen-I is “to focus on improving the lives of Native youth by removing the barriers that stand between Native youth and their opportunity to succeed,” according to a Gen-I press release. It is about “addressing the issues facing Native youth and creating a platform through which Native youth can have their voices and positive contributions highlighted and elevated.”

People in attendance at the GRIC meeting were Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica L. Antone, Council Representatives Arzie Hogg (D1), Joey Whitman (D1), Sandra Nasewyewa (D6), and approximately 50 youth from the districts and GRIC urban community.

According to the unofficial results, Arzie Hogg (District 1), Nada Celaya (District 4), Franklin Pablo Sr. (District 5) and Anthony “Chris” Villareal Sr. (District 6) emerged as the winners in the 2015 Community Council Election. Hogg, Pablo and Villareal maintain their seats, with Celaya, a former Community Manager, as the newcomer.

829 voters participated in the election held May 5. Hogg captured 64.66 percent of District 1 votes over A. Joyce MaCafee. Celaya bested Marlene Norris and Sharon Lewis with 34.55 percent of the votes in District 4. Pablo stays on council for District 5 with 47.19 percent over candidates Duan Johns, Ronald Lewis Sr., Vernon Sunna, Sr. and Gwendolyn L. Thomas. Villareal continues to serve on council for District 6 with his 45.86 percent victory over Lisa D. Shede, Danielle Spring and Joanne Miles-Long.

Certification of the results will take place at the May 20 Community Council Regular Meeting under New Business.

The Viola L. Johnson Administration Building for the Gila River Health Care Corp. is located across the street to the north of the Governance Center in Sacaton.

Continued on Page 10

Community Elects Three Incumbents, One New Rep to Council
Hogg, Celaya, Pablo, Sr. and Villareal, Sr. win

By GRIC staff
Gila River Indian News

GRIC Opens New Admin. Building Named in Honor of Founding CEO Viola L. Johnson

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Community’s healthcare has taken a step towards improving its operational capabilities, as progress in the form of development has recently shown.

The Viola L. Johnson Administration Building for the Gila River Health Care Corp. is located across the street to the north of the Governance Center in Sacaton.

MAY 15, 2015 WWW.GILARIVER.ORG/NEWS VOL. 18, NO. 10

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INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABLE WATER PRACTICES

Keynote Speakers

Harry Walters
Navajo historian, archaeologist, and founder of the Navajo Community College Historical Museum

John Echohawk
A Native American attorney and founder of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

Ofelia Zepeda
Renowned Native American poet and linguist (Teleur O’dchamé)

David De Jong (Not pictured)
A Historian of the Pima Culture and author of Forced to Abandon our Field: The 1914 Clay Southworth Gila River Pima Interviews

Water Resources Research Center Annual Conference
Hosted in Partnership with the Gila River Indian Community

JUNE 9-10, 2015
Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino
5640 West Wild Horse Pass Road
Chandler, AZ 85226

PRICING
Early Bird Regular $175.00
Regular (after Monday, May 11) $195.00
Early Bird Student $75.00
Student (after Monday, May 11) $95.00

HOW TO REGISTER
wrrc.arizona.edu/WRRC-conference-2015/register

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2015 Summer Family Health Event

"Bringing Wellness to You in Your Community"

Adult and Child Immunizations • Well-Child Exams • Sports Physicals • Labs • Blood Sugar Checks • Blood Pressure Checks • *Family Planning Services • *STD Information and Education • *Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings • Diabetes Risk Assessments

District 1 Service Center ........ 6/16 & 8/18
District 2 Service Center ....... 6/23 & 6/35
Ak-Chin ......................... 7/7 & 7/9
District 5 Service Center ....... 7/14 & 7/16
District 4 Service Center ....... 7/28 & 7/30

Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 3 pm
*Family planning, STD and cancer screenings on Tuesdays only

For more information contact:
Robin Henry, FNP
Community Outreach Mobile Unit
(520) 610-2379

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2015 Summer Day Camp

"Gotta Get Smart!" Summer Camp

June 8 – August 28

Enroll Today! Tel: (480) 783-9111 Ext. 206

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WRRC 2015

wrrc.arizona.edu
LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters should be limited to 200 words and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer’s true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper. Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling and content.

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

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

CORRECTIONS
In the May 1 edition, page 6 election notice, Council candidate Villarreal’s name “Chris” was misspelled. On the same page, St. John’s Road was not properly capitalized. The GRIN encourages comments and suggestions about content that warrants correction or clarification. To report an error call (520) 562-8719 or email grin@gric.nsn.us
Life Center Hosts ‘Youth Day of Hope’

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Youth are the rising generation of the Gila River Indian Community. They are the next wave of individuals that will change the landscape of health in the Community.

Students gathered from across the Community at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort at the Day of Hope event hosted by the GRHC Life Center on May 8.

The Life Center Director Juli Kelly explained this year’s theme: Mind, Body and Selfie. “The focus was on physical and mental health. We really wanted it to be an influential day,” she said.

She said, “Focusing on the importance they have and what they have to give back to their Community,” were key points of the event.

Day of Hope started out to address diabetes providing inspirational messages and information on how to prevent or control diabetes.

“It initially was about providing the message about hope for the kids, that they can prevent or beat diabetes,” she said.

Tribal leadership and notable Community members like former governor Richard Narcia welcomed the hundreds of students that packed the Komatke Ballroom.

Rodney B. Lewis, an attorney and key figure in the settlement for the Community’s water rights, talked about the importance of the youth building on the accomplishments of past leaders.

“One thing unites us…that is water, we need to use it wisely so that future generations have the water they need for the economy, for life and farming,” he said.

Shortly after, a video was played showcasing how the Community is taking back its health through the implementation of its water rights.

According to Kelly, the video provides a sense of “cultural grounding” for the students about the resources important to the Community.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis emphasized the importance of the Day of Hope event. He said, “You are our young leaders of the future.”

“If you need to talk to someone, if you are worried about your friend, or a family member, there is someone to talk to,” he said.

In addition, the event provides an opportunity for youth to learn about being healthy through interactive breakout sessions.

Kelly said, “We hope the variety of the workshops gave [them] exposure to different topics…the mental, the social health.”

Robert Johnston calls “Think It, Feel It, Do It,” Kelly said, “Was all about the power of positive thinking and how that positive thinking influences our behavior and our attitude.”

Other presentations for the youth focused on the nutritional aspects of choosing good and bad foods.

A session called “Candy Crush: The Truths & Myths About Sugar,” gave information on how to read nutrition labels and what to look for when picking out foods.

From a cultural approach Aaron Sabori used the traditional Talking Stick in his presentation, “Neokthum O’s…Him-dak, Through the Talking Stick,” as a tool to help the youth discuss their goals and future plans.

It was elements as such that put into perspective how important culture is a part of being a Community member in today’s world.

The Life Center would like to make this an annual event, working in conjunction with the Governors health initiative to create a partnership with the Community Services Department.

“We like to recognize the partnership we have, because it wasn’t possible if it wasn’t for the grant,” Kelly said.

Kelly would like to thank the Office of Special Funding for providing the funding through the Tobacco Tax Grant.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Robert Johnston talks about the importance of self-worth and positive reinforcement to a room full of seventh graders at the Day of Hope for youth event at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort on May 8.

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Community Events

Saturday, May 16
Gila River Fitness Fest
District 5 Multipurpose Building
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Horseshoe Tournament
Daniel Mejia’s House
34326 W. Grande Rd.
Stanfield, AZ
10:00 am registration
12:00 pm start

Sunday, May 17
Monday, May 18
Tuesday, May 19
Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)
Car Seat Program
D5 Veterans’ Hall
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

She & Me – Girl Scouts Event
District 5 Service Center
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 20
Matter of Balance Class
District 1 Multipurpose Building
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Thursday, May 21
Matter of Balance Class
District 7 Service Center
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Friday, May 22
GRPD Awareness Day
Sacaton Police Station Lawn
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday, May 24
Monday, May 25
Memorial Day
GRIC Offices Closed
All Day

Tuesday, May 26
Wednesday, May 27
Thursday, May 28
Friday, May 29
Nike N7 Basketball Clinic
D2 Service Center
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 30
Gila River Fitness Fest
District 7 Park
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 31
Monday, June 1
Tuesday, June 2
Wednesday, June 3
Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)
Car Seat Program
D4 Park Ramada
2:00 pm

Thursday, June 4
Friday, June 5
District Four Seniors
Father’s Day/Mother’s Day
Gathering
D4 Service Center
9:00 am

Huhugam Heritage Center
First Friday
Arts and Crafts, Kids
Zone, Entertainment and Food.
Come and join the fun!
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

1ST MONDAY & 3RD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. - STARTING MAY 2015
(Excluding holidays)
Rabies Vaccinations
Health Vaccinations
Tick Control

Tribal Health Department - Animal Control Program
Tribal Health Department - Komatke Location
5356 W. Pecos Rd. Laveen, AZ 85339
(520) 562-5177 FOR MORE INFORMATION

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number of Vacancies</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>One (1)</td>
<td>Until Vacancy is Filled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vacancies

1. Gila River Indian Community Council Director

Deadline: May 18, 2015

Applications must be submitted to the Tribal Health Department at least 30 days prior to the date of vacancy.

Gila River Indian Community Council
Board of Directors

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Indian Community Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a letter of interest, a resume, and a signed statement of the financial disclosure statement to the Tribal Health Department at least 30 days prior to the date of vacancy.

Gila River Indian Community Council
Board of Directors

Community Health Services

1. Gila River Indian Community Health Services, Kwitina Program Manager

Deadline: May 18, 2015

Applications must be submitted to the Tribal Health Department at least 30 days prior to the date of vacancy.

Gila River Indian Community Health Services
Board of Directors

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Indian Community Health Services Board, must submit one original copy of a letter of interest, a resume, and a signed statement of the financial disclosure statement to the Tribal Health Department at least 30 days prior to the date of vacancy.

Gila River Indian Community Health Services
Board of Directors

Community Events

2015 Council of Elders Regular Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held in the Council of Elders meeting room, District 5 Service Center, 9520 W. Washburn Rd., Sacaton, AZ 85142.

May
12 Council of Elders
10 Mothers Day
22 Council of Elders
25 Memorial Day

June
12 Council of Elders
21 Father’s Day
26 Council of Elders

July
4 Independence Day
10 Council of Elders
24 Council of Elders

August
14 Council of Elders
28 Council of Elders

September
7 Labor Day
11 Council of Elders
19 American Indian Day
25 Council of Elders

October
9 Council of Elders
23 Council of Elders

November
11 Veterans Day
13 Council of Elders
20 Council of Elders
26 Thanksgiving Day

December
10 Water Settlement Day
11 Council of Elders
18 Council of Elders
25 Christmas Day

2015 Elders Concerns Group Regular Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held in the Council of Elders meeting room, District 5 Service Center, 9520 W. Washburn Rd., Sacaton, AZ 85142.

May
9 Elders Concerns Group
10 Mothers Day
13 Elders Concerns Group
25 Memorial Day

June
10 Elders Concerns Group
13 Elders Concerns Group
25 Memorial Day

July
4 Independence Day
10 Elders Concerns Group

August
12 Elders Concerns Group
9 District 2 Multi-Purpose Building

September
7 Labor Day
9 Elders Concerns Group
11 American Indian Day
20 Elders Concerns Group

October
11 Elders Concerns Group
18 Elders Concerns Group
21 Council of Elders
30 Thanksgiving Day

November
10 Water Settlement Day
16 Elders Concerns Group

December
10 Water Settlement Day
16 Elders Concerns Group
25 Christmas Day

Here are some regular updates on the on-going issues pertaining to the Gila River Indian Community.
D.A.R.E. Graduation
By Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian News

After 10 weeks of D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) classes with Officer James Milano, fifth graders at Gila Crossing Community School graduated from the D.A.R.E. program May 4.

Students in Mr. Copehaver’s and Mr. Britton’s classes attended 30-minute sessions with the school’s resource officer where they learned the D.A.R.E. model, which teaches children to define, assess, respond and evaluate each decision before acting, as well as safe ways to report bullying and strategies on how to say ‘No’ to drugs when peer-pressured. Essay winners Rachelle Jackson and Alexis Lopez expressed to the graduating class what the D.A.R.E. Program means to them and received gifts for their participation.

GCCS is not the first school on the reservation to graduate students from the D.A.R.E. program this year. A batch of fifth graders from Skyline Elementary School also graduated, now that the program has been re-introduced to Community schools. “A challenge we had was the police departments didn’t have school resource officers that were consistently at the schools,” said Officer Milano. “But now we have four and we are at each school every day.”

Officer Milano, along with Officers Rachelle Rodriguez, Clifton Smith and Esther Poolaw, are D.A.R.E. certified to teach the program in the Community. In conjunction with the D.A.R.E. program, D.A.R.E. officers are planning to implement the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) curriculum to educate students on gangs and prevent gangs and violence on school campuses.

GRIC SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

June 15, 2015

• Call to meet with a Student Advisor
• Learn about the requirements for the Scholarship Program
• Discuss your educational plans to attend college
• Application documents can be submitted BEFORE the deadline

Purchased Referred Care Department

If a patient is seen at an outside Emergency Room or admitted to an outside facility, they should:

1. Present the facility with a Purchased Referred Care Card and/or any Insurance Cards (Private Insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid).
2. Notify the Purchased Referred Care Department (formerly Managed Care) at (520) 562-7997 or (602) 528-5000 within:
   • 72 Hours (if you are 64 years or younger)
   • 30 Days (if you are 65 and older or disabled)

Purchased Referred Care adheres to Indian Health Services regulations regarding the notification requirements.

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
483 W. Seed Farm Road
Laveen, Arizona 85339
(520) 562-3321  ·  (602) 528-1240

Komatke Health Center
17487 S. Health Care Drive
Laveen, Arizona 85339
(520) 550-6000

Ak-Chin Clinic
48203 W. Farrell Road
Municipal, Arizona 85239
(520) 568-3881

For information call GRHC at:
(520) 562-3321

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Municipal, Arizona 85239
(520) 568-3881

Gila River Indian Community

Crisis Line
1-800-259-3449
Sacaton Family Night: Finding the link between the ancient Hohokam and modern O’otham

By Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian News

They say one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. For the archaeologist at the Cultural Resources Management Program, the objects left behind from O’otham ancestors are just another clue, uncovering the link between the prehistoric Hohokam to the historic Akimel O’otham.

“In this Community, there are archaeological remains everywhere,” said archaeologist Chris Loendorf. “If you live in the Community, there’s a good chance you’re going to find an artifact.”

Loendorf along with Assistant Chief Archaeologist Brett Coochyouma presented on the archaeological records of the Hohokam and Akimel O’otham at Sacaton Elementary School’s monthly family meeting May 7.

Historically, the area in which the Gila River Indian Community resides is the Phoenix basin which is the core area of the Hohokam. In 1993, GRIC created CRMP as a sub-division of the federally funded Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project to excavate the large canal area before construction. Today, CRMP is its own department in the Community and continues to study and perform “data recovery” in culturally sensitive areas.

CRMP unearths all time CRMP unearths any object such as a woven basket, mano (grinding tool), metate (used to grind against), and lithics (pounding tool for mesquite), ceramics have a distinctive look over time. By analyzing the pottery designs and formation, archaeologists can tell whether it’s of Hohokam origin or not. In addition to pottery, archaeologists are able to connect the prehistoric tribe to today’s Akimel O’otham. The techniques, ceramic and designs used in today’s pottery resemble that of the Hohokam.

In 1993, GRIC created CRMP as a sub-division of the federally funded Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project to excavate the large canal area before construction. Today, CRMP is its own department in the Community and continues to protect, study and perform “data recovery” in culturally sensitive areas.

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The name for this month translates to Black Seed Month and refers to the dwindling food supply of former years, in which all that was left of last year's bounty was the black seeds of the Saguaro cactus.

This is the time of year when wildlife are in the process of raising their young. Some wildlife we don't encounter very often due to their shy nature and some because they only come out at night when most of us are asleep. When we were young we camped everywhere including up in the nearby mountain ranges. We were always excited to visit Komadk (Sierra Estrella) and followed the game trails to the upper summit. On the upper slopes in tree lined washes if you're lucky you might catch a glimpse of a Che:shoñ (Desert Bighorn). They are extremely shy animals and wary of humans and will quickly climb upslope to get away. Another animal rarely seen but heard up on the mountain is Che:kol (Rock squirrel). They like to sit up high on the boulders and observe their surroundings. Their high-pitched calls can be heard a long way off and sometimes all you see is their bushy tails as they scurry for cover.

In the mesquite thickets along the foothills and river bottoms many rare wildlife can also be observed. Ka:v (North American Beaver) is in the area. Recently they have made their presence known in the western part of our community.

This month's word match will feature rarely seen animals of our community. We encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives. And remember, if you see a rare animal it may not be the so-called Chupacabra, but only a shy animal trying to get away from you.

**Solution on Page 9**

**Match the O’otham Animal name with its picture!**

- **che:kol**
- **ko:v**
- **vav’vok**
- **cheshoñ**
- **ka:v**
- **hoho’i**
Gila River Students Recognized at Annual Governor’s Scholars Award Banquet

Full list of winners on page 12

By Christopher Lomahquahu

It has been an annual tradition recognizing the hard work of students from across the Community. Parents, educators and tribal leadership came out to honor the achievements of their sons and daughters at the Governor’s Scholars Awards Banquet at Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino on May 1.

Hosted in collaboration with the Tribal Education Department and Executive Office, the event awards the top three students in grades 4 – 12 and includes college graduates.

A total of 30 students were awarded as Governor’s Scholars and seven were given the Citizen’s Award.

Lt. Gov. Monica L. Antone opened the evening of events by speaking to the students about the importance of getting a higher education.

Antone said, “It was such an honor to sign these awards, because we really cherish a lot of the hard work [these] students have accomplished for younger generations to follow. Models who have paved the way for [you] have emulated good values in [them] to [you].”

Antone spoke about how the recipient’s grades are indicative of the academic performance that makes them stand-out students. It was the teachers, she said, that were part of their academic achievements, “[You] have embodied good values in [them] to become stronger as an individual.”

Antone also encouraged the students to take advantage of the college funding that is available for them.

“We have to encourage each other and support one another as a whole to be successful. We have a lot of resources the Community has that can support you,” she said.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said, “It’s an honor to be able to speak to you. Each and everyone one of you should take this achievement as one part of the journey to being successful.”

A large part of the success of the students is their willingness to demonstrate their potential while representing the Community in their schools.

Lewis noted the Community has a tradition of leaders and role models who have paved the way for [you]. “As part of the opportunity to visit Washington D.C., he said, “I’m looking forward to it, because it is a good opportunity to see what is out [there].”

A Governor’s scholar and citizenship award recipient, Aaron Wh hempner, a twelfth grader at Betty-Fairfax High School, talked about the added responsibilities of being a role model.

He said, “A lot of people look up to you. You try to be your best. Reflecting on his success thus far he said, “My family really supported me through school. You have to try hard, because it takes a lot of work.”

Junior Miss Gila River and Governor’s Scholar award recipient Charisma Quiroz said “It’s a blessing to me, because it is one step in my chapter. I encourage other students who have the potential to be a Governor’s scholar next year, “Stay focused no matter what and to know that there are people out there that support [you].”

Coolidge High School senior Darius Jackson and 29 other students received awards at the 2015 Governor’s Scholars Award Banquet May 1.

Daniella Wh hempner, Aaron’s younger sister and an eleventh grade student at Betty-Fairfax High School, said, “It’s an honor to get this award especially to show recognition for the hard work we go through.”

She encouraged other students “Never give up always keep striving for the best, at least at [your] best you can never really go wrong.”

In closing out the banquet District 1 Councilman Arzie Hogg, Chair of the Education Standing Committee, left this message for the students. “The most important thing is that [you] are here to night,” speaking on the heels of their achievements.

Sacaton Science Students Rally at RoboRave Contest

Fifteen teams from Sacaton Middle School’s Robotics Club represented the Gila River Indian Community as well as the state of Arizona at the national competition May 1 – 3. Twelve out of the 14 teams qualified for the final round of the tournament where they competed against 120 international teams in the maze competition, triathlon, and jousting.

Robert Stein and Tommy Wolfe from Honeywell, Inc. also attended the thanksed tribunal council including the students, teachers and volunteers for allowing them to work with the school and make the program possible in the Community. Following the meeting, the students setup their mazes in the Council Chambers hallway and performed a small demonstration of their robots for the public.

This year is not the first time the Robotics Club competed in the RoboRave competition. Last year at the tournament, the Robotics Club had eight out of nine robots qualify but fell short of placing. Robotics teacher JoEllen Kinna
dom expressed joy and gratitude toward students for the knowledge they have gained by participating in the club. The students, and Kinnamon, had to learn new science that involve Newton’s laws, geometry and mathematics to be able to build the robots and program it.

David Bluestein and Tommy Wolfe from Honeywell, Inc. also attended the thanked tribunal council including the students, teachers and volunteers for allowing them to work with the school and make the program possible in the Community. Following the meeting, the students setup their mazes in the Council Chambers hallway and performed a small demonstration of their robots for the public.

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“With these skills our kids can work for the police department, the fire department or anywhere these skills [can be applied],” said Kinnamon. “I had a bunch of sup-
port [with the program]. The people that help make it successful are the parents, the kids, the staff, and Honeywell. It makes a differ-
ence.”

Official results will be released May 18 on the RoboRave website: www.robrookaer.com/
By Christopher Lomahquahu

Protecting the sovereignty of the Community means also preserving the wildlife within the boundaries of the reservation. The Department of Environmental Quality is moving forward in the direction of wildlife management to protect the natural habitat of places in the Community not often seen by people. Tudor Montagne, a Senior Planner and Policy Analyst from DEQ explained that a lot of work has gone into restoring the area. “Council recognized there was a gap in wildlife management and supported the need to improve the wetlands. They have contributed resources from the Community and through the U.S. EPA grant,” he said.

According to Ondrea Barber, the Executive Director of DEQ, “The wetlands area is a component of [our] wildlife management strategies. Due to the vastness of the Community we will be developing our plan in a phased approach.” In District 7, the Pee Posh Wetlands has undergone recent restoration. DEQ staff member Charles Enos, an aquatic scientist with the Water Quality Program, oversees enhancement and revegetation work in the wetlands.

Other Water Quality Program staff play significant roles in managing the wetlands including, water quality monitoring, permit and grant development, and advising and assisting with projects.

Current wetland work largely consists of removing invasive non-native salt cedar and revegetating with native plant species, such as willow, cottonwood, bull rush, willowberry, and screwbean mesquite. Management objectives for the Pee Posh Wetlands include recreational and cultural uses and habitat restoration and protection for fish and wildlife.

The number of individuals working in the area has grown over the past year, with the hiring of two interns through the Employment & Training AmeriCorps program. A full-time wildlife biologist has been hired to help in the identification and management of animal species in the Community. Montagne said, “The biologists will go out and conduct an assessment to obtain baseline data on culturally significant and endangered species, while making recommendations for habitat improvement activities.”

Both interns Darius Enos and La’Meisha Pratt have been steadily working with Charles and other DEQ staff to rejuvenate the native species in the area. Barber said, “We are working very closely with Barnaby Lewis and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to give special attention to those species that have cultural importance or significance to the people.”

With all the recent restoration activity, the wetland’s pair of nesting bald eagles has managed to raise two juvenile offspring. Currently, the juvenile bald eagles are stretching their wings and preparing to make their summer journey to cooler environments.

The Gila River Police Department and Rangers who reinforce the security of the breeding area. The goals of the program are to protect and collect data on the nesting bald eagles and to educate people on the importance of not disturbing the eagles. For anyone interested in visiting the area, they should contact DEQ before venturing out to the wetlands.

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By Christopher Lomahquahu

The Pee Posh Wetlands in District 7 is the home to native species plants and animals that is being managed by the Department of Environmental Quality. Young Arizona eagles are known to fly as far north as Washington and Oregon for salmon runs. To help ensure that the bald eagles are protected, the DEQ Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program was established two years ago.

This year’s nestwatchers include several Community Members mainly from District 6 & 7. If there is any danger to the bald eagles, the nestwatchers notify the Gila River Police Department and Rangers who reinforce the security of the breeding area.

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From Page 1

By Christopher Lomahquahu

Pee Posh Wetlands

GRIC Board of Directors, CEO, tribal leadership and family members cut the ribbon April 30. Darius Enos and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to give special attention to those species that have cultural importance or significance to the people.”

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From Page 1

By Christopher Lomahquahu

Gen-I Meeting

There were many great ideas submitted by the youth. The top six were selected to move forward for GRIC youth to decide which program they would like to see implemented. The top ideas will be put on the AOP-PYC Facebook for feedback and further discussion and then will go back to the Executive Office for implementation.

Here are some of the top ideas discussed among the youth and leaders, in no particular order:

- A GRIC MVD
- To utilize Bondurant to teach young people basic defensive driving skills
- A music festival
- Learning language along side activities
- Cultural Night
- Revolutions Music Festival / Technology
- Make your own music, short films
- Journey to the ocean to retrieve ancient routes

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By Annie Gutierrez

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623-478-1624 | PromenadeDentalGroup.com  
Corner of 99th & Lower Buckeye

MARICOPA SMILES DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS  
520-568-2800 | MaricopaSmilesDental.com  
W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy & Porter Rd

PROMENADE SMILES DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS  
520-426-3639 | PromenadeSmiles.com  
Off the I-10 & Florence

FOOTHILLS SMILES DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS  
480-755-4455 | FoothillsSmilesDentistry.com  
Southeast corner of Ray & 48th

LAVEEN MODERN DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS  
602-237-0613 | LaveenModernDentistry.com  
Southeast corner of 51st Ave and Baseline

GILBERT MODERN DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS  
480-457-8283 | GilbertModernDentistry.com  
Corner of Chandler Heights and Higley

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 sound coming from the ground, above-ground piping, or gas appliance.
- **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 any 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.
2015 Governor’s Scholar & Citizenship Award Winners

From Page 9

4th Grade
- Gabriel Lewis: Blackwater Community School
- Octavia Lyons: Gila Crossing Community School
- Elasena Culver: Mirada

5th Grade
- Cayson Nish: Blackwater
- Aalayah Castro: Skyline
- Emma Kyyitan: Skyline

6th Grade
- Kayla Thompson: Gila Crossing Community School
- Iyuma Chavarria: Salt River Elementary
- Francisco Antone: Skyline Gila River D5

7th Grade
- Gloria Horton: Akimel Aal Middle School
- Rachel Whempner: Vista Del Sur Traditional
- Amya Duran: Coolidge High School

8th Grade
- Paige Kyyitan: Skyline
- Cammella Webb: Gila Crossing
- Francisco Castro: Skyline

9th Grade
- Desiree Arkan: Ira Hayes High School
- Tristyn Johns: Coolidge High School
- Angelo Garcia: Betty Fairfax High School

10th Grade
- Chastity Quirii: Coolidge High School
- Jolyce Armente: Chemawa Indian High School
- Kayla Lewis: Chemawa Indian High School

11th Grade
- Daniella Whempner: Betty Fairfax High School
- Gabriel Madrid: Coolidge High School
- Makayla Roman: Betty Fairfax High School

12th Grade
- Aaron Whempner: Betty H. Fairfax High School
- Darius Jackson: Coolidge High School
- Kandie Antone: Coolidge High School

College
- Nina Allison: Arizona State University
- Pauline Alvarez: California State University-Norridge
- Francisco Zamarano Jr.: Chandler-Gilbert Comm. College

Citizenship Awards (12th grade)

1st place: Aaron Whempner
2nd place: Darius Jackson
3rd place: Kandie Antone

Maria Lopez
Lendy Nee Jr.
Victoria Johnson
Isabel Baequero

4th Grade Gabriel Lewis  Blackwater Community School 1st
5th Grade Cayson Nish  Blackwater  1st
6th Grade Kyyitan: Skyline
7th Grade Gloria Horton: Akimel Aal Middle School
8th Grade Paige Kyyitan: Skyline
9th Grade Desiree Arkan: Ira Hayes High School
10th Grade Chastity Quirii: Coolidge High School
11th Grade Daniella Whempner: Betty Fairfax High School
12th Grade Aaron Whempner: Betty H. Fairfax High School
College
Nina Allison: Arizona State University
Pauline Alvarez: California State University-Norridge
Francisco Zamarano Jr.: Chandler-Gilbert Comm. College

2014 Annual Water Quality Report
Gila River Indian Community Department of Public Works

The 2014 Annual Water Quality Report is available for viewing and download at the following websites:
www.mygilariver.com
www.gricdq.org/

A hard copy of the 2014 Annual Water Quality Report is available for pick up at the following locations:
Department of Public Works and the District 1 – 7 Service Centers

For more information please contact, Department of Public Works at:
(520) 562-3343

PER CAPITA CORNER

Per Capita Schedule
2015 Deadlina
2015 Payment Dates
June 15, Monday
July 31, Friday
September 15, Tuesday
September 20, Saturday

Trust Schedule
2015 Deadlina
2015 Payment Dates
June 30, Tuesday
July 15, Wednesday
September 30, Wednesday
October 15, Thursday

IMPORTANT IRS V9 INFORMATION

To our valued customers, we would like to inform you that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has notified the Per Capita Office twice within three years that the combination of the name and taxpayer identification number (TIN) we used to report the payment(s) of several Per Capita distributions are incorrect.

To correct the error, we will need to verify ownership of the funds. If you have been notified via phone or mail regarding a mismatched TIN/Name on your W-9, please call our office at 520-562-5522 to verify the information. Once ownership has been verified, we will send a letter of correction to the correct owner.

For more information, please contact our office at 520-562-5522.

ATTENTION - PAY卡D WILL CHANGE

Effective July 1, 2015, the Chase Pay Card will no longer be issued and will be replaced on or after this date. The card is being replaced due to a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- Security concerns
- Cost savings
- Improved functionality
- Better customer service

As a result of the change, we will no longer accept the old card and will require customers to use the new card. We will send out a new pay card to all customers as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact our office at 520-562-5522.

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the National Ambulatory Monitoring Network Review. Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regu-
lations (CFR) §58.10, the Gila River Indian Com-
monality Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality
Management Program (AQMP) is designed to monitor air quality
monitoring network for calendar
year 2014. This document will
also be made available to the public
at the Department of Environmental
Quality (DEQ) Air Quality
Management Program website:
http://www.gricdeq.org/aqmp_air_pro-
gram.html, or by calling 520-562-2234.

Media Release
Arizona Facts of Life announces the spon-
soring of the Arizona Facts of Life
Food Bank for the months of June and
July.

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Ryan Eberle
64 E. Pima St
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Written comments should be ad-
dressed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

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64 E. Pima St
Sacaton, AZ 85147

E-mail: air@gric.nsn.us.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
is announcing that the public comment
period for the proposed permit
meets the criteria for issuance of the
Gila River Indian Community Title 17,
Chapter 9 of the Air Quality Management Plan. Public notices may
be mailed to the Department offices.

Written comments may be delivered
or mailed to:

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Ryan Eberle
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 97, Sacaton,
AZ 85147

Physical Address: 157A S. Nelson Dr.,
Chandler, AZ 85226

For further information, please contact
Ryan Eberle at (520)766-3781 or visit
our offices at 157A S. Nelson Dr.,
Chandler, AZ 85226. Our office hours
are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.

Attention GRIC DOT Landowner Listing

Department of Transportation Realty Division assists Community members in acquiring legal access to their home sites located on tribal or allotted land by the most feasible route. We are trying to locate landowners for several projects please see list and contact us as soon as possible. Please Contact: Talia Apekaw

Jeanette Yarmata

Arla Yarmata

Jessica Yarmata

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Anyone who is registered with a federally recognized tribe is eligible for services. If someone is not registered with a tribe, but they live in the Community and have AHCCCS they can get services as well. All they need to do is come into one of our offices and complete a simple form and an appointment is scheduled for them to come back and get started. Initial appointments are offered no more than 7 days out. This is a state mandate, which we are able to meet.

5) Is transportation provided? The hospital provides transportation for community members and people who live in the community who are receiving services at Gila River Health Care.

6) What age groups of people in the community are eligible for services? BHS tries to make services available to everyone if they have a need.

7) What are the most common mental health issues you experience in the Community? A lot of people seek help for substance abuse treatment and they are applauded for that. There is also a lot of grief and loss over family members and/or loved ones. Depression and trauma are also very common.

8) Is everything confidential? Yes, people in treatment need to sign a written permission form to allow anyone providing treatment to talk about a case with another entity.

9) Do all patients need medication? No. Medication cannot solve all problems. However, for some people medication can assist them with their treatment.

10) Are BHS available in all seven districts? There are home based services and counselors that can come out to meet with individuals seeking services in all seven districts. However, this will be dependent upon whether or not the person has AHCCCS. The GRHC-BHS facility in Sacaton is able to provide services to everyone.

11) When should a person seek help? A person should seek help when they feel like the stresses and difficulties in life are too much for them to handle on their own. At times, life stressors can be too difficult for a person to make changes on their own.

In closing, the BHS Prevention Program also sponsors the trainings on mental health wellness for both youth and adults. These trainings are scheduled at least once per month in various locations within the Community and everyone is encouraged to attend. The Gila River Health Care BHS-Prevention Program desires to see more community involvement and will provide opportunities for the Community to attend workshops and trainings to further promote mental health, substance and suicide awareness.

For more information, please contact the BHS: Prevention Program at 520-562-3321 x7157.

Governor’s Office of the Month January & February

It gives us great pleasure to announce DRS’s own Officer Haynes as the February 2015 Governor’s Employee of the Month.

In his 14 years of employment, Officer Rudy Haynes has proven to be a valuable asset to the Department. He is a committed, professional and knowledgeable team player with a great attitude.

In his tenure, he has developed great programs within the Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision that are still going strong today. Recognizing his professionalism, the Department has assigned him with critical responsibilities that promote and ensure the safety and security of the staff, inmates, contractors and vendors. He performs a vital link in coordinating with the police department to ensure that all DRS Officers are utilizing the radio communication tool and that all officers are properly equipped with tools to perform and fulfill their daily role and responsibilities. Officer Rudy Haynes is always there for any key related matters even on his days off.

These are just some of the examples that support Rudy Haynes’ nomination for GEM, let’s give Officer Rudy Haynes a round of applause for his contribution to the workplace.

A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart. …

This recipe demonstrates teacher-always willing to cover for her co-workers and does so with a smile and without complaining, if she recognizes that things are out of order-she takes care of it, she misses little work even when she’s not feeling well, she’s a kind person-who would literally give you the shirt off her back and no matter how she feels, she never lets it affect her interaction with the work she does with the children.

Mrs. Rose is loved, respected and inspiring.

Congratulations to being awarded Governor’s Employee of the Month!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Submitted by GRHC Behavioral Health Care

Gila River Health Care (GRHC) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) - Prevention Program took time to interview one of the BHS therapists, Paul Gibson. As a result of this interview, Gila River Indian Community will become more aware of the services offered through Behavioral Health Services.

1) Who are you and what are your credentials, how long have you been in the field?

My name is Paul Gibson. I have a Master of Counseling and I am also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I have been working in Gila River Healthcare since 2011. My position is an Intake and Enrollment manager for Behavioral Health Care.

2)  What made you decide to enter this profession?

Becoming a therapist was the only profession I ever felt peaceful about, like it was a calling.

3) Explain the different services available through BHS.

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) offers outpatient counseling for individuals, couples, families, group therapy, art therapy, substance abuse groups, residential treatment at RTC, and case management services.

4) What does a person have to do in order to receive services from BHS and how long will it take to be seen?

Anyone who is registered with a federally recognized tribe is eligible for services. If someone is not registered with a tribe, but they live in the Community and have AHCCCS they can get services as well. All they need to do is come into one of our offices and complete a simple form and an appointment is scheduled for them to come back and get started. Initial appointments are offered no more than 7 days out. This is a state mandate, which we are able to meet.

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MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2015

REMEMBER, RESPECT & HONOR THE FALLEN

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800-WIN-GILA