GRIC, 7 Arizona Tribes Sign Gaming Compact Amendment

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Together with Gov. Doug Ducey, the Gila River Indian Community and seven other Arizona tribes signed amendments to the 2002 tribal gaming compacts and an accompanying agreement designed to open up new compact talks on Nov. 21.

The updated agreement between the tribes and the State could give tribes who have kept the promise not to open new casinos in metropolitan Phoenix the ability to grow their tribal gaming operations.

Community tribal council representatives accompanied Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who signed the amendments.

According to a GRIC press release Gov. Lewis said, “This is a significant step forward for these eight tribes, who have stood by the promise we all made in 2002 not to open any additional casinos in the metropolitan Phoenix area.”

He said the signing of the amendments is about acting in good faith towards the state of Arizona and it’s voters, who have benefited from tribal gaming.

Tribal Ed. Dept. brings together stakeholders at Education Summit

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

Over one hundred people convened at the District 3 Head Start Multi Purpose Room on Nov. 19 to discuss one important issue: education.

The Gila River Indian Community’s Tribal Education Department held an Education Summit in an effort to improve Community outreach and take a close look at Education in the Community.

The most concerning issues were addressed during three critical breakout sessions. These sessions focused on GRIC’s educational system with attendees addressing expectations for a better system, the issues with the current system and what needs to be done to improve education in the Community for the students and administrators.

Elders and Vietnam Vets Celebrated at Elder Day

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

On a brisk November morning over 300 Gila River Indian Community elders and Vietnam veterans were celebrated at the 21st Annual Elder Day held at the Rawhide Steakhouse on Nov 18. The theme of the event was “Honoring Vietnam Veterans 50th Year.”

Masters of Ceremonies, Tony and Joe Davis, got people laughing, joking that for entertaining the large crowd, they would accept payments in the form of money, Christmas wish list purchases, and even car rides.

In honor of the Community elders and Vietnam veterans, GRIC leadership, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antoine each took to the stage at the center of the Rawhide Steakhouse, to say a few words honoring the two groups.

Gov. Lewis took to the stage saying Community Elders were being honored, in part, for their knowledge of Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh cultures, passing on knowledge of Akimel O’otham.

Elderly Concerns Group Chair Marlene Norris.

The theme of the event was “Honoring Community Elders and Vietnam Veterans 50th Year.”

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Gov. Lewis took to the stage saying Community Elders were being honored, in part, for their knowledge of Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh cultures, passing on traditions, and past accomplishments that helped build the Community.

To continue honoring elders

Comments were recorded by Tribal Education staff at each breakout session.

Andreas G. Johnson/GRIN

GRIC leadership, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, left, along with seven other tribal leaders, during the compact amendment signing ceremony at the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix, Ariz., on Nov. 21.

Gov. Ducey said, “Tribal gaming has flourished, creating 15,000 jobs and driving significant economic development and opportunities much to the benefit of Arizona healthcare and Arizona education.”

He said the signing of the compact amendments meet the following expectations:

1. Tribal communities that are funded by revenue from casinos.
2. A substantial return for having kept our promise to Arizona’s voters and leaders,” said Gov. Lewis.
3. At the signing ceremony

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Continued on Page 10
Merry Christmas and Lasting Happiness
The Japanese Internment Camp Monument has been damaged by gunshots to the pillars along with graffiti and litter.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

On a windswept hill overlooking Gila River Farms a monument to 16,000 Japanese Americans, who were taken from their homes and forced to live in internment camps at the former Gila River War Relocation Center from 1943 to 1945, was recently discovered to have been severely vandalized by multiple gunshots with some areas of the structure almost completely shot through. A group made up of Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) members, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, and Paul Shorthair, who has been integral in making sure JACL members are escorted to the monument site and providing liaison assistance to families, traveled to the monument for the site’s annual Autumn cleanup on the morning of Nov. 12.

The cleanup was held in honor of the monument’s last steward, the late Dr. Ted Namba. JACL members picked up trash, painted over graffiti and offered remembrance through words, music, and silent reflection. Lt. Gov. Antone said that during the cleanup a member of the JACL played the taiko drums in honor of Gila River Indian Community members.

The cleanup was in honor of Ted Namba, who worked with the Community to relocate monuments, and build stronger relationships between the two cultures.

Lt. Gov. Antone brought up the vandalism at a Nov. 16 GRIC Council meeting, specifically informing Ira Hayes Post 84.

Tony McDaniel, Ira Hayes Post 84, said that they found shotgun shells and what appeared to be spent AK-47 rounds at the site.

“What we know is that somebody was out here shooting again. Whenever we go out there and do a cleanup, there are always spent cartridges lying around but they never really shot at the monument,” he said.

While every once in a while a bullet hole or two would have to be patched up at the monument, the recent level of destruction to the site is the worst McDaniel has seen.

“This time it looked like a deliberate attempt to destroy the monument,” he said.

While it is currently unclear as to when the damage was caused, it is important, said McDaniel, that people are educated on the importance of the monument and what it represents.

“Those that served, first we know that they were unjustly treated by being put there, but the people who served from there were basically the highest decorated unit during [World War II]. The Japanese Americans…were seriously decorated and honored. They definitely did their part during war,” he said.

Now that the damage has been done, Ira Hayes Post 84, along with others, is looking to fix the monument in the near future. McDaniel noted that the site needs to be made a historical monument.

“I would like to see it made a historical site and protected better. Because if it was made a historical site then the rangers…would be spending more time out there, checking up on it,” McDaniel said.

History of the Gila River War Relocation Center and Japanese American Veterans

The Gila River Relocation Center was built during World War II about 30 miles southeast of Phoenix, Ariz. in District 5. The center consisted of two camps, the Canal and Butte camps.

Construction of the relocation center began on May 1, 1942 and was officially opened just two months later on July 20.

After U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, authorizing the forced removal and incarceration of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast, around 110,000 American citizens were sent to relocation camps around the country. Japanese Americans from California were sent to the Gila River War Relocation Center, which at its peak housed 13,348 men, women, and children.

Many of the Japanese American citizens were forced to leave their homes and forced to live in relocation camps at the former Gila River, many U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry volunteered to serve or were inducted into the U.S. military services. They fought on both the European and Pacific fronts in defense of the United States. Sacrifices were made by these Americans of Japanese ancestry to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States of America.

At the bottom of the plaque are listed names of Japanese American servicemen and women, who had been interned at Gila River, many U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry volunteered to serve or were inducted into the U.S. military services. They fought on both the European and Pacific fronts in defense of the United States. Sacrifices were made by these Americans of Japanese ancestry to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States of America.
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The climate is changing. Air temperatures are rising. Wildfires in the West are increasing, and droughts in the Colorado River Basin are expected to become more frequent, longer, and more severe. This past July was Earth’s hottest month in recorded history, according to NASA, the hottest month in a row. All of these changes have long-term implications for the Gila River’s water, food, lifestyle, and culture. Gila River, however, is getting ready.

GRIC’s Department of Environmental Quality (GRIC DEQ) is leading the process of developing a two-part Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency Plan for the Community. In doing so, Gila River is leading the way, being among the first tribes in the region to complete such a plan. It is no small task and the Department encourages everyone interested to assist in the project and join the Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency Planning Team.

On Nov. 4 and 5, as part of its planning process, the GRIC DEQ hosted a climate change workshop titled “Understanding Potential Impacts and Identifying Solutions” at the Huhugam Heritage Center. It was Part 2 of a two-part workshop series hosted by the Department. The first workshop took place on September 23rd-24th, and focused primarily on introducing climate change in general and scrutinizing the surface in regards to how the climate has been changing within the Community. Workshop Part 2’s focus was on how the climate has changed, what local impacts have been felt within the Community, and what needs to be done to ensure the people in the Community are able to adapt and thrive from a public health, cultural, and economical standpoint.

A diverse group of Community members and leaders attended the workshop. Everyone who attended shared their experiences, knowledge, and perspectives, which enriched the experience for all, and provided a foundation for GRIC climate change adaptation & resiliency planning. Among those who attended were Lieutenant Governor Monica Antoine, Councilman Robert Stone (District 5), Billy Allen, and Alkim Gump attorney and former GRIC General Counsel Rod Lewin, who provided insight on the Community’s water supply, specifically explaining the Community’s water rights and the potential impacts climate change can have on the water supply.

University of Arizona professor, Dr. Karletta Chief, gave a presentation about drought planning and the implications drought can have on the southwest and most notably Native Communities in the Southwest. Dr. Chief, a member of the Navajo Nation, gave a presentation that was engaging, technical, and extremely relevant since GRIC is no stranger to the arid climate. Dr. Chief emphasized the importance of focusing on drought planning now since the southwest region, including GRIC, is already experiencing a warmer climate, and is predicted to face increasing intensity and length of drought periods.

There were many climate-related areas of concern expressed by the attendees of the workshop. Some of the key concerns were air and water quality, and food and water supply. Traditional knowledge was also an area of concern. Climate change is a complex topic that affects the whole Community, so the whole Community must partake in addressing it. Community Elder Willardene Lewis mentioned, “We [Community] have great talent, we need to kick start it somehow.” It was acknowledged that workshops and plans are a step in the right direction, but for the efforts to reflect all aspects and interests of the Community, then every person and working within the Community must join the effort.

At the end night of the workshop, the attendees were asked to bring an item of importance to the Community to cherish and that has been affected by climate change. One of the items brought was devil’s claw or “th’ug,” which was brought by Councilman Stone. It is a plant used to make medicine and is one of the plants that Councilman Stone routinely plants in his garden. In years past, the plants grew back from the seeds that were left from the previous year and now animals have been eating the seeds and the plant itself since they don’t have as much to eat as they used to in years past. The devil’s claw brought in showed evidence of this and are smaller in recent years due to the lack of water and dehydration.

The next steps for GRIC DEQ includes starting to draft a Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency Plan for the Community. The feedback provided in both workshops will serve as a framework for a vulnerability assessment and provide guidance for what needs to be prioritized in the GRIC DEQ’s Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency Planning. Everyone who attended will also meet with elders to learn about the changes they’ve witnessed in their lifetime and gain their understanding of how traditional knowledge can play a key role in the planning process. GRIC DEQ will meet with various departments within the Community to develop a comprehensive plan that accurately reflects the Community’s concerns.

Climate change will affect everyone and GRIC DEQ wishes to ensure all voices are heard and included everyone who lives and works in the Community. If you want to learn more about the Community’s Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency Planning, or wish to take part in the planning process, visit GRIC DEQ’s website at cdeq.org or contact Althea Walker at althea.walker@gric.nsn.us or (520) 562-2274.

Incident Log November 20, 2016 - November 26, 2016

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

District One: No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Two: Rothbery – A suspect attempted to commit robery by knocking on the victim’s front door at or around 08:00 pm and demanded money. The suspect had his hand right in his pocket, holding an unknown object which was believed to be a handgun. The victim quickly closed and locked his door. The suspect then fled on foot.

District Three: Aggravated Assault (DV) – The suspect commited aggravated assault by strangling and choking, and his girlfriend with a wooden baseball bat. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.

District Four: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which two brothers were involved in an argument, and the suspect used a weighted object to strike the victim in the head. The victim was transported to a local area hospital for treatment.

District Five: Theft – Three hundred and seventy-five lime green traffic cones were reported stolen from a box trailer in a secured access parking lot while at the Rawhide Event Center.

District Six: Burglary - Suspect(s) forced entry into the Gila River Wellness Center damaging a door and shutting the reception window. Status: Under Investigation.

District Seven: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Arrested.

District Eight: Shoplifting - A suspect walked out of the Tommy Hilfiger store with a pair of men’s shorts he did not pay for. The suspect was detained and interviewed. Charges: Shoplifting. Status: Under Investigation.

District Nine: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.

District Ten: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Arrested.

District Eleven: Theft – Three hundred and seventy-five lime green traffic cones were reported stolen from a box trailer in a secured access parking lot while at the Rawhide Event Center.

District Twelve: Burglary - Suspect(s) forced entry into the Gila River Wellness Center damaging a door and shutting the reception window. Status: Under Investigation.

District Thirteen: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which two brothers were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a weighted object to strike the victim in the head. The victim was transported to a local area hospital for treatment.

District Fourteen: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.

District Fifteen: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.

District Sixteen: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.

District Seventeen: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.

District Eighteen: Aggravated Assault (DV) – A domestic disturbance was reported in which a brother and sister were involved in a physical altercation and the suspect used a frying pan to strike the victim in the face. The victim was seen by medics on scene and refused any further medical attention. Status: Sup. arrested.
changing needs of the state and increase opportunities for tribal gaming.

Hualapai Tribal Chairman Dr. Damon Clarke said the amendments to the tribal gaming compact benefit all tribal communities that do not operate casinos, but lease their gaming machines to tribes in more heavily populated areas of the state.

“These funds help us provide basic governmental services, build and maintain infrastructure and promote economic development to build our economy,” said Clarke.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begay said the modernization of the tribal gaming compact keeps money in the state of Arizona allowing them and the state’s economy to grow.

Begay highlighted the benefits of tribal gaming dollars on healthcare, education and wildlife conservation management.

“It’s about keeping Arizona money right [here], so that it can be used to address the needs that it was set aside for,” said Begay.

The signing ceremony included the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ft. McDowell, the Navajo Nation, the Hualapai Tribe, the Tonto Apache Tribe, the Havasupai Tribe and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Each Tribe signed two agreements. The first, a short compact amendment, recommitted the tribes to the Proposition 202 promise not to support any additional casinos in metro Phoenix. The compact amendment also allows these tribes to add more table games and keno games to their casinos.

The second agreement opens the way for a new round of compact negotiations between tribes and Gov. Ducey. However, this second phase of negotiation will only be available to tribes who agree to the “no new casinos” promise set forth in the compact amendment.

Every Tribe currently gaming in the State of Arizona will have the opportunity to sign both agreements – including the Tohono O’odham Nation, which defied the 2002 promise by opening a casino in Glendale. Should the Nation agree to the new promise, it would be allowed to keep its Glendale casino, though moving forward it would have to abide by its assertion that it will open no additional casinos in the Phoenix area.

“One of my administration’s major priorities has been to resolve the years-long West Valley casino dispute,” said Gov. Lewis. “Together with Gov. Ducey and our sister tribes, we are working on just such a solution – an agreement that will benefit our Community and every tribe in Arizona.”
Elder Day at Rawhide

and solidify that tradition within the Community, Gov. Lewis made a surprise announcement, declaring the month of November “Elders Day Month.”

“I, Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, do hereby proclaim November the month of November and solidify that tradition,” said Gov. Lewis.

After talking about the importance of elders’ contributions to the Community, he discussed the event’s theme of Vietnam veterans. He said that many veterans of the Vietnam War had stories of valor and sacrifice. However, when they came home, they weren’t properly recognized and welcomed home.

“I know many of you and I’ve spoken personally to you and heard your stories. One of the sad things…is that when you came home you weren’t properly recognized…and I want to continue to welcome you home.”

So for all of you Viet- nam veterans here, welcome home…each and every one of you,” he said to a rousing applause.

As Community elders and veterans enjoyed breakfast at the Rawhide Steakhouse, Lt. Gov. An- tone said she was proud to have been part of the Community’s very first Elder Day celebration 21 years ago and thrilled to still be taking part in the tradition.

“I remember when Elder Day first came [to] the Gila River In- dian Community,” said Lt. Gov. Antoine. At that time, she had been an intern for then-Mayor Thomas, who initially established the an- nual Elder Day celebration, she said.

“It’s an honor to be here to cherish each and every one of you because we look up to you, we commend all of the things that you have done for our Community,” she said.

Shortly after, Vietnam veteran Everett Stone Sr. stepped up to the stage and talked about his life’s journey. From growing up under the little mountain of Gila Butte, receiving a high school education in Casa Grande, to the battlefields of Vietnam, Stone recounted his colorful and often tragic experiences.

He said after high school, the United States Marine Corps. sent him to boot camp in North Carolina, then shortly after, to the Demilitarized Zone in central Vietnam.

They were sent to the frontline, he said, where his position was eventually captured and he was captured. He spent the next 13 months in a Prisoner of War camp 45 miles north of Hanoi.

He said that he still experiences flashbacks of the war and tries to keep

about water, taste water. Picture a scene from the old days: a water filled ha’a or olla hanging from a va:to or ramada beam. Or it may have been sitting in a mes- quite fork. The clay ha’a is “sweating” and cooling the water. When visitors come by, you offer them water.

Nice, refreshing, life sus- taining su:dag or water. Any elder who grew up in Sweetwater will attest to the sweetness of tribal wa- ter. Whenever my mother grew up in Sweetwater will attest to the sweetness of tribal water. Whenever my mother traveled, she couldn’t wait to get back to Vahki to taste the “good” home sweet water. Wasted sustenance; it grew and cooked our food, cleansed us and our clothes determined where we lived. We had to be close to water. Water IS life.

When we celebrate Water Rights Day, think about what is Life.

A’AGA

Native American communities acknowledge all major holidays and add a few Native ones. The Gila River Indian Community’s Water Rights Day honors victory of a decades long lawsuit for our historical water rights. To date, it is the largest Native water settlement in the United States. This endeavor in- volved many tribal mem- bers; young and old, men and women, learned indi- viduals with degrees and individuals with ancestral knowledge. However, wa- ter issues persist for Na- tives.

Prop to GRICsters and O'otham who traveled to North Dakota to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline. The plan includes a pipeline under the river up- stream of their reservation. If the pipeline ruptures, it will pollute the river – the tribe’s sole water source. The protest motto: “Water is Life.”

When we celebrate Water Rights Day, think about su:dag or water. Picture a scene from the old days: a water filled ha’a or olla hanging from a va:to or ramada beam. Or it may have been sitting in a mesquite fork. The clay ha’a is “sweating” and cooling the water. When visitors come by, you offer them water. Nice, refreshing, life sustaining su:dag or water. Any elder who grew up in Sweetwater will attest to the sweetness of tribal water. Whenever my mother traveled, she couldn’t wait to get back to Vahki to taste the “good” home sweet water. Wasted sustenance; it grew and cooked our food, cleansed us and our clothes determined where we lived. We had to be close to water. Water IS life.

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Phoenix Indian Center honors Urban Giff with lifetime achievement award

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Urban Giff, top right, won the Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award at the American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards Ceremony on Nov. 16.

Indian community. “We are very proud to be here and be a part of the presentation of [this] award to Urban Giff [for] his achievements.”

Before giving his acceptance speech Giff recognized the veterans that were present for their service offering them a welcome home salute. Giff spoke of the support that he has received from friends and family from the Community. “[They] deserve recognition for what I have been able to do because of their support. My wife Cindy has been supportive through our 52 years of being together,” said Giff.

Humbled by the honor, he said the late Ware Sr. carried honor and distinction throughout his life and that he is indebted for being a recipient of the award. In attendance was the Ira H. Hayes Post 84, who posted the colors while the Four Winds Drum Group sang a song to honor American Indian veterans.

The Phoenix Indian Center Board of Directors and President Traci Morris, Ph.D., said the awardees distinguish themselves as leaders in their communities and among their peers. Morris said the trend of individuals coming from tribal communities is representative of this year’s awardees. PICO CEO Patti Hibeber said the awardees are not based on the centers preference, but relies on the public to nominate an influential figure in their community.

She said the ceremony to honor distinguished individuals was the idea of the center’s former Executive Director Phyllis J. Bigpond. Morris said Bigpond, who passed away in 2009 from a bout with brain cancer, came up with the idea recognizing the “unsung heroes” of Native communities.

Hibeber said the individuals being awarded are indicative of the work being done by the center, which is about giving back to the community.

The achievements of a few nominated individuals were recognized with a ceremony honoring their hard work and commitment to service in the local Native community.

Clad in traditional attire and evening wear the nominees had a reason to celebrate at the American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards ceremony on Nov. 16.

What has become an annual custom, the awards ceremony has been hosted by the Phoenix Indian Center every November during Native American Heritage month for 34 years.

Native Wellness Institute Board of Director Robert Johnson (Muskogee Creek/Choctaw), who emceed the awards ceremony said, “Tonight [we] gather to recognize outstanding leaders, both young and elderly.”

He said the awards ceremony is a token of appreciation for those that have dedicated their lives to helping American Indian people and are always planning for the future.

The group of awardees was made up of high school students, public figures and individuals who represented a total of eight tribes from the Gila River Indian Community, Yuma O’odham Nation, Nahuatl Nation, Huapalai Indian Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Rosebud Sioux and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Among the awardees was Gila River Indian Community member and former Community Manager Urban Giff from District 6.

Before joining the United States Marine Corps, and retiring at the rank of major after 27 years of military service, Giff graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

Currently Giff is a member of the Lone Butte Industrial Development Corporation, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development and the Advisory Board of the Construction in Indian Country Conference hosted by ASU.

He was awarded the Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by his son Kent C. Ware Jr., who said growing up he remembered his father volunteering many years to the Phoenix Indian News December 2, 2016

Lights of the World lantern festival lights up Rawhide Western Town

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

An international attraction has landed in the Gila River Indian Community bridging two cultures together for festive holiday fun.

The Lights of the World International Lantern Festival ripped the switch on over 75 displays on Nov. 18.

The lantern festival is a show of the mutual friendship between the sister cities of Chengdu, China and Phoenix and the surrounding communities like GRIC and the city of Chandler.

Before officially lighting the displays, a cultural exchange and ribbon cutting ceremony took place between GRIC and Chinese performers and delegation. District 5 Council Representative Robert Stone provided an opening blessing for the event and talked about the importance of O’odham language in the Community.

Akimel O’odham and Chinese cultural dancers demonstrated the talents of the host and visiting nations that included performers of all ages.

Located on the south side of the Rawhide Western Town, the festival offers a glimpse of some of the worlds most famous landmarks that take attendees through a trek across Europe, Asia, America and other parts of the world. Attendees will have a chance to check out the carving rides and daily performances, which were showcased at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Assistant General Manager David White said the opening ceremony is a way of showcasing the cooperative efforts that make the lantern festival possible. He said it took over 18 months of planning on both sides of the Rawhide West Town.

The lantern displays featured O’odham designs such as the Man in the Maze.

Guests experience the Lights of the World Festival on Nov. 18 at Rawhide Western Town.

Continued on Page 13

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Native Wellness Institute Board of Director Robert Johnson (Muskogee Creek/Choctaw), who emceed the awards ceremony said, “Tonight [we] gather to recognize outstanding leaders, both young and elderly.”

He said the awards ceremony is a token of appreciation for those that have dedicated their lives to helping American Indian people and are always planning for the future.

The group of awardees was made up of high school students, public figures and individuals who represented a total of eight tribes from the Gila River Indian Community, Yuma O’odham Nation, Nahuatl Nation, Huapalai Indian Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Rosebud Sioux and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Among the awardees was Gila River Indian Community member and former Community Manager Urban Giff from District 6.

Before joining the United States Marine Corps, and retiring at the rank of major after 27 years of military service, Giff graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

Currently Giff is a member of the Lone Butte Industrial Development Corporation, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development and the Advisory Board of the Construction in Indian Country Conference hosted by ASU.

He was awarded the Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by his son Kent C. Ware Jr., who said growing up he remembered his father volunteering many years to the Phoenix Indian News December 2, 2016

Lights of the World lantern festival lights up Rawhide Western Town

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

An international attraction has landed in the Gila River Indian Community bridging two cultures together for festive holiday fun.

The Lights of the World International Lantern Festival ripped the switch on over 75 displays on Nov. 18.

The lantern festival is a show of the mutual friendship between the sister cities of Chengdu, China and Phoenix and the surrounding communities like GRIC and the city of Chandler.

Before officially lighting the displays, a cultural exchange and ribbon cutting ceremony took place between GRIC and Chinese performers and delegation. District 5 Council Representative Robert Stone provided an opening blessing for the event and talked about the importance of O’odham language in the Community.

Akimel O’odham and Chinese cultural dancers demonstrated the talents of the host and visiting nations that included performers of all ages.

Located on the south side of the Rawhide Western Town, the festival offers a glimpse of some of the worlds most famous landmarks that take attendees through a trek across Europe, Asia, America and other parts of the world. Attendees will have a chance to check out the carving rides and daily performances, which were showcased at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Assistant General Manager David White said the opening ceremony is a way of showcasing the cooperative efforts that make the lantern festival possible. He said it took over 18 months of planning on both sides of the Rawhide West Town.

The lantern displays featured O’odham designs such as the Man in the Maze.

Guests experience the Lights of the World Festival on Nov. 18 at Rawhide Western Town.

Continued on Page 13

The Phoenix Indian Center Board of Directors and President Traci Morris, Ph.D., said the awardees distinguish themselves as leaders in their communities and among their peers. Morris said the trend of individuals coming from tribal communities is representative of this year’s awardees.

PICO CEO Patti Hibeber said the awardees are not based on the centers preference, but relies on the public to nominate an influential figure in their community.

She said the ceremony to honor distinguished individuals was the idea of the center’s former Executive Director Phyllis J. Bigpond. Morris said Bigpond, who passed away in 2009 from a bout with brain cancer, came up with the idea recognizing the “unsung heroes” of Native communities.

Hibeber said the individuals being awarded are indicative of the work being done by the center, which is about giving back to the community.

Phoenix Indian Center honors Urban Giff with lifetime achievement award

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The achievements of a few nominated individuals were recognized with a ceremony honoring their hard work and commitment to service in the local Native community.

Clad in traditional attire and evening wear the nominees had a reason to celebrate at the American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards ceremony on Nov. 16.

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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
2016 WATER RIGHTS DAY
“Reflecting on the Past and Protecting our Future”

Saturday 12.10.16

10AM-2PM
*Guest Speakers *Food
*Cultural Singing & Dancing
*Commemorative Gifts
For the First 300 People

Huhugam Heritage Center
21359 S Maricopa Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85226

For more information contact Alie Walking Badger,
Special Events Coordinator 520-562-9713 or email
special.events@GRIC.NSN.US
St. Peter Indian Mission School perform in honor of National Native American Heritage Month

From Page 1

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis attended the summit and was looking forward to the findings. “We have to look at exactly what is the state of our schools today,” he said.

The sentiment at the summit was that new approaches are needed to achieve a higher quality education. “We have to have education that’s tailored to our Community,” said Gov. Lewis.

Gov. Lewis also announced a new initiative his administration is working on for the students. “One of the initiatives that I’m working on is bringing wifi to each of our districts.”

Tribal Education Director Isaac Salcido echoed Gov. Lewis’s comments on the importance of the summit by saying, “We know we need to improve the system.”

A quality education goes beyond the classroom. Social and emotional factors play into a student’s learning as well. “You deal with a lot of emotional issues,” said Arzie Hogg, District 1 Council Representative and Chair of the Education Standing Committee.

The break out sessions took place in four different areas at District 3 Head Start. The topics were titled Compliance, Academic, Social/Emotional and Culture. The four groups addressed the topics in three break out sessions. The first session was about describing the ideal education system, the second was to describe GRIC’s current system and the last session was focused on ways to improve.

The more than 100 participants included Gov. Lewis, Council representatives, GRIC school administrators and staff, Tribal Education staff, as well as students and parents. The youth were also heavily involved. A panel of five youth talked about their experiences in education.

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While many nine-year-old boys spend their after-school hours watching cartoons or playing the latest video game, Casa Blanca fourth grader Tavavis Wright is practicing his sidekick and dreaming of earning his orange belt in karate.

Wearing a white karate gi with a yellow belt wrapped around his waist, Wright can usually be found at the District 5 Multipurpose building, training in martial arts with a group of other like-minded youth at the bi-weekly karate class.

Wright’s mother, Darla Hoover, said that her son’s interest was sparked last February when they visited the District 5 Multipurpose building to view Casa Blanca Elementary School’s science fair. At the science fair, looking at all the exhibits, and…discipline. It’s been a rare accomplishment.

Thomas R. Throssell

Tavavis Wright kicks the pad during karate class at the District 5 Multipurpose building on Nov. 17.

5. Restrain my physical abilities through spiritual attainment.

During each karate class, instructor Jennifer Tull-Gauger, a fifth level black belt from East Valley Martial Arts, teaches her students to perform specific sequences of movements, known as kata, that represent offensive and defensive postures in karate. At the end of each practice session she has her students memorize and recite the five principles of Dojo Kun.

“These five Dojo Kun, that is the most important thing that we teach,” said Tull-Gauger. They were written by martial arts master Kanga Sakagawa to teach people how to use the karate martial arts in a responsible manner, all-the-while improving their lives, she said.

“Feel it is my moral responsibility today, if I am going to teach someone body how to fight and how to hurt somebody, I also need to teach them how to prevent that and how to use that as a very last resort,” she said.

Like all karate students, Wright started off as a white belt and began to memorize the moves for the next rank, the half-white/half-yellow belt.

Hoover explained that in order to move up a rank her son had to be able to perform all the correct movements. When he was ready, they traveled to the East Valley Martial Arts main building where judges would pass or fail him.

“He felt that he wasn’t ready for some time, said Hoover. “Finally he talked to me and said the he was ready to try for the next belt and I told him to remember if you don’t pass, that’s ok because you can always try again.”

It was during Wright’s attempt at obtaining the half-white/half-yellow belt, that he surpassed every one’s expectations. “We were both shocked and surprised because the next belt that he was going to go for was half-white/half-yellow,” said Hoover. “And then when they came out that is when they bumped him up to the next color, which is yellow.”

Last August, Wright earned his yellow belt, making him the first in his class to move up to that rank. The transition was a surprise to both him and his mother, because in order to receive a yellow belt, he had to completely skip over the white-yellow belt rank, a rare accomplishment.

Wright, who is passionate about karate, now has his eyes set on the orange belt.

“The next belt I have to learn is orange [and] I think it will take a little while to get better,” he said. “He’s learning self-defense, getting good exercise, learning martial arts, and best of all, having a good time, and he wants other Community youth to join in on the fun. Everyone needs to learn how to move their bodies, Wright said.

“They’ve got to exercise, I don’t want them to be lying around watching TV or playing video games. I want everybody to get out and exercise.”

Currently, there are two karate classes being taught at the District 5 Multipurpose building. The Little Dragons class is for younger children and the Ninja Warriors class if for older children and adults. For more information about the karate classes contact the Vah Ki Recreation Department at (520) 315-3441.

For more information contact Stacy Vavages e-mail: stacy.vavages@clubzona.org • tel: 520.562.3890

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Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley
Gila River Branch - Sacaton

Pesticide Container Disposal

The Pesticide Control Office recommends the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the control of pests. As part of IPM, the use of a pesticide may not always be necessary. Once you have used all of a pesticide product, what should you do with the empty container? To dispose of empty pesticide containers properly, follow the directions provided on the pesticide label. The directions for pesticide container disposal may differ from pesticide to pesticide.

An important rule regarding pesticide containers is:

Never save or reuse an empty pesticide container for any reason.

If the label on your empty pesticide container tells you to rinse the container, rinse the container three times. Do not pour the rinse water into a household drain, onto the ground, into a ditch, or into a storm drain. To dispose of rinse water, you may use the rinse to water your sprayer or application equipment. It can be applied directly onto your target site.

If you are unsure of how to dispose of a pesticide container or packaging, please contact the Pesticide Control Office.
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday November 16, 2016, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:13 a.m.

INVIATION

Provided by Councilman Robert Stone

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:
D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Carolyn Williams; D4-Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison (10:15), Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone; D6-Sandra Nasewetywa, Charles Goldtooth Council Members Absent:
D3-Rodney Jackson; D4-Barney Enos, Jr., D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6-Anthony Villanear, Sr., D7-Devin Redbird

GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS PROVIDED A STATEMENT REGARDING HIS RECENT ACCIDENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES)

*1. Insurance Manager Introduction Kimberly Childers
   Presenter: Pamela Thompson
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

2. Introduction of Ms. Yichun Xu, Hydrologist
   Presenter: Kimberly Antone
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

3. Introduction of Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Ginger Fligger
   Presenter: Myron Schurz

MR. MYRON SCHURZ INTRODUCED MS. GINGER FLIGGER. MS. FLIGGER PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS, GOVERNOR, AND LT. GOVERNOR EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS. IN ADDITION, SHE PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM ISSUES

REPORTS

1. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84 Fiscal Year 2016 3rd Quarter Report
   Presenters: Chesley Juan, Jr., Tony McDaniel, Robert Amado
   Report Heard

   Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs, Pamela Thompson
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

   Third Quarter Management Report
   Presenter: Ronald C. Allison
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

   Presenter: Althea Walker
   Report Heard

5. North Santa Cruz Wash Project Report and Update
   Presenter: Seaver Fields
   Motion made and second to table Reports #5 & #6

6. Proposal Tortosa Subdivision Drainage Impact to GRIC
   Presenter: Seaver Fields
   Tabled at Report #5

7. G&M Work Sessions Thursday, November 17 & Friday, November 18, 2016
   Presenters: Michael Moraña, Bob Gazis
   Report Heard

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Certain Alotted Lands Pursuant To The American Indian Probate Reform Act (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, NRSC concurs)
   Presenter: Javier Ramos
   APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Certain Alotted Lands Pursuant To The American Indian Probate Reform Act (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval NRSC concurs)
   Presenter: Javier Ramos
   APPROVED

3. 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_005,D1.08 Crossing Alotted And Community 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 1 And As Shown In Drawing Number 40112-0492-EA, Page 1 And 2 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with correction)
   Presenters: Warren Wiltshire, Megan Jackson
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

4. A Resolution Authorizing The Community Council Secretary’s Office And The Office Of General Counsel To Prepare Amendments To The 2009 Gila River Indian Community Code For Recodification In 2017 (LSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Tom Murphy
   APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Catholic High School (ESC motions to forward to Council under unfinished Business for discussion and possible action)
   Presenter: Isaac Salcido
   Motion made and second to DISBAND THE IRA HAYES SCHOOL SITE TASK FORCE (GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENE AT 10:45 A.M.)

2. Grant Update (Executive Session) (ESC motions to forward to Council with recommendation of approval)
   Presenter: Michael Carter
   Motion made and second to DISBAND GOVERNOR TO SEND A LETTER TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY’S IM PROPER LISTING IN THE GRANT

3. Legal Review of Head Start Audit (Executive Session)
   Presenter: Naomi Bebo
   Dispensed at Approval of Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

1. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP For Fiscal Year 2017 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Office Of General Counsel
   Motion made and second to ACCEPT THE AGREED MATERIAL
   Motion made and second to APPROVE 2. Request For Funding Assistance From The United States Army Corps Of Engineers (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation of approval to proceed in moving forward with the grant application for funding, NRSC concurs)
   Presenters: Seaver Fields
   Motion made and second and to APPROVE AND PROCEED WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION

3. Resolution Approving The Memorial Airfield Trespassing Report (NRSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval to concur with recommendation for approval, LUP2 recommendations outlined)
   Presenters: Kimberly Antone, Paul Shorthair
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

4. American Indian Language Development Institute Summer Session 2017 (ESC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval, CRSC concurs)
   Presenter: Anthony Gray
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

5. Arizona State University Memorandum of Understanding (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Isaac Salcido
   Tabled at Approval of Agenda

6. Maricopa Village Christian School Written Plan SY 2016-2017 (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Larisa Quijano
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

7. Gila Crossing Community School Written Plan SY 2016-2017 (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Dr. Gregory Sackos
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

8. Casa Blanca Community School Written Plan SY 2016-2017 (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Patricia Avila
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

9. Blackwater Community School Written Plan SY 2016-2017 (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Leslie Rykel
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

10. Sacaton Elementary School Written Plan SY 2016-2017 (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Sister Martha
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

11. Sacaton Middle School Written Plan SY 2016-2017 (ESC motions to forward to Council under New Business with changes and recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Shannon White
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

MINUTES

1. September 21, 2016 (Regular)
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

2. October 19, 2016 (Regular)
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

3. November 7, 2016 (Special)
   Motion made and second to APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>EDUCATION SUMMIT II SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016, SACATON HEAD START

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR RUBEN LUHAN ROBEE FAMILY

>G&M WORK SESSIONS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016 SHERATON WILD HORSE PASS

>UGIBERT INNUS FUNERAL SERVICES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

>CARING HOUSE THANKSGIVING DINNER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016

>LONE BUTTE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THURS., NOVEMBER 17, 2016, 11AM

>ELDER’S DAY EVENT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016, RAWHIDE

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:35A.M.

* Denotes Tabled from previous meeting(s)
Lone Butte Development marks 50 years of success

Robert A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

In the 1960s the Gila River Indian Community had a vision for the land east of the I-10 Freeway and the old Sacaton Road. Fifty years later that vision has culminated in a successful business park.

“We’ve developed some really great relationships with some really great folks, who were excited about working with us on this festival,” said David. “The Zigong Lantern and Trade Company have toured over seven countries and has used the opportunity to educate the public about Chinese culture and the significance of the Lantern Festival.

On November 28, 1966 the Gila River Indian Community established Lone Butte to manage leasing and operate the park. The location was formerly named Pima Chandler Industrial but now under the Lone Butte name it is comprised of over 840 acres and they are still home to many new tenants. The most recent business to join Lone Butte was RDO Equipment. They held a grand opening on Oct. 25.

The First tenant was Pima Valve, Inc., and they came on board in 1968. According to Kenneth Link from Pima Valve they liked the business friendly atmosphere and they even named their company after the tribe. With their 57 tenants, the outlook is bright for Lone Butte with more job opportunities and revenue generated for the Community.

Lone Butte offers many benefits to corporations interested in locating in the park. Since the park is on tribal land, there are no property taxes. The Community maintains its own permitting process and it’s an water system. “Lone Butte is national- ly acclaimed as one of the best industrial parks in the nation,” said Esther Manuel, Lone Butte, LLC General Manager.

Lone Butte Development marks 50 years of success

Christopher Lomahqua/GRN

Lights of the World

from page 8

sides, which translates into 160 tons of steel 8,700 yards of fabric and over 4 million lights to make the festival possible.

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Lone Butte Development marks 50 years of success

Christopher Lomahqua/GRN

Traditonal basket dancer performed at the opening of the festival.

ESTHER MANUEL, RIGHT, Lone Butte LLC General Manager gives away raffle prizes at Lone Butte’s 50th Anniversary celebration at Lone Butte Casino on Nov. 18.

 Esther Manuel, right, Lone Butte LLC General Manager gives away raffle prizes at Lone Butte’s 50th Anniversary celebration at Lone Butte Casino on Nov. 18.

For more information go to lightsheathworld.com.
Dear Esteemed Members of the Gila River Indian Community:

We send our warmest holiday greetings to you and your family, and hope your Thanksgiving holiday was spent among your loved ones. The holiday season is a time to reflect and express our gratitude for the gifts received during the year. At Gila River Health Care, we are thankful every day for our blessings, and for the gift of trust given to us by our patients.

With our appreciation during the holiday season,
Your friends at Gila River Health Care

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**DECEMBER Closures**

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital  
Komatke Health Center  
Ak-Chin Clinic

**CLOSED**

Monday, December 26, 2016  
Monday, January 2, 2017  

There will be no Saturday clinics on December 24, 2016 or December 31, 2016. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, January 3, 2017

**HHKMH Pharmacy Hours**

Saturday, December 24, 2016 - 10 am – 6 pm  
Sunday, December 25, 2016 - CLOSED  
Monday, December 26, 2016 - 12:00 noon – 8 pm  
Saturday, December 31, 2016 - 10 am – 6 pm  
Sunday, January 1, 2017 - CLOSED  
Monday, January 2, 2017 - 12:00 noon – 8 pm

If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

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**Holiday Recipe Makeover**

Wednesday, December 14th, District 3  
Location: Life Center Conference Room  
Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Give your holiday favorites a healthy makeover!

• Space is limited •  
For tickets, please call Emily at (520) 652-1200 Ext. 1717

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**Behavioral Health Training Classes**

• Active Parenting - for parents of teens and preteens  
• Safe Talk  
• Mental Health First Aid Training  
• ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)

For more information, contact Anna Pacheco at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 7031 or Jaime Arthur at (602) 528-1374.

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Gila River Indian Community  
CRISIS LINE  
1-800-259-3449  

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Facebook: GilaRiverHealthCare  
Twitter: Gilariverhealth  
LinkedIn: /Gilariverhealthcare
Happy Holidays

From

GILA RIVER
C A S I N O S

Wishing you and your family a holiday season full of cheer!