GRIC to appeal ruling regarding freeway

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

When it comes to graffiti, the Community cannot stand idle while the proposed freeway destroys South Mountain and its trails, shrines, and archaeological sites.

GRPD looking to deter graffiti with abatement team

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

A community service worker paints over graffiti on Olberg Bridge which was supervised by Gila River Police Department’s Graffiti Abatement Team.

Recently the GRPD Graffiti Abatement Team was out in District 2 to supervise community service related to vandalizing public property.

“Back in 2011 the Community Council saw there was a problem with graffiti in the districts and [they] wanted to get a program started that would be able to suppress graffiti and deter everything that was going on in GRIC that was gang-related,” said Graffiti Abatement Technician Todd Tate.

Steve Brokeshoulder, another GAT Technician said, “It certainly has raised awareness.”

He said more and more people are calling the police about graffiti in the Community.

Tate and Brokeshoulder agreed that although graffiti may appear harmless, it does reflect negatively on the appearance and safety of the Community.

When the GAT was established, there wasn’t a handbook on how to crack down on graffiti, so Brokeshoulder and Tate experienced was crucial to defining polices and procedures.

Tate said, “[We] wanted to make the Community, the elders and the kids feel safe...especially for visitors from outside of the Community, because you want them to feel welcome.”

He said that appearances can say a lot, that’s why it’s important to clean up the graffiti.

To the average individual, graffiti appears all the same, but the GAT is able to determine if it is the work of an individual or a gang marking their territory.

Continued on Page 6

Gila River Farms office relocates back to the Farm’s area

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Over the past year Gila River Farm’s office location has been in a state of flux after a storm damaged the original office building, located off of Old Highway 93, causing it to become condemned and forcing staff to relocate.

The storm damaged the facility’s septic system and mold was found during an inspection of the building’s vents. This forced the Farm’s office staff to relocate to Gila River Indian Community’s old Property and Supply building behind the U.S. Post Office on North Sacaton Road, where they have been ever since.

Once again the Farm’s staff is on the move to a new location, and this time, it’s back to their old stomping grounds, the Gila River Farms.

As of Aug. 22, the new office building module, located just south of the original office that was condemned over a year ago, is now open for business and can provide the Community with its propane and hay needs.

Don Manuel, GRF Assistant General Manager said, “Now we are back, we are here...[and] this is the place to come now to get in contact with Gila River Farms. We just moved starting [Aug. 17]. It took us three days to get everything moved over and [Aug. 22] was the first day that we were officially open.”

GRF’s new office is located at 212 North Old Highway 93 Road.

For more information about purchasing propane, hay, or to look for a job, call (520) 315-2965 or send a fax to (520) 315-3775.

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community
Your New Favorite App

• Contact Customer Service
• View The GRTI Event Calendar
• Access The Mobile Directory
• View & Pay Your Bill
• Receive Push Notifications & Reminders

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play
It is now five years since you have been gone and I still can’t let you go. I think of you every day and realize that I have missed five years of your life to not see you grow into adulthood and to take care of your boys (Sidney and Ian). I have been cheated from your life because of a drunk driver. I turned away from God because I was angry and hurt. It took some time for me to reflect that I need God in my life so I put my heart in his hands and asked for forgiveness and to let me try to go on with my life without you. I somewhat feel some peace. I will tuck you deep in my heart and there you will remain. I will always remember your funny ways and jokes you tell and when that makes me happy you are happy too. I watch the boys and they remind me of you when you were a little boy. You will always remain in their hearts forever because you are their father and they will never forget you. Whenever I, the boys and the family think of you and how blessed we are to have had you in our lives and while we are here in the living world and we think of you, you will never die. Marley it is now time for you to go home and Rest in Paradise. We love you and will always be missing you. We love you Marley Dad, Mom, Sidney, Ian, Jordan, Clara, Drex, Denise, Tony, Amy and Aunties, Uncles and Cousins.

In Loving Memory of Matthew Marley Lewis
03-27-90 – 08-21-11

There were no words, nor goodbyes between us Mom. I have spent many years, isolated and separated from you. Alone in my own humility. So I know what loneliness feels like. But ever since you left, I have never felt completely alone and empty inside, like everything that I have come to know and understand in this world ceased to exist. I have nothing but the simple memories of you and the love we shared. I lie awake at night thinking and remembering all the things you taught me, the morals and the wisdom you instilled in me. I still hear the sound of your voice and your laughter. I laugh and cry, I cry and smile knowing you are with God and our bagins. Dancing, dancing strong, dancing good on the other side. I wrote many songs that I want you all to hear, allow me, walk with me the rest of my days. I love and miss you my woman of war. 

Wuan’lam Hagin’s
Your loving son Eaglebear
Vincent Michael Thomas

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Until we meet again

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile if only I could have you back for just a little while. Than we could sit and talk again just like we used to do.

You always meant so very much to me and always will. The fact that you are no longer here will always cause me pain but you’re forever in my heart until we meet again Maria.

—Marsha Flores
Vigil Date: September 24, 2016
For: Maria Del Carmen Chavez
At: District 6 Service Center
5230 St Johns Rd
Laveen, AZ 85339
Time: 6 p.m. -10 p.m.
All Choirs Welcome
For more information Call: Marsha Flores (520) 315-0107

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Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis gives a presentation at the District 1 Multipurpose Building gymnasium on Aug. 24 at an outreach meeting covering the FY2017 GRIC budget.

Two outreach meetings held to discuss FY2017 Budget

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

At a meeting held at the District 1 Multipurpose building in Sanacot on Aug. 24, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis gave a presentation in an outreach meeting covering the FY2017 GRIC budget.

“We are looking at two budgets this evening, the operating budget and the capital projects budget,” said Gov. Lewis.

The capital projects budget is a separate portion of the budget that is used towards public projects that pertain to the districts, like district service centers, facilities, or tribal government projects.

The operating budget ensures there are adequate monies for programs that are vital to the health, safety and well-being of tribal members.

Gov. Lewis said with the coming fiscal year, it would allow the Community to establish a Family Advocacy Center. The FAC will be located at the old youth home in Sanacot, which has been undergoing renovations. It will serve as a place for children to go that have been sexually, physically and mentally abused.

“We are going to have staff working together that will call 24/7, because we know things don’t happen between 8 to 5,” said Gov. Lewis.

The FAC will implement a team approach consisting of a diverse range of professionals from the legal field to social workers.

He said it is an initiative that works to prevent children from falling through the cracks in the system by placing more accountability on the entities that will care for their well-being.

“For my administration, along with Lt. Gov. Antone...we want to continue working for the protection of our children and to improve our Tribal Social Services,” said Gov. Lewis.

Another item on the list of FY17 improvements is the Community’s Management Information Systems. “We have a computer system that is in need of upgrades that will be getting much needed improvements to infrastructure,” said Gov. Lewis.

The plan is to create a more robust data center that will house the Community’s servers and will include a backup system that will be located at Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., should the primary system go down.

Other key issues discussed at the budget meeting were the importance of maintaining the tribe’s water infrastructure and agricultural resources that could be used to benefit GRIC.

GRIC Treasurer, Robert Keller, said the establishment of the Permanent Water Fund allows the Community to maintain its canal infrastructure through water leases and credits.

He said that the Community has already seen its first payment from the recent lease of water credits to the City of Chandler which will go into the PWF.

“Lt. Gov. Antone said, “We meet [with] each department and entities outside of the Community that we fund.”

She said the budget is also supported by GRIC veterans groups and the Urban Members Association that receives a share of financial assistance from the Community.

The new budget also shows how the Community is saving money by utilizing the Facilities Maintenance Department to do a majority of the reconstruction at the FAC.

She added that housing is still kept at a high priority and that some of the expenditures in previous years were used to build infrastructure like water system additions that are non-existent in some areas of need or replacement due to age.

To cap off the highlights of the FY17 budget was the creation of the Gila River Veterans and Family Services program, is expected to become operational in early 2017.
Facts about GRIC's Water

GRFD Shift Commander Jairus Pierce will receive a kidney transplant on Sept. 6, after dealing with a life-long kidney disease.

It was a very overwhelming moment when Pierce learned that he needed a new kidney.

"It was certainly overwhelming," Pierce said. "The outpouring of support that I received, the offers of kidney donations... it was very humbling," he said. "To think, who am I to deserve that?"

"Learning that he needed a new kidney wasn't something that just happened out of the blue. It's something that had been building up for a long time," said Pierce.

"We got to admit, that was pretty devastating," said Pierce.

"Our entire life had kind of built up to this moment in time, so I was a little bit prepared for it," said Pierce.

"I have my grandkids grow up. That I would change my life."

"It was just an absolute...humbled experience to know that the donor is anonymous. I've never met that person before in my life," said Pierce.

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Pierce was on duty, checking off a piece of equipment at Lone Butte Casino, he received a phone call that would change his life.

"I received a phone call from Mayo Clinic," said Pierce. "I was identified herself from the donor team and I immediately broke down into tears. It was a very overwhelming experience," he said.

"Just the emotions, [a] kind of relief that there is hope, that tomorrow is going to be a better day," Pierce said. "That I am going to be able to see my grandkids grow up. That I am going to be OK.

"It was an absolute...humbled experience to know that the donor is anonymous. I've never met that person before in my life," said Pierce.

"I have no idea who it is. Who does for someone else? That takes a very special person," he said.

Pierce will soon undergo surgery to receive a kidney transplant, and while his story may have a happy ending, there are still others out there; men, women, and children who are still waiting, living day-to-day wondering if they too will be fortunate enough to receive the ultimate gift, the gift of life.

To learn more about Jairus Pierce and stay up to date with his story, find his Facebook page by searching for "Jairus needs a kidney." To learn more about organ donation or to become an organ donor visit the Donor Network of Arizona at dna.gov.

Get the GRIN in your mailbox!
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Subscription forms are available online at gricnews.org or visit our office in the Governance Center in Sacaton.
A charge of $18 covers mailing costs for a 12-month period. Checks should be made out to Gila River Indian Community. Cash and card accepted. Payments accepted at the Governance Center Cashier's Office.

E-mail application to grin@gric.gov
or mail to
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Questions? Call
(520) 562-9715
National Park Service holds ‘birthday celebration’ at Casa Grande Ruins

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

It’s been 100 years since the National Park Service was created by President Woodrow Wilson to care for some of the country’s oldest and most cherished landmarks.

Today, the NPS has over 412 national parks throughout the Nation and attracts over 275 million visitors each year.

To celebrate the milestone, staff at the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument held an informal birthday celebration touching on the history of the NPS on Aug 24.

Within the network of the parks system, the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument stands as one of the most unique sights because of its cultural significance to the O’otham tribes of Arizona.

For the people of the Gila River Indian Community, it is a historical link to the Huhugam, an industrious people that once settled along the Gila River and across central parts of the state.

Called the “Great House,” or Sivan Vahki, it is the most prominent structure built by the Huhugam about 760 years ago. According to a Casa Grande Ruins National Monument press release, the site was established in 1892, well before the creation of the NPS, and joined the parks system in 1918.

The park holds the honor of being the first pre-historic reserve that was, created by President Benjamin Harrison, who recognized the importance of protecting the site.

“Interestingly enough, the park celebrates the centennial memorial birthday celebration isn’t the only thing lined up this year and there will be an American Indian festival on Nov 19.

“Are bringing back the American Indian arts festival and that will be a whole day event that will take place here…it’s one of the larger events at the Casa Grande Ruins,” he said.

Graffiti abatement program page 1

The team aims to reduce the amount of graffiti in the Community through the use of a database and other police resources to help convict or deter individuals.

Over the years their database has grown to keep up with the latest trends in gang markings and symbols, which can prove useful to officers during an investigation.

“They’re doing different stuff with tagging. They are changing up their game all the time,” said Brokeshoulder.

“One of the most important things that (GRPD) can do is build a paper trail…you’ll have the documentation and information ready when the officers are investigating certain crimes,” said Tate.

Although the GAT primarily works to deter and cover up graffiti, they supervise individuals doing community service for other crimes.

Brokeshoulder said, “We work a lot with [our] officers, because it gives us more opportunities to go out there to conduct investigations and follow-ups to fill out reports,”

“Periodically me and Todd will try to talk to the individuals about how [you] are going to change your life…how to funnel [that] energy through some other way, instead of getting in trouble.”

So far the program has been able to deter individuals from committing the same crime again. Putting in a days work painting over graffiti or cutting down weeds, not to mention paying a stiff fine are some of the reasons why crime doesn’t pay.

Graffiti abatement program page 1

The Casa Grande Ruins National Monument is one of 412 national parks that attract a total of 275 million visitors each year. On Aug. 24 a celebration was held to recognize the National Park Service’s 100 years in existence.

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A’AGA
Something to be told
By Billy Allen

Do you feel that cool breeze? September ‘at jivin’
Time to think about sweaters;
soba – a hot breakfast soup
made from old tortilla;
sitting jekkuk or outside.
Time to toss and kick around the ol’ koji elagig
or pig skin and pretend we
are bol cicvidam or ball players.
Ancient ball courts in our homeland
show our fondness for healthy competition.
As time went
on we joined mainstream American sports.
Can you imagine any modern tribal fair
without a tournament, rodeo, or a run?
I was happy to get that
big envelope in the mail –
football season tickets for the Normals,
which Owls – no, make it Bulldogs – correction, Sun Devils arrived.
Through the many years, Arizona
State University athletic teams have competed under those names.
When ASU was founded in 1885 its
original name was Arizona Territorial Normal School.
(That name might seem a
bit strange – "back in the
day" teachers’ colleges
were often called "normal schools" because teachers taught academic "norms."
Their favorite one was the "Normals" in 1896 and later
four years, the Braves
beat the “Owls.”
Those games were big events,
and railroad tickets to ride
from Tempe to Phoenix
spent for 35 cents! (A side
note: back in 1900, a pound
of coffee was 9 cents and
a can of Campbell’s Soup
was 5 cents.
Not sure if "Indian tacos" were
sold back then.)
In 1905, a Universi-
ty of Arizona publication
placed five Indians on the
All-Arizona Team: Doilit-
t and Johnny of Phoenix
Indian School; Mathews of
Tucson Indian School; Pet-
gely and Whitman of Saca-
ton Indian School.
In 1925, Tempe State
Teachers College “Bull-
dogs” played the Sacaton
Indians, winning 55-0. The
Bulldogs first homecoming
was in 1926 against Phoenix
Indian School; final
score: a 0-0 tie. Overall
the Normal/Bulldog record
again the Phoenix Indian
School was 12 wins, 7 losses,
1 ties.
In 1912, the Bulldogs
beat the Casa Blanca In-
dians by a score of 99-0! "Sun Devil" was first used
on Nov. 21, 1946 – the re-
sult of a student body vote
earlier in the month.
In 1948, Sparky made his de-
burt, Bert Anthony, a Walt
Disney artist who designed the
UA mascot, also de-
signed the old Stanford In-
dian symbol.
On Oct. 1, 1891, the
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In 1899, one of their games
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That's always been a
symbol that I share with any
other person that’s not from
Gila River because that’s
so important.
We’re this tribe here, and our water
was taken, and that was a
critically our lifeline that we
took through our community.
She says, “Our river
isn’t here physically, but it
lives in all of us because we are
the Akimel O’otham, River People.”
Narcia's print of the
name, and they’re also
learning about our land,
the animals, and they’re also
teaching lessons.
Another print features
a gila monster with sun
rays bursting behind it.
That was one of my
favorite ones. … Through-
out my years as an artist,
she said, "They’re very spec-
cial creatures. That’s why I
called that piece blessing.
Growing up in Sacaton,
she said, she used to
go on bike rides with her
dad, the former GRIC Gov.
Richard Narcia. He would
point out landmarks and
plants to her and tell her
the history of their people
while they rode through
desert.
Sharing O’otham his-
tory and culture with oth-
ers kept her grounded,
but learning the cultures of oth-
ers helped her grow.
Living in New York,
she said, “you meet people
from all over the world and
you get to know their cul-
ture.
If any youth are
interested in leaving here and
going to school,” Narcia
said, "I think they should
consider doing that
because once you step out
of what you’re used to, it
opens up this whole new
world of possibilities [and]
different cultures and learn-
ing.
Narcia came back to
Arizona in 2011. She now
resides in Phoenix and
works for the Community
as a graphic and web de-
igner. In her spare time,
she contributes to a number of
non-profit and volunteer
organizations.
At her exhibit’s open-
ing night, Tim Terry
offered a blessing.
I see Chandra’s work
as sharing her thoughts and
her feelings with the Com-
nunity,” he said. “She’s a
strong O’otham lady, a
strong person. … Himdag is
important, and that’s what’s
reflected in her work.”

Gila River Indian News
Page 7

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Eight plywood boards
clung to the walls of the
Huhugam Heritage Cen-
ter exhibit hall, each
screen-printed with an im-
age representing a different
element of O’otham life.
“Those are symbols of who we are,” said Chandra
Narcia at the opening night of her art exhibit at the
Huhugam Heritage Center.
As the gallery filled
with friends, family, and
other visitors Aug. 19,
Chandra handed out paper
prints of her works to each
guest.
The wood prints fea-
ture high contrast images
in bold creamy blues, reds,
greens and yellows with mesmerizing patterns and
names that evoke the his-
tory of O’otham land (like
O’otham Animals & Leg-
ends).
One board wears imag-
es of cacti, another features
plants in bloom, and another about water
designs. All bear ele-
ments of Narcia’s identity
that reminded her of home and kept her grounded
while she was living far
away.
“it’s a collective of
who you are that helps you
continue or get through
what you need,” she said.
Narcia is originally
from Sacaton. She grew up
there, learning the history
and traditions of her people,
the Akimel O’otham.
In addition to being O’oth-
am, she is Hopi and Laguna.
In 2002 she left one
of the smallest towns in
Arizona and moved to the
largest city in the country:
New York City, where she
earned her Bachelor’s De-
gree in Communication
Design and Art History
from Pratt Institute.
After moving to New York,
she said, “We were living
in the Big Apple, she moved to
the City by the Bay, where
she earned her Master’s in
New Media (Web Design
& Motion Graphics) from the
Academy of Art – San Fran-
cisco.”
Living away from
home wasn’t easy, but, she
said, she was able to stay on
course through prayer
and sharing her culture with
others. Regular visits home
“really made me appreciate
where I grew up,” she said.
A print titled Strength
of the Flow features wa-
ters that design the history of the river
the Akimel O’otham are
named after.
“That’s always been a
story that I share with any
other person that’s not from
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point out landmarks and
plants to her and tell her
the history of their people
while they rode through
desert.
Sharing O’otham his-
tory and culture with oth-
ers kept her grounded,
but learning the cultures of oth-
ers helped her grow.
Living in New York,
she said, “you meet people
from all over the world and
you get to know their cul-
ture.
If any youth are
interested in leaving here and
going to school,” Narcia
said, “I think they should
consider doing that
because once you step out
of what you’re used to, it
opens up this whole new
world of possibilities [and]
different cultures and learn-
ing.
Narcia came back to
Arizona in 2011. She now
resides in Phoenix and
works for the Community
as a graphic and web de-
igner. In her spare time,
she contributes to a number of
non-profit and volunteer
organizations.
At her exhibit’s open-
ing night, Tim Terry
offered a blessing.
I see Chandra’s work
as sharing her thoughts and
her feelings with the Com-
nunity,” he said. “She’s a
strong O’otham lady, a
strong person. … Himdag is
important, and that’s what’s
reflected in her work.”
In 2014 the Ice Buck- et Challenge took the so- cial media world by storm, helping raise awareness about ALS (Lou Gherig’s Disease), encouraging do- nations for research into a cure for the deadly disease, and raising a whopping $115 million for the ALS Association.

Now, a new trend has been sweeping the Internet garnering the attention of celebrities, athletes, and U.S. veterans. The Two Push Up Challenge, created by 22Kill, a non-profit organization devoted to preventing veteran suicide, is a new challenge where participants are being asked to do 22 push-ups to help raise awareness about the suicide rate among veterans.

According to a Depart- ment of Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Suicide Data Report released in 2012 that ana- lyzed veteran death certif- icates from 1999 to 2011, approximately 22 veterans commit suicide every day. Meaning that veterans are 21 percent more likely to commit suicide than civilians.

In an effort to bring awareness to the issue of veteran suicide and mo- tivate action in the Gila River Indian Community, USMC veteran Roland Enos Jr., instead of asking for 22 push-ups, is issuing a different sort of challenge.

“I would really like to challenge my fellow vet- erans as well as concerned families and friends of vet- erans, to actually go out and talk with them in per- son, call them on the phone, message them and just to see how they are doing,” said Enos.

“So sometimes wounds that are sustained with combat experience are not visible, they are in the mind, [in] dreams, [and] we definitely want to go out and ask how our broth- ers and sisters are doing, whether [they be] an air- man, a sailor, a soldier, or marine,” said Enos.

“Sometimes it might hinder assisting those veterans who need help the most. In fact, it might hinder assisting those veterans who need help the most.

“If people think they’ve done their part to help by just posting to social media and don’t follow up with actually doing something to help veter- ans, then an opportunity to achieve real change has been squandered. Awareness is nice, but action is essential.”

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Photo Credit: iStock

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Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

A youth works on a boxing drill with a member of the Gila River Police Department on Aug. 20 in District 5. Community members trained with local athletes during the clinic.

MMA trainers and fighters pose with members of GRPD following the clinic in District 5. Community members trained and heard presentations from officers about their interests.

The Wellness Center also contributed to the event, setting up a training circuit with ropes, speed ladders, and medicine balls. The Boys & Girls Club – Komatke Branch donated the wrestling mats.

Duarte said the GRPD is "trying to reach out and let people know that we love where we work, so we want you to get to know us, so that you feel safe and comfortable when you call for our help."

On Sept. 7 from 8 – 10:30 a.m., the Department will host "Coffee with a Cop" at the District 3 and 7 Service Centers, where people will be welcome to visit with officers and get to know the people behind the badge that are policing their neighborhoods.

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GRIC member named ‘25 Under 25’

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Anissa Garcia was named one of the 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders at the United National Native Tribal Youth, Inc. Conference in Oklahoma City, Okla., July 22-26.

Garcia is a former member of the Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council, a former Miss Gila River First Attendant, and most recently had her picture featured in an exhibit at the Huhugam Heritage Center.

Anissa Garcia is the oldest member of the O’otham community from the history of the people to its current events...and in turn likes to share with others what she’s learned, all the while remaining humble.

While on the Youth Council, Garcia learned to connect with her culture and traditions in ways she hadn’t been able to before. Garcia is extremely involved in her community, said co-worker and friend Ariel Moristo, who nominated her for the award.

"She’s always out and about in the community. She’s really involved with everything. Even if she isn’t asked to do something, she'll still end up helping." — Moristo

The 25 Under 25 Award “recognizes and celebrates the achievements of 25 Native youth leaders under the age of 25, who embody UNITY’s core mission and exudes living a balanced life developing their spiritual, mental, physical and social well-being,” according to the UNITY, Inc. website.

"I’m unable to find the words to describe how proud and thankful I am of my daughter Anissa and her commitment to serving her community," said Garcia’s mother, Darren Pedro-Marin. “Anissa is very curious and ambitious when it comes to sharing O’otham culture from the history of the people to its current events...and in turn likes to share with others what she’s learned, all the while remaining humble.

While on the Youth Council, Garcia learned to connect with her culture and traditions in ways she hadn’t been able to before.

"It was taught songs by Antonio Davis when he was an advisor on the Youth Council," said Davis. During that time she also started to learn the traditional dances. Garcia received her name from the Gila River Basket Dancers group, led by Le- Linda Thomas. At 21 years, she is one of the oldest members and helps instruct and lead the younger dancers.

Anissa Garcia is also very involved in her Community through her work. As a social recreation aide for the District 5 Service Center, she helps plan, organize, and run events for Community members.

"I feel that it is important for young adults to be active in their community," said Pedro-Marin, "Through her volunteering she has learned the importance of respect for others, learning to understand diverse cultures as well as her own, and continues to develop leadership skills all while building positive self-esteem.

"Garcia continues to be active in her community. On Oct. 8, she will represent GRIC in the Miss Indian Arizona Pageant, to be held at the Chandler Center for the Arts at 6:30 p.m."
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Families enjoy yoga, fun run/walk, and more at local breastfeeding awareness event

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

To help educate and inform Gila River Indian Community mothers about the ins-and-outs of breastfeeding and baby nutrition, the Tribal Health Department’s Genesis program held a breastfeeding awareness event at the District 2 Service Center on Aug. 18.

Community mothers, both pregnant and postnatal, participated in a yoga class, fun run/walk, and enjoyed a healthy snack at the event’s yogurt bar.

The festivities were held to commemorate National Breastfeeding Awareness Month. August is National Breastfeeding Awareness Month and the first week of August is World Breastfeeding Week. Both events are held to promote breastfeeding and improve the health of babies in the United States and around the world.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), breastfeeding is the best way to provide nutrients to a newborn baby and mothers should exclusively breastfeed from birth to six-months of age. WHO also encourages mothers to continue breastfeeding babies up to 2 years or older and is asking people to “Support [moons] and to breastfeed anytime, anywhere,” in an effort to make communities more breastfeeding-friendly.

Genesis program nutritionist, Nicole Watson, said of the local event, “The whole purpose is...to have an event for our prenatal and breastfeeding moms. The event also encourages moms to be physically active as well as have a healthy snack with us,” she said.

Watson stressed that physical activity is also important for both prenatal and postnatal mothers, and can provide a multitude of benefits. “Some of the benefits people out there that are using [this] service.” Joanne Miles-Long, a Supervisor with the Tribal Per Capita Office was discussed ways to prevent fraudulent acts from happening to elders who receive per capita payments.

“It’s a source of income for us and could be subject to fraud and abuse if we are not careful about how we handle it,” said Miles-Long. “Keep [your] address and phone number updated...because [that] information will come into our database to ensure that your check is going to the correct address.”

Instead of being mailed a per capita check, there are other alternatives for elders to get their per capita check. The options include picking it up in person, having it direct deposited into a bank account or receive a Bank of America paycard.

She said using the Bank of America paycard involves minimal fees and there is more security that other companies don’t offer.

More recently, fraud has gone beyond the physical means of stealing, because many scammers have turned to doing their business online to prey on the elderly.

Delano said a growing trend many criminals will turn to is soliciting goods and services through phishing scams and pretending to be family members, charities and lottery drawings. These types of scams appear in the form of an advertisement or email asking for bank account numbers and Social Security Numbers in order to lure people into giving financial information away.

Miles-Long said, “In this day and age, emails can contain malware or computer viruses that could retrieve information unknowingly from the person infected.”

Delano said, “Some situations that involve elders arise from when family members steal from their elderly relative.”

Check fraud, stolen property and identity are serious crimes with severe consequences. He said the moral of the story is to use common sense and be very aware of who has access to your information.

Delano said, “The general rule about fraud is the old adage, ‘If its too good to be true, it probably is.’”

Betty Delano, with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, provided outreach to the elders on fraud and other dangers.

Betty Delano, who was also on hand, with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office said that her department provides outreach to the elderly on fraud awareness.

Recently, there has been an increase in businesses that offer easy-to-use paycards to patrons.

“We have had a few families who are concerned about their elderly members going to [these] one-stop check cashing places located off of the Community,” said Torres.

District 7 Elderly Liaison Caseworker Mary Kris Kyyitan said that one of her elderly clients, who didn’t have a bank account was using a paycard service that charged hefty fees for using the service.

The concern is that elders may not be aware of the high fees when they sign up for a paycard, which can lead to not having enough funds to buy essential goods.

Paycards function like a debit or credit card and are mainly used by individuals who do not have a bank account.

The paycard can be re-loaded at any time through the routing of funds from an employer or other sources of income like a social security or per capita check.

From service to service the monthly maintenance fees and usage fees vary on what is charged to the balance of the card.

“We want to make sure [you] are not taken advantage of and that we have taken steps and measures to prevent it from happening to [you],” said Kyyitan.

“Hopefully you can let people know about [this], because there may be more

Families enjoy yoga, fun run/walk, and more at local breastfeeding awareness event

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

From left, Judi Thompson, Diabetes Prevention Specialist, Kylie Dukepoo, Administrative Assistant, and Nicole Watson, Genesis Nutritionist.

Father, Nicholas Rhodes holds his 2-year-old daughter Nilah Rhodes, as her mother Aylah Volantes takes part in the yoga class.

For physical activity during prenatal is that it will help with labor. It will also help keep mom at a steady weight. It just keeps mom flexible [for] when it is time for her to go into labor. She is really going to need that strength,” she said.

While information about breastfeeding and exercise was the main focus of the event, it wasn’t the only attraction. The lure of a free stroller and a delicious fresh-fruit yogurt bar may have been the icing on the cake for many local mothers looking to educate themselves about breastfeeding, which in the end, is what National Breastfeeding Awareness Month is all about.

For more information about breastfeeding, new-born and child nutrition, and to learn ways to stay fit, pre- or postnatal, call the Genesis program at (520) 562-2337.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Mario Torres, GRIC Caregiver Coordinator, gives tips on preventing elderly fraud in the Community.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Families enjoy yoga, fun run/walk, and more at local breastfeeding awareness event
As Ranger Conley grew up in Gila Bend, and is familiar with the O’otham land, language and culture, which is part of why he loves his job, he said, “I understand the importance of a small community.”

Ranger Conley works closely with the Department of Environmental Quality. In fact, it was the DEQ Director Ondrea Barber who nominated him for the award. In her nomination letter, she wrote, “Ranger Conley’s knowledge about wild animals and habitat and his interest in protecting the public about the Community’s natural resources are the foundation of his impact as a conservation officer.”

Conley said one of his favorite parts of the job is interacting with Community members and youth to teach them about Arizonan wildlife at Community events.

“For example,” said Barber, “in 2008, he initiated Community fishing clinics [and] he has facilitated games to teach young people how to cast a fishing rod.” He also teaches the youth to identify different fish by their unique marklings.

He said, “If they’re able to identify the fish [in the game], it helps them identify when they go off the Community, like, ‘oh that’s a catfish or that’s a trout.’ And they’ve already got the handle for casting a rod and reel.”

Conley and DEQ are working with a number of other departments on a solar well that is meant to provide water for the Community’s wild horses and other wild animals, while diverting them away from more populated, dangerous areas.

Barber said, “He responds to wildlife emergencies, volunteers to monitor GRIC’s resident wildlife species. Ranger Conley loves the job he is doing and ensures that conservation efforts are regularly performed by Ranger personnel for the betterment of the Community.”

Gila River Police Dept. Ranger named Conservation Officer of the Year

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**COMPSTAT Community profile Cycle 8 (August 8, 2016)**

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Continued on Page 13
NEW BUSINESS

1. Enrollment Invitation to Los Angeles, California (LSC forthwith to Council with recommendation that any interested Council member attend, to come out of Dues and Delegations; presentation to be made next week for Council consideration). 

2. Motion Made and Second to Hold on SEPTEMBER 15, 2016. 5:00 p.m., withObjections to be made in writing until the public notice is closed on 9:00 a.m., September 19, 2016.

3. Motion Made and Second to Hold on SEPTEMBER 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m., with Objections to be made in writing until the public notice is closed on 9:00 a.m., September 19, 2016.

4. Motion Made and Second to Hold on SEPTEMBER 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m., with Objections to be made in writing until the public notice is closed on 9:00 a.m., September 19, 2016.
In our effort to improve patient parking at HHKMH during construction, we have clarified patient parking located in the North Lot with proper signage. GRHC Security will continue monitoring parking compliance to ensure patients have access to parking.

In our efforts to assist patients with accessing HHKMH during construction, we encourage patients to call the Cultural Customer Service Department to schedule a golf cart transport:

(Effective September 12, 2016)

In an effort to enhance your experience as a patient of Gila River Health Care, please note that the check-in process at KHC’s Primary Care Department has changed. Upon arrival at KHC, walk-in patients should check in with a member of the Patient Registration Team located at the windows. We will then call you back to take your vitals soon after.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we initiate this process that will ultimately benefit our patients.

Your Friends at Gila River Health Care

Beginning Saturday, September 10, 2016, the HHKMH cafe will be open on Saturdays with grab-and-go items available only.

**Did You Know...?**

**October 2016**

**JUST MOVE IT**

1 AND 3-MILE FUN WALK/RUN

10/1: D4 Service Center
Registration 7 AM Start 7:30 AM

10/4: D1 Service Center
Registration 5 PM Start 5:30 PM

10/6: D3 HHKMH
Registration 2 PM Start 5:30 PM

10/11: D2 Ball Field / Park
Registration 5 PM Start 5:30 PM

10/14: D7 Service Center
Registration 3 PM Start 5:30 PM

10/21: D5 Service Center
Registration 3 PM Start 5:30 PM

10/25: D6 KHC
Registration 4:30 PM Start 5 PM

All participants will receive a JUST MOVE IT T-Shirt.

For event information, call the Diabetes Prevention Program: 520-562-7940.
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Scion XB</td>
<td>$10,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Ford Edge</td>
<td>$15,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Chevy Camaro</td>
<td>$12,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Ford Fusion</td>
<td>$13,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Chevy Equinox</td>
<td>$299/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Chrysler 300</td>
<td>$345/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Dodge Charger</td>
<td>$238/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Kia Optima</td>
<td>$269/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Chevy Malibu</td>
<td>$269/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Infiniti G37</td>
<td>$289/mo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices based on 720 credit score. 3.8% APR @ 72 mos. *OAC Must present ad at time of sale. 10% off retail. **BB

HURRY - SALE ENDS SOON

ALL CREDIT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER
Locally Owned and Operated for Over 21 Years
Instant Online Credit Approval
www.crossroadsauto.org

11th Street
Florence Blvd.

Se Habla Español

Prices based on 720 credit score. 3.8% APR @ 72 mos. *OAC Must present ad at time of sale. **BB

Held Over
151st Annual Mustering In Day Celebration
Honoring Our Past Warriors of Company B & C - 1865

Saturday, September 10, 2016
Gila River Indian Community District 7 Park
8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen AZ 85339

Parade | 2 mi fun run/walk run | Billiards Tournament | Bird Dance Competition
Kids Games | Live Entertainment | Horse Shoe Tournament
Girls Fast Pitch Softball Round Robin
Dance 7pm-12 am Music By: Gertie & The T.O. Boyz
Free Catered Lunch-first 500 @ 12:00 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION
This is a drug and alcohol free event
For more information contact District 7 Recreation at (520) 430-4780