2015 Water Rights Day
GRIC Recognizes Historic Water Rights Settlement with an Anniversary Celebration for the Community

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during his formal address on the anniversary of GRIC’s historic water settlement.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

On the eleventh anniversary of the signing of the Arizona Water Settlement Act, the Gila River Indian Community honored past and present leaders at the 2015 Water Rights Celebration.

At the Rawhide Western Town Frontier Hall on Dec. 10, the festivities highlighted a mixture of culture, history and the current state of GRIC’s water plan.

Billy Allen, District 5, and Daryl Lynn Jay, District 6, facilitated the program, which included addresses from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, former Gov. Donald Antone Sr., and water rights video presentations.

In his address, Gov. Lewis emphasized GRIC’s efforts to reclaim their water rights. “It’s important to talk about our story, both historical and contemporary,” Gov. Lewis also outlined the establishment of a permanent water fund that will allow the community to utilize Central Arizona Project water in a financially responsible way.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also acknowledged past GRIC leaders who fought for water rights. “We cannot go forward, without honoring our past,” said Lt. Gov. Antone.

Lt. Gov. Antone hinted at the many possibilities that are afforded to tribal members that will be the backbone of GRIC’s water infrastructure as projects get underway.

The Community is using its shared gaming revenue program to support its efforts.

“‘All of the veterans’ services are around Pinal County, and we don’t have very many services available in our communities,’” said Kim Rodriguez. “So our thought was to have something that would take the services to the veterans.”

Rodriguez is the Chairperson of Honoring/Hiring/Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County (HOHP). The group set a goal last year to raise money for a mobile unit that could drive around Pinal County and offer services to veterans in their neighborhoods.

HOHP’s prayers were answered in a fortuitous encounter with the director of the Pinal County Health Department, Tom Schreyer. “Our five-year goal was to have a mobile unit, and we had it in two months,” Rodriguez said.

Pinal County purchased a mobile medical unit several years ago, but utilized it less and less as new clinics opened in the region. The mobile unit was sitting, waiting to serve a new purpose when Rodriguez mentioned her mission to Schreyer.

Pinal County sold the mobile unit to HOHP for $1, and the Community is using its raised funds to support the mobile unit.

Continued on Page 11

Community Council Tours Mobile Unit for Veterans

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

An independent non-profit organization is offering an innovative solution to helping veterans in Pinal County obtain and receive the benefits they are entitled to and the Community is using its shared gaming revenue program to support its efforts.

“‘All of the veterans’ services are around Pinal County, and we don’t have very many services available in our communities,’” said Kim Rodriguez. “So our thought was to have something that would take the services to the veterans.”

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Continued on Page 6
If you need medical assistance, visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

483 W. Seed Farm Road
Sacoza, Arizona 85147

(520) 562-3321 • (602) 528-1240

Komatke Health Center

17487 S. Health Care Dr.
Laveen, Arizona 85339

(520) 550-6000

Ak-Chin Clinic

4203 W. Farrell Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85139

(520) 568-3881

Gila River Indian Community

Crisis Line

1-800-259-3449

Komatke Area Drainage Master Study Area

The Komatke Area Drainage Master Study (ADMS) is currently underway. The study will:

- Identify flooding hazards within the Komatke Village of District 6.
- Prioritize flooding problems for possible mitigation that pose the greatest risks to Community members and their property.
- Develop possible options to minimize flooding hazards, and
- Recommend flood mitigation concepts and strategies.

STUDY BOUNDARIES

- The 11.6-mile study area boundaries are approximately Estrella Road to the north, Santa Cruz and Gil-Valle interection to the south, Gila River to the west and the reservation boundary to the east. Please see the study area map on the following page.
- Major features of the study area include the South Mountains, the Veo Quees oasis, community facilities and housing developments.

STUDY SCHEDULE

The study began in December 2015 and is expected to conclude in spring 2016. The study will:

- Identify flooding hazards within the Komatke Village of District 6.
- Prioritize flooding problems for possible mitigation that pose the greatest risks to Community members and their property.
- Develop possible options to minimize flooding hazards, and
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STUDY SCHEDULE

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Study Area

For more information, contact Herb Clah, at (520) 562-3321 Ext.1299 or hclah@grhc.org. Or go to www.grhc.org/navigator.

The Navigator Program is committed to increasing the employment of its Gila River Indian Community members by launching the Navigator Program, a program that provides upward mobility for aspiring Community members desiring career paths in health care.

Eligibility: to be considered for a Navigator Program position, you must be a member of the Gila River Indian Community and apply online at GRHC.ORG. The Navigator Program will prepare candidates to meet the minimum qualifications of designated health care positions, including: Human Resources Recruiter, Digital & Video Coordinator, Mammography Coordinator, Radiologic Technologist, RN & LPN, Eligibility Clerk, Patient Registration Clerk and Collector.

Navigators are placed with supervisors who have the capability to train and mentor and coach visible candidates. Upon completion of the six-month training period, successful navigators will become a full-time employee.

The Navigator Program training plan will:

- Identify how the applicant will be trained using basic skills and competencies; develop action plans taken to ensure the applicant masters the needed competencies and ensure opportunities for employee shadowing and mentoring to ensure a competency level for meeting the minimum qualifications of the position is achieved.

For more information, contact Heidi Clah, at (520) 562-3321 Ext.1299 or hclah@grhc.org. Or go to www.grhc.org/navigator.
Artwork by Wayne Narcia

December 18, 2015
Community Updates

Community Volunteers Are Needed to Provide Free Tax Help to the Gila River Indian Community and Employees

PHOENIX - Last year 2,296 Arizonans gave back to their communities as volunteers providing free tax services by preparing more than 86,000 Federal and state of Arizona individual income tax returns through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs.

“The IRS and its partners are looking for volunteers that are interested in taking a little time to learn about taxes and then helping others by preparing federal and state income tax returns for free,” said IRS spokesperson, Bill Brunson. “Volunteers are certified to prepare simple, non-business tax returns for people with low to moderate incomes. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to volunteer. There is a role for anyone who is interested and wants to help give back to their community.”

For residents of the East Valley, there is an opportunity to volunteer nearby to provide free tax help to the Gila River Indian Community and their employees.

Anyone can be a volunteer and volunteers are needed to help at this site as tax return preparers and quality reviewers. The site coordinator may also prepare returns.

All volunteers will be provided with free training materials on how to prepare basic individual income tax returns and how to file them electronically. Instruction will cover both federal and state of Arizona, Department of Revenue individual income tax returns.

Training is usually held in January and volunteers generally study online with Link & Learn Taxeesto obtain their volunteer certification. The Link & Learn program is an interactive course that teaches all of the basics needed to prepare simple income tax returns accurately for individuals. Classroom training may also be offered.

Once certified, volunteers generally spend three to four hours per week volunteering during the months of February, March and April. Last year, Arizona families received over 95 million dollars in federal refunds using the VITA/TCE programs to prepare their taxes.

To volunteer for the Gila River Indian Community free tax help site, send an email to william.tyler@gric.nsn.us. More information about the IRS volunteer tax preparation program is available at www.IRS.gov, keyword ‘Tax Volunteer’.

Community Events

Tribal Education Department

**Tutoring for K-12 students**

D1: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm

D2: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Casa Grande Union High School Room C109 Computer Lab Tuesday through Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 pm

For more information, contact 520-562-3662

**District 4 Winter Gathering**

Dec. 19 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

D4 Park

For more information, contact: 520-418-3661

**District 5 Breakfast with Santa**

Dec. 19 8:30 am to 10:30 am,

Vah Ki Multipurpose Building Gymnasium

For more information, contact: 520-315-3441

**District 6 Ugly Christmas Sweater and Youth Christmas Pajama Party**

Dec. 22 5:00 to 8:00 pm

D6 Learning Center

For more information, please contact: 520-550-3805

**Public Notice: Sacaton Road Closure for construction**


For more information, please call the GRICDOT at: 520-562-0952

**District 7 Christmas Party**

Dec. 19 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm,

D7 Service Center Gym

For more information, contact 520-430-4780

**District 7 New Years Eve Celebration**

Dec. 31 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

D7 Amphitheater

For more information, contact 520-430-4780

**District 4 Kickball Round Robin Tournament**

Jan. 9, games start at 9:00 pm

D4 Ball Park

Deadline is Jan. 4

For more information, contact: 520-418-3661

**Miss Gila River Royalty Pageant Applications are Now Available!!!**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS Friday, January 15, 2016 5:00P.M.

Applications can be obtained at the GRIC Communications & Public Affairs Office, located in the Governance Center Executive Wing, Sacaton, AZ or at your local Service Center. Digital copies can be requested by e-mailing missgilariver@gric.nsn.us or calling (520) 562-9848

**The Eligibility Criteria for Contestants Are Non-Negotiable**

Submit completed original applications and required materials to the GRIC Communications & Public Affairs Office only. Faxed applications will not be accepted!!

Gila River Royalty Committee

P.O. BOX 459 Sacaton, AZ 85147 • Phone: (520) 562-9848 • missgilariver@gric.nsn.us
Find a new dentist.

The Smile Generation® is your trusted source for dental recommendations. We connect you with great dentists around the Gila River Indian community who are dedicated to delivering thoughtful, modern care with advanced technology. We’re proud to accept Cigna insurance along with many other plans.

Locations near you

LAS TIENDAS DENTAL GROUP
480-782-1555 | LastiendasDental.com
Northeast corner of Alma School & Queen Creek

PROMENADE DENTAL GROUP AND ORTHODONTICS
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 S1st Ave and Baseline

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

Applications for assistance may be made
IN PERSON
at 403 SEED FARM ROAD
Mondays through Thursdays from
9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00

By Phone: 520-562-3369
Online: sazlegalaid.org

Community members and residents may be eligible for

Free Legal Help
FOUR RIVERS INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES
a division of Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

Assistance with:
• Divorce/Custody
• Paternity
• Child Support
• Adult and Minor Guardianship
• Criminal Defense
• Wills and Estates
• Child in Need of Care
• Repossessions and Consumer Cases

Sheri Cassa, TCA
Ext: 4224

Jeffrey Thomas, TCA
Ext: 4222

Rebecca Webb
Ext: 4225

Fred Pinsky, Esq.
Ext: 4228

Habib Pierce-Byrd, Esq.
Ext: 4223
DEQ Hosts Annual Winter Bird Count

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

O’otham and Pee Posh culture holds birds of all types in high regard. Both tribes have passed on traditions and songs about a young man who lost his family and how the kindness of the eagle helped him find them. Brenda Robertson, a former, long-time District 5 Council Representative, talked about the significance of birds in Akimel O’otham culture and lore.

“Over the years, we track changes and trends and... maybe relate that to some of the development or the land-use changes that are going on,” said Enos.

After a few hours in the field, all the groups met up at the Huhugam Heritage Center to recognize the cultural significance of birds with songs and dances from both tribes.

Enos peered into a long-range scope for a close-up view of dabbling ducks paddling in water. After setting the sight, he invited others in the group to have a look.

The group in District 6 visited three sites and saw a number of ducks, quail, egrets, herons and hawks, as well as a peregrine falcon. The first bird counted was a dark red cardinal outside of Komakie Market, and near the end, a little kingfisher was spotted perched on a power line.

“The Gila River Indian Community is the only tribal nation in the United States to do its own bird count in 1995 and it is a unique event among tribal reservations.”

At the first bird count, and at each event since, [DEQ] made sure that every young person got a bird field guidebook, they got to use binoculars and learn how to use binoculars,” said Patricia Mariella.

Mariella is the director of Arizona State University’s American Indian Policy Institute, but she was the first director of GRIC DEQ in 1995 and helped the bird count get started.

“The Gila River Indian Community is the only tribal nation in the United States to do its own bird count, and it is a fantastic event. It is widely respected throughout the United States,” said Mariella.

“The idea of the bird count was to get people out in the environment, to connect them with the environment, and the bird count was a great way to do this,” said Enos, a DEQ Aquatic Scientist.

The bird count also has scientific benefits. DEQ and Audubon members count and record the different species and quantity of each they see.

“Over the years, we track changes and trends... maybe relate that to some of the development or the land-use changes that are going on,” said Enos.

After a few hours in the field, all the groups met up at the Huhugam Heritage Center to recognize the cultural significance of birds with songs and dances from both tribes.

Brenda Robertson, a former, long-time District 5 Council Representative, talked about the significance of birds in Akimel O’otham culture and lore.

There are a lot of birds in the desert that the O’otham communicate with and respect, “but the eagle is different,” she said. “We have many stories regarding the eagle – how powerful, how helpful he is to us.”

She then told a tale that demonstrated the strength and kindness of the eagle, about a young man who lost his family and how the eagle helped him find them.

“The Community has deep ties to the birds from thousands of years back,” said Enos. “Birds, in a lot of ways, directed the life of the Akimel O’othams... And we’re kind of getting that connection back, here with the bird count [where] the older members can tell their stories and connect with the younger people through birds.”

The First Bird Count was in 1998 and it is a unique look at the winged creatures across Pinal County are going on,” said Enos. “Birds, in a lot of ways, directed the life of the Akimel O’othams... And we’re kind of getting that connection back, here with the bird count [where] the older members can tell their stories and connect with the younger people through birds.”

The Eagle One mobile unit will be used to provide on-site services for veterans in Pinal County, which includes most of the Gila River Indian Community.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Two young Community member bird-watchers search for a sign of flight in the distance. The Winter Bird Count aims to get more young people involved to learn about the ecology in GRIC and the cultural significance of birds in O’otham and Pee Posh history.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

A flock of ducks break from the trees. Birds enjoy a variety of different landscapes in the Gila River Indian Community.
S-ko:mag Mashath
‘Gray/Brown Month’

S-ko:mag Mashath means the “gray/brown month” in our Akimel O’otham Neok, and refers to the desert plants that go dormant during the winter months. This annual occurrence leaves our jeved various shades of s-ko:mag (gray and brown).

As we swing into the thick of the holiday season in the days ahead, we balance work, school, home-life, secret shopping and especially decorating our homes for the big day ahead. As we travel through town we see parking lot after parking lot encouraging us to stop and buy a Christmas tree. I remember when O’otham used to think outside the box when it came to decorating for the holidays. One innovative family used a branch of kúk chehethag (palo verde) tree that was shaped into a Christmas tree as their holiday tree. Another family used a dried hadshadkam (teddy-bear cholla) cactus plant skeleton that was spray painted white and hung with ornaments and beaded garlands.

As we travel around the valleys we see how other people have adapted to using desert plants as a base to decorate their yards. A few desert plants used for the holidays include dried vopotham sha’i (common tumbleweed), ha:shañ (saguaro cactus), melok (ocotillo), and hevhothakud (desert fan-palm). One desert cactus that is associated with the holidays is a’aj nav (Christmas cholla) this is due to the fact that it bears fruit during this time of year. This month’s word match will focus on desert plants used as holiday decorations.

We encourage you to learn these words and used them in your everyday lives. We also encourage you to think outside the box when it comes to decorating for the holidays. From all of our families here at your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish everyone a S-he:kig Jios Alithag Ma:sig Thash ch heg Vechij Aithag!
Take a look back at some of our favorite moments of the year. Let’s remember all the wonderful things that happened in GRIC and here’s to a happy 2016.

Photos by the Gila River Indian News and contributors: Mikhail Sundust, Christopher Lomahquahu, Annie Gutierrez, Ashley Pasqual and Roberto A. Jackson.
For all the wonderful things that happened in GRIC and here’s to a happy 2016.
The Force Awakens at Annual River of Lights Parade in Sacaton

Santa Claus and Sith Lords joined forces on Dec. 5, bringing holiday cheer to the Gila River Indian Community at the River of Lights Parade.

With the release of the new Star Wars film just days away, the theme of the night was “The Christmas Force Awakens.”

A cast of characters from the galactic empire marched down Casa Blanca Road in Sacaton, including some new characters from the upcoming movie.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis led the march and wished Community members a happy holidays from behind a mask of the new Star Wars villain Kylo Ren.

Other participating departments and groups included Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Gila River Royalty, The Boys & Girls Club, GRIC Department of Transportation, Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority, Management Information Systems, District 4 Service Center, Tribal Image Car Club, and the Gila River Police Department.

Santa brought up the rear in a Gila River Fire Department engine, presumably because there wasn’t enough snow in Sacaton for his big red sleigh.

After the parade, Santa took gift requests from children at the Sacaton Wellness Center. This wasn’t the last chance to see the big guy before the big day. Santa will be at the Vahki Multipurpose building for breakfast on Saturday morning, Dec. 19. All are welcome!

Early Education brings Christmas cheer to the Caring House

The season for sharing came upon the residents at the Caring House on Dec. 15 as children from the Early Education Program in District 3 came by to sing Christmas carols. Led by the Mentor Teacher Ame Edwards, the group of children from various classrooms ranging in ages lent their voices to the residents with smiles as the little ones sang Christmas melodies like Jingle Bells, We Wish You A Merry Christmas and Silent Night, in which they joined singing in unison.

Reuben Jenkins is a humble man with a heart for service, who dedicated his life to God and country. The 85-year-old combat veteran, who over half a century ago could be seen diving into the Korean battlefield from the sky above, is a passionate supporter of veterans’ rights and spends his days honoring those others who fought for their country and for freedom.

Jenkins enlisted in the Army in 1952, during the Korean War. He was assigned to the 11th Airborne 187th Regimental Combat Team (aka “Rakkasans”) and was sent straight into battle after basic training. “We were mostly stationed in Japan and then when they needed us over in Korea, sort of like a punch…they’d send us over and we’d do what we had to do,” Jenkins said.

The war was brutal, he said, but he survived by trusting God. “When you go into a combat zone, you’re always afraid about maybe you’re going to get killed… So, you just put everything in God’s hands. I prayed a lot… and my prayers were answered because I came back without a scratch. So I’m thankful for that.”

Jenkins was on the front lines of the battle when he heard the sudden call for the cease-fire. It was July 27, 1953.

During his time in Korea he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. A few months after the cease-fire, Jenkins re-enlisted for another three years and was stationed for a short time in Germany. Jenkins left the service in March of 1957, but his heart continues to pour out for those who fought and died in the line of duty.

“I was proud and honored that I could serve my country when they needed me,” said Jenkins. Life is challenging for any veteran adjusting to civilian life. When he returned home, Jenkins said, “I ended up on skid row, because of my Christian upbringing, I was able to overcome that.”

Jenkins’s grandfather Joseph Wellington from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, was a Presbyterian minister. When Reuben’s father passed, his mother married Joshua Porter (GRIC D4), who was also a Presbyterian minister, and he attended a Presbytean high school.

“I was brought up in all that,” he said, “so [it] helped me out with the problems I got into when I was in the service.”

After getting out of “skid row,” he found a career in the warehouse and shipping industry. He worked in Los Angeles for nearly 40 years until he retired in 1992.

Jenkins was raised primarily in the Prescott Valley and attended the Presbyterian Indian Training School in Tucson. He graduated in 1950 and after one year at Haskell Institute (now Haskell Indian Nations University) in Lawrence, Kan., he enlisted in the Army.

Reuben is the oldest in his family. His father was Lloyd Jenkins (Hopi) and his mother was Elizabeth Bread (Pee Posh from GRIC District 7). He had a number of siblings and three of his brothers also went into the service. His brother Irvin Jenkins joined the Marine Corps and also fought in the Korean War. Brothers Danny Jenkins and the late Robert Porter fought in the Vietnam War with the Army and Marine Corps, respectively.

Today, Danny is the leader of the Pee Posh Veterans Association, of which Irvin and Reuben are members. Jenkins has dedicated his life to honoring the memory of “those that gave their life, made the supreme sacrifice...for what they believe in.” He honors veterans through prayer and by attending ceremonies in their honor. He likes the Pee Posh Veterans Association because it is an organization as dedicated to honoring veterans as he is.

“Honoring veterans and giving them the buri- al that they deserve, that’s what makes me feel good because they deserve it,” said Jenkins.

The PPVA attends dozens of events each year, from parades to funerals and attend ceremonies in other tribal communities across the state. At 85, the long parades and all-night ceremonies aren’t easy, but Jenkins is happy to offer his services as long as he can and still prays every night for the country and its warriors.

2015 WATER RIGHTS CELEBRATION

“Our Water: nourishing the sacred relationship with our land, our people and our spirit”

From Page 1 because of the water rights settlement,” she said. Former Gov. Donald Antone Sr. said there was a lot to fight for when the Community was working to obtain its water rights. “I learned the tradition- al issues as well as the mod- ern issues,” he said.

After the formal pro- gram, singers gathered out- doors on the lawn where many participated in social dances. The event closed with a chicken scratch dance provided by the Two Rivers Band.

Clockwise from Top Left: Former Gov. Donald An- tone Sr. speaks, GRIC vet- erans posted the colors, Aaron Sabotí provided water gourds to commem- orate the event. St. Peter school students opened the celebration. (Photos by CPAO and GRIN staff.)
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
Office of the Community Council

Written Reprint

On October 23, 2015, pursuant to the Special Investigators Findings and Recommendations in the investigation of the Office of the Community Council, the Community Council approved a motion directed to the Gila River Indian New at the next meeting of the Community Council. A copy of the investigation is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary's Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the investigation, please submit a written response to the Community Council at 521 Wewa Rd., Phoenix, Arizona.

Written Reprint

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

SUBROGATION ORDINANCE

The Legislative Standing Committee (“LSC”) will be considering the Subrogation Ordinance at its regular meeting on December 29, 2015 at 10 a.m. located in Conference Room B of the Community Council Secretary’s Office. A copy of the Subrogation Ordinance is available for review at all District Service Centers and in the Community Council Secretary’s Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the Subrogation Ordinance, please submit the scheduled LSC meeting, or you may also contact your Council representative. The Gila River Reservation.

CHAPTER 13. SUBROGATION
8.1301. Purpose and Findings.

Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community (1960), art. XV §§ 3(a) and (19), the Community Council is authorized to act to promote and protect the health and general welfare of the Community and its members, and to pass ordinances necessary to the exercise of those powers. In exercising those powers and responsibilities, the Community Council finds:

A. The Gila River Indian Community is a large employer and, along with several subordinate entities and schools on the Gila River Indian Reservation, provides health care benefits to its employees by self-insuring the cost of the benefit rather than providing coverage through an outside insurance company; these benefits are provided through the Community’s Health & Welfare Benefit Plan (the “Community Plan”) and Community Plans which are paid for with Community funds.

B. Community Plan participants sometimes receive benefits due to injuries caused by the acts of third parties (such as in an automobile accident or other negligent act), and because they caused those injuries, those third parties or their insurers are liable for or obligated to pay for the same health care costs that are or would be otherwise borne by the Community Plan.

C. Providing employment benefits to Community employees directly affects the health, economic security, and welfare of the Community, and conduct which deprives the Community of its continued ability to fund and provide those benefits threatens the health, economic security, and welfare of the Community. 8.1301. Scope. This Chapter applies to any self-insured employment benefit plans administered by the Gila River Indian Community and the Community entities and to any individual who participates in a Community Plan. This includes employees of the Community or any entity participating in a Community Plan, their spouses, and dependents (“participants”). 8.1301. Subrogation. A. Basic Principles. 1. The laws of the Gila River Indian Community shall govern and control all disputes arising out of or related to the provision of benefits under a Community Plan not otherwise preempted by federal law. 2. The Community Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes arising out of or related to the provision of benefits under a Community Plan not otherwise preempted by federal law. 3. The Community Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes arising out of or related to the provision of benefits under a Community Plan not otherwise preempted by federal law.

PHOENIX—On Dec. 10, 2015, Delphine Corrine Morgan, 37, of Blackwater, Ariz. and a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Steven P. Logan to 92 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. Morgan previously pleaded guilty to possessing 50 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine to an undercover officer at her residence located on the Gila River Indian Reservation. Morgan had sold methamphetamine to this same undercover officer on one prior occasion.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The prosecution was handled by Christina J. Reid-Moore, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

PHOENIX—On Dec. 7, 2015, Joseph Troy Williams, 38, of Coolidge, Ariz., a member of the Gila River Indian Reservation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge John Tuchi to 168 months in prison to be followed by lifetime supervised release. Williams had previously pleaded guilty to possessing two counts of sexual abuse of a minor. All victims were members of varied Indian Communities and the abuse occurred on the Gila River Reservation.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individual who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit their website.

**PROSECUTIONS**

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For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit their website.

**PROSECUTIONS**

PHOENIX—On Dec. 7, 2015, Joseph Troy Williams, 38, of Coolidge, Ariz., a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge John Tuchi to 168 months in prison to be followed by lifetime supervised release. Williams had previously pleaded guilty to possessing two counts of sexual abuse of a minor. All victims were members of varied Indian Communities and the abuse occurred on the Gila River Reservation.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individual who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

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Gila River Indian News 2016
Schedule of Deadlines
Please send all GRIN submissions to gilainew@atlasconnect.com

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* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

A Resolution Authorizing GRICUA To Submit Applications To The United States Department Of Commerce Economic Development Administration Under The Investments For Public Works And Economic Development Facilities Program CFDA #11.30 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council on Indian Health and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start Program To Participate In The American Indian And Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start Family And Child Experiences Survey, Known As AI/AN Faces, Conducted By Mathematica Policy Research (ESC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Joseph Magliarditi, Board Of Directors, Janice Ponzi
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

LT. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS TOOK OVER AS CHAIR OF THE MEETING.

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #9

11. Treasurer’s Report – 4th Quarter (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #9

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing GICUA To Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Commerce Economic Development Administration Under The Investments For Public Works And Economic Development Facilities Program CFDA #11.30 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council)

Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold
APPROVED

2. A Resolution Supporting The Arizona Advisory Council On Indian Health And Proposed Amendments To ARS 36-2002.01 And ARS 36-2002.02 (H&SSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Kim Russel
APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Head Start Program To Participate In The American Indian And Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start Family And Child Experiences Survey, Known As AI/AN Faces, Conducted By Mathematica Policy Research (ESC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Patricia Valenzuela
APPROVED
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.
Kai Restaurant at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa Named One of the Top 3 Restaurants in America by OpenTable Diners

Phoenix, Ariz. (Dec 3, 2015) – Kai Restaurant is proud to announce that it has been named a winner of Open Table Diners’ Choice Awards for the Top 100 Best Restaurants in America. Kai was the only Arizona restaurant named to the list of the top 100 honorees, coming in at number 3 in the nation. The list of winners is derived from more than 5 million reviews submitted by OpenTable diners for more than 20,000 restaurants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

“We are thrilled to once again receive this important recognition from OpenTable diners,” said Lisa Mercer, Director of Food and Beverage. “Our dining guests are our most valued critics and we are humbled to receive their high praise and acclamation.”

“This year’s winners are elevating fine dining to delightfully dizzying heights,” said Caroline Potter, OpenTable Chief Dining Officer. “The 2015 Best Restaurants honorees have mastered the art of creating delicious experiences that diners will remember long after their last bite.”

OpenTable, part of The Priceline Group, is the world’s leading provider of online restaurant reservations, serving more than 17 million diners per month via online bookings across more than 33,000 restaurants. The OpenTable network connects restaurants and diners, helping diners discover and book the perfect table and helping restaurants deliver personalized hospitality to keep guests coming back. The OpenTable service enables restaurants to see which restaurateurs have available tables, select a restaurant based on verified diner reviews, menus, and other helpful information, and easily book a reservation. In addition to the company’s website and mobile apps, OpenTable powers online reservations for nearly 600 partners, including many of the Internet’s most popular global and local brands. For restaurants, the OpenTable hospitality solutions enable them to manage their reservation book, streamline their operations, and enhance their service levels. Since its inception in 1998, OpenTable has seated more than 940 million diners around the world. The Company is headquartered in San Francisco, California, and the OpenTable service is available throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, and the UK.

The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa is a total destination resort showcasing the heritage, culture, art and legends of the Pima and Maricopa Tribes. The resort offerings include: 500 culturally themed rooms, Forbes Five-Star/AAA Five-Diamond Dining at Kai restaurant, the Forbes Four-Star Aji Spa, 36-holes of Troon-managed golf at Whirlwind Golf Club; the 1,000-acre Koli Equestrian Center, and several nearby attractions. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram @ sheratonwildhorsepass and Twitter.

Liberty Wildlife Organization gets Support from GRIC

Liberty Wildlife provides a clinic and sanctuary for large birds.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Community is giving back in big ways to assist a local wildlife organization that treats animals on the path to recovery.

Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation is a non-profit organization that is in the process of getting a new home near the heart of Phoenix.

At a tour of the new facility still under construction on Nov. 5, things are coming together for the organization that swoops in when birds need urgent care or rehabilitation. A portion of the Community’s shared gaming revenue was used to fund the building of the education wing of the building through a three-year grant. The services offered by Liberty Wildlife are funded through donations, which cover the food and treatment for each of the animals in its care.

The sprawling new facility is being built on 6 and a half acres of land, a short distance east of 24th Street and the Salt River. It is an ideal place to have a sanctuary because it will allow access to some of the local wildlife in the area.

According to the GRIC Office of Special Funding Program Administrator, Cheryl Pablo, the new facility will serve a number of purposes once it is completed. Currently they are located in Scottsdale, and will be making the transition in the spring of next year. In addition to education services, Liberty Wildlife provides an expanded clinic and sanctuary area for birds to reside in.

“They try to rehabilitate the larger birds to be released back into the wild,” said Pablo. Occasionally the Department of Environmental Quality staff utilizes Liberty Wildlife to transfer injured birds found in the Community to receive care. She said, “For those that aren’t able to be released back into the wild they are used for education purposes.”

The sprawling facility is planned to have a simulated wetland for animals that will include various natural landscapes for birds native to Arizona:

Pablo said opportunities like this offer benefits for both parties. “We establish a lot of relationships with people that provide services by entities like Liberty Wildlife because they want to come out to the Community to educate people.”
Wishes you & your family a Happy Holiday Season