Tribes converge in Phoenix for NCAI

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

For one week, the Valley of the Sun was the center of the Native American world with the National Congress of American Indians holding their 73rd Annual Convention and Marketplace at the Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix under the theme: Prosperity Through Diversity. From Oct. 9-14, American Indian and Alaskan Native representatives converged to bring to the forefront a myriad of issues affecting Native communities both on reservations and in Washington, D.C.

The meeting had several general assemblies, breakout sessions and cultural highlights throughout the week with other events taking place in the surrounding communities like the NCAI Cultural Night, which was hosted by the Gila River Indian Community and held at Rawhide Western Town on Oct. 12.

Community hosts fair for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Around 100 Gila River Indian Community members came out to the 4th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Fair held at the District 6 Head Start on the morning of Oct. 8. Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone talked about her own personal issues with domestic violence, saying her own family had been affected by domestic violence and it can trickle down from generation to generation, affecting entire families.

She said that no matter what background, income, or line of work, you will encounter domestic violence in your lifetime and that it is important to build yourself up with faith, face your challenges and take your family to a domestic violence shelter. She also asked that if you see someone in need, please help others find a shelter.

It was a packed house at the District 6 Head Start on Oct. 8 as Community members gathered for the 4th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Fair.

Arizona’s Run for the Fallen honors two GRIC members for sacrifice

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The family of the late Billy Farris greeted runners during Arizona’s Run for the Fallen, where the former Gila River Indian Community member was honored on Oct. 14.

The late Lance Corporal Joe M. Jackson’s marker was one of the soldiers honored by Arizona’s Run for the Fallen on Oct. 16 in Phoenix. The family of the late Billy Farris greeted runners during Arizona’s Run for the Fallen, where the former Gila River Indian Community member was honored on Oct. 14.
New HHKMH Café menus are available in the Café and can now be viewed online at GRHC.ORG/CAFÉ.

We have also implemented a fluid cashier for Grab & Go items during peak times for your convenience.

Community Garden
Join us on Saturday mornings! Community members are invited to come and learn more about what goes into gardening and getting vegetable and fruit production from their gardens and fruit trees. All training sessions will be conducted inside the service centers. Water will be provided and remember to wear comfortable clothing.

October 22, 2016 D6 Service Center 9am – 12noon
November 5, 2016 D3 Service Center 9am – 12noon
November 12, 2016 D2 Service Center 9am – 12noon
If you have any questions, please contact Sonny Nieto at (520) 610-2646.

Gentle, High Quality Dental Care… Catering to the Gila River Community!

Halloween Candy Buy-Back
Cash For You, Candy For The Troops
For every pound of candy you donate, you get $1 and the school of your choice gets 50 cents!
No Limits!*Individual donations only

“Impressions Dental truly cares for their patients. From the moment I arrive, I am welcomed with warm smiles. While in the chair, all my needs are met beyond what I could ever expect. They think of everything to truly make a visit comfortable and relaxing and always make sure I am doing great while taking the best care of my teeth. You will be impressed with Impressions Dental.”
Heather H.

Preferred Provider of GILA River Dental Insurance
• NO WAITING! On Time Appointments
• 0% Financing Available
• In-House Oral Surgery & Implants
• E4D Crowns (Same Day Crowns)
• FREE Whitening for Life!

Have Insurance?
FREE $25 GIFT CARD
As a small token of our appreciation, we’d like to say thank you with a $25 gift card at the conclusion of your first visit.

First visit is defined as comprehensive exam, x-rays, basic cleaning or periodontal cleaning. New Patients Only. Limited to two gift cards per household and may not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of use.

Call Today for an Appointment!
480-814-8888

Candy Buy-Back
Thursday, November 3rd 2016
3pm-7pm
With Operation Gratitude
An urban Community Member gives a 'Shout-Out' to all

From a meeting held on Saturday, Sept. 25, an urban community member from the Los Angeles area took time to write a heartfelt message and to thank the Gila River Indian Community for taking time to come to the Los Angeles area to visit community members living in California. The efforts made by the Gila River Indian Community Executive Office, Community Council representatives and different tribal departments such as Tribal Enrollment, the Voter Registration boards, the Per Capita Office, the Communications & Public Affairs, and others reached out to urban community members and provide them updates on Community activities. The open meeting was organized to give urban members in California an opportunity to speak directly with staff from key departments, hear about programs like the Urban Members Association, the implementation of a GRIC Veterans Affairs Office, to update their enrollment and per capita information. The setting provided time to meet with Community Council representatives and most importantly to hear directly from Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis on the issues and concerns affecting the tribal government, and all members of the Community.

Throughout the day, it was evident that the Community members in attendance were very appreciative of the visit.

A Message from A Los Angeles GRIC Urban Member:

My name is Katrina Domingo; my [family's] from District 6. My mother's name is Mary Domingo; her mother [my grandmother] was late Norma Domingo. My father was the late Alden Bannarapas, he passed away when I was 3 years old. I have been living on and off the reservation ever since.

I have one brother, and one sister and one dog and I now live in Los Angeles, California. I want to say hello to my family, Victoria Lewis, Michele Hutchinson, Michael, Roxy, Lenny and my B.F.F. Michele Navrada. I miss you all and want to thank the Gila River Indian Community for coming out to L.A. to talk to [the] urban natives. It was good to see Anthony Chris Villareal - so cool to see family.

Much love,
Katrina Domingo

In Loving Memory
Phyllis C. (Lewis) Osife
4/22/50 - 10/22/13

A letter from heaven when tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see, if the sun should rise and find your heart, don't think we're far apart, the way you did today, while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say. I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, and each time you think of me I know you'll miss me too. When tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me I'm right there in your heart.

Remembering you on your third anniversary - forever loved and eternally missed.
Excerpt from Gov. Lewis remarks from Nat'l Water Summit

Publications & Public Affairs
Gila River Indian Community

On Oct. 9, 2016, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis participated in water rights implementation panel at the National Tribal Water Summit, which was sponsored by National Congress of American Indians, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona and the Native American Rights Fund. The following excerpts are from the remarks Gov. Lewis provided at this panel and have been edited for brevity.

**Background on Gila River Indian Community**

For those of you who are not familiar with the Gila River Indian Community, we are located on the south of the Phoenix metropolitan area. For generations the Gila River sustained us and we were very successful and self-sufficient farmers, but soon after the Civil War non-Natives upstream of the community began to divert Gila River water, eventually depriving the Community of water to support the Community’s agricultural economy, and causing dramatic dietary changes to our diet and culture.

The Community fought for over 100 years to get its water back, and finally in 2004 Congress approved our water settlement when it passed the Arizona Water Settlements Act. Under the water settlement, the Community agreed to forego some of its water rights to the Gila River water in exchange for guaranteed delivery of affordable Arizona Water (CAP) water through the Gila.

The settlement allocates 311,800 acre feet of CAP water to the Community each year, making the Community the single largest CAP contractor. The settlement also provides a large amount of groundwater rights and funds to construct and rehab on-reservation canals for irrigation.

**Goals of the Settlement and Early Challenges**

The primary goal of the settlement was to bring back to our lands which is culturally important to the Community. But there was also a desire to restore the Gila River.

The rehabilitation of our canals will not be complete until 2030, so much of our CAP water was going to be unused by us, and be used by others with no benefit to the Community. So in 2009 the Community developed a plan to use its CAP water by storing it off reservation to create long-term storage credits. These long-term storage credits are paper water rights that can be marketed and transferred in a manner that is much more lucrative than longer on leasing.

In addition, the Community began plans to develop an on-reservation storage facility that would achieve two goals:

1. Bring back the river; and
2. Augment ground-water supplies for our farmers.

The Community has developed and is now operating a recharge facility on our lands that involves direct delivery of CAP water into the Gila River to recreate the natural flow. Under this project we can sell long-term storage credits that can be market-ed, recharge our aquifer, and develop a recharge ecosystem within our reservation.

**NGS Challenge**

With the implementation challenges we have faced was an EPA rulemaking at the Navajo Generation Station (NGS), which is a large coal power plant located near Page, Ariz. on the Navajo Reservation. Although our settlement provides funds to subsidize the costs of delivering CAP water to the Community, the Community is responsible for the energy charges to deliver CAP water.

NGS is partially owned by the United States, and the federal share of NGS is approximately 95% of the power to deliver CAP water to the Community, and given our ownership of the remaining 5% CAP water, we are the single largest NGS power customer.

In 2010 the EPA began to propose rules that would require NGS to install and operate environmental controls that would significantly increase the cost of CAP water. The emissions controls at NGS threatened to render CAP water unaffor-dable, and even threatened to shut down NGS, which would have had a negative impact on the Community in excess of $2 billion.

From the Community’s perspective, these emission controls would be compara-ble to the original wrongs we came to the Community when non-Indians upstream on the Gila River diverted the flows of that river to the point that it stopped running.

Given the uniqueness of NGS, a number of stake-holders developed an alter-native rule that was adopt-ed by EPA. This alternative took a phased approach to installing emission controls and allowed for the plant to remain open so that a glide-path to alternative energy supplies for the CAP can be developed to ultimately replace NGS.

From the Community’s perspective this was not a perfect solution. We continue to struggle with the rising cost of CAP wa-ter that is largely driven by energy costs. These costs have forced the Community back to the scope of agricultural revitalization.

**Five Year Water Plan**

Starting in 2014, we began confronting num-berous issues related to the Community’s increased water use as a result of the water settlement. The rising cost of CAP water made the prospect of its contin-ued use for irrigation on the reservation economically difficult, if not impossible.

In response, we developed a plan to address these issues and ensure two important goals:

1. Expansion of farming in an affordable way; and

On Sept. 16, 2015, the Community Council approved the Five Year Wa-ter Plan. Under the Plan the Community will use its water marketing proceeds to fund a Permanent Water Fund. The sole purpose of this fund is to create enough income to cover the annual budget deficit associ-ated with our water costs.
Proclamation honors the late Gila Crossing teacher Sharon Shelde

Gila River Indian News

In an Oct. 4 proclamation, Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis officially designated Thursday, September 29, 2016, Sharon Kay Shelde Day. According to Gov. Lewis’s proclamation, the day is designated in recognition of Shelde’s contributions and achievements as an educator at the Gila Crossing Community School and that the Gila River Indian Community is grateful for the hard work and dedication Shelde embodied. Her commitment to educating GRC’s youth inspired the educational and spiritual lives of the Community’s youth and families.

In the proclamation, “Ms. Shelde tirelessly spent 12 years pursuing the best interest of the Community and its children. Her dedication to the Community, through its youngest members, is boundless, and the Gila River Indian Community salutes Ms. Shelde for her 12 years of dedication, commitment and hard work nurturing the Gila River Indian Community through its children and families.” “The Gila River Indian Community hereby pays special tribute to Ms. Shelde for being a supreme example of a human being who embodies a unique blend of leadership, devotion, compassion, and resourcefulness.”

Born in Phoenix in 1952, Shelde was raised in Komatke Village and attended South Mountain High School and graduated from Arizona State University in 1974. She earned a master’s degree in education from Arizona State University in 2014.

Shelde was a certified Native Language Teacher by the Arizona Department of Education, one of only five individuals to receive the certificate, and was the cultural teacher at Gila Crossing Community School where she encouraged students to learn about O’otham Himdag.

The late Sharon Shelde, at a graduation ceremony, was honored with a proclamation by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

GRIC to construct 4,000-square-foot gas station and by next spring

Commuters between Coolidge and Casa Grande will soon be able to fill up their gas tanks at a new gas station that is slated to be fully constructed and ready for business by next spring.

According to the Casa Grande Dispatch, the gas station will be located at Signal Peak Road and State Route 87, where a drilling rig, owned and operated by KP Ventures Well Drill & Pump Co. was currently drilling the gas station’s well near Blackwater. Drilling was finished by mid-September.

The gas station will include diesel pumps and a 4,000-square-foot 24/7 convenience store and smoke shop.

Wild Horse Pass Development Authority’s Director of Marketing, Alia Hauter, said that the new gas station will be a closer option for residents in nearby communities.

“If you don’t gas up leaving Coolidge, you have to wait until you get to Casa Grande or even Chandler,” Hauter said in the Dispatch. “It’s a long way to go and this will be a much closer option for residents in the area.”

Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Phoenix is now the largest city in the United States to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day. The city council voted unanimously on Oct. 5 to establish the second Monday of every October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day. That day, of course, is also known as Columbus Day which is a federal holiday.

But Native American groups across the country have been lobbying for local governments to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples’ Day, which is meant to recognize the history, heritage, and contributions of the land’s first people.

Phoenix now joins a growing list of American cities that recognize the new holiday, which includes Seattle, Denver, Santa Fe, Portland, and about 25 others. Phoenix has approximately 44,000 American Indian and Alaskan Native residents.

“Today is Indigenous Peoples’ Day,” said National Congress of American Indians President Benjamin Cladoosby at the NCAI Convention on Oct. 10. “We are proud to celebrate this day. This celebration is for our ancestors,” he said, “the heartaches, and the trauma they had to experience, and we just pray that people would understand how we feel.”

Cladoosby said, “I wish people would understand how Christopher Columbus, in his fourth trip back to Europe, was sent back in shackles. That is part of history that – I don’t know [if it] ever will be taught in our history books here in the U.S. And if you read his journal entries, and if you read the accounts of why he was sent back in shackles, it was because of [the] terrible, terrible way he treated the first indigenous peoples when he got here. And it’s a sad history, one that I wish people would tell so people would understand, truly, the full picture.”

Kevin Gover, the director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C., said, “We deal all the time with American Indian identity and stereotypes. Our visitors don’t come to us as blank slates.”

He said, “All Americans, even Native Americans, are taught to believe in ‘imaginary Indians’ so that the stories that we hear, the version of history that we’re taught in our school system, and then takes hold in popular culture, bear little resemblance to the truth.”

The Gila River Indian Community Higher Education Scholarship

DON’T MISS OUR UPCOMING DEADLINE ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016

The Student Services Department will be open from 7am to 7pm on Tuesday (deadline day) to accommodate Community members.

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

- Completed and signed Application
- A typed 200 word essay summarizing your educational goals and future plans
- Official Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CIB)
- Copy of Admission/Acceptance letter
- Copy of Enrollment Agreement (Vocational Only)
- Copy of Program of Study
- Copy of Class Schedule
- Copy of Student Aid Report (FAFSA)
- Copy of High School or GED Diploma
- Official transcripts from previously attended schools even if they were not funded by the GRIC Scholarship

To complete the financial aid process in a timely manner, please submit complete application 2 weeks prior to our upcoming deadline date.

For more information please contact the Student Services Department at (520) 562-3316

Robby Gall/Casa Grande Valley Newspapers

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Gila River Indian News

October 21, 2016
Understanding Potential Impacts & Identifying Solutions
Climate Change Workshop Series – Part 2 of 2

**Workshop – Part 2**

- 11/4/2016 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- 11/5/2016 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Refreshments will be served on both days

**Hualapai Heritage Center**
21339 S Maricopa Rd., Chandler, AZ 85147

**What is it?**
An interactive, hands-on workshop series bringing together Community members, employees, and stakeholders to discuss Community climate change concerns and collaboratively develop adaptation strategies.

**What will I get out of it?**
Participants will be given the opportunity to:
- Understand Community concerns related to climate change.
- Discuss climate change impacts on GRIC based on traditional knowledge and Western Science.
- Identify solutions to address the impacts of climate change on the Community.
- Learn how you can get involved in preparing GRIC for climate change.

**What will be covered?**
Friday, we will discuss the potential impacts of climate change on the Community. Saturday, we will identify solutions to address the impacts of climate change.

**Who Should Attend?**
This workshop is intended for all GRIC Community members, employees, and stakeholders interested in discussing how GRIC has been and will be affected by climate change, and in response, how we can create and build solutions together.

**Visit our website or call for more information.** www.pinalcountyaz.gov/recorder (520) 866-6830

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Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis
center, during the ceremo-
ny for the late Billy Farris at St. Peter Indian Mission School. Gary Anderson, left, holds Gov. Lewis’s proclama-
tion with Farris’s family, right.

for the second week in Oc-
tober, they were linked by
their bravery and sacrifice. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis is-
sued two proclamations in
support of family and friends
their names and their fam-
s, and by their sacrifice. The Arizona Run for the Fallen.
Farris, who was 20
years old, was killed in action
on Dec. 3, 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom
while serving in the U.S. Army. Jackson, who was
22, died in Afghanistan on April 24, 2011 during Op-
eration Enduring Freedom
while serving in the U.S. Marines. Gov. Lewis’s proclama-
tions were issued on Oct.
11, which dedicated Oct.
14 as Corporation Billy Farris Day and Oct. 16 as Lance Corporal Joe Jackson Day.

Flags at all government buildings were ordered to be flown at half-staff from

Oct. 14-16.

On Oct. 14, the day
that Farris’s hero marker was honored by the run-
ers, his family was pre-

sented with the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal by Arizona Department of
Veterans Services Director Wanda Wright at a special ceremony at St. Peter Indi-

nian Mission School, where he attended, in Bapchule, District 5. St. Peter’s is also
home to the Billy Farris Memorial Hall, a one-story
feast house adjacent to the


campus.

The Arizona Gold Star

Military Medal honors Arizona members of the
Armed Forces who have been killed in action.

Col. Wright said to

Cpl. Farris’s family, “I ex-

tend my deepest apprecia-
tion and heartfelt grief to

family and friends of Bil-

ly, who sacrificed his life in defense of [our] Nation and

freedom.”

At the ceremony, Farris’s father Larry Antone
said, “When he grew up
that is all he wanted to be

was a soldier.”

Farris was assigned to
the 5th Battalion, 20th In-
fantry Regiment, and 3rd
Brigade, 2nd Infantry Divi-
sion based out of Fort Lew-

is Washington.

Cpl. Farris’s mother Elizabeth Antone, said her
son was part of a search op-
eration to locate a downed
U.S. Air Force F-16 pilot
Maj. Troy L. Gilbert, who
was part of a squadron
based out of Luke Air Force
Base in Glendale, Ariz.

Maj. Gilbert, a fellow Arizonan, lost his life the
same day as Farris, when his jet crashed while sup-
porting friendly ground
forces north of Iraq.

Inside of the St.

Pe-

ter’s chapel, start-

ed the morning by giving

a prayer and singing tra-
ditional O’otham songs.

Before filing out of the

chapel, students sang “God Bless America,” in English
and O’otham and a “Going
Home” song to send off the

students that were going to

start their own version of
the memorial run.

The students were

joined by Gov. Lewis as
they trotted their way along
the paved sidewalk that

snakes through the school.

After the walk was

finished, the students went
back into the chapel to hear
opening remarks from Gov.
Lewis before the special
presentation to the parents
of Cpl. Farris. “Always re-
member Cpl. Farris, who is
more than just a name on
the hall, but it is important
that we see that name there,

because he gave his life for all of [us], the Gila River
Indian Community, for all

Native Americans, for the
state of Arizona, and his
country,” said Gov. Lewis.

Farris’s mother, Eliz-
abeth, said everyone at
the school was instrumental
in helping raise her son while
he attended St. Peter Indi-


nian Mission School and that
since his passing it was even more reassuring to

have them still by their side.

While on deployment
Elizabeth said that he al-
ways carried with him the

teachings that he learned
at school and would do his
daily prayers half a world

away.

Gary Anderson a mem-
ber of Haskell Oxife-An-
tone Post 51 and the Vet-
erans and Family Services
planning committee talked about the motivation be-
hind the whole event.

“At first we wanted
to do something at [his] hero marker out on High-

way 79, but a lot of things
came together. I was in a

meeting with Community
Manager Pam Thompson and

Gov. Lewis and in-
formed them about the idea

of putting something on at
St. Peters,” said Anderson.

He said as soon as the
idea was presented to Com-

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away.
Every language has a way of expressing ownership, where the noun belongs to someone. In Akimel O’otham ‘heo’ork, this is done by saying two nouns together, adding a prenom with a noun. For example if you wanted to say that you saw Mary’s sister yesterday you could say “Ñei anth heg Mali:ya ve:nag thako.” In this sentence the part that means Mary’s sister is expressed by the Akimel O’otham words Mali:ya ve:nag. Putting two words together to express ownership creates what is called a possessive phrase. In Akimel O’otham an order for the possessed phrases normally starts with the possessor (the person that has ownership) occurring first while the possessed noun (the noun that is owned or claimed) comes last. This is the same ordering of words that English uses in creating possessive phrases. What is different in this example is that there is no suffix (or word ending) like the ‘-s’ suffix that is added to the possessor in English possessed phrases (John’s dog, Mary’s sister). Just by combining the two words together in the right order gives the phrase Mali:ya ve:nag the meaning of Mary’s sister. Now this pattern changes slightly depending on the type of object that is being claimed. If you were to change the first sentence to say you saw John’s car yesterday it would turn into “Ñei anth heg Huan kalithga thako.” In this sentence the possessed phrase (the part that means John’s car) is expressed by words Huan kalithga. The word kalith is the noun kalitha. This pattern is different from English in that you do not add the suffix to the possessor (like in English, see for example John’s car) but instead add it to the possessed noun (Huan kalithga). What is also different is that this suffix is only found with certain nouns and does not get attached to all words like the possessive (-s) suffix in English. Akimel O’otham speakers know without thinking what words use the -ga suffix and which ones don’t need it. For learners it is best to listen closely and take note of what words go with the suffix. For most speakers, the difference can be loosely described by some nouns that have a close relationship to you and those that are more distant. Nouns that refer to things like parts of the body (mo ‘head’, nov ‘hand’, kaiyo ‘leg’), people (alshif ‘man’s child’), mad ‘woman’s child’, je’e ‘mother’), and clothing (kamish ‘shirt’, sluusgik ‘shoes’, vonam ‘hat’) never take the -ga ending. It could be that you don’t need the -ga at the ends of these words because these items are already understood as belonging to someone or have a close relationship to people. The words that fit in this group will vary from speaker to speaker. Some speakers will prefer to use –ga with items like clothes.

Other nouns like pets (gogs ‘dog’, michol ‘cat’, koji ‘pig’), plants (haç, huct, pilkañ), and other items (kalith ‘car’, jeved ‘land’, lial ‘money’, vem feo:kduk ‘cell phone’) use the ending –ga when you say that it belongs to someone.

Huhugam Heritage Center hosts festive opening night for ATALM conference

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

As guests walked through the front entrance of the Huhugam Heritage Center on the evening of Oct. 11, they were greeted with a jubilant atmospheric festivity lights, music, food, and at the center of it all, a ball court filled with danc- ers, hand in hand, performing the polka, mazurka, and entertaining by traditional dancers from Arizo- na’s southern tribes. While the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the evening may have seemed to develop natu- rally, it was in fact a fine- ly tuned and well-planned project that took almost a year to complete.

The goal of the event was to make guests feel welcomed and at home, said Shirley Jackson, Exec-utive Director for the Huhugam Heritage Center, “When you come to an O’otham person’s house, they should offer you water, they should of- fer you food,” she said.

Planning for the event began in October 2015 when word first came that the ATALM conference was coming to Gila Riv- er. Jackson said that they didn’t want to make the event only about the Gila River Indian Community, but to highlight all four O’otham sister tribes.

“Yes, we are separated by these boundaries but at the same time we are rela- tives, cousins, sisters, and brothers,” said Jackson. “We wanted to make sure that people coming from Alaska or back East would know that we are one peo- ple, that we share the same language and history [and] welcome them into our ter- ritory, our land.”

Over three hundred representatives from dif- ferent indigenous muse- ums made their way to the Huhugam Heritage Center to attend the welcoming, some of them coming from as far away as Switzerland and Qatar.

Guests enjoyed the sights, sounds and flavors of the Akimel O’otham, To- hono O’odham, Ak-Chin, Salt River, and Pee-Posh tribes.

Traditional dancers performed in front of hun- dreds of guests in the cen- ter of the museum’s ball court while others danced on plates of red chili, chu- muth, beans, and squash.

The evening also fea- tured art booths, live art perfor- mances and tours of the Huhugam Heritage Center’s collections.

To top off the night, guests were treated to the sounds of waila performed by people other than Gette and the T.O. Boys, who got conference attendees danc- ing the polka, mazurka, and always popular cumbia. Susan Feller, President of the ATALM, said of the opening night, “The theme of our conference this year is ‘Culture Builds Community’ and this [event] is a wonderful example of how culture keeps [community] strong.”

The ATALM is an organization that aims to raise awareness concern- ing the needs of indige- nous cultural institutions throughout the world, pro- vides culturally responsive services through training events, and advocates for indigenous cultural institu- tions.

“It’s not just preserving the relics, it’s also pres- serving the language,” Fell- er said of the organization.

She continued, “Our [organization’s] board chair, Walter Echo-Hawk, who is Pawnee, says that no tribe can truly pro- egress unless it is in control of its own cultural heritage. Therefore, we all believe that every tribe should have its own archive, library, and museum that manages its own culture.”

As the evening came to an end, Feller expressed her thanks for the warm welcoming.

“We have people from all over the world [here] and I think they are all very impressed with what [has] been done here. We feel very welcome and we thank [them] for their hospi- tality,” she said.
The National Congress of American Indians’ Annual Convention is a place for tribal leaders to discuss the serious topics of the day. But NCAI Cultural Night is a chance for everyone to relax and enjoy a good time.

The Cultural Night was hosted by the Gila River Indian Community at Rawhide Western Town from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. on Oct. 12.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone opened the Cultural Night.

She said, “I wanted to welcome you here to the Gila River Indian Community, the land of the Akimel O’otham and Pima. I know there is a lot of important work that has been done [at NCAI] throughout the week. We want to welcome all Natives because that’s what we do as indigenous people, and I want to thank all the tribal leaders that made it out tonight. Enjoy yourselves this evening.”

Several other tribal leaders, cultural advisors and representatives from the Department of Interior and policy advisors spoke on critical issues pertaining to water rights including litigation, drought impacts and current Indian water rights settlements and negotiations.

Mikail Sundust/GRIN

NCAI Cultural Night is held during the NCAI Convention and serves as a place for NCAI and tribal representatives to come from City of Phoenix and visitors to NCAI Cultural Night.

Lt. Governor Monica Antone welcomes the many guests and Visitors to NCAI Cultural Night.

Emcees and comedians Teresa Royo and Wolf Brown had the audience of 700-plus roaring while a meal of chili, potato salad, squash and chilies kept people satisfied along with traditional food samples of “g’i’ivasu” (ground corn), “havii” (tepary beans) and more.

The evening featured traditional dancers from the O’otham, Pezho, Hopi, Apache, Pasqua Yaqui Tribe, and others.

Gov. Lewis thanked the NCAI for visiting the Gila River Indian Community and asked tribal officials to support efforts to stop construction of the Loop 202 Extension because GRIC considers South Mountain a sacred site.

NCAI President Brian Cladosoby of the Swinomish Tribe of Washington said it was a pleasure to witness the continued preservation of Native cultures in Arizona.

“I’ve had the opportunity to travel throughout Indian Country and there is nothing better than being able to witness another area’s culture, to be able to see that the elders have taught the younger ones in a good way. As a group of basket dancers young and old danced in the background, he said, “When I witness this, I know that our culture is going to be alive and well for the next seven generations.”

Guests danced the night away with music provided by Gertie and the T.O. Boys.

NCAI from Page 1

economic development. Several other tribal leaders, tribal cultural advisors and representatives from the Department of Interior and policy advisors spoke on critical issues pertaining to water rights including litigation, drought impacts and current Indian water rights settlements and negotiations.

NCAI in 2017 hosts various conventions and conferences. The annual convention is held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The conference then shifted late Tuesday as NCAI rallied for American Indians and Alaska Natives to vote in the Nov. 8 presidential election. The Native Vote Pep Rally was an informative and interactive event to directly involve Native Americans in the importance of voting.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) joined the Fourth General Assembly on Wednesday, Oct. 12 and gave his support to NCAI for their work on Native American issues. “I’m proud to be with NCAI. It continues to be a vehicle for empowering Indian leaders from around the country to advocate safeguarding government to government relationships between your sovereign nations and the United States government,” said McCain.

Every NCAI Convention and Marketplace has a cultural night to bring together all the attendees to partake in the local heritage of its host nations.

This year was no different with the convention reaching a cultural crescendo at the NCAI Cultural Night hosted by the Gila River Indian Community. Held at Rawhide Western Town and Event Center, the event consisted of entertainment, dinner, arts and crafts and several cultural sharings and blessings from the diverse communities that make up Arizona’s Native population. (See Cultural Night above).

District 5 Community Council Representative Robert Stone gave the invocation to the final General Assembly on Friday, Oct. 14. He administered a blessing and shared an O’otham song about the legendary “dust devils” that whirl in the Community during the summer months. The convention officially adjourned at 12 p.m. The 74th Annual Convention and Marketplace will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., from Oct. 15-20, 2017.
NCAI makes a statement against Native American sports mascots

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Rethink. Replace. Rename. NCAI staff members maroon red shirts with one of those words each in a style mimicking the National Football League's Washington team on Oct. 12, during the NCAI Convention. The shirts instantly capture one's attention because they are done in the same font and color scheme as the team's actual logo. On first glance it looks like a team shirt, but after a double-take passersby realize it's not in support of, but in opposition to the team name.

“We did that purposefully to have the same colors as the football team,” said NCAI Deputy Director Robert Holden, “to have them rethink what [they’re] doing, to replace that logo, to rename that name.”

The message is clear: NCAI does not take the team’s name or logo lightly and is serious about changing it. In 2013 the NCAI published a treatise entitled, Ending the Legacy of Racism in Sports & the Era of Harmful “Indian” Sports Mascots. The publication covers the nature of racism in sports from children’s leagues to the professional level.

NCAI says professional sports teams with disparaging names and iconography such as the “Washington Redskin…,” profit from harmful stereotypes which originated during a time when white superiority and segregation were commonplace.

The report continues, “Each of these professional sports businesses attempt to establish a story of honoring Native peoples through the names or mascots; however, each one... diminishes the place, status, and humanity of contemporary Native citizens.”

NCAI has passed resolutions aimed at not only bringing awareness to the insensitive and ignorant naming of mascots misrepresenting Native Americans, but also at making effective change in sports arenas to combat the perpetuation of those stereotypes. Holden said the NCAI was instrumental in changing team mascots and names in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The organization also works with federal and local legislatures to bring attention to the issue.

NCAI staff members wear shirts to speak out against Indigenous mascot names.

Former Gila River General Counsel honored at NCAI Gala

Rod Lewis, former GRIC General Counsel enjoys a

Rod Lewis, former Gila River General Counsel, was honored at the 2016 NCAI Gala in Phoenix, Ariz. Held at the Arizona Grand Resort, the event honored several Native American business leaders, attorneys and advocates.

Lewis became a familiar face on the Gila River Indian Community’s legal team after founding the GRIC’s in-house counseling program in 1988.

In a 30-year career as the General Counsel for the Gila River Indian Community, and his
director John Eochahawk said he’s known Rod since the 1960s.

“We were in that first wave [of Native American lawyers]. We now have grown to 2,500 Native American attorneys. Rod had his vision helping his Gila River Indian Community deal with their biggest problem and that was the water rights issue. He put in 30 years working on that and he got it done, the largest Native American water rights settlement in history.”

“I’m so honored to call Rod a friend.”

Rod said it was an honor to be recognized “before such a distinguished group of tribal leaders. Every tribal leader [here] has so much to work for, spends so much time working on these issues for your people.”

He said a key to his work was having the support of the Community Council and thanked them for their work.

“It’s still out there, and there are some parents in those school systems that understand it and they get it in terms of disparaging Native culture, but also the impact it has on those Native children in that school system where a lot of this takes place.”

He said, “NCAI does not take the team’s name or logo lightly and is serious about changing it. In 2013 the NCAI published a treatise entitled, Ending the Legacy of Racism in Sports & the Era of Harmful “Indian” Sports Mascots. The publication covers the nature of racism in sports from children’s leagues to the professional level.”

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GRIIC Youth Competes in Miss Indian Arizona in Chandler

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

In her spare time she is

gate Millenium Scholar and serves on the ASU American Indian Council. Her goal is to be fluent in Navajo.

While she didn’t take home a crown, Garcia said she was proud to represent the Gila River Indian Community and had a great time getting to know the other contestants.

The contestants kicked off the pageant with an opening number set to Shania Twain’s “Man! I Feel Like A Woman.” Each presented traditional regalia from their respective tribes, the depth of their cultural knowledge as well as their future aspirations.

Parrish is pursuing bachelor’s degrees in political science and public policy. She is a Gates Millenium Scholar and serves on the ASU American Indian Council. Her goal is to be fluent in Navajo.

She was quoted in the pageant as saying, “I believe that the power of change lies within the hands of this generation’s youth. I think you all need encouragement to pursue their dreams and goals. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the people that believed in me.”

In a post on the MIA Facebook page, she wrote, "I am honored to serve as your 55th Miss Indian Arizona. I am also excited to be serving with our love..."
GRIC was well represented at Native American Connections parade

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

What a day for a parade. For one and a half miles, 55 entries marched in Phoenix for the Native American Connections 34th Annual Parade under the theme, “Keeping Native Dances & Languages Alive.” The weather was clear and the mood was festive as Arizona’s Native American communities displayed their pride and diversity from Third Street and Oak, north of Downtown Phoenix, to Indian Steele Park on Saturday, Oct. 8. The Gila River Indian Community was well represented with the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 leading way followed by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis who, in his usual fashion, walked the length of the parade route. Crowds cheered from the sidewalk for several other GRIC-related entries including St. Peter Indian Mission Catholic School Royalty, Achem A’al Indigenous Traditional Pima Basket Dancers, Tribal Image Car Club, Keli Akimel Hua Modik Cuukidam, the Chicken Scratch Battle of the Bands organization, Korean War Veteran Ruben Jenkins and the Gila River Fatherhood/Motherhood is Sacred group.

All together, the community also placed very well when the awards were giving to the best entries. Tribal Image Car Club won first place in the specialty category, Achem A’al won third place in the performance category, Gila River Basket dancers were an honorable mention in the performance category and Ruben Jenkins was an honorable mention in the specialty category. The grand marshal consisted of members of student Native American clubs at the ten Maricopa Community Colleges.

Ernest said that drinking alcohol was a big factor in contributing to his behavior. He said it was during one of his drinking sprees when going after his wife that his small son jumped in front of his mother with fists raised, ready to protect her. Ernest said that when he saw this, he just turned around and left. It wasn’t much longer that he came home one night, during a drunken bender, to an empty house.

He said that even though he was25, he didn’t like alcohol. “I stand before everyone as a former batterer. I wish it wasn’t so, but it is the only way to start the process of fighting back against domestic violence and violence against women is to come out to community events like the 4th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Fair. Before ending his presentation he told the audience that “When you set your mind to something, you can accomplish anything, but you must have faith in yourself.”

DV Awareness from page 1 challenges, and continue moving forward in life. Father and son presenters, Ernest Tossie Jr., 74, and John Tossie, who founded “Walking the Healing Path,” a group that raises awareness on domestic violence and violence against women, told their own story of domestic violence but from a very different perspective. Their story was about being perpetrators of abuse.

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ATTENTION AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN ARIZONA
If you have a problem while voting during the GENERAL ELECTION, please call for help from a trained volunteer:

This is a toll free Non-Partisan Voting Rights helpline:
1-888-777-3831

Voting Rights Helpline Hours: 6 AM – 7 PM on Election Day
Open in the days leading up to Election Day

EARLY VOTING Begins: Oct. 12, 2016
ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: Oct. 28, 2016
GENERAL ELECTION: November 8, 2016

CALL IF:
• If you are at the wrong polling location
• You don’t know whether you are registered
• You are turned away from the polls
• The polling place does not open on time
• The polling place is closing early
• You are denied native language assistance or a helper of your choice for any reason
• There are not enough ballots
• You are told you have to come back later to vote
• Your vote was challenged and you don’t know why
• Your Tribal ID was not accepted for identification

GRPD Det. Manuel Duarte helps stamp Lopez Hernandez’s card.

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Nicholas Lewis, Victim Rights Coordinator, assists community members at the fair.

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Native Vote
Gov. Lewis’s speech highlights GRIC’s opposition to freeway

The 3rd Annual National Congress of American Indians was well underway on the morning of Oct. 11 when Gila River Indian Community Governor Lewis stepped up to the podium at the conference’s Third General Assembly held at the Phoenix Convention Center.

The general assembly focused on the federal government’s trust responsibility to tribes throughout the United States and Gov. Lewis’s speech touched on how he has seen consultation processes between tribes and the federal government both fail and succeed.

Gov. Lewis said that in 1942 the U.S. Supreme Court found that federal agencies have “moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust” when working with tribal property or interests. He said that while he agrees with the sentiment that federal agencies have a trust responsibility to protect tribal resources, land, and assets; federal consultation to tribes can still fail.

He said that failures occur for a variety of reasons, which include federal agencies viewing consultation to tribes as unimportant, treating consultation as an empty process done only for the sake of doing it, and agencies unaware of how their actions affect tribes and thus not properly informing tribal communities of their planned projects.

Indian Country needs to use the upcoming nationwide infrastructure consultation with the federal government, said Gov. Lewis, to make sure tribes are participating in real dialogue with federal agencies. This should be done to gain full understanding of the federal government so they will consider the impacts of tribal infrastructure projects on tribal lands, resources, and people, he said.

When consultation fails between tribes and the federal government, he added, the effect can be disastrous, which is what happened with the Dakota Access Pipeline.

South Mountain Freeway

Gov. Lewis said that GRIC is also experiencing a situation similar to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s predicament with the Dakota Access Pipeline, specifically that federal agencies are not listening to GRIC’s concerns over the South Mountain Freeway Expansion.

He said that the Federal Highway Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation both approved the freeway, which cuts through South Mountain, a culturally significant and natural resource to GRIC.

According to Gov. Lewis, four points of how the highway will affect GRIC are: that it will forever alter the landscape and culture of South Mountain; isolate Community members from culturally significant locations and resources; destroy sites on or around South Mountain that serve as Traditional Cultural Properties and are federally protected; and destroy or interfere with trails, shrines and archaeological sites that have cultural significance to the Gila River Indian Community.

He said that the Community’s tribal members and leaders, from the very beginning, had opposed the freeway expansion project. And, even though there were consultations with GRIC, the federal government did not consider the Community’s concerns. Due to the lack of meaningful consultation with the federal government, the freeway expansion project has moved forward and will permanently impact or destroy the tribe’s traditional cultural properties.

And just as the Standing Rock Sioux’s last recourse was to file a lawsuit, GRIC was also left with same option of filing a lawsuit in order to protect the tribe’s culture.

Gov. Lewis said that the tribe’s resources should not have to be spent on lawsuits to protect its culture and resources, especially when those funds could be used to help its Community members.

How Consultation Has Worked

In contrast, there are examples of consultation with the federal government that have worked, said Gov. Lewis.

One example, he said, was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a decision that could have destroyed the delivery of water to GRIC. GRIC was not consulted by the agency and the Community only learned of the issue late in the process of the project.

However, in order to avoid future issues from occurring again, the agencies began regular government-to-government meetings with GRIC, which had the effect of increasing communication between the tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Due to this increase of communication with the agency, said Lewis, he signed the “Statement of Relationship” with the Southwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015.

He said that the Statement of Relationship was an agreement recognizing GRIC’s sovereignty in managing its own lands and resources. He added that other agencies should look into implementing similar relationships with the Community.

NMAI Director gives update on Native veterans monument

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A group of Community veterans came together on Sept. 14 from the National Museum of the American Indian to discuss veterans’ issues and initiatives in the creation of a monument dedicated to Native Americans veterans.

Gov. Lewis welcomed the group of veterans and thanked Gov. for visiting the Community to share the monument project’s plan that will represent Native veterans.

Gov. Lewis said, “It is a special moment for the Community, because we have a proud tradition of veterans, both men and women serving in the Armed Forces.”

Gov. Chris, a member of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, became the new director of the NMAI in 2008 after serving as a former professor of Indian Law at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law.

He said in 2013 Congress passed a monument to approve a monument that will be housed on the grounds of the NMAI and that he is leading the ambitious project to erect a new monument dedicated to Native American veterans that will rely on their input.

“We know of family members, relatives and friends who have served, but that’s a story to tell well known outside of Native American communities,” he said.

Gov. Lewis said the project is expected to be funded through private donations and is slated for completion in 2020. It will be the only National Monument on the National Mall dedicated to recognizing Native American for their military service and will shed light onto a part of history that is unknown to most Americans.

Gov. Lewis listed several of his own thoughts on how consultation between the federal government and tribal nations could be improved.

He said that it is imperative for tribal nations and federal agencies to develop relationships with one another, thus opening meaningful lines of communication; federal agencies must make sure that no matter what decisions are made, that they are able to be implemented on a local level; because federal staff generally do not understand the interests or needs of tribal nations, they receive training on when consultation should take place and how to consult; consultation must be meaningful, especially at the earliest stages of the decision making process; federal agencies must follow their own consultation policies because what is the point of policy if it is not followed, he said.

At the end of his 20-minute speech, Gov. Lewis told the general assembly made up of tribal leaders from all over the United States, it is crucial for all of Indian Country to gather together and speak with one voice, to make sure tribal nations are heard by the federal government.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
NMAI Director Ken Gover visits the Gila River Indian Community to discuss the plans for the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

Gov. Lewis said today over 31,000 Native American men and women are identified as being on active duty, which has always been the trend among this demographic of people.

Gov. Lewis said that by next summer consultation with tribes should conclude and that there are many more tribes to visit in order to develop an idea of how the memorial will look and how it should represent Native American veterans.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • October 5, 2016

ACTION SHEET

Gila River Indian News October 21, 2016

Page 12

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Gila River Indian News October 21, 2016

Page 12
with recommendation for approval.

Presenters: Cheryl Pablo

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

25. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community and Desert Water Consulting, Inc. Fiscal Year 2017 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, nrsc concurs).

Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23


Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

27. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community and Desert Water Consulting, Inc. Fiscal Year 2017 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, nrsc concurs).

Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23


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Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23


Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23


Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

34. A Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community and Desert Water Consulting, Inc. Fiscal Year 2017 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval). If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23


Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23


Presenters: Office Of The General Counsel

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

37. A Resolution Approving An Agreement To Terminate And Settle The Assignment Of Lease Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Saguaro Mechanical, Inc. (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, nrsc concurs).

Presenters: NRSC

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

38. A Resolution Approving An Agreement To Terminate And Settle The Assignment Of Lease Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Saguaro Mechanical, Inc. (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, nrsc concurs).

Presenters: NRSC

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

39. A Resolution Approving An Agreement To Terminate And Settle The Assignment Of Lease Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Saguaro Mechanical, Inc. (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, nrsc concurs).

Presenters: NRSC

APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #23

40. A Resolution Reaffirming and Reinstating the Delegation of Authority for Certain Legal Proceedings and Financing and Other Documents to the Economic Development Standing Committee (EDSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval).

Presenters: John Roberts, Esther Manuel

APPROVED ORDNANCES

 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation Loan To Gila Farms Of Revolving Credit Agreement #47-16 To Combine The Revolving Credit (G&MSC forwards to Council under Unfinished Business in Executive Session).

Presenters: Elizabeth Bohnee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. NCAI Resolutions (GMS motion to forward the (3) Resolutions to Council for recommendation approval).

Presenters: Office Of General Counsel

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

[ADDENDUMS TO AGENDA]

3. Wild Horse Pass Management Authority External Audit

Presenters: Dale Gutten

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

4. 890 Farm

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REFER THE ITEM BACK TO NRSC

MINUTES

1. July 20, 2016 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. August 3, 2016 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. August 17, 2016 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

4. August 31, 2016 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MISS INDIAN SOUTHWEST PAGEANT: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016, 6:30 PM
- PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR SHIRLEY HUGHES FAMILY
- NCAI BRIEFING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016, 9AM
- ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNED AT 3:00 PM

* Denotes Tabled from previous meeting(s)
Lighting Arizona Purple for awareness

The Arizona Capitol Dome shined purple to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. From left, Diane Umphress, Executive Director of Amberly’s Place, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Nicole Bidwill, Arizona Cardinals Vice President.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

For the second year in a row, the front lawn of the Arizona State Capitol was a sea of purple as attendees took to their seats at the Lighting Arizona Purple ceremony on Oct. 3. The event brings awareness to domestic violence and sexual trafficking and is part of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women.

For the month of October, the Arizona Capitol building is cast in purple light in support of DV awareness.

The Arizona Capitol Dome shined purple to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. From left, Diane Umphress, Executive Director of Amberly’s Place, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Nicole Bidwill, Arizona Cardinals Vice President.

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Gila River Indian News

For the second year in a row, the front lawn of the Arizona State Capitol was a sea of purple as attendees took to their seats at the Lighting Arizona Purple ceremony on Oct. 3. The event brings awareness to domestic violence and sexual trafficking and is part of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women.

For the month of October, the Arizona Capitol building is cast in purple light in support of DV awareness.

The Arizona Capitol Dome shined purple to mark the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. From left, Diane Umphress, Executive Director of Amberly’s Place, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Nicole Bidwill, Arizona Cardinals Vice President.

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To the brave men and women who have served our great country with PRIDE, HONOR, DIGNITY, and UNWAVERING COMMITMENT, we say thank you.