“Protection of Community Children in Adoption Cases A Top Priority”

By Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis  
Gila River Indian Community

As Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, I write today to clarify what was left out of last week’s media coverage of a disappointing decision from the Arizona Court of Appeals in connection with a state court case involving a Native American child, A.D., a member of the Gila River Indian Community who is currently in the foster care of a non-Indian couple.

Sadly, A.D. has spent most of her life in the foster care system. The Community has been an active participant in the foster proceedings surrounding A.D. since the proceedings began shortly after her birth. In these proceedings and efforts, the Community has worked closely with the State Department of Child Welfare in a cooperative way to determine what is in A.D.’s best interests.

Recently, in an effort to ensure that the decision about her best interests is made in accordance with the federal law, policy and federal guidelines regarding custody of Native American children, the Community, with the agreement and support of the State Department of Child Welfare, made a request to the State Court in which proceedings were then being held to transfer the case to the Community’s Children’s Court for a determination of what is the best path forward for A.D. As I noted, this was done in accordance with the federal law, policy and practice governing such cases, overall, and with the full support and cooperation of the State authorities because they recognize that, consistent with the governing federal law, the best forum to deal with the questions of the best interests of a Native American child is a tribal court that understands the importance and role of the tribe’s history, culture and traditions.

The joint decision by the Community and the State to seek to transfer the case to the Community’s Children’s Court was challenged, however, by an outside interest group, the Goldwater Institute, that is seeking to use these Indian adoption cases to try and destroy the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). In a decision that ran counter to the law, policy, practice and intent of ICWA, a lower court decided to prevent A.D.’s case from being transferred to the Community’s Children’s Court. Last week, this erroneous decision was upheld on appeal, over the objections of not only the Community, but also the State. As Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, I write today to clarify what was left out of last week’s media coverage of this disappointing decision.

Continued on Page 7

GRIC enters deal with City of Chandler for CAP water

Communications & Public Affairs Office  
Gila River Indian Community

The Gila River Indian Community and the City of Chandler have entered into a landmark water exchange agreement worth at least $43 million to the Community. The deal, approved by Community Council at a regular meeting July 7, 2016, will help the Community address the rising cost of non-drinkable Central Arizona Project (CAP) Colorado River water used for critical Community agriculture and irrigation projects.

The agreement with Chandler does not involve any of the Community’s drinking water, which comes from groundwater supplies not included in the exchange. Nor does the agreement involve any

Continued on Page 4

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital undergoes expansion

Communications & Public Affairs Office  
Gila River Indian Community

The new facilities will also

Continued on Page 10
IT’S OUR 21ST BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAY SALE

IT’S OUR 21ST BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAY SALE

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Florence Blvd.

Pinal Ave.
In Loving Memory

Sylvia M. Lewis-Gaytan 7/26/42 - 8/17/12

It doesn’t seem possible that four (4) years have passed since you left us but just know dear sister that you will always be in our hearts. Memories of you are many - the loss of you and the love that is felt for you remain in our hearts. You are always remembered on your birthday too (7/26). Rest in Peace.

In Loving Memory

Priscilla R. Anderson 12/15/30 - 7/31/16

The family of Priscilla R. Anderson extend our sincerest appreciation for your prayers, kindness, love, sympathy cards, flowers, food and support to our family during this truly difficult time. We thank you for all you have done and are blessed to have you in our lives. To the friends and family who gave their time and help with the services is truly appreciated. Special thanks to the following, for your support: encouraging words and songs were a blessing and comfort to the family.

Pastor, Aaron Johns, Pastor, Douglas Jones, District 2 Community and staff, District 3 Community and staff, Ira Hayes American Legion Post 84, Ira Hayes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 84, Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51, Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51, Our Lady of Victory Church, Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc.


Sincerely,
The Anderson Family

Joe ‘The Tomahawk’ Tate presents Gov. Lewis with his MMA Gold Medal

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Joe ‘The Tomahawk’ Tate has established himself as a top contender in the world of Mixed Martial Arts fighting, and everywhere he competes, he takes his community with him.

On Aug. 2, Tate presented his latest gold medal to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis as a gesture of appreciation.

In his latest gold medal to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis as a gesture of appreciation.

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Although Tate has won numerous medals in recent years in MMA competitions large and small, last Novem-

ber, Tate competed in the Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation World Tournament in Long Beach, Calif., where he took home the gold medal in his division of Men’s No Gi Purple Belt Seniors, Super Heavy weight class. He also claimed two bronze medals: one in the Gi-on version of the same division and weight class, and the other in the Men’s No Gi Purple Belt Seniors open weight class competition.

As one of the few Native American competitors in MMA, Tate does everything he can to represent his community well, and it begins with the Man in the Maze and GRIC seal he wears on his Jiu-Jitsu uniform.

Tate says his culture is a core value of his, and something that he hopes to pass on to the younger generation. Currently, Tate works at the Head Start program in the Salt River Pi-Mari-Ma Maricopa Indian Community.

‘That’s one of the best jobs ever,’ he said. ‘I talk with them all of the time, and I talk about the little engine that could — that I think I can, I think I can’t approach.’

Meanwhile, he works hard to keep up with his training. He’s competed in 36 tournaments this year, he said, so he’s always looking forward to the next one.

Letter to the Community Regarding ICWA Case

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

You may have seen some of the recent news stories about the Community’s efforts to have a state adoption proceeding transferred to the Community’s Children’s Court. Our efforts are being opposed by the Goldwater Institute and some groups within the powerful non-Indian adoption industry.

These groups are preying on vulnerable Indian families throughout the country and are a part of a nationwide effort to attack and repeal the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). These groups are spreading misinformation and stereotypes about Indian families in order to gain attention from the news media. Unfortunately, the Gila River Indian Community has become a target of these organizations, in part due to our large population and location in proximity to the Phoenix metropolitan area. ICWA is an important law that, among many things, empowers tribal governments and courts to provide a protective role in Indian child welfare and adoption cases. Because of ICWA, tribes across Indian Country have played an integral role in helping keep our Indian families together and ensuring our children retain their cultural identity and heritage. More than anything, ICWA gives tribes a necessary voice in state court child custody proceedings and allows us to try and transfer those cases to our tribal courts.

I want you to know that the Community is fighting back against these anti-ICWA groups. My administration has provided additional resources to better track our children and families who are caught within the state child welfare and adoption systems, and we will continue to seek transfers of ICWA cases involving the Community’s children into the Community’s courts.

On a national level, the Community is also coordinating with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), and the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) to help our offices become more educated about what is going on across Indian Country, inform policies on how best to protect all Indian children, and educate the public. This means that we will respond to all articles by the Goldwater Institute that attack the Community or try to misinform and mislead the general public about this important law and what the Community is doing to protect our families and children.

The Community will continue to preserve the stability and security of our Akimel O’otham families while upholding and defending our sovereignty.

Therefore at this time, I call upon all of us as fellow Community members and relatives to come together in unity for the protection and ongoing survival of our children in light of these ongoing attacks.

Masaupa
Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor
Gila River Indian News August 19, 2016

2016 GRIN file photo of a GRIC canal in District 1.

Ultimately, the Permanent Water Fund must be large enough to address the Community’s current $20 million annual water budget and the cost of water to supply future generations. The price of non-drinkable CAP water is expected to rise exponentially in the future, according to economists.

Finally, the Chandler agreement creates more protection for the Community’s precious groundwater supplies by providing neighboring cities like Chandler with water for irrigation and commercial uses. Growing the water supply for surrounding cities reduces the likelihood they will over-pump groundwater in situations of growing drought. In the past, such over-pumping by neighboring cities has damaged the Community’s drinking water.

The agreement also requires Chandler to pay the Community about $51.7 million to be used for well development on certain Community lands.

The $43 million agreement furthers the Community’s goal of making sure agricultural development is a leading component of the GRIC economy – can continue to grow and create jobs and revenue while not relying exclusively on costly CAP water. The Chandler agreement will also generate tens of millions of dollars to be used to relieve the strain the rising cost of CAP water creates on the Community’s overall operating budget.

Currently, the Community’s water budget alone runs about $20 million per year. Details of the agreement were shared by Council members at district meetings across the Community. The exchange was negotiated through Gila River Water Storage LLC, or GRWS. GRWS, a partnership with Salt River Project created by Community Council in 2010, allows the Community to store non-drinkable CAP water that would otherwise go unused, creating long-term storage credits like the ones sold to Chandler. The Community’s current representative to GRWS is District 5 Councilman Brian Davis Sr.

The revenue generated by the Chandler agreement could be worth as much as $80 million over time, depending on the value of CAP water and the rising value of the long-term storage credits being acquired by the Community. The income generated by the agreement will be used to build up the Community’s Permanent Water Fund, created in early 2016 to generate investment income to cover the Community’s growing water budget.

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Upgrades on the horizon for GRICUA electric meters

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority is upgrading electric meters at more than 2,800 residences and commercial properties it serves throughout the Community, and it’s doing it without raising rates.

“This upgrade is going to let us offer new services to our customers,” said GRICUA Operations Director Kathy Galloway. She said the software on the new meters is going to allow customers to log into their online account and view an hourly history of their power usage statistics.

GRICUA also plans to backfill customer data with energy consumption information from before the upgrade was implemented. Customers will have access to a 12-month history of their energy consumption so they can compare current consumption rates to those of previous years.

GRICUA supplies power to residential and commercial properties in Districts 1 – 5 of the Gila River Indian Community, and some of District 6.

“It’s really important to our commercial customers,” said Galloway. GRICUA serves approximately 650 commercial properties, including Gila River Indian Community departments, the Wild Horse Pass Development Area, Phoenix Premium Outlets, and industrial customers in the Lone Butte Development complex.

According to Galloway, the new meters are a “technology upgrade,” which has been in the works for several years.

GRICUA customers will receive new upgraded meters, which will allow customers better access to their account information and power consumption.

It’s not going to cost the customers a penny, nor will it raise rates on power bills. “It’s just a capital project just like we would do to improve any sort of equipment. So there is no rate increase involved in this,” said Galloway. GRICUA estimates the project will cost around $1 million.

Another benefit of the new meters is, beginning in 2017, residential customers will have the option to switch to a pre-pay plan. Those customers will be able to apply money to their GRICUA account online, by phone, at a kiosk, or at the GRICUA office.

The installation of the new meters promises to be a seamless process. GRICUA technicians will knock on customers’ doors to tell them when they are swapping out the meters. Power will be shut off to the user’s home while the equipment is changed out, then the technician will notify the customer when he or she is done and verify that power has been restored. The process should take fewer than five minutes.

“If you’re not home,” said Galloway, “we’re going to leave you a notification... on your doorknob that says your meter was changed.” She added that residents may notice their microwave or alarm clock blinking due to the brief interruption of power loss. Commercial customers will not experience power outages from the meter exchange.

GRICUA will begin swapping out old meters for new ones in early September. Beginning in Districts 1 and 2, the GRICUA crews will work their way westward. The project will run for several months, but Galloway says all meters will be swapped out before the end of the year.

For regular updates, visit www.gricua.net or visit the GRICUA Facebook page. If you have any questions, call (520) 796-0600 to reach the GRICUA customer service desk.

GRPD officers open fire on vehicle at Vee Quiva Casino after man rams police vehicles

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Police Department (GRPD) officers shot at the driver of an SUV on the evening of July 27, as non-Community member Andres Munoz attempted to flee the scene of a drug investigation at a Vee Quiva Casino parking structure.

According to the Arizona Republic, GRPD officers approached Munoz’s SUV after receiving a call regarding drug activity. Police said that Munoz rammed his SUV into two GRPD police vehicles before leaving the scene. No one was injured in the incident and Munoz was arrested and booked into a Maricopa County Jail.

The Arizona Republic reported that GRPD Officer Caroline Brown provided a narrative stating their department was contacted at 11:30 p.m. concerning drug activity in the parking structure of the casino. Officers responded to the scene and approached Munoz’s SUV, where he appeared to be reaching for something in his vehicle.

The narrative stated that Munoz then put his SUV into gear, attempted to back up and collided with a GRPD vehicle. He then attempted to pull forward, ramming into another police vehicle. At this point, the two officers entering the parking structure drew their weapons and shot at Munoz’s vehicle.

After GRPD officers opened fire, the SUV came to a stop and Munoz was arrested. Officer Brown said that drugs and a handgun were found in Munoz’s SUV.

According to the Arizona Republic, Brown said that the shooting was an isolated incident and that situations like this are just part of the job.

“We want to make sure our Community is safe. We try to provide that for them,” she said.
Over 100 guests attended the Vietnam Veterans Gathering held July 30 at the District 3 Service Center.

Annie Gutierrez
Gila River AmeriCorps Program

The Vietnam veterans of the Gila River Indian Community received a warm welcome home during the Vietnam Veterans Gathering on July 30. The gathering, coordinated by the AmeriCorps program, was held in honor of veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

GRIC Judge Dallas DeLowe, D5, opened the program with a prayer after a brief moment of silence. The war in Vietnam ended in 1975, and when those brave men and women returned home to U.S. soil, they didn’t receive the proper treatment they deserved. Many years later, a long overdue applause echoed through the service center properly welcoming Community veterans back to Gila River.

“We wanted to honor and commemorate the men and women who had served during this time. My AmeriCorps partner, Wesley, and I had come up with the event knowing it to be the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War,” said Jackie Setoyant, AmeriCorps – Veterans Serving Veterans member and co-coordinator of the event.

Veterans from all branches of the military and their families were treated to a morning of food, speakers, entertainment and raffles throughout the day.

Speakers included Community Vietnam Veterans Weldon Salkey, U.S. Army - Airborne, Rebecca Ann Rowe, U.S. Navy, and the Honorable Dallas DeLowe, United States Marines Corps, who recounted memories and shared wisdom from their service.

“I feel very proud and honored to be among the Vietnam veterans – simply for the fact that we weren’t quite given the welcome. But, in its own way, that makes [this event] very special and gives us our strength to use our experiences,” said DeLowe.

Army Veteran Leslie Jackson reflected on how the Vietnam War affected her family. Her father, the late Harlan Jackson, USMC, served six years in Vietnam. She shared fond memories of her father, even expressing the behavioral effects of war which later became evident as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The late Marine wasn’t able to get the help he needed before he passed, but Jackson remains hopeful for other veterans. Her message to other veterans: “We are here for you. You are home for a reason. Brenda Roberts are here to help us understand.”

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monika Antone also spoke to the crowd of 100-plus guests.

In addition, Gov. Lewis shared the efforts his administration is working on to develop better services in the Community for veterans by next year.

Along with a line of speakers, veterans resource information was also available. Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services Officer Ken Madrid, with American Legion Post 8, was on site to answer any questions veterans had about veteran benefits and disability claims. Jim Sylvester and volunteers from Hiring/Helping/Honoring Our Heroes of Pinal County (HOHP) were also handed out information and giving tours of the Eagle One Veterans Outreach mobile unit parked outside the service center.

Rowe and Community member Brenda Roberts also performed musical tributes. Before singing Toby Keith’s “American Soldier,” Rowe recited a poem her brother, a Vietnam combat veteran, had written. Robertson picked up the guitar and paid tribute to her brother and all veterans by performing an original song she wrote about the war.

“It was long overdue,” said Rowe on the welcome home gathering. “Rowe, a former Community Council Representative, served six years in the Navy and two years in the reserves.

While guests enjoyed refreshments, a band comprised of John Antone, U.S. Army, Henry Welden, U.S. Navy, Steve Lewis and Roy Lopez took to the stage playing a compilation of 60s and 70s era music.

AmeriCorps – Veterans Serving Veterans program service members Setoyant and Wesley Rhodes, USMC, coordinated the gathering as part of their service project in the Community. Setoyant and Rhodes worked together to gather donations.

“The weeks leading up to the event were a little hectic, but all the hard work put forth in this effort had paid off ten-fold in the end. I am truly grateful for all those who had taken time out of their day to help celebrate a great group of individuals in our community. Thank you sincerely to everyone who had a helping hand with this event,” said Rhodes.

The event was made possible through contributions from Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., Gila River Sand & Gravel, HOP, VSY Women’s Support Group, American Legion Posts 84 & 51, Pee Posh Veterans’ Council, Ak-Chin Hickman Farms, GRIC Council Secretary’s Office, New Horizons Veteran Group, Paul Molina and generous Community members.

All veterans who attended received a battle cross lapel while family members received an “I Support Veterans” lapel pin.
On July 20, the Huuggedam Heritage Center held a Language Class Appreciation Event at the District 6 Learning Center to celebrate the completion of the first Introductory Akimel O’otham language class. On that day, sixteen students (stumis) were given certificates of completion, celebratory gifts, and a meal together to commemorate the end of the 15 week course. The class, taught by Mrs. Barbara Parsons from Santa Cruz, was titled “Thoth Gegos” and focused on teaching everyday language used in the home for cooking and eating. During the course the class learned how to say useful phrases like Upam ha thor in hegum iusa’a: a (put away the dishes) but also learned the importance of eating together as a family. The Heritage Center is working towards creating more Community-based classes like this one in the future for District 6 as well as for the other districts.

In O’otham thoa:in hegam huasa’a: there is often a relationship between verbs and nouns that identifies the person that performs the action. For example, the word “to teach” is mashcham and can be used as an action word like in the sentence “Mah ha mashcham hegum a’al “I am teaching the children.” This verb can be turned into a noun simply by adding the suffix “tham” at the end and a prefix “e” before the word. By adding these two pieces to the word you change it from an action word to a noun that identifies a student, or the person who is being taught. The suffix “tham” changes a verb or action word into a noun and is used in O’otham to identify the person who does the action of the verb. For example the word meaning “to play” is chichvi, and this can be turned into a noun chichivitham just by adding “tham” at the end. This new word chichivitham is no longer an action word but identifies a player or teammate. If you want to be more specific you can add another word to identify the type of player like a thoka chichivitham or bo:l chichivitham. Another example is vachvitham that becomes vachvitham, or swimmer, simply by adding the suffix at the end.

Keep in mind that not all words follow this pattern, especially when you add another word to identify the type of player or teammate. If you do you can change it from an action word to a noun simply by adding “tham” at the end and a prefix “e” before the word.

Some action words that should help you solve the puzzle. Try to think of other words that end in “tham” that come from verbs and remember to O’othamaj ñe’ñokath!

Example, the verb “to heal/cure” is kalatham but there is no such person as a kalatham that. That’s because O’otham already has a perfectly good word for a doctor/healer which is makai. Another example is the verb “to cook”, which is hithoḍ. There is no such person as a hithoḍatham as O’otham already has a word for a chef which is gostil. There is however a similar word for someone who likes or is skilled in cooking and that is a s-hithoḍ, but that is a different example of how to form a noun from a verb in O’otham.

For this month’s puzzle we’re giving six professions that come from six action words. Take a look at the word match and try to identify the person who does the action. Below are six action words that should help you solve the puzzle.

- mo’o hikamtham
- haichu huk gagdatham
- nacihu chuchihtsamtham
- nacuhu chuchvitham
- vathop o’ithamdam
- chichvitham

Protecting Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh Children

On July 20, 2016, the first Introductory Akimel O’otham language class at the District 6 Learning Center.

August 2016 Word Match, Match the O’otham title with its picture!

- mo’o hikamtham
- haichu huk gagdatham
- nacihu chuchihtsamtham
- nacuhu chuchvitham
- vathop o’ithamdam
- chichvitham

Only the Gila River Indian Community but also the State of Arizona. This ruling disappoints our Community a great deal because it prevents us from being able to fully engage in trying to find a living situation that allows us to keep this precious child a part of our tribal community and raise her within her Native culture.

Protecting Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh children and families has always been a top priority for the Gila River Indian Community and our administration. Even as we determine whether or not to appeal the ruling in A.D.’s case, we have redoubled our commitment to defending ICWA and participating in the custody proceedings of our children. Our children are an integral part of community and our future. What is disheartening about the case at hand is that those involved in it seem more focused on attacking ICWA than on determining the best interests of Indian children.

ICWA works. It’s a good law that for almost 40 years has protected the best interests of Indian children by promoting stability and security among Indian tribes and families. Our people deserve nothing less. Across the United States, Indian children continue to be removed from their birth homes by state authorities at much higher rates than non-Indian children.

ICWA gives tribal governments and courts a protective role in such cases and has helped keep Indian families together and helped Indian children retain their cultural identity and heritage.

Unfortunately, ICWA has come under attack in recent years by the non-Indian adoption industry – which thrives on Indian children – and by legal hired guns from groups like the Goldwater Institute.

If the Goldwater Institute has concerns about how the law is implemented, I urge them to work with tribal governments and organizations on best practices, rather than trying to eliminate a federal law that Senator Barry Goldwater himself supported. The Gila River Indian Community’s priority will continue to do what is best for the general welfare of our people, including our children and families.
Gila River Gaming collaborates with RPY on successful donation drive

Many of us have now become familiar with the sight of white transit buses ferrying riders from stop to stop.

The Gila River Public Transit service sees the remainder of the year as a time to make even bigger strides.

Since beginning service in January and February of this year, the GRPT has observed a 30 percent increase in riders each month.

They know that sooner or later their routes will need to expand to meet the growing numbers of riders.

GRICDOT Acting Transportation Planner Gregory McDowell said, “At the end of this year we are going to bring in a consulting firm. They are going to evaluate our current service and the need for service in other areas of the Community.”

McDowell said that GRICDOT has applied for additional funding under what is called the Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 program to continue operation for two years.

If awarded more funding, in the second year of the grant (Fiscal Year 2018), GRPT would like to purchase an additional two buses to increase their service and to keep one on standby if one breaks down and needs repair.

Under the FTA 5311 funds, the GRPT is required to form a Transportation Advisory Committee.

The TAC, which will consist of GRIC stakeholders, will provide recommendations on service quality and effectiveness and will report to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

According to McDowell, they hired a fourth driver to get up to full staff and are expected to hire a permanent transit manager to handle the day-to-day operations.

McDowell understands that sooner or later their transit service will need to expand service hours and routes as the year comes to a close.

He said currently, “District 3 has been our most favored design. They receive a new design every year. The facility features several, fully staffed ‘homes’ that have a combined capacity to house up to 100 youth from newborns to age 17.

“Everything that is given to us is utilized to its capacity,” said Youth Services Coordinator Evett Cannaday to the GRGE representatives. “So we really appreciate the generous donation and contribution from your department, and I know that you guys have always helped out RPY and Tribal Social Services.”

The surveys will be available on each of the three casino properties and the corporate office participated in the donation drive, which lasted through July. GRGE expects to run another donation drive later this year because it understands how quickly RPY and TSS can use up the items.

What we provided—those two large boxes will probably be gone within a couple of months,” said GRGE Community Liaison Manuel Hernandez. “The need is always there.”

Christopher Lomahahu
Gila River Indian News

Many of us have now become familiar with the sight of white transit buses ferrying riders from stop to stop.

The GRPT held a design contest with four concept designs people could vote on, but in the end, Kerley’s entry was voted as the most favored design.

The TAC, which will consist of GRIC stakeholders, will provide recommendations on service quality and effectiveness and will report to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

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Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Gaming Enterprises employees donated more than 319 pairs of socks and underwear to the Residential Services Coordinator Teaya Vicente.

“When the kids are in need, it’s good when the Community can come together and provide,” said Sunshine Whitehair, the Tribal Social Services Acting Director at the time.

The sock and undie drive was especially useful, Whitehair said, because “at a certain point, the children really just need the necessities. Sometimes they come with literally just the clothes on their back,” she said.

The GRGE serves dozens of displaced youth every year. The facility features several, fully staffed “homes” that have a combined capacity to house up to 100 youth from newborns to age 17.

“The kids are in need; it’s good when the Community can come together and provide,” said Sunshine Whitehair, the Tribal Social Services Acting Director at the time.

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Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The future looks bright for GRPT and with your help. Of the four bus design finalists, bus design “C” won the majority of the votes at 51%.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR INPUT AND FOR TAKING TIME TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BUS DESIGN!

The final results are as follows:

- 1st Place Design “C” (51% of votes)
- 2nd Place Design “B” (37% of votes)
- 3rd Place Design “D” (7% of votes)
- 4th Place Design “A” (5% of votes)

Now that the public has chosen the top design theme, we will be working to get the buses wrapped soon!

Artist Recognition

We would like to thank Paul Molina, a Community member from District 7, for coming up with our official logo. His design contribution to our transit system is much appreciated. The logo is a modern, minimalist design that will look great for years to come. View more of his work at PaulMolinaDesigns.com.

We would like to thank Ernest Kerley, who submitted design concepts that contributed to the banner we used in the Mul-Cha-Tha parade. His ideas helped us in the beginning of our operation and deserves full credit for his assistance.

We also want to thank all of the other artists that offered sketches to Gila River Public Transit.

The Gila River Indian News
The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department’s 12th Annual Reservation-wide In-Service, an all-day event that brings together educators from across the Community, was held at the Sheraton Grand Resort & Spa on Aug 12.

The theme for this year’s in-service was “Take Another Look” and encourages educators to reflect on what they are doing in the classroom to educate the Community’s youth.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone said, “Everyone that is in [here] that serves our children is in some way helping build our future.”

Her message was a display of support and appreciation for the teachers that commit long hours educating the Community’s youth.

The topics at the in-service focused on culture and language, which has become an essential part of educating the students about their cultural heritage.

In other breakout sessions, pressing issues like mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect were also on the table for discussion.

The goal of each topic covered at the in-service also emphasizes how teachers can create innovative curricula that incorporates culture and storytelling.

In addition to this concept, it is also about looking out for their students and how they are behaving or feeling as they come to class.

Antone urged them to be aware of the mental health issues some students may be experiencing and that schools are looked at as safe havens for the unfortunate few that come from an unhealthy environment at home.

“The issue of suicide prevention is real. Although it is not a new issue, each year we are more alarmed at this reality in our Community,” she said.

One of the highlights of this year’s conference was last year’s awarding of the inaugural 2015 Eddie Basha Excellence Award from the First Things First organization.

TED Director Salcido, said the award is an example of the excellent relationship GRIC has with FTF to improve early childhood education for the Community.

The in-service introduced the teachers to special guest Enrique Hank Feldman, a motivational speaker from the Global Learning Foundation, a non-profit organization that focuses on early education and provides services in professional development of educators in collaboration with schools. GLF was present to offer advice on how to get inspired about their role as educators.

The heart of the presentation included brain game activities that can help students learn in innovative ways that is different from more traditional forms of teaching.

“Today’s overall problem is inspiration, not the typical kind of inspiration. I want to take you on a journey where you are going to experience how to specifically inspire others,” said Feldman.

“If you don’t know how to connect with another human being, it does not matter how good the curriculum is,” said Feldman.

The conference also had different informational booths from tribal departments that provide resources to the Community’s schools.

Community Notice

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

LIHEAP Summer Assistance Program - Summer Intake will begin JULY 1, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority List</th>
<th>July 1, 2016</th>
<th>July 18, 2016</th>
<th>July 25, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elderly/Disabled</td>
<td>LIHEAP Summer Assistance Program</td>
<td>LIHEAP Crisis Assistance Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families with Children 17 years &amp; younger</td>
<td>LIHEAP Summer Assistance Program</td>
<td>LIHEAP Crisis Assistance Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP offers summer funding paid directly to your utility company.</td>
<td>LIHEAP Crisis Assistance Program</td>
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</table>

Energy Crisis Assistance is designed to provide financial assistance to households with a disconnection, shut off, or other verifiable documentation of energy crisis.

You may apply at your District Service Center.

Any question please call your District Service Center

District One (520) 215-2110 District Four (520) 418-3661
District Two (520) 562-3460 District Five (520) 315-3441
District Three (520) 562-3334 District Six (520) 550-3805
District Seven (520) 430-4780

For more information regarding IPM or pesticides, please visit the web at www.GRICDEQ.org or contact the Pesticide Control Office at (520)562-2234
August is Breastfeeding Awareness Month: What expectant mom's should know

For many new mothers, their first experience with breastfeeding often comes after giving birth when the hospital's lactation nurse arrives and handily guides the newborn's first feeding.

The journey into the world of breastfeeding and infant nutrition can be an intimidating and frustrating experience, especially since everyone, from family members to the helpful stranger next to you in line at the grocery store, seemingly knows what's best for your child's health.

Which is why groups like Gila River Indian Community's Women, Infant, and Children program (WIC) and the Tribal Health Department's Genesis program are spearheading the effort in the Community to instruct mothers on how to properly breastfeed and promote infant and mother nutrition education.

Because of the large amount of information on breastfeeding, Deborah Morago, WIC CommUNITY Nutrition Worker and Breastfeeding Lead, suggests that women who qualify for WIC should schedule an appointment with the program as soon as they find out they are pregnant.

Morago said that it is important to begin learning about breastfeeding early on before the child is born, because there is a lot of information that cannot be absorbed in just one training session.

An example of this information is the types of milk that a mother produces. Colostrum is the first type of milk that a mother will produce just after giving birth. This milk is thick, yellow in color, and is produced in small amounts.

Many first-time mothers think that their milk is just going to gush out after giving birth, but that is not so, said Morago. Colostrum is a different color than regular milk and it will come out in teaspoon-sized amounts during feeding.

“That will be enough to fill the baby for the first three days because the baby's tummy is maybe the size of a walnut,” she said.

Morago emphasized that even if a mother does not want to breastfeed, it is recommended that they do so during the first three days, when they are producing colostrum.

“The best thing you can do for your baby is to give them colostrum,” Morago said. “Because it is the golden milk that will help (the) baby with all the benefits.

The other type of milk a mother produces, which is her regular milk supply, can be split into two varieties. Foremilk is the thinner milk produced at the beginning of a breastfeeding session and has a lower fat content. Hindmilk, which is produced at the end of a feeding session, contains more fat.

Mary Dixon, WIC Program Manager, said, “The hindmilk is going to be the part of the milk that is going to allow the baby to gain the weight (because) it has more calories and more fat content.”

Which is why it is important to keep the baby on one breast for as long as possible, 15 to 20 minutes, she said. If the baby falls asleep at the breast after ten minutes, many moms will be too quick to switch over to the other side. It is important to nurse the baby on one breast long enough to receive the hindmilk, said Dixon.

But why is breastfeeding important? Morago said that breastfeeding has a myriad of benefits that can immediately affect the newborn and last a lifetime.

Benefits of breastfeeding include lowered risk of developing type 2 diabetes, childhood obesity, childhood leukemia, eczema, sudden infant death syn- drome, asthma, lower respiratory infections, and more.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the benefits of breastfeeding also include lowered risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and may help with weight loss.

While the WIC and Genesis programs do teach about the benefits of breastfeeding and nutrition, they also provide guidance in how to properly breastfeed.

Many new mothers think that just putting the baby's mouth to the nipple is all that is needed, said Morago. “But they need to know (how) to make sure that the [baby]'s mouth gets wide open and takes a lot more of the [mother's] areola.”

This technique is called latching. It is the process of getting a baby attached to the breast so they can efficiently remove the mother's milk. Learning how to latch is important in building a healthy milk supply, preventing engorgement, plugged ducts, and sore nipples.

When it comes to breastfeeding and baby nutrition, the vast amount of information available can be mindboggling, from how spicy food affects breast milk to treating sore nipples, and properly burping a baby, the WIC and Genesis programs will help provide Community mothers with the knowledge and know-how to keep their babies healthy and happy.

To learn more about breastfeeding, infant and mother nutrition, and to see if you qualify for a breast pump, call the Genesis program at (520) 562-1237, or if you qualify for the WIC program call (520) 562-9698.

The project, which has been named HUD 3, currently has no start date.

Vonda Goodman with her three-month old son Jegos Judum Goodman.

Hu Hu Kam expands primary care facilities

The aim of the new design was to try and make the patient’s visit to the hospital as much of a pleasant experience as possible, he said.

Within the next several months, GRHC will also begin construction on the hospital’s main entrance and has been dubbed “The Arrival Experience”. The project is slated to take six months from beginning to end, with bid requests being issued sometime after the upcoming Labor Day holi- day.

GRHC is also looking to make additions to the hospital’s dental clinic, internal medicine department, and other departments on the east end of the hospital.

One of 30 new rooms that patients will use when being treated at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Exposed steel beams and wires can be seen inside the old primary care facility as crews work hard to complete the renovation.
Gila River Get Out the Vote Rally held in District 5

A “Get Out the Vote” rally was held at the District 5 Service Center on Aug. 11, hosted by the Gila River Voter Registration Board (GRVRB). The rally was held to inform Community members about the importance of voting in county, state, and national elections. On-site voter registration was also available.

Darlene Burnette, GRVRB Chairwoman, said that it is vitally important for people to become registered voters and make their voice heard in the communities that they live.

The rally, made up of a modest gathering of Community members, kicked-off with a welcoming performance by the multi-talented master of ceremony, Bob Villa, followed by the posting of colors by Ira H. Hayes Post 84 and an opening prayer conducted by District 5 Council Representative, Robert Stone.

Other Community leaders who took part in the rally were, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, former GRIC Governor Donald Antone, former District 5 Representative Brenda Robertson, and Miss Gila River Oriaona Apkaw.

After the opening speeches, Kaye Dickson and Steve Henry, local Pinal County candidates running for Sheriff, introduced themselves to the Community and spoke about their backgrounds and future plans if elected. Anthony Smith, candidate for Pinal County Supervisor, District #4, also talked to Community members about the importance of voting in one’s own community.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis took to the stage speaking on how the Community didn’t always have the right to vote. Saying that it was through the blood, sweat, and tears of the Community’s forefathers that Gila River now has that right, and to take advantage of the opportunity. He emphasized that it is important to vote, not just in the highest offices of the Nation, but also in the local county and state elections. And specifically, to vote for individuals that support the Gila River Indian Community.

Kaye Dickson, candidate for Pinal County Sheriff, talks to Community members at the “Get Out the Vote” rally held at the District 5 Service Center on Aug. 11 hosted by the Gila River Voter Registration Board.

DEQ hosts meeting on building ‘green’ in the Community

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community is exploring environmentally greener ways of building homes in the Community.

The Department of Environmental Quality hosted a Tribal Green Building Toolkit meeting at the Gila River Property & Supply conference room on July 12.

David Eisenberg, Executive Director at the Development Center for Appropriate Technology, and Althea Walker, DEQ Environmental Outreach and Education Specialist, hosted the meeting.

Eisenberg is a consultant with the Environmental Protection Agency and is partly responsible for working with tribes to implement alternative forms of green building into their home building projects and to obtain comments and feedback.

“The kick-off meeting was our first attempt at incorporating or integrating green building into [our] codes,” said Walker.

The meeting was a way for them to understand the process of implementing green building codes into the Community’s current building codes by inviting stakeholders from various GRIC housing entities.

“The green building toolkit essentially emerged out of an effort by the Environmental Protection Agency to develop better resources for tribal communities,” said Eisenberg.

The toolkit incorporates ideas on how to develop programs and expertise in developing policy around green building. He said it is a way to underline a tribal community’s desire to design and build projects to make sure goals represent the things that are most important in tribal communities in regards to building codes and standards.

Walker said the meeting helped them determine what tribal departments are responsible for different aspects of home building and that it was beneficial for them to make connections with them.

“We have been working with them and trying to learn more, so I think the takeaway from the meeting is that we really learned how we can make a greater impact in terms of green building in the Community,” she said.

The toolkit was designed to help tribal stakeholders and developers understand how they can adopt building codes to support green building practices. It recognizes the ancestral nature of tribes like the Community, who have a long history of “green” building.

The toolkit makes recommendations for the integrations of cultural/traditional elements into design and building, the reduction of natural resources and minimizing non-renewable energy consumption.

These are just a few of the ideas that tribes are able to factor in when building new homes and infrastructures.

Walker said, “The ultimate goal is to provide a green building resource that will benefit the entire Community now and in the future.”

In the meantime DEQ and their consulting partners with the EPA will continue to learn from departments like Tribal Projects and with Building and Safety to get an understanding of how they can determine the appropriate steps to take in incorporating green building.

On a recent tour of the Community on Aug. 11, DEQ and Eisenberg took a look at some of the homes under construction to see how some forms of green building are being implemented.

Some of the homes under construction incorporates more efficient building materials and solar tubes that channel light from the sun into the home. Features like these are just some of the steps the Community is taking to make energy efficient homes that require less energy and are cost-efficient.

Eisenberg said that he was impressed at the amount of green building done with current and future building projects going on in the Community and that the tribe is on pace with what has been developed in the toolkit.

Bob Villa, “Get Out the Vote” master of ceremonies, reads numbers from a raffle ticket for a winner of a waffle press. Many gifts and prizes were given out during the event.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis discusses the history of Native American’s right to vote and urges Community members to vote in national and local elections.

Althea Walker of the Department of Environmental Quality and David Eisenberg with the Development Center for Appropriate Technology, present on “green” building at Property and Supply on July 12.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtsey of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • August 3, 2016

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday August 3, 2016, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:07 am.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya.

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis (10:33)
Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman (12:48), Aziez Hegg; D2-Carol Schurz;
D3- Carolyn Williams (9:06), Rodney Jackson (9:51), D4-
Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoya, Barney
Enos Jr. (9:30); D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Martin Dixon,
Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal,
Lt. Governor Monica Antone

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D7- Devin Redbird (9:19)
Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal,
Lt. Governor Monica Antone

APPROVED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

( Limit to 5-minutes)

1. Gila River Indian Community Urban Members 2nd Quarter Report
Presenters: Anthony Newkirk, UMA Board Members
REPORT HEARD

2. District One (Skousen) Trespass Matter (NRSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Warner Withnigh, Megan Jackson
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. A (Executive Session)
Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah
REPORT HEARD

4. Use of Tribal Seals in the O’odham Veteran’s Services Logo (LSC forwards to Community Council for discussion and to be processed through dues and delegation)
Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW THE UTILIZATION OF THE SEAL WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS

5. Gila River Gaming Enterprise, Inc. Monthly Report For Fiscal Year 2017 (G&MSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval and for use of the tribal logo)
Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW THE UTILIZATION OF THE SEAL WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. Gila River Gaming Commission General Report For June 2016 (Executive Session)
Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Gila River Gaming Enterprise, Inc. Monthly Report For June 2016 (Executive Session)
Presenters: Michael Feldman, GRGE Board of Directors
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. DCH FY2017 Indian Housing Plan (Executive Session)
Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Kelly Gomez
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Consenting To And Approving The Acquisition For Right Of Way For A Grant Of Easement For Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation Project No. ROW_0499.D5.10 Crossing Allotted Land Parcels For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating, Managing And Maintaining A Roadway And Utilities Corridor By The Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation Located In District 5 And As Shown In Drawing Number 30712-0004-EA, Page 1 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Warner Withnigh, Megan Jackson
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

3. A Resolution Establishing A Community Housing Project Fund To Meet The Funding Needs For Future Community Housing Projects (G&MSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Lauraine Thomas
APPROVED

4. A Resolution Authorizing A Change In The Use Of Grant Funds For A 2015 Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To The Town Of Florence Police Department (G&MSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED

5. A Resolution Approving The Fiscal Year 2017 Gila River Indian Community Indian Housing Plan For Implementation And Submittal To The United States Department Of Housing And Urban Development (G&MSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Lauraine Thomas
APPROVED

6. A Resolution Granting A Permanent Irrigation Easement And A Temporary Construction Easement To The United States Of America, For The Casa Blanca Canal On Portions Of Community Trust Land Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for use of the triba logo)
Presenters: Henrietta Lopez
APPROVED

7. A Resolution Authorizing A Site For Storage Of Excess Excavated Soil From The Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP) Westside Pipeline Construction On Tribal Land Located In District Six Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for use of the tribal logo)
Presenters: Henrietta Lopez
APPROVED

8. A Resolution Granting A Permanent Irrigation Easement And A Temporary Construction Easement To The United States Of America, For The Casa Blanca Canal On Portions Of Community Trust Land Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for use of the tribal logo)
Presenters: Henrietta Lopez
APPROVED

9. A Resolution Granting A Permanent Irrigation Easement And A Temporary Construction Easement To The United States Of America, For Reach Casa Blanca Canal On Portions Of Allotted Trust Land Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Reservation And Setting The Amount Of Compensation Due To The Gila River Indian Community For Its Undivided Interest In Such Allotted Trust Land (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Henrietta Lopez
APPROVED

10. A Resolution Consenting To And Approving The Acquisition For Right Of Way For A Grant Of Easement For Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation Project No. ROW_0499.D5.11 Crossing Allotted Land Parcels For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating, Managing And Maintaining A Roadway And Utilities Corridor By The Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation Located In District 5 And As Shown In Drawing Number 30712-0004-EA, Page 1 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Megan Jackson
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. District One (Skousen) Trespass Matter (NRSC forwards to Council for discussion and possible action, CRSC concurs)

Presenter: Thomas L. Murphy
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HAVE GOVERNOR MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE FIELD SOLICITOR TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HAVE FUTURE LITIGATION EFFORTS MONITORED BY THE COMMUNITY’S LITIGATION TEAM
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Update on TAP and Request for Direction (LSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval of option B)
Presenters: Brian Romer, Chair Kathleen Elliott
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN TAP

2. GRIC Constitutional Rights Issue & Legal Judgment (LSC forwards to Community Council for decision and possible action)
Presenters: Joseph M. Perez
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO CAUCUS. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12:27 PM.
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO RESENDE THE DECISION OF THE 2016 MOTION, APPLYING APPLICATION OF BUSINESS LICENSE WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS

3. Indian Gaming Mid-Year Conference & Expo (G&MSC forwards to Community Council for consideration and to be processed through dues and delegation)

Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN UP TO COUNCIL AND PROCESS THROUGH THE DUES AND DELEGATION

4. Use of Tribal Seals in the O’odham Veteran’s Committee (OVC) Logo (LSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval for use of the tribal logo)
Presenters: Pacer Reina
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW THE UTILIZATION OF THE SEAL
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. GRCUA-SCIP Customer Executive Session (EDSC motion to forward to Council in Executive Session under New Business)
Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold
ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUPPORT

6. LSC Motions Regarding Accident Report (Executive Session) (LSC motions to forward to Community Council for discussion and action)
Presenters: Legislative Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TAKE NO APPROPRIATE ACTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> RANDALL STONE, DISTRICT 4, AWAKE SERVICES FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2016 & FUNERAL SERVICES SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

> PRISCILLA ANDERSON, DISTRICT 2, FUNERAL SERVICES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

> CLARENCE RICHARD CHIAGO, DISTRICT 6, AWAKE SERVICES FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2016 & FUNERAL SERVICES SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

> PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR MARCELLA MILLER’S FAMILY

> PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR GLORIA JONHSON-ALISON

> HOUSE OWNER’S TEAM MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016 1:00 P.M.

> Adjournment MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:17PM

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Students Finish Summer GRICUA Internships

GRICUA would like to thank our summer interns: Emmanuel Whempner, Shaye White, and Kaitlin White, for all their hard work throughout the summer and wish them luck in their upcoming school year.

COURT NOTICE

Docket Number: CV-2016-0151

Students Finish Summer GRICUA Internships

Gila River Indian Community Authority

WHAT'S NEW AT GRICUA?

Students Finish Summer GRICUA Internships

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WHAT'S NEW AT GRICUA?
Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Community Garden Project has come a long way in a short period of time, but it still has a long way to go. To boost involvement, project managers are asking Community members for more help and offering gardening classes.

In May, the Gila River Health Life Center and the Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District implemented grant funding to create a garden run for Community members, by Community members.

In only two and a half months, the garden has produced a number of squash, corn, beans, and chillies. The garden also has a new chain link fence to keep out pests.

Norman Wellington, an agriculturist from District 4, was hired to manage the community garden. He received a considerable amount of help from three young hands, who worked at the garden for seven weeks during the school summer break through the Employment & Training Department’s WIOA Youth Summer program.

Some of the yellow squash have already produced a bountiful harvest, said Wellington. “The kids were taking them home. [Others] were taking home squash on a daily basis.”

Earlier in the summer, a number of volunteers gave the garden a jump-start by planting and moving earth. More recently, people have gone to the garden to pick ripe squash. “There are people that have come through and asked to pick,” said Wellington. “A couple groups, the kids that worked [here for] the summer, their families came through, and... there was a group from the LDS [Latter Day Saints] church that came through.”

Other plants need a little more help and a little more time. The plants have had a tough time developing at a normal pace because they were planted too late in the season.

Sonny Nieto, the GRIJDD agricultural specialist, said due to delays in the preparation of the garden area, they were behind by almost a month and a half. They would like to have planted in mid-March, but didn’t get started until May.

“Hopefully next year we’ll be able to plant on time,” he said.

But Nieto and Wellington are expecting a resurgence from the garden with slightly cooling temperatures and the monsoon rains.

Looking at the tomato plants, Nieto said, “When it starts cooling off, they’ll blossom again, and start producing again – and the chillies too. We could see a second crop.”

They are hopeful that volunteers will return as well.

Recently, community participation has dropped. Garden Project administrators are asking for volunteers to help clean up the garden, prepare it for harvesting, and pick the vegetables when they are ready, which should be in a few weeks.

Nieto, Wellington and retired agricultural specialist Bob Sotomayor will begin hands-on gardening lessons open to all Community members beginning Saturday, August 20. Subsequent classes are planned for Saturdays, Sept. 3, 17, and 24. Each class will cover a different aspect of garden care. Class will be held at the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital’s Diabetes Support Center in Building 11. The MIIDDD also offers free gardening soil and seed to Community members.

To contact the Community Garden Project, call (520) 610-2646.

Letters to the Editor

Environmental tips to decrease waste and pollution

My name is not important. I am not a scientist nor a journalist. However, I am a GRIC member and a concerned human being.

I only know enough to talk to you about anything, but I want to talk to you all beautiful people to learn how to do your part.

Let us think of ways we can help Mother Earth now.

1. Manage your electricity. Use LED light bulbs. Keep lights off when not in use, unplug appliances that are not being used on the daily.
2. Recycle/reuse 3. Plant a tree (trees play a huge role in trapping carbon dioxide out of the air)
4. Save on gas, we can’t control our transportation but on the transportation bus IF POSSIBLE.
5. Cut your laundry days in half 6. You see trash pick it up anywhere and everywhere.
7. Take shorter showers.
8. Use both sides of paper.
9. Use both sides of paper.
10. Use cloths to clean around your house like bathroom, windows to save on plastic.
11. Use cloth diapers.
12. Use natural cleaners.

These are more than a few ideas on where to start. It’s going to be challenging (trust me I know) I’ve made a few changes to my household as well, but we have to try. I know how important this movement is for Mother Earth. And besides, we have nowhere else to live. Do you?

Just think how our ancestors used to live long ago no electricity, no vehicles, no high technology, and no fast food. Wouldn’t you say that is amazing? I would say that I am positive some of you will make changes however little or big appropriate.

As the sun moves and is reinstated by the moon, the natural differences may be measured by intensity, but still may lead you to the road of progress. Our people, our heritage and traditions are often reflected upon our amazing land of desert. We have kept our way safe throughout time and now the natural order of sharing is present. Venwa. Enjoy.

- Tiffany Bernal

The value of a college degree

Learning is just a benefit of gaining financial stability and better career opportunities through a college degree. However, there is much to debate about the topic. According to College Atlas website, “... College graduates are typically more satisfied with their careers than individuals with a high school diploma’s[...].” (“The Benefits of a College Degree”). The article explains, a college degree is worth every penny. Students benefit from their college education all their lives. There are those who believe that college is not worth the time or commitment because many people cannot find viable jobs after they graduate. New graduates see growing debt in their future. Some see college as a way to collect debt; however, a college education is beneficial by providing financial stability and better career opportunities.

According to the United States Census Bureau, individuals achieve [sic] the following degree levels earned the following median annual salaries: PhD's, $100,000 or more; Masters, $63,000; Bachelor's, $55,700; Associate’s, $42,000; high school diploma, $32,500. However, these kinds of statistics do not lie— I have had experience firsthand. I worked at McDonald’s 40 plus hours a week, and I barely made $19,000 in a year with no high school diploma or GED. As I pursued a GED, that benefited me in many ways. I then earned and is reinstated by the future have earned a college degree.


- Victoria Baker

Garden Project looking for more volunteers for picking and harvesting

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

The article explains, “The Benefits of a College Degree”). (“The Benefits of a College Degree”). How- ever, there is much to debate about the topic. According to College Atlas website, “... College graduates are typically more satisfied with their careers than individuals with a high school diploma’s[...].” (“The Benefits of a College Degree”). The article explains, a college degree is worth every penny. Students benefit from their college education all their lives. There are those who believe that college is not worth the time or commitment because many people cannot find viable jobs after they graduate. New graduates see growing debt in their future. Some see college as a way to collect debt; however, a college education is beneficial by providing financial stability and better career opportunities.

Financial stability is a benefit that comes with a college education. According to the United States Census Bureau, “Individuals who only finish some college have a lifetime earnings estimate of $1.55 million. And those with a high school diploma can look forward to earning about $1.3 million over their lifetime.” Without a college education graduates will be looking at a lower income than those who have earned degrees.

Nevertheless, higher earning potential is merely a bonus with financial stability, as noted in the College Atlas website. According to the United States Census Bureau, individuals achieve [sic] the following degree levels earned the following median annual salaries: PhD’s, $100,000 or more; Masters, $63,000; Bachelor’s, $55,700; Associate’s, $42,000; high school diploma, $32,500. However, these kinds of statistics do not lie—I have had experience firsthand. I worked at McDonald’s 40 plus hours a week, and I barely made $19,000 in a year with no high school diploma or GED. As I pursued a GED, that benefited me in many ways. I then earned and is reinstated by the future have earned a college degree.


- Victoria Baker
If you are accessing Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital from the north parking lot, pull up to our convenient Temporary Lobby Patient Drop-Off Zone. Our Customer Service Representatives will give you a bottle of water and help you navigate to your destination. We can provide wheelchair assistance if needed as well. You can even call ahead and let us know when you are arriving.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we improve your experience at Gila River Health Care.

To call ahead for assistance or for any questions or comments, please call (520) 562-3321 and ask to be connected with the Customer Service front desk.

Visit GRHC.ORG for more information.

Native American Day Closure
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, the Komatke Health Center, and the Ak-Chin Clinic will be closed on Friday, September 16, 2016. HHKMH Saturday clinic will be closed September 17.

Normal business hours will resume Monday, September 19, 2016.

For more information, please visit grhc.org/NADay

2016 Day of Hope for Professionals
September 10, 2016
“Honoring People...Connecting Hope with Care”
You are invited if you provide direct, health-related services to Gila River Indian Community Members
No fee. Register now!
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass
For more information and to register, please visit grhc.org/DOHFP

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O’ODHAM VETERANS CELEBRATION

AUGUST 27
312 N. Chief Avenue
White River, AZ 85941
Contact: Dennis at 928.594.0273
d.faden@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER 24
Gila River Indian Community
Vah Ki District 5 / Multi-purpose Bldg.
3456 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Bapchule, AZ 85121
Contact: Doug at 602.327.5973
douglas.jan@gric.nsn.us

OCTOBER 8
Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community
Salt River Community Building
1880 N. Longmore Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Contact: Pacer Reina at 480.362.7490
pacer.reina@srpmic-nsn.gov

NOVEMBER 19
Lopez-Hernandez American Legion Post #95
2256 S. 3rd Ave, Solomon, AZ 85551
Contact: Hal at 928.235.1980
halherbert8@gmail.com
Ray at 928.965.0785
rcajpac@hotmail.com

DECEMBER 5
Tohono O’odham Nation
Sells Recreation Center

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