Conference Looks at Water Use from Indigenous Perspectives

By GRIN staff
Gila River Indian News

The University of Arizona partnered with the Gila River Indian Community to host the Water Resources Research Center annual conference, entitled Indigenous Perspectives on Sustainable Water Practices, at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino June 9 and 10.

GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis opened the conference by expressing his community’s goal to preserve the water rights it won in 2004. He addressed many of the struggles the Community and tribes across the state have endured for decades through famine and drought.

“We are at the important crossroads of building the future of our Community,” said Lewis. “It is the story of bringing back our cultural resources of healing and self-preservation.”

Throughout the conference a series of presentations and panels covered a spectrum of water-related topics from legal rights to scientific research to the importance of riparian areas to the significance of water in Native American cultures and histories.

Arizona tribes discussed how their respective tribes use water, expressed struggles in their respective nations, talked about improving technology and ways they are preserving water through new resources while maintaining traditional ways.

Among the guest speakers were Rod Lew is and John Echohawk, Pawnee, who were among the first wave of Native attorneys who took on court cases for tribes seeking their water rights. Rod Lewis is well known as the Gila River attorney who dedicated his career to winning the Community’s water rights. Echo- hawk serves as the Executive Director for the Native American Rights Fund, which started in 1970 to provide legal services to American Indians across the country.

Both referred to the first case involving Native American water rights to go to the Su-

Continued on Page 7

Ramona Farms Grows Traditional O’otham Food

By GRIN staff
Gila River Indian News

Last week, the Gila River Indian News had the opportunity to get a closer look at how the company established, manages, and cares for its farmland to produce traditional foods that the ancestors of this land ate long ago.

Business owners Ramona and Terry Button have been in the farming business since 1974, when they married. Ramona is Tohono O’odham and Akimel O’odham from GRIC, District 3.

Their business started off small, growing only barley and wheat, before expanding on land leased by her family and other Community members.

Ramona’s aunt was among the first to give her land to grow crops. She told her niece to “Do something because I know you can,” according to Ramona.

Today, Ramona Farms utilizes 4,000 acres of GRIC land in Districts 3, 4 and 5.

They grow cotton, alfalfa, garbanzo beans, different types of hualt (corn) and wheat (pil- kan), and the famous bavi (tepary bean), which is a traditional staple of the O’odham diet.

Ramona Farms has a mission to restore traditional O’odham foods in our diet and introduce them to the younger generation.

“The young kids didn’t have a taste for them,” Ramona said. “They only want to buy them when grandma wants them, but

Continued on Page 7

Vechij Himdag Mashchamakud Walks Last Class of Grads

By Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian News

The final graduating class of Vechij Himdag Mashchamakud walked across the stage of the D5 Multipurpose Building with heads held high and accomplishments to be proud of.

Fifteen seniors received their diplomas June 13, all accredited with a requirement of two years of O’odham studies. Several of VHM’s students were recognized for their outstanding achieve-
ments throughout the school year. Among them were graduating se-

The last graduating class of Vechij Himdag Mashchamakud alternative school received their diplomas June 13.
**JOB FAIR**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015**  **10 AM - 2 PM**  **SIGN-IN STARTS AT 9:30 AM**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRIC & AK-CHIN MEMBERS**

**DISTRICT 5 SERVICE CENTER**

3456 W. CASA BLANCA RD. • BAPCHULE, AZ

**MANY POSITIONS NOW AVAILABLE:**
- Assistant Administrator
- Case Manager
- Clinical Liaison
- Collector
- Dialysis Technician
- Education Director
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Van Driver
- Patient Registration Clerk
- Registered Nurse
- Office Clerk

AND MORE...

What to Bring:
- Tribal ID
- Resume
- High School Diploma or GED

Come prepared for a pre-screening interview.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES AT:

(602) 528-1200 EXT. 1342

---

**Staying Hydrated**

Getting enough water every day is important for your health. Healthy people meet their fluid needs by drinking when thirsty and drinking with meals. Most of your fluid needs are met through water and beverages you drink. However, you can get fluids through the foods you eat. For example, broth soups and foods with high content such as celery, tomatoes, or melons can contribute to fluid intake.

---

**INDEPENDENCE DAY CLOSURES**

**JULY 3, 2015**

**HU HU KAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Closed Date(s)</th>
<th>Re-Open Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Department</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialysis East</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Imaging</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KOMATKE HEALTH CENTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Closed Date(s)</th>
<th>Re-Open Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 7:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialysis West</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Closed Date(s)</th>
<th>Re-Open Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shegoi</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OASIS / District 3</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OASIS / District 5</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Treatment Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AK-CHIN CLINIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Closed Date(s)</th>
<th>Re-Open Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ak-Chin Clinic</td>
<td>Friday, July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Monday, July 6 @ 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**For information call GRHC at:**

(520) 562-3321

---

**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:**

- 8/16 & 8/18

**District 2 Service Center:**

- 8/23 & 8/26

**Ak-Chin:**

- 8/23 & 8/26

**District 4 Service Center:**

- 7/14 & 7/16

**District 5 Service Center:**

- 7/14 & 7/16

**District 6 Service Center:**

- 7/14 & 7/16

**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

---

**27TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER YOUTH CONFERENCE**

**MAT KU SPIERM / VUNH-ICH GEVTHAG**

“EMPOWERMENT”

**JULY 17-18, 2015**

**AK CHIN ULTRA STAR**

16000 N. MARICOPA RD. • MARICOPA, AZ 85138

**AGES: 13-21 ONLY**
LETTERS & OPINIONS

Coyotes in Gila River?

Due to the complications between the Arizona Coyotes hockey team and the city of Glendale, I think our (the Gila River Indian Community’s) investment in the naming rights of Gila River Arena is at stake. If the Coyotes move then it takes away from our name being publicized on national TV and our association with an NHL team. Where would the Coyotes play if the City of Glendale doesn’t want the Coyotes in their city? The Gila River Indian Community should support them more than by just putting its name on the building they play in. Originally, the University of Phoenix Stadium, which is home to the Arizona Cardinals, was supposed to be built in Gila River but somehow, someway, Glendale got it. Just saying, think about it. Let our councilmen and councilwomen look into it.

Submitted by Ruben A. Rodriguez
Gila River Community member

In Loving Memory of Reynold “Tony” Apodaca

On March 9, 2015 we laid to rest Mr. Reynold “Tony” Apodaca. I believe without the guidance of my aunts and uncle I would’ve been lost. My big sis Sheryl, brothers Alex and Will, niece Jodi were there for support and comfort all the time. Thank you.

Also thanks to all his children, grandchildren, friends, and family for all their help and prayers. Tony appreciated you for it. Although he will be missed dearly, I know he was welcomed by his Heavenly Father.

We were all blessed by the choirs who shared the celebration of his life. Let him be that example of how we can overcome trials in life with laughter and a smile. Because through it all he knew there is only one way and through him we will see Tony again. Also his family at Casa Blanca Assembly of God, and his extended family at GRHCC. A special thanks to all the pallbearers/honorary pallbearers, who laid him down in his final resting place. Your help is greatly appreciated. So rest in peace My Lu, I’ll see you again my PEGGLE King. With much love and respect, your wife, Elizabeth Apodaca.

Letters & Opinions

On March 9, 2015 we laid to rest Mr. Reynold “Tony” Apodaca. I believe without the guidance of my aunts and uncle I would’ve been lost. My big sis Sheryl, brothers Alex and Will, niece Jodi were there for support and comfort all the time. Thank you.

Also thanks to all his children, grandchildren, friends, and family for all their help and prayers. Tony appreciated you for it. Although he will be missed dearly, I know he was welcomed by his Heavenly Father.

We were all blessed by the choirs who shared the celebration of his life. Let him be that example of how we can overcome trials in life with laughter and a smile. Because through it all he knew there is only one way and through him we will see Tony again. Also his family at Casa Blanca Assembly of God, and his extended family at GRHCC. A special thanks to all the pallbearers/honorary pallbearers, who laid him down in his final resting place. Your help is greatly appreciated. So rest in peace My Lu, I’ll see you again my PEGGLE King. With much love and respect, your wife, Elizabeth Apodaca.

On March 9, 2015 we laid to rest Mr. Reynold “Tony” Apodaca. I believe without the guidance of my aunts and uncle I would’ve been lost. My big sis Sheryl, brothers Alex and Will, niece Jodi were there for support and comfort all the time. Thank you.

Also thanks to all his children, grandchildren, friends, and family for all their help and prayers. Tony appreciated you for it. Although he will be missed dearly, I know he was welcomed by his Heavenly Father.

We were all blessed by the choirs who shared the celebration of his life. Let him be that example of how we can overcome trials in life with laughter and a smile. Because through it all he knew there is only one way and through him we will see Tony again. Also his family at Casa Blanca Assembly of God, and his extended family at GRHCC. A special thanks to all the pallbearers/honorary pallbearers, who laid him down in his final resting place. Your help is greatly appreciated. So rest in peace My Lu, I’ll see you again my PEGGLE King. With much love and respect, your wife, Elizabeth Apodaca.
GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis Applauds Navajo Nation’s Support for Keep the Promise Act

Sacaton, AZ – On Thursday, June 11, 2015, the Navajo Nation unanimously passed by a vote of 18-0 a resolution expressing its support for the Keep the Promise Act, which is pending before the U.S. Congress. The Gila River Indian Community commends the Navajo Nation for its support of this critical legislation, which would preserve the current system of Indian Tribal gaming in Arizona through 2026. In 2002, Arizona voters approved the existing Tribal-State gaming compacts which provide Tribal governments with the exclusive right to conduct gaming in Arizona and ensure that both urban and rural Tribes receive critical revenue from that gaming.

“The Gila River Indian Community is grateful for the Navajo Nation’s support of the Keep the Promise Act and its commitment to upholding our promise among Arizona’s Tribes and the state and Arizona voters,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “The existing system of Tribal gaming in Arizona benefits all Tribes and it’s important that we all work to protect that system and stick together in the face of adversity. We are proud to stand with the Navajo Nation to pursue enactment of this important legislation.”

The Keep the Promise Act, sponsored by Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake and Rep. Trent Franks and supported by virtually the entire state Congressional delegation, would prevent any additional casinos from being built in the Phoenix metropolitan area until after the expiration of the state’s voter-approved gaming compacts in 2026.

Such casino openings could pave the way to the Arizona Legislature allowing non-tribal commercial casinos, causing an explosion of tribal and non-tribal gaming statewide.

With the support of the Navajo Nation, the Keep the Promise Act is now supported by 17 Tribal Nations from around the country, as well as numerous municipalities in Arizona.

Contact:
David Leibowitz
602-317-1414
david@leibowitzsolo.com

Copyright © 2015 All rights reserved.

Patient Wristbands

To avoid a delay, please wear the wristband given to you during registration.

All patients are required to have a wristband prior to receiving services at the Lab or Radiology.

---

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**PROBATE CODE**

The Legislative Standing Committee will be considering a revision to the Probate Code at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., located in Conference Room B of the Community Council Secretary’s Office. A copy of the proposed revised ordinance in its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary’s Office.

The Current Probate Code was last amended in 1985 and currently conflicts with federal law. The Draft Probate Code will provide a statutory means for adjudicating probate estates within the Community. The Draft Probate Code also provides the Community Court jurisdiction to probate real and personal property that is not considered federal trust property.

If you are interested in providing comments to the revisions of the Probate Code, please attend the Legislative Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., or you may contact your Council representative and/or the Legislative Standing Committee chairperson at (520) 562-9730. For more information contact the Office of General Counsel at (520) 562-9700.

---

**Gila River Indian News**

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

**COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**Saturday, June 20**

- O’otham New Year Gathering
  - Mul-Chu-Tha Fairgrounds Cultural Circle
  - 5:30 pm to sunrise on Sunday, June 21
  - Welcome in the O’otham new year with an evening of traditional games, singing and dancing. Camping available. Evening meal and breakfast will be served.
  - Contact the Community Services Department at 520-562-9691 for more information.

**Wednesday, June 24**

- D4 Seniors FREE Quarterly Bingo
  - D4 Service Center
  - 9:00 am (Pickup at 8:00 am)
  - GRIC enrolled Community members only.
  - Must be 55 years and up, residing in D4.
  - Call Agatha Apkaw for more information: 520-418-3661

---

**Patient Wristbands**

To avoid a delay, please wear the wristband given to you during registration.

All patients are required to have a wristband prior to receiving services at the Lab or Radiology.
GRIC Students Earn Trip to Washington DC through GRICUA  

By Christopher Lomahquahu  
Gila River Indian News  

Two GRIC students have been given the opportunity to participate in the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Washington, D.C. youth tour. A dinner was hosted in their honor to send them o...
Blackwater Student Chosen as Panelist for Leadership Event

By Terry Willis
JOM Student Advisor, Coolidge High School

Graduating senior Darius Jackson of Coolidge High School was chosen from many students around the state to attend the Arizona School Board Association Leadership Strategies Event April 9, at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix. Darius was one of four who was chosen to be on a panel discussion entitled “Student Voices.”

The panel moderator was former 12 News anchor Kim Covington. Ms. Covington did an outstanding job engaging all four students with her friendly and personal style. She said talking with exceptional students is something she is very passionate about.

Panelist introduced themselves by grade and the school they attend. They were asked about programs in their school, the community they are from, and what challenges they have experienced along their learning journey. They also shared about the people or programs in their school or community that helped them overcome obstacles and advice or suggestions for their community leaders.

Darius spoke very highly of his community and the future goals for his life. Darius shared, “on my reservation I take a lot of pride in being a youth representative on my tribe’s youth council.” He stated his ambition in life is to better himself and all of those around him by leading by example. His ultimate dream is to make a positive difference in the world and strive for greatness. One of his goals in life is to never drink. He shared that he has lost a lot of loved ones to drugs and alcohol. Darius has received a full ride scholarship from ASU. He will be majoring in Health and Wellness and has great hopes of becoming a Sports Medicine Doctor.

I had the opportunity to know Darius when he attended Ho-hokam Middle School and to work with him again this year as he did his senior year here at Coolidge High School. He is truly a leader, a very respectful young man with a positive personality. Darius stayed very involved in many activities here on campus such as the National Junior Honor Society and was in the Top Ten GPA for four years. His hobbies include playing basketball, playing the piano and listening to music. Darius was a positive role model here on campus and was truly liked by all staff, administration and peers.

It was a great honor for me to be able to attend this event. We were accompanied by GRIC JOM K-12 Coordinator Marissa Yazzie, Coolidge High School Principal Dawn Dee Hodge, and Coolidge Superintendent Charie Wallace.

Congratulations Darius! You will be missed. Good look in all you do!

Miss Indian Arizona

From Page 1

participants from each tribe to participate. Preference is given to the Tribal Royalty Title Holder but one other application is accepted on a first come first serve basis. It was our hope that this would open up the scholarships to others who have not held titles or tribes who do not have pageants. It is anticipated that this year we may have a larger than normal number of participants which will be a challenge and will make the program more exciting than ever.

The Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program is held the second week of October each year at the Chandler Center for the Arts in Chandler, AZ. This year that date is October 10, 2015. The program will start at 6:30 pm. A pre-program may be needed should we have an increased number of participants, which may mean two days of competition. Further notice will be provided regarding this possibility.

It takes a large number of volunteers to make the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program a success and to assure that the participants are well prepared. Although most assignments for this year’s program have been made, the Miss Indian Arizona Association is constantly recruiting volunteers. But do not apply unless you are ready to work and depending on your assignment you won’t have time to enjoy the program. But we can say that you will meet some very special young women who you will never forget!

Miss Indian Arizona has exhibited a program of high integrity during the many years of our existence and is always striving for improvement and growth. Our judge’s selection is based on nominations from the members and lists are kept of previous judges and every effort is made to assure the diversity of their selection and that the judges understand the requirements for Miss Indian Arizona and her court. The MIAA meets with parents/chaperones at both pre-orientation and orientation. Everything is explained and provided in writing and each participant and parents sign an agreement with MIAA to abide by all rules and regulations should their daughter be selected Miss Indian Arizona, First or Second Attendant. All rehearsals are closed to everyone except the MIAA Volunteers and the participants. The Program Director is selected and appointed by the MIAA and has the full responsibility of the programs. The process has been developed over many years taking into consideration all the possible situations which can occur in a program of this type. Is it perfect? Not yet! It never fails when we think we have it all together a situation will arise! So we put our minds together and work to resolve it in the best interest of Miss Indian Arizona.

Time has flown by so quickly since last year when Shasta Dazen, White Mountain Apache and her court, Martha Martinez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Shaandiin Parrish, Navajo, were selected as your Ambassadors representing Arizona. They have all had a whirlwind of activity and we couldn’t have been represented by a more active and talented trio.

Applications for the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program are on line at www.misssindianarizona.com. The first deadline for applications is June 26, 2015 and the final deadline for receipt of applications is July 31, 2015. We welcome applications from all young Indian women meeting the eligibility criteria. It will be a great experience and an enjoyable memory.

Join us as we continue the historical journey of Miss Indian Arizona.
**CULTURE & HISTORY**

**Ramona Farms**

*From Page 1*

now they are starting to realize what they are.

In the late 70’s, elders concerned about the tepary bean going extinct leased their lands to the Buttons, asking them to bring the tradition-al O’otham crop back and to grow “more traditional crops.” The But-tions now grow three types of tepa-ry beans—white, brown, and black along with other traditional crops. Around that time, the Buttons also started to grow native corn in the traditional style.

Five varieties of corn are grown on the farm: Pima 60-Day Corn (a plant native to O’otham lands and formerly grown by O’otham ances-tors), Havasupai Corn, pink and blue Hopi Corn from Moenkopi, and blue Santo Domingo Pueblo Corn.

All of the traditional corns are harvested by hand, open-pollinated and free of pesticides and genetically modified organisms because, as Ter-ry said, they want to stick to “tradi-tional crops and methods.”

The food they grow is organic and more healthful than commer-cialized products. The Buttons think that if everyone on the reservation ate the natural, native foods of the land, rather than processed foods, health problems in the community may de-crase drastically.

Ramona Farms products include whole tepary beans, wheat pinole, pilkan haak chu’i (fin ground parched Pima wheat pinole), parched Pima commeal, parched Pima corn, huu’ haak chu’i (Pima corn pinole), ga’iva (stone ground co- roasted Pima corn) and huu’ ga’ (whole kernel cob roasted Pima corn).

They sell these products both in the reservation, as well as to restau-rants and stores such, as Whole Foods, off the reservation.

The farm gives a 10% discount on products to any enrolled tribal member, but to receive the discount, you have to visit the Farms’ head-quarters, from where the family op-erates its business and where work-ers package and label their products.

It is on the north side of Highway 87, past St. Anne church heading west, just before Santan Baptist Church Road.

On the product labels there are suggestions on how to prepare and serve the package contents. There is also a little description on how the product was made and facts of how they were used in the past.

Ramona Farms products are available online at www.ramonafarms.com, where you can also find preparation tips and recipes.

**Indigenous Perspectives Conference**

*From Page 1*

prem Court in 1968, Winters v. Unit-ed States. There, the court ruled water in the west was on a first come first serve basis, and if tribes can prove they have existed in a certain area lon-ger than American settlers, they have “senior rights” to the water.

Lewis based his arguments for GRC water rights on this court deci-sion and Echobar began encourag-ing tribes to pursue water rights cases in the west in the 1970’s and 80’s.

Jason Hauter, Senior Council at Akin Gump, presented on water set-tlement implementation challenges and possible solutions to think about in the process of water settlements. Many problems include acquiring funding for the cost of delivering water to a desired place and mechanisms to keep future water use affordable. Possible solutions require striving for “max flexibility,” which means fewer restrictions on water and being able to use federal funds to further water set-tlement goals.

Those goals include tribes turn-ing water rights into paper on “wet water,” which allows them to pursue agricultural, economic or environmental needs to bring back the natural habitats and animals native to their communities.

In the end, Gila River’s goal is to restore the tribe’s agri-cultural economy and bringing back the river.

On the subject enti-tled “Partnership and Collab-oration of Tribal Water Use: Our Youth Represent the Future,” Steetson Mendoza from Gila Crossing Com-munity School shared about the school’s Garden Program and the types of work students perform to maintain vegetation uti-lizing traditional practices and crops. Mendoza said that he teaches children O’otham history first so, “they are motivated, knowing they come from a long line of farmers.”

Ramona Farms model was 28 year-old Janene Yazzie from Black Mesa, Arizona, who gave a moving presen-tation entitled “Our Shared Struggle and Shared Future: Creating a New Legacy.”

Yazzie shared with attendees some of the struggles the Navajo Nation faces when it comes to water usage and traditional practices. She reports the Navajo Nation lacks clean water and has few active clean water wells, but the water in some other wells on the reservation are unsafe for human consumption.

Her message to the audience was to be more “responsible with water usage” because, while everyone in the Southwest shares and depends on the Colorado River, tribes suffer the most to support thriving Arizona cities.

**Left: Ramona Button shows off some ripe traditional Pima 60-Day Corn. Right: A display of Ramona Farms products.**

**Solution on Page 9**

**Match the O’otham Insect name with its Picture!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insect Name</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a’anam thothoñ</td>
<td>![Image](Image 193x40 to 491x355)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gakimchul</td>
<td>![Image](Image 296x644 to 487x930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thothoñ</td>
<td>![Image](Image 296x644 to 487x930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wi:mal</td>
<td>![Image](Image 296x644 to 487x930)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Page 7**
Whether you’re a homeowner or professional excavator, every digging job requires a call — even small projects — so be sure to:

• Call 811 at least two days before starting any digging project
• Wait for the site to be marked
• Respect the marks
• Dig with care

Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere. If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, call 911 and Southwest Gas at 1-877-860-6020 immediately, whether you’re our customer or not.

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

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has notified the Per Capita Office that the combination of the Name and Social Security #s reported to them from the Per Capita Office for some recipients do not match.

The Per Capita Office has attempted to contact these members via phone or US mail; all have been notified via certified mail. This notice is to officially inform those who have not responded that we will continue to withhold 100% of any future distributions until a corrected W-9 and Social Security Card are provided to the Per Capita Office. The hold was effective beginning with the April 30, 2015 payroll and will continue with the next payroll on July 31, 2015.

If you are affected by this, your Per Capita payment will not be issued until an updated W-9 and Social Security Card is received by the Per Capita Office. Upon receipt of an updated Social Security Card, your Per Capita distribution will be released to you in a form of a check.

If you have questions or need further assistance about this notice, please contact the Per Capita Office at (520) 562-5222, (866) 416-2618 or go to www.mygilaiver.com/percapita

MATH ACHIEVEMENT

NAME: 

Eleanor Lynch  Neva Jackson  Jerome Niedo
Gabrielle Kisto  Hayden Thomas  Joeareda Paul
Dylan Charles  Carlos Penunuri  Jayme Webb-Holglin
Alyshia Bankettewa  Eric Fulwilder  Tranit Jackson
Laina Osife  Damien Niedo  Dreveya Santos
Jaydon Smith  Kaleb White  Peyton Yazzie
Syndel Preston  Darrell Brooks III  Daylen Vavages
Anaya Marquez  Daumen Anderson  Aryanha Jones
Jovan Garcia  Amrndo Osife  Cheyenne Pedro
Tiana Peters  Joshua Setoyant  Nathan Thompson
Myra Penunuri  Ermie Malettia  Natalie Garcia
Deen Miller  Joanne Schiech  Silayn Miranda
Henece Lewis  Kaylee Luna  Dommnic Franco
Sadie Villa  Joseph Lewis  Kallinh Howard
Joyl Lewis  Zee Youngman  Raquel Manuel
Joseph Velasco  Dora Escalante  Diego Acuna
Cody Antolo  Vandette Lopez  Reyanna Makil
Caesar Juan  Constance Moreno  Caetsil Makil
Daniel Miller  Jennifer Webb-Medina  Haven Palbo
Yngacis Juan  Preston Tekala  Elian Ortiz
Savannah Gutierrez  Zariah Jackson-Juan  Jayden Pablo
Cindy Lopez  Drena Manual  Elinna Just
Violet Marden  Royal Allen  Patrick Johnson
Kevin Pratt  Nicolas Garcia  Roven Luna
Reyana Isais  Payton Yazzie  Neva Jackson
Reader isai  Jovana Isais  Amdona Miguel

PER CAPITA MINOR TRUST ACCOUNTS
Submit your request to Providence First Trust as early as possible in the quarter. Early submittal gives Providence a chance to review your request and notify you if further information or a correction is needed. Call Providence at (800)350-0208 or (480)282-8812 if you have questions.

PER CAPITA OFFICE INFO
The PCO is open Monday – Friday, 8 A.M. – 5 P.M. You may call our direct line (520) 562-5222 or (866)416-2618. Please leave your Name, Tribal ID#, Call back # and why you are calling. Information and forms are also available on the website www.mygilaiver.com and/or we can mail the information to you.
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Employee of the Month
March

Corina stepped up to the plate in a difficult situation when both leaders of DRS were no longer present. In order to be a true leader one must believe in the mission of the department and more importantly believe in those who carry out the mission. Corina truly believes in both.

I have seen Corina grow into her position as the acting chief administrator. We’ve had many conversations ranging from budgetary, staffing, safety, and security matters. She understands the issues, is open to suggestions and if she didn’t know the answer she would do her research and get back to me.

I would often tell Corina, “You are in charge. Be a leader.” I would also say, “Take the high road. Always be professional.” A good leader surrounds themselves with good people with specific knowledge, skills, and abilities. Thank you to those who supported Corina and DRS through this transitional period.

I would like to leave you with this quote from President Kennedy who said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciations is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

Submitted by Manuel John

Corina stepped up to the plate in a difficult situation when both leaders of DRS were no longer present. In order to be a true leader one must believe in the mission of the department and more importantly believe in those who carry out the mission. Corina truly believes in both.

I have seen Corina grow into her position as the acting chief administrator. We’ve had many conversations ranging from budgetary, staffing, safety, and security matters. She understands the issues, is open to suggestions, and if she didn’t know the answer she would do her research and get back to me.

I would often tell Corina, “You are in charge. Be a leader.” I would also say, “Take the high road. Always be professional.” A good leader surrounds themselves with good people with specific knowledge, skills, and abilities. Thank you to those who supported Corina and DRS through this transitional period.

I would like to leave you with this quote from President Kennedy who said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciations is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

Submitted by Manuel John.
STORM SEASON IS UPON US!

Make sure you have a corded phone incase of emergencies this monsoon season!

AT&T Corded/Cordless Answering System with Caller ID and Call Waiting

$57.75

or $19.25 for 3 months.

Corded handset works in a power outage.
MONSOON AWARENESS SAFETY TIPS:
Every year, the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) is subject to a variety of severe weather threats in association with the annual Monsoon Storm. The period from June 15th through September 30th has been declared the Monsoon Season based on climatology. The Gila River Office of Emergency Management (OEM) would like to make some suggestions for being prepared Monsoon Season and for any emergency. In the past, dust storms, flash floods, wildfires, extreme heat and severe weather have threatened the Gila River Indian Community. Now also consider the possibility of home fires and brush fires that may impact your family.

**Make a Plan:**
Create a disaster plan with your family so you all know what to do in the event of an emergency. This includes how your family will communicate in an emergency, how to find each other, where to exit from your home and neighborhood. It is important to take everyone’s needs in to consideration including seniors, people with disabilities, children and pets.

**Be Informed:**
Learn what to do before and during an emergency. The Office of Emergency Management has distributed flyers and brochures throughout the Community to assist you and your family as to what you can do during different types of emergencies. During an emergency you can also call the OEM Hotline at (520)562-9595 to get the latest update.

**Power and Communications Outages Safety:**
- Be extra cautious when you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm. Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by trees or debris, and could be live. DO NOT TOUCH.
- Use cell phone, cordless phones do not work without electricity.
- During a thunderstorm, turn off the AC unit. Power surges from lightning can overload units.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed – food will stay fresh up to 8 hours.

**Flash Flood Safety:**
- Most flash flood deaths occur in vehicles.
- Moving water 2-3 feet deep will carry away most vehicles.
- Keep children away from creeks and washes when heavy rain is in the area.
- Be especially careful at night when water depth and road conditions are harder to see.
- If driving, and blocked by water over a roadway, wait for the water to subside or find an alternate route to your destination. Do not drive into the water.

Are you prepared in the event of an emergency? for more information.
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 1576C S. Nelson Drive, Chandler, AZ 85226 | Phone: 520-796-3755