Community celebrates Water Rights Day

**GRIC will make sure there is water for future generations says Gov. Lewis**

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Hundreds of Gila River Indian Community members gathered at the Huhugam Heritage Center on the morning of Dec. 10 to celebrate Water Rights Day and honor tribal leadership, both past and present, who fought a decades long battle to secure the tribe’s water rights.


The celebration kicked off with the Posting of Colors presented by Post 651 Haskell-Osise Antone. A congregation of students from St. Peter Indian Mission School led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem in both English and O’otham languages.

District 5 Community Council Representative Robert Stone offered the event’s traditional blessing.

The theme of this year’s Water Rights Day celebration was “Reflecting on the Past and Present.”

**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY FILES INJUNCTION SEEKING TO STOP SOUTH MOUNTAIN FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION PENDING FEDERAL APPEAL**

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

**SACATON, AZ.** – The Gila River Indian Community on Friday filed a court motion seeking an injunction that would halt the construction of the South Mountain Freeway — and stop the desecration of lands long held sacred by Community members — pending the outcome of the Community’s and other parties’ lawsuits against the Federal Highway Administration and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The motion for injunction, filed Friday with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, outlines the permanent harm that will be suffered by the Community if the freeway is built and South Mountain is permanently destroyed. The motion notes that the Gila River is a blessed resource for this area.

**Super hero theme leads River of Lights Parade in Sacaton**

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The holiday season was in full swing when parade floats of all types and sizes made their way down Casa Blanca Road in Sacaton on Dec. 2.

This year’s River of Lights parade had a Super Hero theme and the entries did not disappoint by Community artisans at Ira H. Hayes Mathew B. Juan Memorial Park.

The winners of this year’s River of Lights parade were awarded in different categories based on quality, originality, theme and overall appearance and presentation.

**More Water Rights Day Photos**

Komatke student named Miss Chemawa

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The **GRBK** presents: **TEEN**

**Winter Break 2017**

**OPEN** Tuesday Jan. 3rd—Jan. 6th

**Ages 13-18 years old**

**Tuesday**
Jan. 3
Trip to Anthem

**Wednesday**
Jan. 4
Polo/Horseshoes Tournament

**Thursday**
Jan. 5
Bon Fire
Smores, Hot Dogs

**Friday**
Jan. 6

Please register at the front desk
For more info call 520.550.1113

Lunch provided by Kids Cafe
For more info email Komatke@Clubzona.org

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The **GRBK** presents:

**Winter Break 2017**

**OPEN** Tuesday Jan. 3rd - Jan. 6th

**Ages 5-18 years old**

**Tuesday**
Jan. 3
NEW YEAR'S DAY!

**Wednesday**
Jan. 4
Take A Hike!
Field Trip

**Thursday**
Jan. 5
Service Project

**Friday**
Jan. 6

Please register at the front desk
For more info call 520.550.1113

Lunch provided by Kids Cafe
For more info email Komatke@Clubzona.org

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Need child care 12/27-12/30? Our Tempe Clubs are Open!
See front desk for details! Pre-registration required!
In 2002, the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community combined to contribute approximately $8 million to Arizona cities, towns and counties through the tribes’ 12 Percent Grants Fund. The two tribal communities hosted a luncheon titled “United In Giving” on Nov. 29 to show unity and meet with the dozens of local governments and non-profit organizations that benefit from tribal grants.

“I am proud to say that it has been a pleasure to work with Pres. Ray and Gov. Lewis on issues that are important to both communities,” said Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey in a video presentation.

“Today’s event is just one example where two communities have embraced and thrived within the spirit of the tribal-state gaming compacts that were executed nearly 14 years ago. To note that over 90 grants this year have been awarded by the Salt River and Gila River communities to cities, towns, counties, and organizations throughout the state is a true testament to their commitment and investment to build a better Arizona.”

In 2002, voters approved Proposition 202, which brought casinos to tribal communities in Arizona. As part of an agreement with the state, tribes committed to share a percentage of gaming revenue with the state. Of the state’s 12 Percent Grant program, 10 percent goes directly to the state shared gaming revenue fund, 88 percent revenue with the state. Of the state-gaming compact, 12 Percent Grant program since its inception in 2003.

Salt River and Gila River support more than 100 grantees throughout Arizona. Grantees attended the 12 Percent Luncheon, which was held at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale.

One of the organizations that shared its story was the UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Ministries) New Day Centers, which provides shelter for single women and living accommodations for single mother families.

“UMOM has been a partner of the Gila River Indian Community for several years,” said CEO Darlene Newsum. UMOM recently purchased a new property to expand its ability to house and aid single mothers in need. The organization started a $3.5 million campaign to purchase, renovate and move into the new facility.

“I’m happy to say, with the contribution from the Gila River Indian Community, which was our last 10 percent, our last $300,000 to finish our campaign, we have raised the $3.5 [million needed],” said Newsum.

Another organization that shared its story with guests at the luncheon was Ryan House, which serves families with children with terminal illnesses or life-limiting conditions.

Executive Director Alyssa Crockett, “There is a family that has just learned that their child has a life-limiting condition or terminal condition. They’re devastated, they’re alone, they’re scared, and they don’t know what to do next. They can come to Ryan House. Ryan House is a lifeline for children with life-limiting conditions, from birth to 18, and their families. We are the nation’s foremost experts on pediatric palliative care, and we address the emotional, spiritual, and medical needs of the child and family from diagnosis through death.”

She said, “In 2007, when Ryan House was just a dream, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community saw our vision and believed in what Ryan House could be and could do. And with their lead gifts, they helped open its doors, and subsequent giveback gifts keep our doors and hearts open to all children throughout the state of Arizona. These gifts, totaling more than $1.4 million, have been transformative, life-changing investments.

In accordance with the gaming compact, 12 Percent Grant Funds are directed from tribes through local governments like Pinal County, the Town of Gilbert, or the City of Tempe.

“When the voters of Arizona passed Proposition 202 in 2002, I think it was fair to say there was a bit of trepidation and uncertainty as to how the Indian [Gaming] Grant Program would evolve,” said Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell.

“Of course, today we can see clearly how broad and how diverse this program has become. What has been created is a vast grant program that is meant to help people in our communities in need or to provide additional services to people to improve their quality of life.”

Mitchell, who has known Salt River-Ppiritual-Martin Harvier personally since he was in high school, said the cities and tribal communities are like family, and support each other as one. “It’s a challenge to match scarce resources to support… programs and services within our own communities,” he said.

“That is why it is good to know that the tribal gaming grant program is successfully supporting these worth-while programs and services… I’m sure, if the voters in Arizona could see the diverse group here today, I think they would all agree that the tribal gaming policies that they voted in 2002 are really working.”
The last time the GRIN checked the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's fight to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, a group of young men from the Gila River Indian Community had driven nearly 1,500 miles to deliver donations of warm clothes to the people at the Oceti Sakowin (pronounced oh-chee-tee shal-ko-win) Camp. That was in September. A lot has happened since then.

On Sunday, December 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it would not grant an easement for construction under Lake Oahe at this time. The decision was seen as a major victory for opponents of the pipeline, because the easement was necessary for Dakota Access, LLC to complete its pipeline under the lake. In its declaration, the Corps said it is calling for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), which would look at the impact the pipeline would have to the Missouri River. In the EIS, the Corps will explore alternative locations for the pipeline and seek additional information on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's treaty rights they relate to Lake Oahe.

The news of the Army decision to pursue an EIS, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman David Archambault II issued a statement andospace competitors and volunteers. But with the denial of the easement and a harsh winter setting in, protests are being asked to leave the camp so as to keep warm and take care of themselves. The standoff between the protesters, who call themselves water protectors, and the police escalated into violent clashes through much of October and November. The #NoDAPL movement received national attention after videos of the spread on Facebook and Twitter, but things have quieted down in recent weeks.

Today, snow blankets the land – tepees and SUVs are covered in white. After two blizzards and daily high temperatures below freezing, many campers have reportedly left. With the help of envi-ronmental law organization Earthjustice, the tribe in July filed a lawsuit against the Corps, alleging it violated several federal statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act, among others. That lawsuit has been temporarily put on hold due to the Corps rejection of the easement to see how the EIS and the change of the presidential administration may affect the project moving forward.

Standing Rock Update: Pipeline blocked for now – Water Protectors told to go home, protect themselves from the cold

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Kevin Reagan
Casa Grande Dispatch

CASA GRANDE – Planning is underway for the city's Cowboy Days & O'Odham Tash series of events in February. The nine-day celebration is an annual tradition dating back many decades that brings an assortment of mostly ro-tational events to Casa Grande. City Manager Larry Rains said there are two new events scheduled for this year's festival: a social Pow-wow and a Toka tournament. Both of these events are rooted in Native American culture. Toka, often compared to field hockey, has been revived on the Tohono O'odham Nation and consists of two teams competing to hit a puck-like object with long mes-quitoe sticks. Pow-wows traditionally consist of Na-tive Americans taking part in a series of dances that are initiated with a ceremonial blessing. Rains said part of the purpose of Cowboy Days & O'Odham Tash is to renew friendships with the city's Native American neighbors. The Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Nation and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community traditionally participate. Other events such as a soft-ball tournament, parade and races are scheduled to return again for this year's festival. Rains estimated that up to 7,000 partici-pants and spectators have been present for the annual parade on Florence Boule-vard — a number, he said, that has been growing in recent years. Native Ameri-can pageant queens, marching bands and school clubs often participate in the annual parade. Organizations interested in participating in the parade will soon be able to fill out an entry form online through the city's website. Interested parties can go to the city's website under Cowboy Days and O'Odham Tash for more information and to obtain entry forms, www.casa-grandeaz.gov. Cowboy Days & O'Odham Tash is scheduled to start on Feb-ruary 18.

Casa Grande planning for Cowboy Days & O'Odham Tash
South Mountain Freeway Injunction to Stop Construction from Page 1

R. Lewis. “This freeway has been 30 years in the planning, so a small delay would mean nothing to the federal and state agencies involved. However, the destruction of Muhadagi Doag would be permanent, and would rob the Community of one of our most important and sacred natural resources. We will continue to do whatever we can to protect the mountain and its trails, shrines, and archaeological sites.”

Already, freeway construction has discovered and disrupted more than 20 sites containing protected human remains during the past four months, the motion notes. Community members view the disturbance or moving of ancestral graves as desecration and destruction of sacred heritage sites.

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Incident Log November 31, 2016 - December 9, 2016

Gila River Police Department reserves the right to restrict the release of certain reports which may not be available or are currently under investigation.

Community Events -
• Community Toy Drive donations may be dropped off at the Police Department between November 31st – December 9th, 2016.

Gila River Police officers responded to 540 calls for service and made 54 arrests.

District One: No incidents regarding Part I crime.

District Two: No incidents regarding Part I crime.

District Three: Burglary – A suspect forced entry into a residence through the front door after initially failing to enter through a rear window. Several items including a couple of televisions were taken from the home. The residents were not present at the time of the break in.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A suspect stole several items from a gas station. The suspect fled the area on foot.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four:

Weapon – A suspect discharged his handgun twice into the air. The weapon was not discharged at any subjects.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Theft – A suspect stole unsecured bicycles from the carport of a residence between the late afternoon and early morning hours.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five:

Shoplifting – A female suspect entered the Casa Blanca Chevron and placed a candy bar in the sleeve of her jacket and then proceeded to leave the store without paying for the item.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A suspect forced entry through a vehicle window and took several items. The vehicle was parked in front of a residence during the late evening hours.

Status: Under Investigation

District Six:

No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Seven:

No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Eight:

Theft – A female suspect entered the Wild Horse Pass Casino and Hotel.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A female suspect is believed to have pick pocketed a victim in the semi parking lot.

Status: Under Investigation

District Nine:

Shoplifting – A female suspect entered the Wild Horse Pass Casino and Hotel.

Status: Under Investigation
Sterling Garcia named Governor’s Employee of the Year at Mix & Mingle

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

The final employee event of the year, called Mix & Mingle, featured games, food, fun and the Governor’s Employee of the Year award presentation. Held at Main Event in Tempe, GRIC employees attended the Mix & Mingle on Dec. 2 to bowl, play arcade games and to win raffle prizes.

Among all the employees who attended, there was a select group of workers who were in the running for the Employee of the Year award, The employees who won Governor’s Employee of the Month in 2016, were all eligible for the honored distinction of Employee of the Year. The suspense was finally alleviated when Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis announced Sterling Garcia from the Management Information Systems Department as the 2016 Employee of the Year. Garcia won by popular vote among GRIC employees in an online survey.

Garcia is in IT Support and has been stationed at the Governance Center in Sacaton to help several departments in the facility with their IT needs.

“He’s there until the issue is solved,” said Gov. Lewis of Garcia.

Garcia humbly accepted his crystal plaque and Pendleton blanket while acknowledging the entire MIS Department for his award. “Without them, I wouldn’t be up here,” Garcia said.

Garcia was nominated for Governor’s Employee of the Month in March for his superior work ethic and personal contributions to the Gila River Indian Community. Randy Williams, IT Manager, considers Garcia to be a valuable employee. “Sterling is a great asset to the Community and the MIS Department,” he wrote in Garcia’s nomination form.

While honoring Garcia, Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also took the opportunity to acknowledge all GRIC employees. Gov. Lewis thanked the employees for their dedication and Lt. Gov. Antone expressed holiday wishes to all the workers. “I want to wish each of you, from my family to yours, a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year,” she said.

The Employees of the Month from 2016 who were nominated for Employee of the Year, in addition to Sterling Garcia, were Ronnie Cheater, Isabel Martinez, Althea Walker, Travis Bradford, Regina Antone-Smith, Lorna Jackson, Francis James, Donna Henderson and Ampara Chee.

Community members connect with nature at the 2016 Winter Bird Count

Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

Bird watchers had a chance to interact with a rescued bald eagle from Liberty Wildlife at the Huhugam Heritage Center following the bird count on Dec. 3.

Several groups participated in the event, in addition to DEQ and the Huhugam Heritage Center, including two Audubon societies, Arizona Game and Fish and Liberty Wildlife.

Walker said the participation added to the success of the bird count.

Steven Prager, Important Bird Area Program Associate from Audubon Arizona, assisted with the bird count and said that birds across the Southwest are being affected by Arizona’s worsening drought conditions. He said the bird count is a way to get resources for birds and to share expertise with Community members.

Tribal employees enjoyed an afternoon of food, games and raffle prizes at the 2016 Mix & Mingle.

St. Peter Indian Mission School students kick off Christmas season with carols

Students from St. Peters Indian Mission School sang a special score of Christmas carols in front of family and guests on Dec. 7.

Inside the humble confines of the school’s chapel, it was standing room only when kindergarten through junior high-level students, led by the school’s Language Arts and Humanities teacher Gillian R. Tevlin, brought the spirit of Christmas alive with their voices.

Each grade sung two songs heralding classic Christmas jingles to those inspired by the birth of Jesus Christ. It has become an annual tradition put on by the school for the parents and family members to watch their child bring joy to the holiday season. - GRIN Staff
"eñ lu:lu'u!" they automat-
out loud "eñ ba:ba'a!" or
speaker hears someone say
replacing them. When a
the English words that are
nity and more precise than
is unique to our Commu-
and more than this. In
Our O’otham ñeo’ok has
its own set of words and
expressions called i:mik
tell how our family is
related to us. This system
is pervasive and found
throughout our language.

Our system of i:mik
gives in the past that when
greeting or addressing a
relative you would always
first use the correct i:mik
term and personalize it by
using "el" /"my.

Our system of i:mik
is pervasive and found
throughout our language.
Christmas time in O’otham
is referred to by the expres-
sion “Jiosh alithag ma:si
gash”. Translated literal-
ly, this means God’s Son’s
birthday and references
Christmas as being the date
that celebrates Christian
tradition of the birth of Je-
sus. What this phrase also
shows is that for O’otham,
Jiosh is a male entity. This
is because the phrase “Jiosh
alithag ma:si
gash” uses the
i:mik term “alithag”
which is a specific term
only used by a man to re-
fer to his child or by others
when referring to a man’s
child. The opposite term in
our i:mik is ma:di and is used
by women when they refer
to their child or by others
when referring to a wom-
an’s child.

Within our ñeo’ok
there are names for plants
and animals that also use
kinship terms and show re-
lationships between nature
and natural phenomena. A
small red insect that would
come out in groups after the
summer rains is called juk
mad. It is known in milga:n
as a red velvet mite and is
rarely seen anymore. Juk
mad translates to Rain’s
child and because it uses
the i:mik term mad it shows
that for O’otham the rain is
a feminine entity. Another
easy example are a group of
birds, called sandpipers in
milga:n, that are commonly
seen along the shores of
canals or pools of water,
scurrying along looking for
food in the mud with their
short dark bills. These are
known in O’otham as shu-
thag ma:mad or Water’s
children, which uses the
plural form ma:mad of the
i:mik term mad. This term
also uses the i:mik word
that is specific for children
from a female and indicates
how for water is seen as a
mother. One last example is
a small songbird that is
known to nest in wells and
can be seen catching insects
in mid-flight. This bird is
known as the Say’s Phoebe
in milga:n but is called hev-
el mo:s in O’otham. Loose-
ly translated this means
Wind’s grandchild but is
more specific than this. In
our i:mik mo:s is the word
used by a grandmother on
the mother’s side (bu’ul/
lulu’u) to call her grand-
child. The use of mo:s as
part of the name for hevel
mo:s how the wind is seen
as a grandmother, specifi-
cally one on the mother’s
side of the family.

Some plant names also
show i:mik relationships.
One sha’i (bush) with red
flowers that is commonly
found along Komadk Th-
ou’aq is called vipismal je:
This name uses the pos-
sessive form of the i:mik
term for mother “je’e” and
shows how this plant is the
mother for hummingbirds
(vipismal). This should be
no surprise as the red tu-
bular flowers are perfectly
made for vipismal to drink.
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT
2016
day...[who] looked after us and I thank the Creator for looking after our people during the hard times our ancestors endured,” she said.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, focused his remarks on the Community’s present leaders and future water protectors.

“What is important is that we have our protectors here, the original negotiating team, past governors, council members, elders, veterans, and then our youth. Our youth are going to be our future water protectors,” Gov. Lewis said.

He said the tribe had fought a long and hard battle to finally take over its own water infrastructure and that future Community water protectors would be needed to continue the work of those who had gone before them.

“We can’t lose our water again,” Gov. Lewis said. “We can’t let the state or the federal government or any other private interest take our water, that is why we have to be vigilant, we have to be eternally vigilant.”

“As governor I inherited this and I want to build on it. I am just a part of a long path and...I want to give this to our next governor, our next leadership, and our...youth to continue to build our community, a healthy, vibrant and growing community. To make sure we have water for our future generations,” he said.

Following Gov. Lewis’s speech, a group of ten water runners, who participated in the Water Rights Day Run 2016 that began in District 7 on Dec. 9, carried a gourd filled with water collected at the confluence of the Gila and Salt rivers and placed it at the front of the stage. Gov. Lewis greeted and thanked each member of the water runners. The Water Rights Day Runners were Tianna T. Sanchez, Tatjanna Perea, Bridgette Smith, Cheyne T. Sanchez, Tatianna Perea, Ashley Pasqual, Pamela Thompson, Alie Walkingbadger, Veronica Rivers, Ashley Pasqual, Kaitlin Martinez and Paina Lewis.

Shortly after, past GRIC governors Richard Narcia, Donald Antone, and former GRIC lawyer Rodney Lewis, spoke about the history of water in the Community and working with the late Z. Simpson Cox, who was one of Gila River Indian Community’s first attorneys and integral in beginning the fight for the tribe’s water rights.

“In the beginning, the Gila River Indian Community has been very fortunate to have acquired the services of Cox and Cox attorneys,” said Narcia. “Z. Simpson Cox was hired by the Community as General Counsel. He, and later his sons Alfred and Alan guided the Community as official water negotiators. I believe the initial groundwork for the Community’s water settlement started with Cox and Cox,” he said.

He said the tribe was unable to have a seat at the table, “In 1935 when the Gila River Decree was entered...your ancestors were not even allowed in the courtroom. This [settlement] is yours. This one is that you fought hard for, it’s one that you will be able to put into effect and be able to bring back the agriculture and development that you so richly deserve,” he said.

After Alan’s speech the veterans performed the Retrieval of Colors and a meal was served up by the Sunna Retrieval of Colors and a meal was served up by the Sunna Song and Dance Group followed by an O’otham social dance.

Richard Narcia, former governor, was in charge of the settlement signing.

Rodney Lewis highlighted the legal assistance of Z. Simpson Cox, former GRIC General Counsel.

“I would like to personally acknowledge the work done by Cox and Cox attorneys, not only in water but in other...legal matters with the Community. I would like to personally acknowledge the work done by Cox and Cox attorneys, not only in water but in other...legal matters with the Community. I would like to personally acknowledge the work done by Cox and Cox attorneys, not only in water but in other...legal matters with the Community. I would like to personally acknowledge the work done by Cox and Cox attorneys, not only in water but in other...legal matters with the Community. I would like to personally acknowledge the work done by Cox and Cox attorneys, not only in water but in other...legal matters with the Community.

Alan Cox, son of the late Z. Simpson Cox, took to the stage and talked about his father’s relationship with the Gila River Indian Community and how he came to represent the tribe and fight for its water rights.

“It’s been almost 70 years since we started to work for and develop great friendships here in the Community,” said Alan.

Z. Simpson was noted throughout his life for representing people who were poor, he said, with up to 90 percent of his clients being pro bono, meaning his legal fees were billed at a reduced rate or completely free.

Alan said one of the many obstacles his father faced when dealing with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), was that at the time they would simply say they were working on a contract but without showing progress. In effect, stalling.

“The Washington [BIA] office kept saying to my father that they were working on the contract and finally my father took a night flight, went to a hotel, took a shower, took a cab to the United States Senate, went to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and said ‘I have this contract with Gila River Indian Community but the Interior Department won’t approve or disapprove,’” Alan said.

He said that the Majority Leader, who was Ernest McFarland at the time, called the Secretary of the Interior and told him to see Z. Simpson. After discussing the details of the contract with the DOI, no agreement was made and thus began the Community’s fight for its water rights, he said.

“This settlement you have today, unlike the settlements that were made by the BIA, by the federal government...you have a seat at the table,” Alan said. “[In] 1935 when the Gila River Decree was entered...your ancestors were not even allowed in the courtroom. This [settlement] is yours. This one is that you fought hard for, it’s one that you will be able to put into effect and be able to bring back the agriculture and development that you so richly deserve,” he said.

Alan Cox, son of the late Z. Simpson Cox, took to the stage and talked about his father’s relationship with the Gila River Indian Community and how he came to represent the tribe and fight for its water rights.
Jolyce Armenta’s journey from Komatke to Oregon and back again

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Busy as a bee. That’s how 17-year-old Jolyce Armenta could be described in a nutshell. The Chemawa Indian School freshman has been nothing but busy over the past several years, participating in every extracurricular activity she can find, competing in the Miss Chemawa pageant and earning the title of Miss Chemawa 2016-2017, and most recently, being accepted into Grand Canyon University. Armenta has been on a mission to further her education and live a rich and fulfilling life.

Jolyce Armenta with her father Joseph.

“I always thought it would be fun to go out of state,” she said. It wasn’t just a family tradition and travel that attracted Jolyce to Chemawa Indian School. It was sage advice from her father that ended up sealing the deal of picking a boarding school for her secondary education.

Jolyce said that he knew that ditching alcohol, and drug use were prevalent in the public school system and that he wanted his daughter to avoid those pitfalls and focus on her education and self-development.

Before she knew it, it was time for her to leave her desert home of Komatke and travel to the green landscapes of Salem, Ore. “It was scary at first. I couldn’t just [go home and relax], it was just different,” she said.

While Jolyce’s nerves were a bundle, the first of which she was able to win the crown. However, this year, hard work, determination, and a bit of luck were with her as was able to win the Miss Chemawa 2016-2017 title.

“When I went home, it felt unreal,” she said. “When they said I was Miss Chemawa 2016-2017 I was happy, I started crying.”

Jolyce’s streak of success has yet to end. With her acceptance into Grand Canyon University last October, where she will work towards becoming a pediatrician, her upcoming May graduation from Chemawa Indian School, it seems that for Jolyce, the sky’s the limit.

"When I do think about it, I wouldn’t have anything if it weren’t for my dad and my step-mom," Jolyce said.

GRIC looking for construction innovations in tribal housing

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Two tribal communities partner with Arizona State University to explore different ways of building more affordable and energy efficient homes.

ASU’s Del E. Webb School of Construction students and faculty spoke about their findings at the GRIC Innovation in Tribal Housing presentation on Dec. 1.

The course explores ways of building affordable, sustainable and energy efficient homes in tribal communities through a semester long project with GRIC and the Tolani Lake Chapter on the Navajo Nation.

The Tolani Lake Chap-ter’s goal was to figure out how to improve approach- es to home design-build projects at a competitive cost, while the Communi-
ty looked to reduce energy consumption in residential construction and as an econ-omic driver.

The project was over-seen by the School of Sus-tainable Engineering and the Built Environment Professor Wanda Dalla Costa, who is a visiting eminent scholar from Canada.

Costa, who is a mem-ber of the Saddle Lake First Nations of Northern Alber-ta, sought the assistance of the Community and the Na-
vajo Nation to help with the course project.

“I hope [this] is the be-ginning of future collabora-tions with tribal communi- ties and the school [here],” said Costa. “I see a lot of opportunity to take [these] real-world projects that come from outside the in-dustry and bring them into the academic settings so that we can begin to push innovation and success.

Leah Lewis said Gila River Utility Authority Chairman John Lewis contributed to the project from an energy cost perspective, because creating homes that rely on less power will eventually need to be addressed to make homes more affordable.

John said that the cost of living is very important, especially around utilities that need to be considered when building homes.

“Most people know about [these] types of things that needed to be factored in building homes, because there are a number of things tribes also have to provide for their people.”

Undergraduate Christophere Frettoloso, who is pursuing a degree in Urban Planning, said their team incorporated as much of the Community’s ideas on what it would like to see in an energy-efficient home.

Initially [they] were looking for affordable op-tions and sustainable solu-tions. Energy efficiency was a big concern to reduce the amount of energy being consumed by one home,” said Frettoloso.

He said there were oth-er key elements to the de-sign such as being culturally relevant and if possible use materials traditionally used by the people.

“We looked at every-thing that was recom-mended from a build de-sign standpoint. We also looked at incorporating more social space, because we know social gathering space is essential to the culture of the Community,” he said.

Most of Frettoloso said their project team wanted to explore economic development and job creation, which looked at the possibility of making bricks from recycled mate-rials like paper.

Gow Lewis said the project is about learning how to make homes that are sustainable in the long run, that would also create jobs for Community members.

“We are at an important point now that we have seen the conceptual design and modeling that allows us to look at the feasibility of how it translates to our Community and how it will become a buildable reality,” said Gow Lewis.

GRIC looking for construction innovations in tribal housing

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and John Lowe with ASU students at the Innovation in Tribal Housing presentation on Dec. 1.

Roe Lewis was present to discuss how 17-year-old Jolyce Armenta was able to call home and ask her father, “How [I missed home] but I was able to make my own decisions.”

“My step-mom,” Jolyce said. “I always thought it would be fun to go out of state.”

Initially [they] were looking for affordable options and sustainable solutions. Energy efficiency was a big concern to reduce the amount of energy being consumed by one home,” said Frettoloso.

He said there were other key elements to the design such as being culturally relevant and if possible use materials traditionally used by the people.

“We looked at everything that was recommended from a build design standpoint. We also looked at incorporating more social space, because we know social gathering space is essential to the culture of the Community,” he said.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

December 7, 2016

Page 12

Gila River Indian News

COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY’S OFFICE • DECEMBER 7, 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 was held on December 7, 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 9:08am.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL

Sign-in Sheet Circulated

Executive Department:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone (9:51)
Council Members Present:
D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2- Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Dixon, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo; D4- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:51), Charles Goldtooth, Sandra Nasewytewa; D7- Devlin Redbird (9:49)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)

1. Insurance Manager Introduction Kimberly Childers

Presenter: Pamela Thompson

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Introduction of Ms. Yichun Xu, Hydrologist

Presenter: Kimberly Antone

MS. KIMBERLY ANTOINE INTRODUCED MS. YICHUN XU. MS. XU PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EX-SPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

3. GRHC Introduction of Executive Director of Behavioral Health, Priscilla Foote

Presenter: Gilbert Long

MS. GINGER FLIGGER INTRODUCED MS. PRISCILLA- LA-FOOTE. MS. FOOTE PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EX-SPRESSED WORDS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND EN-COURAGEMENT.

4. Introduction of Joann Nelson, Early Childhood Special Services Manager

Presenter: Isaac Salcido

MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED MS. JOANN NEL-SON. MS. NELSON PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EX-SPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

5. Introduction of Gabriella Alvarez, Education Manager

Presenter: Isaac Salcido

MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED MS. GABRIELLA ALVAREZ. MS. ALVAREZ PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EX-SPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

REPORTS

1. Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District (GRIDD), Third Quarter Management Report

Presenter: Ronald C. Allison

REPORT HEARD

2. "North Santa Cruz Wash Project Report and Update
Presenter: Seaver Fields

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA


Presenter: Seaver Fields

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA


Presenter: Jocelyn Young, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD


Presenter: Jocelyn Young, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD


Presenter: Jocelyn Young, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

7. Youth Council FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Jocelyn Young, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

8. Office Of Community Manager FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

8. Office Of Community Manager FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

9. Community Services Department FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Joanne Miles-Long, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD


Presenter: Stephen R. Lewis

REPORT HEARD

10-MINUTE LUNCH BREAK, THE MEETING RECON-VENED AT 1:53PM

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HEAR REPORTS #10, #11, #13, #28, #43 & #44

AND ACCEPT THE REMAINING REPORTS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REPORT #55, REQUEST ESC COORDINATE WITH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CLARIFICATION

11. Human Resources Department FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Keith Graham, Pamela Thompson, Kelly Go-mez

REPORT HEARD

12. Department Of Community Housing FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Kelly Gomez

REPORT HEARD

12. Department Of Transportation FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Timothy Oliver, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED


Presenter: John Garcia, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

14. Facilities Maintenance Department FY2016 Annual Re- port

Presenter: Manuel Robles, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

15. Tribal Projects Development FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Lona Butte Development L L C. FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Esther Manuel

ACCEPTED

16. Legislative Wrap-Up Report

Presenter: Meghan Dell Antino, P3

ACCEPTED

17. Gila River Voters Registration Board 2015 Report To Community Council

Presenter: Voter Registration Board

ACCEPTED

18. Gila River Voters Registration Board 2016 Report

Presenter: Voter Registration Board

ACCEPTED


Presenter: Kimberly Antone, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED


Presenter: Robert DeLeon, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED


Presenter: Barnaby V. Lewis, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

22. Huhugam Heritage Center FY 2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Lara Chanda, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

23. Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District (GRIDD)

Presenter: Barnaby V. Lewis, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

24. Tribal Health Department FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: JoAnn Garcia, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED


Presenter: Christina Floyd, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED


Presenter: Carolyn Thompson, Interim Planning & Over-sight Committee

ACCEPTED

27. Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project FY 2016 Annual Re- port

Presenter: Robert DeLeon, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED


Presenter: Brian Tacheenie, Pamela Thompson

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

29. Office of Emergency Management FY2016 Annual Re- port

Presenter: Ron Lopez, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

30. Office of Executive Management FY2016 Annual Re- port

Presenter: Kathleen Elliot, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

31. Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: John Garcia, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

32. Office of Finance FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Robert DeLeon, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

33. Police Department FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Kathleen Elliot, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

34. Head Start October Monthly Report

Presenter: Patricia Valenzuela

ACCEPTED

35. Student Achievement Update

Presenter: Frederick Potra

ACCEPTED

36. Johnson O’Malley Quarter Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Gabriel Alvarez

ACCEPTED

37. Employment & Training/TERO FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: John Garcia, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

38. CSD- - Ira Hayes Library FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Joanne Miles-Long, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

39. Tribal Education Department FY 2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Joanne Miles-Long, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED

40. Tribal Historic Preservation Office FY2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Barnaby V. Lewis, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

41. Huhugam Heritage Center FY 2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Shirley Jackson, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

42. Tribal Cultural Resources Management Program FY 2016 Annual Report

Presenter: Kyle Woodson, Kelly Gomez

ACCEPTED

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENCED AT 5:13PM.


Presenter: Carolyn Thompson, Interim Planning & Over-sight Committee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

44. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report (Executive Session)

Presenter: Carolyn Thompson, Interim Planning & Over-sight Committee

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Consenting To And Approving The Acqui-sition For Right Of Way For A Grant Of Easement For Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation Project No. ROW, 005.D1.08 Cross Aliotting And Com-mencing In Land Parcels For The Purpose Of Constructing, Op-erating, 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

Continued on Page 13
WHAT’S NEW AT GRICUA?

GISAU in 2013 and received a Bachelor's Degree in Geography and Justice Studies. Ms. Thomas is a member of the SANDO Board and has worked as an intern for the City of McAllen with the Developmental Disabilities Division. She assisted with map making for their General Plan update. Some of her hobbies include riding horses, attending stand-up comedy shows and trying new restaurants. “Working for GRICUA is very happy for the opportunity to work with the GRICUA family.”

GRICUA’s Budgeting Program

GRICUA’s Budgeting Program is a new program that averages out your seasonal highs and lows based on a rolling twelve-month average of your bills. Customer bills will vary from month to month, however, they should stay at a consistent average based on your rolling usage. Budgeting bills amounts will be able to be submitted to your District Service Center for Community assistance based on your history.

Case: C-14-0045

COURT NOTICE

Petitioner: Thomas Knapp

United States Department Of Homeland Security

3. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Fire Department To Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Homeland Security Assistance To Firefighters Grant (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Thomas Knapp

APPROVED

GISAU

6. We’d like to thank you for your cooperation. Our new electric meters have added new art technology that will allow GRICUA to offer innovative benefits to our customers. Please review for information on these new benefits in 2017. If you have any questions, please contact us at 480-362-6315.

Presenter: Thomas Knapp

APPROVED

GISAU

Presenters: Representatives

Community Council

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Presenters: Representatives

Community Council

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put aside their differences this year to help the box shakers and movers in Shipping and Receiving roll their way to the Community Managers Award in the best GRIC department category.

Mr. and Mrs. Paws (an entry by Merry Kris Kyttian) featured tiny pooches, in tow strolled their way to the Directors Award in the best family category. Stringing their lights to resemble a small winter wonderland in the desert, the Tribal Recreation Department and Wellness Center received the Kids Choice Award for best use of lights.

Not to be outdone, the District 1 Service Center and Community Services Department had something special for the crowd with their entry taking home the Judges Award for best overall entry.
This Christmas buy yourself a new Ride and we’ll pay for your Holiday Shopping!

So let’s get shopping!
PLUS NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2017

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Happy Holidays

From

GILA RIVER
CASINOS

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