GRIC announces water conservation partnership

Agreement to work together on groundwater storage, water conservation efforts will help Lake Mead water level, drought relief strategies statewide

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

Phoenix City Mayor Greg Stanton visited the Gila River Indian Community to sign a cooperative water agreement with Gila River Governmental Speaker Roe Lewis on March 15. Stanton said the Community and the city are partners in making water accessible to urban centers, and rural communities throughout the state.

The agreement is part of a collaborative effort by the Community, Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Walton Family Foundation to help alleviate declining water levels at Lake Mead.

According to a Community press release Gov. Stephen Lew said, “[This] agreement is an important step to continue cooperative efforts to help slow the falling elevations at Lake Mead.”

In adding the Community’s support to the agreement, Lewis said it is about building a conscious effort around water conservation.

Stanton expressed his appreciation for the Community’s cooperation. In the agreement he said it is critical that Phoenix and the Community work together to create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

The Walton Family Foundation, which is a philanthropic organization committed to building a more sustainable environment, expressed interest in preserving Lake Mead and the Colorado River.

The foundation, which brings awareness to the health of the Colorado River, sees the agreement as an important step toward developing a sustainable water management plan for the Colorado River basin that flows into Lake Mead.

Stanton said the partnership is about Phoenix and the Community building a common interest for a more stable water future for the state of Arizona.

“It is through water system conservation that we can protect Lake Mead in the long run and to ensure resiliency of our Colorado River supplies,” said Stanton.

Ultimately the goal is to help provide long-term sustainability of the Colorado River Basin, which provides water to several municipalities throughout the Southwest.

It also is part of a broader initiative to develop a drought contingency plan to address water shortage needs through the state of Arizona.

Sacaton Middle School hosts first Robotics competition

Mikhail Sundust Gila River Indian News

Sacaton Middle School hosted its first ever robotics competition in the school gymnasium on Saturday, March 25. Students in the “maze” category huddled around “bots” connected to laptops, furiously programming new commands to make little machines navigate wooden paths on the gym floor. The goal is to make it from one end of the maze to the other, executing every turn perfectly and without rolling off the edge.

Fifth grade students Elena Mant and Maya Randel form a team from Sacaton Elementary School called Sonic. The partners help each other plot the course, calculate turning angles, and program their bot for the maze. A computer application called Lego Mindstorms talks to the bot, telling it when to stop, how much to turn, and how far to go, according to instructions its human operators have entered.

“Go!” says the robotics competition judge. Kneeling at the start, Mark pushes a button on top of the bot. It crawls along the narrow plank, pauses, makes a sharp right turn, and charges the path down another length of the maze. If the bot falls off the path even a little bit, it’s a failed run.

Mayor of Phoenix Greg Stanton, left, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis sign a cooperative water conservation agreement.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Five Gila River Fire Department firefighters were recognized for their years of service at an evening ceremony held at the Rawhide Western Town and Event Center on March 24.

GRFD firefighters Greg Mitchell, Christopher Bauer, Lynsey Burke, Melvin Chischilly and Rea Miles, were among the first graduates from the all Native American Fire Academy in 1997 that had been held at Mesa Community College.

Class 97-2 ushered in a new era of firefighting for the Community which sought to fill the ranks of the young department.

GRFD Fire Chief Thomas Knapp said that the graduates went from the academy to the fire station, there wasn’t time to ease into the job, because many of them were pressed into service driving fire engines to emergency calls.

Knapp said based on their evaluations over the years, they’ve shown how exceptional they are at being focused hard-working individuals that are willing to take their firefighting career to the next level.

Firefighters honored for twenty years of service

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

Mayor of Phoenix Greg Stanton, left, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis sign a cooperative water conservation agreement.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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Communications & Public

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Continued on Page 5
Dialing 911 from your cellphone in Gila River

Anytime you dial 911 your call is directed to a Public Safety Answering point (PSAP). A PSAP is your local dispatch center.

When dialing 911 in Gila River from your cell phone you may be directed to a PSAP outside of Gila River.

Unlike your landline phone at home, mobile phones are not associated with one fixed location or address.

Tips for calling 911 with a cellphone:

1. Tell the emergency operator that you are attempting to call the Gila River Police Department.
2. Provide the emergency operator with the location of the emergency right away.
3. Provide the emergency operator with your wireless phone number, if the call gets disconnected, the emergency operator can call you back.
4. If your wireless phone is not “initialized”, meaning it is not activated with a provider, and your emergency call gets disconnected, you must call the emergency operator back. The operator does not have your telephone number and cannot contact you.
GRIC dancer gains more experience in ballet productions

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

One Community member continues to refine his craft as he progresses in the world of ballet.

On a Friday night when the average group of middle school and high school teens make plans for the evening, Richard Thomas and the rest of his ballet classmates work on their form before a group of parents at the Arizona Ballet studio in Phoenix on March 3.

Since Richard’s last feature in the Gila River Indian News, Charity Thomas, Richards mother, said he has performed in a couple of productions organized by the school and that he continued to show commitment towards the study of ballet.

“He is very focused and has really gotten the attention of his instructors, who say that he has the form and strength to go far in ballet.”

Richard’s grandmother, Cheryl Thomas said, “It’s really good to see him involved in ballet, because we are grateful that you took the time and service. Our dad was represent during his service, you helped get us through this, thank you.”

So far Richard has put a lot of work into his training, which has impressed his instructor, who recommended him to take summer classes to continue refining his form.

Richard said the summer classes help students stay in form so they won’t forget what they have learned in the spring.

Poulis said students like Richard aren’t intimidated by ballet and are always demonstrating to show commitment towards the study of ballet.

It’s a part of studying ballet Richard has grown accustomed to, as his schedule runs from Monday to Saturday and some times include up to two classes per day and possibly a third one if he has to prepare for an upcoming performance.

Richard Thomas rehearses at the Arizona Ballet Studio in Phoenix.

In loving memory of Louis T. Blackwater

We, the family of Louis T. Blackwater ‘Kukfu’ would like to thank the immediate family for everything that was done to help us during our time of loss, we could not have done this without you, and we cannot thank you enough. The family came together when we needed you the most. There was so much giving and working from all of you we will be forever grateful.

And, to all those who knew our Daddy, the Community of Blackwater, those who brought us food, shared words of comfort or just came to sit and share our grief. The Blackwater Service Center staff who went beyond being helpful in the arrange-ments for the center and the cemetery and all the personnel who helped us get through this, thank you.

Thank you to Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 for your help when we needed you the most. We are very proud to have served your country as a Marine. His wish was to have the Marine Corp-represented during his service, you made this possible. We thank you for the Military send off, our daddy I’m sure could not have been prouder. To the Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 Auxiliary, the ladies who donated their time and came to help serve, this was a big task to undertake but you came forward and gave so willingly of your time, thank you.

To all the choirs, speakers, drummers that shared their music and words of comfort, thank you.

There are so many thank you’s to give and in our hearts we know there are many more we should thank but know that we are grateful that you took the time to send our Daddy to be with his family waiting in heaven.

With love,
Blackwater Family, Beverly, Caroline, Connie and Wayne
Federal court tos class action lawsuit against ICWA

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

On March 16, the United States District Court for the District of Arizona threw out the Goldwater Institute’s class-action lawsuit against the Indian Child Welfare Act (“ICWA”), which governs custody proceedings involving Indian children from federally recognized Native American tribes. Goldwater had argued that ICWA is unconstitutional, but Judge Neil Wake held that attempting to amend again would likely be futile.

The court noted that despite Goldwater having brought the case in 2015 as a class action that supposedly sought redress for a large number of unnamed plaintiffs, “they have not named any plaintiffs with standing to challenge any provisions of ICWA or the 2015 [ICWA] Guidelines.”

Dismissal of the case is the latest defeat in Goldwater’s unsuccessful nationwide campaign to deprive Native American tribes and children of federal statute protection for Native American familial and tribal ties.

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (one of the Arizona tribes whose children were reportedly targeted by Goldwater as plaintiffs) was optimistic that Judge Wake’s decision signals ICWA’s enduring strength.

“The court’s ruling underscores how beneficial ICWA is for all involved in cases where it applies. Even determined ideological opponents of Native American interests could not find any one the slightest bit injured by the provisions of this important federal statute,” he said. “ICWA is one of the most significant federal laws expressly recognizing tribal sovereignty and, what properly applied by state courts, works well.”
GRFD 20 years of service from page 1

According to former GRFD Fire Chief Doug Jones, it was a fire engine that initially trained and staffed fire department in the Community after having had a volunteer fire department up until 1994 and that in 1997 the 100th day of class 97-2 had made that transition possible.

"They labeled [this] class the backbone of the fire department, not to take anything away from the firefighters that were here, but back then this was a big deal," said Jones. Today, GRFD 20 years of service has grown into a fully function- al public safety department, with four fire engines to meet the needs of the Community in all types of hazardous scenarios.

awards were given a commemorative plaque and chromed fire axe bearing their name and your organization's name, and video highlighting different parts of their career, which showed how they had grown professionally and come together as a firefight- er family.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, both thanked the firefighters for their service and the ground for work that would be a highly qualified fire department.

Antone said that it was the goal of former Gover- nor Mary Thomas to see Community members serv- ing in the Community’s fire department and that it took coordination between her and the GRFD to get the equipment needed to get the job done.

you risk your lives and you are dedicated to preserving the safety of the Community and the lives of its members, Antone.

Levins recalled the ear- ly days of the fire depart- ment and the commitment of past fire chiefs to reach the goal of establishing a full-time fire department in the Community.

First to be recognized was Mitchem, a Communi- ty member from District One.

According to his collea- gues, Mitchem has al- ways had a passion for serving his community and can be seen educating the younger generations of Community members about careers in fire-fight- ing.

Throughout his career with GRFD, Mitchem has served in a variety of po- sitions from firefighter to Deputy Chief of Adminis- tration, after putting in his time of service in the field.

Bauer, a member of the Ft. Peck Reservation in Montana, has always been a hands-on professional, from Firefighter to Cap- tain, he has trained new re- cruits on the fundamentals of firefighting.

Burke a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reserva- tion in Pendleton, Ore., was happy to receive her award, signifying that taking a chance on a dream of being a firefighter does pay off.

In 1996, when word spread that an all-Native fire academy was being or- ganized, Burke jumped at the opportunity to attend the academy and moved to Arizona. Now a Fire Cap- tain, Burke is a Field Fire Tech- nician with board Bat- talion 423 and oversees the Personal Protective Pro- gram.

Chischilly, a member of the Navajo Nation, is also a graduate of the All Native American Fire Academy.

He started out as a Firefighter Apprentice and is now a "F" shift Captain as a Field Incident Techni- cian for Battalion 421.

Although Chischilly could not be present at the award ceremony, his old- est son Erik was present to receive the awards.

Rea Miles of District 6, accepted her award, thanking the Community for the opportunity to be- come a firefighter.

Previously she worked with children in education and the Boys & Girls Clubs, before attending the all Na- tive American Fire Acade- my.

Now serving as an En- gineer on one of the fire engines, Miles continues to learn by example, inspiring youth of the Community to become a firefighter.

Although it has been 20 years since the first all of Native American Fire Academy, many, many of those core princi- pals learned at the academy have built GRFD into what it has become today.

Robotics from page 1

and it’s back to the begin- ning.

The bot turns right, then right, then left again. The wheel comes close to the edge, but stays on track. Mark kneels by the microscope cover, willing it through steel bars to maintain course. As the bot pulls up to the finish line and stops at exactly the right spot, Team Sonic punches the air in victory, and supporters cheer them on.

"That was exciting be- cause we reached the finish line," said Mark. It was their first timed run of the day and they already had a perfect score. The pair said they enjoy learning robot- ics because “it’s just fun,” but it takes a lot of work to get to the point of making one successful run.

“We keep going and going and keep trying and trying,” said Elm. The team has spent hours with their bot and programmed it to run variable courses for various competition rounds. The their how laid out for this competition was new
to all participants. Around the gym, teams of varying ages worked with their bots and mazes.

"This is the First An- nual Indigenous STEM Ro- botics Competition," said science teacher and SMS Robotics Club advisor Ellen Kinnamo. The Ro- botics Club has participated in state and national robot- ics competitions in the past, but this is the first time it has hosted an event for other teams.

Students from a handful of schools from within the Community participated in the inaugural event, including Sacaton Middle School, Sacaton Elementary School, Gila Crossing Community School, Casa Blanca Community School, and St. Peter Indian Mission School. Kinnamo said they hope the event will grow year after year to include Native American students from around the state and perhaps nationally.

The Arizona Coyotes recently donated $5,000 to support the Sacaton Middle School’s Robotics Club, which Kin- namo said will be used to purchase new drones and help for paying travel and registration expenses for various tournaments the students are self-funded to participate in, such as the national RoboWolve com- petition in New Mexico in May.

"Putting on the first robotics competition in the Community and then going to New Mexico in May [for RoboRave], it takes a lot of money," said Kinna- mo. "Our kids work hard, they are out there hustling, so it’s not a handout. The kids work very hard.

Gila Crossing Commu- nity School students Alexis Lopez, 13, and Vanessa Barchand, 14, are team- mates in the middle school age group. The competition was Barehand’s first.

"Today, it's actually pretty fun. It’s not as hard as I thought it would be, but yeah, it’s pretty fun," she said.

Lopez, who loves math, said she enjoys learn- ing robotics because she actually get to work with math. It helps me get into math more." The pair made it to the finals against another middle school team and ended up taking home first place under the team name PTY.

Winners by category, ways had a passion for serving his community and can be seen educating the younger generations of Community members about careers in fire-fight- ing.

Peterson was new territory for a fire de- partment, not to take anything away from the firefighters that were here, but back then this was a big deal," said Jones. Today, GRFD 20 years of service has grown into a fully function- al public safety department, with four fire engines to meet the needs of the Community in all types of hazardous scenarios.

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Elders enjoy a day of games and prizes at HHC’s 3rd Annual Elders Appreciation Day

The sun was shining and games were a-plenty at the Huhugam Heritage Center’s Elders’ Appreciation Day, with over 130 Gila River Indian Community members showing up to take part in the event’s carnival-like atmosphere. The appreciation day was filled with a variety of games like the beanbag toss, raffle-ticket bingo, and the always-popular chair volleyball. Lunch was provided by Bubba’s BBQ and shaved-ice was also popular as Community elders lined up for the sweet and refreshing treat.

GRIC Departments also showed up to the party with informational booths, games, and prizes. The departments that participated in the appreciation day were the Caregiver Program Elderly Services, Department of Environmental Quality, GRICUA, the Gila River Fire Department, and the Communications & Public Affairs Office.

Edna Shaw, Record Specialist for the Huhugam Heritage Center, said it was the third time the center has hosted the event and it has doubled in size since last year. “This one is a lot busier,” said Shaw. “We really had a lot of people step-up and help us run this and I think the elders really had a good time [and] I just hope that it keeps getting bigger and better all the time.”

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Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, Brenda Kyyitan, Audrey Juan, Eileen Moore, and Daniel Williams, all from D5, enjoyed the games and food at HHC’s 3rd Annual Elders Appreciation Day on March 17.

The chair volleyball tent was a favorite of elders at the HHC’s 3rd Annual Elders Appreciation Day.

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

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A’AGA
Something to be told
By Billy Allen

Spring has sprung and winter’s rainfall has turned our joved green. A lot of plants are blooming, but many are not yet producing food. How did our O’odham and Piipaash peoples survive? Coaxing food from the lode was not easy. It was hard physical labor but the O’odham and Piipaash farmer was up before the sun rose, worked until noon, rested until mid-afternoon and then worked until dark. He worked slow and steady to prepare fields, clear canals, and rebuild brush dams—all while under the threat of O’b or enemy attack.

A good food harvest was the reward and maybe a new field for cleared land usually went to males who showed to be s-vagima or hard workers. Old Ho-hokam canal were used, but new canals were also dug. These canals were dug with sticks and a crude wooden shovel. Our ancestors survived on what they raised, stored, gathered or took. Our keli akimel or old hoe beat the wheat stalks with sticks to separate the grain. Then the grain was winnowed—gently tossed in the air so the hevel or wind could blow away the chaff. At this time of the year, the Tohono O’odham, would journey down to our joved to help with the harvest. It was also an opportunity to strengthen ties between the tribes with new courts. In 1775, when a Spanish military post was moved to Tucson, Akimel and Piipaash farmers supplied much of the

man river flowed down from the eastern mountains making the water heavy with alkali. To combat this, the O’odham would flood fields to wash away the alkali. Individual families would prepare an old channel or field near a canal. A fence of willow or mesquite branches surrounded the oigad. Sometimes the willow and mesquite brush piled up to keep out small animals, took root and became a living fence. On nearby hills small plots were cleared to take advantage of the runoff from the rain. On these shrub-like plots agave and yucca were planted. By doing this, it cut down on the distance they had to walk to gather these foods, not to mention being safer. In the Vahki or Casa Blanca area the biggest and most productive fields were on sandy islands in the middle of the keli akimel.

When the Spanish introduced pilkan or wheat, it quickly became a staple because it could be stored in large baskets to protect from starvation. Initially, when the pilkan was harvested, women beat the wheat stalks and rebuild brush dams until mid-afternoon and meeting all the kids.

Runner carry prayers in Unity Run

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Carrying prayers and good thoughts across the land, the O’odham Unity Run traversed the historically inhabited lands of the Akimel O’odham and Tohono O’odham from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, through the Gila and along the Baboquivari Mountains, across the international border, and into an O’odham village in Mexico.

District 1, Blackwater, hosted a camp for the runners and provided food for a fire and an evening meal with traditional singers in honor of their journey. District 1 also provided break-fast in the morning as they made the rest of the run. The runners stopped briefly for lunch in Vah Ki’s District 5 ballpark on Monday, March 13. Runners carry personal prayers for health and family in their hearts, and others sim- ply enjoy the family-like atmosphere of spending a few days in nature with fellow O’odham. “Most people pray for their families and the water and the land,” said one elder from Blackwater in the Gila River Indian Community.

Runners preferred to remain anonymous, stating that the purpose of the

runner is not to seek personal attention, but to remain focused on their mission. “Meeting all these people, it’s good,” one gentleman from San Tan in the Gila River Indian Community. “They’re good people to be friends with one another. You don’t have to be afraid of nobody out here. Everybody’s just like your friend, like you’ve known them for a long time, even though you haven’t.” He and his friend, also from blackwater, joined the other runners in the Unity Run together. A lot of the runners enjoy having young children along as well. One young lady from Salt River said, “It’s nice seeing the kids jump in and out of the vans and meeting all the kids.” She said, “I came last year and it felt good to be here, so I wanted to come back. [It’s nice to be around people that we don’t know, but we’re all the same people].” She and her friend, also from Salt River, like getting to know people on the run and get prayers and good experience out of it. She said she prays for unity of the people on the run.

Runners tend to come back year after year. One gentleman said he has done it every year for the past 11 years. “I started in ’96 and I’ve been with them ever since,” he said. But there are also new participants every year. “Every year it’s different. We have new runners, new drivers. It changes, but it has the same meaning, for all the tribes to get together and be friends with one another. That’s what I see it as.” He said he looks forward to the Unity Run every year because it helps them to de-stress and enjoy time with others.

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Students get hands-on learning with the Gila River Close Up Program

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Close Up Program teaches students the basics of tribal government through interactive lessons and hands-on activities.

From March 13–14, students ages 12 to 18 discussed the roles and responsibilities of Council representatives and how they differ from the roles and responsibilities of the governor and lieutenant governor.

“I think it’s important to learn about tribal government because it’s something that most Native students…don’t know, and it’s something that should be learned at a young age,” said Marie Soriano, District 7, a student from Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Ore. “We don’t [always] see what the Council is actually doing for us, to see that they’re doing the best that they can.”

Council Representative Devin Redbird, District 7, has been a key facilitator of the program every year since 2008, and has developed its curriculum based on the GRIC Constitution, Council regulations and his personal experience as a Council member.

“It’s important for everyone to learn their government, because that’s something that’s used at the district level up to main government,” he said it’s also important to learn so that people are able “to participate in [government], and to exercise their rights under the constitution.”

During the program, the students participate in a mock Council meeting and elect a governor and lieutenant governor to pose in the executive positions. Enrique Holguín, Jr., was elected as the Close Up Lieutenant Governor.

He said, “It’s important for the community and every Community member to know, because they need to know their officers’ [roles and responsibilities] and what they need to hold them accountable [to].”

The three-day crash course covers topics like the judicial branch and court proceedings, GRIC history and culture, water rights, and students take a closer look at the tribal budget and how it is constructed each year.

“The number one thing that stood out to me most was the budget activity that we did with the seven districts, and then the priorities because it just showed how much…our councilmen go through, and the decisions they have to make and how hard it is,” said Haili Gonzales, Jr. Miss Gila River. She said when her generation is old enough to take office, “it’s our job to know what’s going to be going on and how they can run it strong just like them in the future.”

Workshops focus on translating cancer info into the O’odham language

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Native American Cancer Prevention program at the University of Arizona, in partnership with the Tohono O’odham Nation, presented their findings at the Milagritos: Small Miracles in Health, Science and Education workshop series on March 1.

The Improving Patient Care by Developing a Tribal-Driven Patient Navigation Program is about tailoring cancer information in the O’odham language.

Mary Koithan, U of A Associate Dean and Community Engagement representative, who oversaw the O’odham translation project on the TON, assisted with the project.

“We had a lot of fun working on the translation project and it was even more beneficial to learn the cultural traditions and language of the Tohono O’odham people,” said Koithan.

Project Investigator and Project Manager for the TON Cancer Program, Janelle Jensen, worked closely with the T.O. translators to develop the information videos in the O’odham language.

“We determined that a lot of cancer educational materials that we have should be translated into O’odham, so they can better understand what is happening within their body,” said Jensen.

She said the process started by looking at some of the most common forms of cancer on the TON and then developing videos around topics like breast, ovarian, colon and stomach cancers. Jensen sought out fluent O’odham speakers, and Project Investigator and Project Manager for the TON Cancer Program, Janelle Jensen, worked closely with the T.O. translators to develop the information videos in the O’odham language.

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The Milagritos: Small Miracles in Health, Science and Education workshop series was held March 1 at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Students participate in a mock trial during the Gila River Close Up Program.

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Winona LaDuke gives lecture on indigenous environmental issues at ASU

From left, Jacob Moore and ASU flowers.

Christopher Lumahai/GRAIN

Winona LaDuke, left, at the Gila River Indian Community Council Chambers on March 21.

LaDuke was invited to ASU as part of the Ju- lie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability lecture series to speak about the environment and her perspective on taking a stand against harmful practices on the environment.

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Winona LaDuke, right, was awarded a $25,000 scholarship from the USDA.

As I reflect on what is happening, I ask the question: What’s it all about? What is the underlying message? What is the meaning of all this? What should we be doing? What are our goals? What are our priorities? What are our values? What are our beliefs? What are our convictions? What is our purpose? What is our mission? What is our vision? What is our destiny?

As a farmer, I know that we must be careful about what we put into the ground. We must be responsible for the soil, water, and air that we use. We must be responsible for the plants, animals, and microorganisms that we cultivate. We must be responsible for the waste that we produce. We must be responsible for the energy that we consume. We must be responsible for the health and safety of our family. We must be responsible for the future of our community. We must be responsible for the well-being of our planet.

As a scientist, I know that we must be careful about what we measure. We must be responsible for the accuracy and precision of our data. We must be responsible for the validity and reliability of our results. We must be responsible for the interpretation of our findings. We must be responsible for the implications of our conclusions.

As a teacher, I know that we must be careful about what we teach. We must be responsible for the knowledge that we impart. We must be responsible for the skills that we develop. We must be responsible for the values that we instill. We must be responsible for the attitudes that we foster.

As a leader, I know that we must be careful about what we lead. We must be responsible for the direction that we take. We must be responsible for the goals that we set. We must be responsible for the outcomes that we achieve. We must be responsible for the legacy that we leave.

As a citizen, I know that we must be careful about what we vote for. We must be responsible for the representatives that we support. We must be responsible for the policies that we endorse. We must be responsible for the consequences that we face.

As a person, I know that we must be careful about what we do. We must be responsible for our actions. We must be responsible for our words. We must be responsible for our thoughts. We must be responsible for our feelings. We must be responsible for our behaviors. We must be responsible for our impacts.

As a member of the Gila River Indian Community, I know that we must be careful about what we do. We must be responsible for our community. We must be responsible for our environment. We must be responsible for our health. We must be responsible for our future. We must be responsible for our planet.

As an individual, I know that we must be careful about what we think. We must be responsible for our beliefs. We must be responsible for our opinions. We must be responsible for our decisions. We must be responsible for our actions. We must be responsible for our consequences.

As a student, I know that we must be careful about what we learn. We must be responsible for our education. We must be responsible for our knowledge. We must be responsible for our skills. We must be responsible for our values. We must be responsible for our future.

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8th Annual Cancer Awareness Day

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

In an effort to raise cancer awareness, support those suffering from the disease, and to honor those who have lost the battle to the illness, the Westend Health Committee held the 8th Annual Cancer Awareness Day at the Huhugam Heritage Center (HHC) on March 18, with over 200 Community members and guests participating in the event.

Devin Pablo, Community Health Education Specialist for the Tribal Health Department, said the event is important because it provides an outlet for Community members and their families who are suffering from the illness. It is an event where people can feel comfortable and supported, he said.

“We want to raise awareness and enlighten people to what different techniques they can do in order to prevent [cancer],” said Pablo. “It also provides the Community an outlet where they can feel comfortable to share their journey. They are not alone when it comes to cancer. It’s not something to be ashamed of, [cancer] doesn’t discriminate.

The day’s activities began with a 1-mile Honkathon Walk and 4-mile Honor Run that wound its way from the HHC to the Wild Horse Pass Whirlwind Golf Course and back.

Westend Health Committee member, Victoria Allison, gave the welcome address. Shortly followed by presentations from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and GRIC Chief Judge Victor Antone.

Two honorary guest speakers, Beverly Miranda and Veronica Allison, also spoke about their experiences with cancer and how it affected their lives and their families’ lives.

The event ended with its trademark balloon release, where hundreds of Community members and guests released purple balloons with messages at the fight against cancer or to those who have passed away.

Fighting Cancer with Awareness

The fight against cancer is a daily battle for many and the frontline of the war is not just made up of people suffering from the disease, or the doctors and scientists looking for the next breakthrough treatment. It is also people learning more about cancer, encouraging their friends and relatives to get screened, and taking ownership of their own health by being aware of their body’s changes and seeking treatment when something is wrong.

In many cases, people diagnosed with cancer often find out after visiting the doctor to check on a recurring issue, such as a sore that won’t go away, a body pain that keeps coming back, or even something as unassuming as a mole that seems to have changed shape or become larger.

“Everybody knows their body, everybody knows how their body functions, what is normal, what is not normal,” said Pablo. “If there is something that is not normal in your body, it is always a good idea to get it checked. Even if it is something small, it can always grow into something bigger.”

Pablo said that even yearly physicals can overlook serious health issues, which is why it is important to make a note of anything abnormal your body is doing and get it checked by a doctor.

“If there is something that is not normal about your body that you haven’t seen before or haven’t felt before, and it is constant and worrying you, go get it checked, go to your doctor, go get a screening,” he said.

How to Fight Back Against Cancer

According to the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), an estimated 1.7 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed and just under 600,000 people died from the disease in 2016.

The NCI reported cancer is among the leading causes of death worldwide and new cancer cases are expected to rise to 22 million within the next two decades.

Aside from being aware and knowledgeable of the disease and seeking a doctor for any abnormal issues that arise, what else can be done to lower the likelihood of developing cancer in the future?

Pablo said while there are a number of things suspected of leading to cancer, there are many ways of preventing the disease.

“Just watching what you eat, eating a little bit healthier. We aren’t telling you to completely go vegan, we are saying to minimize the amount of unhealthy foods that you are eating and replace them with more vegetables and fruits,” he said.

“Exercising is a big one,” he added. “Getting at least 30-minutes of exercise a day, if you are just starting out, and gradually increasing so that you are exercising a little bit more and more.”

He said minimizing alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking are also very important because both substances have been found to cause a variety of different cancers.

While eating healthy, exercising, and cutting out alcohol and cigarettes may seem like an insurmountable goal, it doesn’t mean doing it all at once.

“We aren’t telling everyone to completely just shut everything out, and just healthy eating and exercise...”

From left, GRIC Registered Pediatric Dietician, Emily Perkins, makes healthy personal pizzas for Kendrick Gaines, 10, Maurice Barehand, 5, and Monica Barehand.
Five-star hotel, golfing, casino, outlet shopping, western town, race car driving, luxury spa and fine dining... No matter your preference, this is the place to

EXPERIENCE IT ALL.

Proudly located within the Gila River Indian Community.

www.wildhorsepass.com
ACTION SHEET
Community Council; PO Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85142 (480) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729
CALL TO ORDER
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday March 15, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona.

PRESENTATION
Sherry Lawyer by presidential chair by presiding Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:04 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Sandra Naseweiyewa

ROLL CALL
Sign-In Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis (9:44)
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hugg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Carolyn Williams; RD-Nada Ceayla, Barney Enos, Jr., Jennifer Allison; D5-Marlin Dixon, D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:53), Sandra Naseweiyewa; D7- Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D4- Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Charles Goldenbooth

APPROVED
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
1. Introduction of 2017 Gila River Close Up Participants
Presenter: Michael Preston
MR. MICHAEL PRESTON INTRODUCED THE CLOSE UP PARTICIPANTS. EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS PROVOKED A BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM.
VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LT. GOVERNOR ANTOINE EX-PRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.
2. Introduction of Key Water Conservation Parties To The Community Council
Presenters: Office Of General Counsel

APPROVED
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND HEAR INTRODUCTIONS AS THEY ARRIVE

REPORTS
Presenter: Patricia Valenzuela
REPORT HEARD
2. GRIC Student Advisor Reporting Proposal
Presenter: Fredrick Poitra
REPORT HEARD
3. Resolution Approving and Designating Parcel Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Development And Construction Of District Six Waste Treatment Facility Expansion (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
4. Resolution Approving And Designating A Parcel Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Purpose Of Operating And Maintaining A Public Utility Easement, 0.5424 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Land For Purpose Of Operating And Maintaining A Water Storage Tank, And 2.2759 Acres, More Or Less, For Construction, Operating And Managing A Waterway And Utility Easement As Shown In Drawing No. 40115-0802-EA-01 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
5. A Resolution Approving And Designating 0.9387 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Development And Construction Of District Six Storage Yard, And 1.0999 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Land In District Six For The Development, Construction And Operation Of District Six Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
6. A Resolution Approving And Designating 64.4316 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Development And Construction Of District Six Waste Treatment Facility Expansion (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
7. A Resolution Approving A Plan Of Operations Between The State Of Arizona And The Gila River Indian Community's Department Of Transportation For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating And Managing A Roway And Utility Easement As Shown In Drawing No. 40168-0409 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
8. A Resolution Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the Gila River Indian Community (H&SSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Priscilla Foote APPROVED

ORDINANCES
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs, Suzannef Johns
REPORT HEARD
4. Gila River Gaming Enterprise Inc. Audit Reports
Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller
REPORT HEARD
5. A Resolution Approving And Designating 0.8998 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land In District One To Department Of Public Works For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating, Managing And Maintaining A Public Utility Easement, 0.5424 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Land For Purpose Of Operating And Maintaining A Water Storage Tank, And 2.2759 Acres, More Or Less, For Construction, Operating And Managing A Waterway And Utility Easement As Shown In Drawing No. 40115-0802-EA-01 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
6. A Resolution Approving And Designating A Parcel Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Purpose Of A Roadway And Utility Corridor And Granting The Right-Of-Way Easement To The Gila River Indian Community’s Department Of Transportation For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating And Managing A Roway And Utility Easement As Shown In Drawing No. 40168-0409 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Nona Baheshone APPROVED
7. A Resolution Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the Gila River Indian Community (H&SSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)
Presenter: Priscilla Foote APPROVED

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for the issuance of the air quality operating permit for the following facility:

Facility Name: Akimel Smoke Shop Facility Address: 4239 W. Riggs Rd, Chandler, AZ 85248
Owner Name: Akimel Enterprise LLC
Contact Person: Attn: Ryan Eberle

For further information, please contact Ryan Eberle at (480) 756-2711 or via our office located at 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147. Our office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PUBLICATION
TO PROVIDE DESIGN INPUT TO OPTIMIZE THE 40TH STREET INTERCHANGE AND ALL APPLICABLE INTERCHANGES FROM 51ST AVENUE WESTWARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY; WITH UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY REMAINS TO NOT CONCUR IN OR APPROVES OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 202 SOUTH MOUNTAIN FREEWAY AND DOES NOT WAIVE OUR RIGHT TO CONTINUE TO LEGALLY CHALLENGE

NEW BUSINESS
1. Water and Community School Tribal Allocation Amendment SY 2016-2017 (ESC forwards to Council for approval with recommended changes)
Presenter: Jagdish Sharma
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
2. Treasurer Meets Progress Report (Executive Session)
(G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT MS. JOHNS IN HER CONTINUANCE AND DIRECT THE TREASURER TO PROVIDE APPLICABLE UPDATES
3. Gila River Gaming Enterprise Inc. Audit Reports For September 30, 2016 (Executive Session)
(G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)
Presenters: Anthony Gerliach, REDW, Janice B. Ponzioni
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT MINUTES
ADJOURNMENT
>8TH ANNUAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017, 9AM, LAW LIBRARY
>LSC & G&RJC JOINT MEETING FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017, 9AM
>ELDER’S DAY FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017, 9AM-5PM, HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER
>GRUDD MEETING FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017, 9AM
>6TH ANNUAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017, 9AM-5PM, HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER
>4 TRIBES MEETING SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017, DESERT DIAMOND CASINO

* Denotes Tabled from previous meeting(s)
Enter for a Chance to Win a Herskins Gift Card

In 2016, the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to help develop sustainable homes. A committee of tribal members, government officials, builders and businesses along with the ASU Rural Urban Design Studio (RUDS) developed an initiative to implement the Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) and the Green Ribbon Community (GRC) program. The SHI program is intended to create a pathway to the certification of an affordable, sustainable, and healthy housing community through the completion of a Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) and the Green Ribbon Community (GRC) program. The SHI program is intended to create a pathway to the certification of an affordable, sustainable, and healthy housing community through the completion of a Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) and the Green Ribbon Community (GRC) program.

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) has received a federal grant to develop a Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) program. The program will focus on creating a sustainable and healthy community through the completion of a Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) and the Green Ribbon Community (GRC) program. The SHI program is intended to create a pathway to the certification of an affordable, sustainable, and healthy housing community through the completion of a Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) and the Green Ribbon Community (GRC) program.

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LEADING TRIBAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM GROWING HIRING NOW!

If you’re looking for an exciting opportunity to be a part of a robust organization committed to changing lives of Native Americans, Gila River Health Care is the place for you. We pride ourselves in offering culturally-competent, compassionate and expert care in high-tech settings. Seeking dedicated respectful, compassionate and culturally-competent healthcare professionals.

CURRENTLY OFFERING POSITIONS WITHIN THESE DEPARTMENTS:

1. Customer Service Patient Advocate
2. Customer Services Customer Service Representative
3. Public Health Nursing Community Health Representative

Contact: GRHC Human Resources Department or GRHC.ORG/CAREERS
Phone: (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1342 • Email: hireme@grhc.org
Viola L. Johnson Bldg. 534 West Gu U Ki St., Sacaton, Arizona 85147

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING JOB FAIRS!
May 5th • May 6th • May 13th

HOLIDAY CLOSURE
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital • Komatke Health Center • Ak-Chin Clinic

CLOSED
FRIDAY
APRIL 14, 2017
SATURDAY
APRIL 15, 2017

Pharmacy Hours Easter Weekend
Friday, April 14th CLOSED
Saturday, April 15th  10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 16th  10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Normal business hours will resume Monday, April 17, 2017.
If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

MAIN ENTRANCE & NORTH PARKING LOT PROJECT ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE

PHASE 1: CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY ACCESS ROUTE UNDERWAY
MARCH 20 - APRIL 30, 2017

• No impact on existing patient or staff parking OR Seed Farm Road access
• By September 2017, the patient drop-off, front entrance and main lobby at HHKMH will be completed. Thereby, eliminating the need for the Temporary Entrance and completing all HHKMH construction projects which began in 2016.
WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

• PAYMENTS AS LOW AS $99 A MONTH
• RATES AS LOW AS 1.99%
• NO PAYMENT FOR 90 DAYS

2013 Cadillac XTS $17,999
2011 Infiniti G37 $13,999
2012 Ford Edge $14,999

2015 Jeep Patriot 2 Available Starting at $11,999
2014 Ford Focus $10,999
2012 Chevy Colorado $9,999

• $0 DOWN PAYMENT AVAILABLE
• FIRST TIME BUYER PROGRAMS
• ALL APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

2007 GMC Yukon $299/mo
2007 Ford Taurus $2,000 Miles $4,999
2011 Toyota Sienna Fully Loaded / Leather $255/mo

2012 Toyota Camry $225/mo
2013 Nissan Altima $225/mo
2014 Nissan Sentra $220/mo

• BANKRUPTCY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
• OLD REPOSSESSIONS ARE OK
• WE CAN HELP WITH EVERY SITUATION

2014 Volkswagen Passat $221/mo
2016 Chevy Cruze 2 Available Starting at $210/mo
2013 Chevy Malibu $199/mo

2013 Mini Cooper $189/mo
2013 Hyundai Elantra 2 Available Starting at $179/mo
2015 Nissan Versa 2 Available Starting at $169/mo

2007 Ford Taurus 52,000 Miles $4,999
2010 Hyundai Elantra $7,999
2010 Chevy Camaro $255/mo

2010 Chevy Camaro $255/mo
2013 Mini Cooper $189/mo
2013 Hyundai Elantra 2 Available Starting at $179/mo

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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY!

ELECTION DAY for the 2017 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017
• DISTRICTS 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 •

ABSENTEE VOTING PERIOD
APRIL 10 - MAY 1
To vote absentee, contact your District Judge/Tribal Elections Today!

Audrey Evans, D#1 Judge, 520-215-5949
Hazel Lewis, D#3 Judge, 520-610-2222
Sharon Miguel, D#4 Judge, 520-418-2142 or 520-610-0670
Gaynell Lopez, D#5 Judge, 520-709-9835
Lorina Allison, D#6 Judge, 480-318-1274
Tribal Elections Office, 520-562-9735

Your District Judge will be at your District Service Center, May 1st from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm to assist you in person.

Don’t Forget!

VOTE TODAY

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
ARIZONA

YOUR VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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