Emergency declaration issued after monsoon storm

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

This past July the Gila River Indian Community was hit by two strong monsoon storms causing wind and flood damage to residential homes and tribal facilities. Damages caused by the storms were so severe GRIC’s Executive Office issued an emergency declaration on July 24 after it was determined tribal assistance was necessary to provide aid to the Community and help in its recovery from the storm.

In an effort to keep residential and tribal facilities from suffering further damage, volunteers made up of tribal members and employees worked together filling sandbags, digging trenches, and assisting in emergency repairs throughout the Community.

July 16 Monsoon

Most of the damage caused by the first monsoon storm, which occurred during the evening of July 16, was due to strong winds. Robert DeLeon, Director of Operations for the Office of the Emergency Management, said there were significant power outages throughout the Community, as well as reports of damage.

“The first (report of damage) we heard of was from our Governance Center,” said DeLeon. “They had the wind blow out two of the large windows at the center.”

The roof of a Pima Maricopa Irrigation Project modular building was torn off due to high winds, causing water to get into the building. Additionally, the dispatch center lost electrical power and was functioning off of backup battery power and 38 mature trees were toppled during the storm.

Throughout the Community, approximately a dozen homes were damaged, mainly due to high winds.

While there is no weather data showing how strong the monsoon winds were, DeLeon said based off of the types of damages caused it can be surmised the storm met microburst conditions.

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AZ to CA: Tribal reps visit LA GRIC members

Tribal leaders including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Community Council Representatives, pose with California GRIC members in Los Angeles at UAII Community Center on July 29.

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

The connection between the Gila River Indian Community and its members in Southern California is a lot stronger after a group of tribal leaders and departments met with GRIC members and their families in downtown Los Angeles.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Council Representatives Carol Schurz, Pamela Johnson, Janice Stewart, Barney Enos Jr., Terrance B. Evans, Chief Judge Victor Antone and several departments presented and provided information to the L.A. members at the United American Indian Involvement (UAII) Community Center on July 29. They were hosted by many of the Community members who live in L.A. The members coordinated with UAII to provide food and resources for the meeting.

“It’s an honor to renew our relationships with all of our relatives,” Gov. Lewis said in his address at the outreach meeting. Lewis touched on several issues to be addressed at the meeting including housing, ICWA and GRIC’s water settlement, which included a video of the MAR-5 site. “We have an abundance of departments here that are critical to Community members,” he said. Those departments included Tribal Education, Enrollment/Census, Per Capita, Tribal Elections Program, Tribal Social Services and Communications & Public Affairs. Gila River Health Care board member Katherine Lewis was also on hand to discuss health care as well as Rodney B. Lewis to discuss water rights and his appointment to the 15-member Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Mr. Lewis, who was attended the UCLA School of Law in the early 1970s, recalled fond memories of residing in L.A. while studying law. He also spoke of the state of the GRIC water settlement such as the 311,800

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GRIN Newsperson signs off

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Dear Reader,

Working for the Gila River Indian News has been a blessing and a privilege. In the five years that I have served as a GRIN reporter, I have been fortunate to experience the beauty of our land and cultures, both Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh. This Community has shaped me and helped me grow into the person I am today. It has shown me who I am and where I come from. There are many interesting aspects to the job we do as reporters, but for me, the most rewarding part has been meeting and building relationships with you, the people. I will miss telling your stories. Thank you for allowing me into your lives.

Many of my favorite memories are tied to this land and the people who have made it vibrant. I look back fondly on annual events like the Mul-Chu-Tha, the Mustering-In Day Celebration, the O’otham New Year, and the Winter Bird Count. I can’t help but smile at the memory of all of the wonderful community events hosted at the Huhugam Heritage Center. I will miss driving through our beautiful, lush valley, from Blackwater to Maricopa Village. I will miss seeing the river every day as I cross it on the I-10, especially when it is filled with water from a heavy rain.

I leave the GRIN full of pride in my Community and gratitude for the friendships I have gained. From here I will go on to pursue graduate studies at Arizona State University in Downtown Phoenix. I will miss the Community, but I won’t be far and expect to visit regularly.

Working here has shown me the heart of a community, and I always felt welcomed. Collectively, we share an identity, one inherent in our land, our languages, our water, and the stories of our ancestors. As I say farewell, know that I will take a part of the Community with me in my heart everywhere I go.

Thank you and God bless,

Mikhail Sundust

WIOA interns wrap-up summer internship program

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

From early June through mid-July, over 100 Work Force Innovation Opportunity Act interns have been hard at work in different tribal government departments throughout the Gila River Indian Community and participating in workshops learning important life skills.

In celebration of internships finishing their summer program, the Employment and Training Department held its Annual Awards Banquet on July 19 at District 3’s Head Start with performances by the Gila River Basket Dancers, presentations from the Gila River Cadet Program, Indian Nations Camp, Edit Box Program, and guest speakers, Richard Nacicia and Phillip Morales.

Lana Chanda, Employment & Training Director, said the program is important to the community’s youth, because it teaches important skills that can only be learned in the workplace. “WIOA is to introduce the youth to the workplace,” said Chanda. “It takes what it takes to be an employee, the expectations of an employer, team work… we go over things that they are going to need to know. If you have to be a team player, you have to get along with everybody, know chain of command,” she said.

Chanda said the program is a good way for youth, ages 14 – 21, to figure out what they want to do as a career, because they have the opportunity to participate in different work environments. “The opportunity to do that and make their mistakes as they go along is really key because then they can come back another year and try something else out,” Chanda said.

For many of the interns, the summer work program was a positive experience where they not only learned about new career opportunities, they learned about themselves.

WIOA interns wrap-up summer internship program

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Micah Pena dances with other members of WIOA and GRIC Basket Dancers at the Annual Awards Banquet held at the District 3 Head Start on July 19.

Micah Pena, a 19-year-old from District 5, who participated in the cadet program that works with the GRPD, Gila River Fire Department, and Emergency Services, said he liked everything about the summer program and highly recommends it to other Community youth. “I made a family in the cadet program,” Pena said. “We are all closer than when we first went in there and I like the fact that we were talking about our culture and history, and learning more about what law enforcement does, and fire and EMS.”

For 18-year-old Wakinyan Redbull of District 1, this year’s summer program is his second time participating in the program, and he believes it is a great way of earning job experience. “If you are looking for experience, the first responders program would be perfect for that, getting a look into what the police, fire, and EMS do for the tribe,” he said.

Redbull said he participated in the first responder’s program because he wants to become a Community police officer and eventually a ranger.

For more information about next year’s summer WIOA Summer Program, call Employment & Training at (520) 562-3388.
GRIC film student focuses on Native wellness, becomes award-winning director

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Growing up, Mark Lewis loved mixed martial arts and was watching and participating in fights. But there was something missing – he didn’t see other Native Americans, like him, represented in the sports he enjoyed, especially not on TV.

“I grew up wrestling and boxing, these combat sports, and I never saw any other Natives,” he said. “That was before Google. I couldn’t YouTube anything, and it frustrated me.”

Now, the 38-year-old film maker is working to change that for others.

Lewis is an award-winning film director, whose work focuses primarily on Native Americans working to improve their health and wellness. His interest in MMA and desire to see Native fighters represented in film led him to E.R. to make a short documentary earlier this year, called Legacy.

Legacy follows Nikki Lowe (Seminole Creek and Chickasaw), a mother whose two passions in life are her children and being a MMA Fighter. The ten-minute documentary describes the challenges and setbacks that have faced in her life and shows how working on her physical, mental, and emotional health has helped her overcome these challenges.

The film has won awards for Best Native American Directed Short Film at the Phoenix Film Festival and Best Documentary and Best Director in the New Mexico Indigenous Film Festa.

Lewis said, “I wanted to show another journey and the fact that it was a Native single mother holding down a day job, suffering these tragedies, these setbacks, just like everyone else, but still fighting for more, especially on a professional level, really motivated me,” he said. “She’s an inspirational person. Her energy and passion is contagious.”

Lewis worked for years as a freelance photographer before he decided to turn his attention to filmmaking. He is studying at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, earning a degree in Cinematic Technology. He begins his third year this fall and plans on graduating in 2018.

“Coming back to school as an adult, you already have a whole different perspective,” he said. “You’re more focused, more serious, you’re more mature, you know how to apply your life skills, and that’s what I’ve been trying to do so it’s been working out really good.”

He said going back to school was possible because of the GRIC scholarship program. “As an enrolled member, that was a blessing for me to be able to just focus on school.” He said, “I’ve just been grading it out since I got here, just learning everything and anything I can. Not only in school, but doing tutorials on my own time, side projects.”

All those side projects led to creation of his very own production company. Lewis is Akimel O’otham, Tohono O’odham, and Sac and Fox Nation. His production company, Fox Clan Productions, is named for his Fox Clan heritage.

Sometimes early success can cause a student to leave school and pursue their projects, but Lewis sees value in a formal education and wants to complete his degree despite the success he’s had and the side-projects he is pursuing.

**Everyday Heroes**

Lewis has produced a number of videos related to fitness and health. One features a cross fit gym that held a Native American Cross Fit competition in Fountain Hills, Ariz. Another centers on an International Yoga Day event with Hozo Total Wellness, a Navajo-owned yoga studio near Gallup, NM. Lewis aims to document the stories of what he calls everyday heroes – normal people, Natives, who work hard and improve themselves day by day.

He said, “I know there’s tons of Natives out there that are really active, really physical, and really healthy and I just wanted to get into film and start documenting these journeys of these everyday heroes.”

He said, “They’re not like super stars or anything like that, but they get in, they live a healthy life, they balance family, they balance their culture, and they’re on their own journey. It inspires me when I see other Natives and I feel empowered by other Natives. I’d say my focus, if I had to sum it up in one word, would be resilience – community and individual resilience. Those are the stories that I’m focusing on.”

**Resilience**

Lewis has his own inspiring story of resilience and transformation, but you won’t see it on film because he stays behind the camera. Lewis’s own health challenges, and his victory over them, help him relate to the subjects of his films.

“In 2010 I was just really unhealthy and out,” he said. At that time, he suffered from depression, back pain, anxiety attacks, high blood pressure, and, after several trips to the E.R., discovered he had a naturally diminished heart size, which was working overtime to sustain his body.

“I was about 290 pounds. … I was really unhealthy, from just my diet to my daily life – I didn’t work out, I wasn’t doing anything at that time.” But, he said, “from then on, this was a huge change.”

After a series of visits to the chiropractor, he slowly got back into running. “I started with just a walk around the block because I was so big, that would make me sweat and that would exhaust me. Eventually that turned into a mile of walking, which turned into a mile running, then turned into three miles per day.”

“In less than two years, he lost over 100 pounds. Eventually he got back into weight lifting and MMA training, and was able to get off all of the medication his doctors prescribed for his various ailments.

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“In less than two years, he lost over 100 pounds. Eventually he got back into weight lifting and MMA training, and was able to get off all of the medication his doctors prescribed for his various ailments.

**Total, I’m 117 pounds lighter. I only take my heart medication and that’s it. My blood pressure is good, anxiety is gone, everything else is gone.**

**Healthy Active Natives**

While on his own well-being journey, Lewis found inspiration on the HANs page. He said, “I really like websites like HANs because everyone on there, everybody inspires me all the time.”

Lewis recently teamed up with Waylon Pahona, founder of the Healthy Active Natives (HANs) Facebook group, to do a feature-length documentary about Natives who are healthy and active. Earlier this year he reached out to Pahona to discuss the idea of using film to highlight some everyday heroes. Pahona said he had a similar idea and was just waiting for a filmmaker who shared his vision.

“In January of 2017, I said, I want to make a documentary, I just want to impact lives,” said Pahona. “And the crazy thing is, he had a similar idea. I think the overall goal is to show the struggle that people go through and that you can overcome those struggles.”

Pahona said, “Our everyday heroes are normal people from the reservation, those who have overcome the struggles of addiction, weight-loss, mental health. Those types of [stories], I believe, are powerful when you see people who have overcome those types of struggles.”

He and Lewis want to showcase Native wellness from a holistic perspective, not just the physical side of wellness, but the emotional, psychological and spiritual aspects as well. In the stories Lewis sees online and pursues with his craft he sees people who have been dealt a difficult hand.

“We have a lot of baggage, a lot of hurt, a lot of things that we’re dealing with,” he said, “and it manifests itself in the physical world in different ways, through depression, maybe substance abuse, sometimes it can be overwhelming yourself.” But, he said, “he loves to see people working to overcome those life challenges, and prefers to tell stories of health as a total wellness endeavor, not just getting model looks or a six-pack. It’s more than your weight or a number on the scale.”

The documentary is a work in progress and will take some time to complete, said Lewis, because it means traveling to different Native communities at different times of the year.

“It’s not something I’m rushing right now, because it really is about finding those right people and the right stories. And it’s not something you can just go out and shoot. It’s something more.” he said. “It’s coming together. It’s something I’m working on in my own time, but I’m definitely pursuing funding for it.”

To support Lewis’s latest project, visit gofundme.com and search for “Healthy Native Lifeways Film.” To view some of Lewis’s other work, visit vimeo.com/foxclanproductions. The award-winning film ‘Legacy’ is available at filmfreeway.com/project/legacy.
Community Council certifies candidates for the Sept. 19 primary

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

During the First Regular Meeting of the Community Council meeting at the Gila River Governance Center in Sacaton, Tribal Council officially certified the candidates for the 2017 Primary Election on August 2.


The candidates, who were certified to run for lieutenant governor, are: David Anderson, Robert Stone, District 5 Council Representative, Carolyn Williams, District 3 Council Representative, Sandra Nasewytewa, former District 6 Council Representative Christopher Mendoza, former District 4 Council Representative Brian E. Davis Sr., former District 5 Council Representative Merry Kris Kyyitan and Barney B. Enos Jr., District 4 Council Representative.

Below is a list of candidates that will be running for Chief Judge and Associate Judge:

Chief Judge:
Donna Kisto Jones
Anthony James Hill
Joseph Manuel Eagleheart

Associate Judge:
Sheri L. Causa
Lucille Antone-Mora
goDallas De Lowe
Debbie A. Ochoa-Mercado
Garren Manuel

Janice Breckenridge
Victor Antone
Lawanda Pablo
Melody Parsons
Lucinda M. Nez

Now that the candidates have been certified, Community members will have an opportunity to vote for their next tribal leaders during the primary election that will be held on September 19, with the exception of the Candidates running for Associate Judge that did not meet the required amount of candidates; they will be placed on the ballot for the General Election in November.

BE A VOICE FOR KIDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY
90% of a child's brain develops before they enter school, and a child's early experiences lay the foundation for success in school and in life.

You can help prepare children for success by volunteering to serve on the First Things First Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit www.FirstThingsFirst.org/serve or contact Cathy Brown 602.771.4991

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Gila River Tribal Health Department
Injury Prevention Program

Car Seat Check Up Event

Drive into one of the locations and get a personalized car seat inspection by a certified Car Seat Technician

Wednesday August 9, 2017
9:00 am – 11:30 am
D7 Service Center Parking Lot
885 South Kiel Avenue
Laveen, Arizona

Wednesday August 16, 2017
9:00 am – 11:30 am
D6 Sheep Beddig Parking Lot
17487 N. Healthcare Dr.
Laveen, Arizona

If needed: FREE Car Seat REPLACEMENT

Please bring your car seats already installed in your vehicle to be inspected.

For information contact:
Tori De La Cruz, IPP Technician
Verena Jackson– IPP Specialist
at 520-550-8000

GILA RIVER INJURY PREVENTION KIDS IN SAFETY SEATS (KISS) PROGRAM

TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
5556 West Pecos Road, Laveen, Arizona 85339
520.550.8000
Contact Verena Jackson or Teri De La Cruz
CAR SEAT Training

Becoming a new parent? Come Join us and we will teach you how to use a Child Passenger Safety Seat and how to properly install the car seat?

Attend a car seat safety class and receive a free car seat!(Please bring a referral with your child’s current weight and height measurements. You can request a referral from a family physician, from WIC (only if children are participating in WIC), from ORHC or from the Head Start Program. If you are pregnant, please, bring a referral from your doctor verifying your due date and attend a class for in person class before your due date as we do not accept seats in the hospital, bring your Tribal Enrollment or Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) card to class. If you are a Guardian, bring proof of Guardianship documents.

We do love our precious children, but please do not bring them to class.

Tuesday, August 15, 2017
District 3
Sacaton Dialysis Center
565 W. Suelfarram Rd.
Sacaton, Arizona 85147
Class starts at 10:00 am

Wednesday August 23, 2017
District 6
D6 Komatke Healthcare
17487 S. Healthcare Dr.
Laveen, Arizona 85339
Class starts at 10:00 am

Please Arrive 10 Minutes Early to Complete Application
Give the SAFEST Gift to your BABY!!!
Emergency Declaration from Page 1

We are told that the parking structures are built to withstand 120 mph plus winds, “he said. “It move and break off its stand the way it did, it was probably something to that kind of wind speed and that only happens during a microburst or a tornado. (A tornado) wasn’t witnessed...” so the only assumption was that it was a microburst;” he added.

July 23-24 Mono

On the evening of July 23, the morning of July 24, a second microburst storm following a similar path as the first, dumped large amounts of rain in the Community causing flooding in residential homes and tribal government buildings.

DeLon said 38 homes were damaged with four needing significant repairs due to severe flooding.

Tribal facilities also suffered flooding including the Council Ke, Manage- ment Information Systems’ modular building and eight vehicles in its parking lot, and the District 3 Warehouse. Other tribal facilities damaged in the storm were the District 3 Early Child Care Center, the Executive Ke, and the Cultural Resources Management Program’s offices, which are used for residential and tribal facility damages, were several road closures including Olberg Road, which was washed out, Cassie Blancha Road due to water crossing the road, and Sacaton Road because of water overflowing from the nearby river.

While there were no reports of injuries in the storm, the Gila River Fire Department performed a water rescue in the Chan- dellor Heights area, where seven individuals were standing on a levee watching the water.

“The big thing is...we really want people to try and be able to support themselves for the first 72 hours, so we always ask people to put together (72 hour kits),” said DeLon. Overall, Districts 2, 3, and 5 suffered the most damage caused by the monsoon storm.

Preparing For The Next Storm

Because monsoon storms can occur quickly, dump large amounts of water, create microburst wind speeds of over 100 mph, and leave within just a few minutes, it can be difficult to forecast when and where they will occur.

It is why it is important to be prepared well in advance of the June 15 – September 15 monsoon season.

“The big thing is...we really want people to try and be able to support themselves for the first 72 hours, so we always ask people to put together (72 hour kits),” said DeLon. He said because monsoon storms can cause widespread damage throughout the Community, it may take time for emergency crews to reach your area, which is why it is important to have the necessary resources needed to survive 72 hours.

A 72 hour kit includes prescription medications, glasses, infant formula, diapers, important family documents, cash, emergence reference material like books, a first aid kit, sleeping bags, blankets, a complete change of clothes, feminine supplies, and more.

To help Community members put together their own 72 hour emergency kits, OEM provides detailed information at giclea.org and on their phone application, which is called GRIC-OEM and is available on Android and iPhone devices. OEM’s app also has alert notifications that will tell you of incoming severe weather or other emergency issues within the community.

For more information call the Office of the Emergency Management at (520) 796-7755.
By Billy Allen

Summers on our jewed or land have always been hot, but like the Energizer Bunny, O’otham and Piipaash kept on going. Anna Moore Shaw was born at Gila Crossing in 1898 and in her book, “A Pima Past,” she begins three generations prior and writes of how O’otham and Piipaash dealt with cultural change. Today’s pace is much more accelerated, and at times it may seem like we have lost touch with our roots. But have we? 

In the past, before sunrise children were told to wake up, gather tools, and go to the fields or go hunting to make this one of the best days of their lives. Even if there was no actual “work” to do, communities had competitions such as running and toka to keep people active. These activities promoted leadership, cohesiveness, and communal pride. In a way, it was practice for survival in perilous times. Our people had to be able to move quickly because of enemy attacks. As peace came about in the 1880s, new “games” became part of our homidag or culture.

Being a “keli-in-training,” my childhood memories spring from the 1950’s and I remember communal celebrations and competitive games. Sacaton hosted a rodeo on Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. Bapchule, Gila Crossing, Sacaton, and Upper Santan had summer feast days with baseball also on the menu. Community baseball/softball managers scheduled home and away baseball games with neighboring villages and area reservations like Ak-Chin, Tohono O’odham, and San Carlos. Add the Great Southwest Baseball and Softball Tournament at Salt River, and that was an active summer.

It was nice of the Huhugam Heritage Center personnel to let me view early copies of the Gila River Indian News. Front page news of the August 1964 edition was the upcoming two-day Labor Day rodeo in Sacaton. The rodeo was headed up by Charlie Marrietta, assisted by Floyd Gomez, Al Jarvis, and Dell Morago. Stock was provided by Mitch Maddock and George “Papago” Macon. The sports page had a blurb submitted by Harry Williams, Jr. who reported that the Komatke Cardinals completed regular season play in a Maricopa County League and earned a berth to the championship game. Myrna Soke pitched a no-hitter, third baseman Carol Thomas and shortstop Delilah Enos were solid on the left side of the diamond, but errors cost the Cardinals, losing to Peoria.

Next up on the Indian League schedule was the Salt River Indian Tournament. To maintain their competitive edge, a double-header was scheduled against the Thunderbirds and Cobras. These games were to be played on the Komatke Hawk’s home field in Gila Crossing.

Edison Allison took a fourteen member women’s GRIC toka team to Sells for a tournament on July 18. (Two other individuals were listed as “watchdogs”: their job was to keep an eye on team property.) Apparently the tournament was part of Tohono O’odham pageant festivities. No scores were listed, but the team “returned boasting of multiple bruis- es.” Toka is a contact sport, not for the faint of heart. Team members enjoyed the hospitality of our hahaj or cousins. A bar-b-que lunch was served and Miss Mary Grace Lucas, reigning Miss Indian Arizona, served as hostess for dinner. Julia Nasewyewa submitted the article. The GRIC Little Leaguers were also on the voeg or road. The Sacaton All Stars and Blackwater teams entered a tournament at San Carlos. The two day tournament, which started on August 15th, had teams from Peridot, Blyas, Ft. McDowell, San Carlos and Salt River. No surprise, the Sacaton All Stars won the tournament. Our community was well represented for All Tournament selections. Rodney Lyons, Dover Halbison, Danny Antone, Franklin D. Whitman and Leander Whitman made the first team list. Larry Mackett was chosen tournament MVP. Mr. Dave Halbison of Sacaton was selected All Tournament Manager. A few of these boys and girls of summers past are still part of our community’s heart.

Thanks to all the GRIC-sters who have or currently served as coaches and mentors in assisting our youth. Sports have kept our home strong. Much like the Hohokam, we suffered the heat and losses but cherished the wins.

The staff of the Gila River Indian News and Mr. Jewel Whitman were also helpful.
Tribe visits L.A. members from Page 1

Enrollment/Census staff assist members with services.

Rodney Lewis discusses the water settlement.

GRIC members have been meeting for the past four months preparing for the visit.

Tribal members interface with GRIC departments at the urban member meeting in Los Angeles.

GRC members have been meeting for the past four months preparing for the visit.

Gov. Lewis thanked the GRIC members who attended the meeting and UAII for hosting the tribal leaders and departments.

The updates on tribal issues came at a very important time for the members in L.A. “We’re all united,” Lt. Gov. Antone told the group.

Omerlene Thompson, Cheryl Jackson and others of UAII have welcomed GRIC for the past years and look forward to future events. Thompson, District 6, who’s been in L.A. for over 30 years and is a long time employee of UAII, said that she welcomes tribal leaders to visit and that the meeting on July 29 brought back strong feelings for GRIC. “It really makes me feel like back home,” she said.

Cheryl Jackson, District 3, who’s been in Long Beach for over 20 years and who also works for UAII, said the past meetings with tribal leaders, “helps us to stay informed and connected with GRIC.

Elizabeth Means, District 4 Community member, has been in California herself for over 30 years and said that the local Native population has been very supportive. “If I hadn’t got involved with the Native community, I don’t know where I’d be,” she said. Means has hosted four meet and greet meetings with the L.A. GRIC urban members and have plans for future projects. Meet and greet meetings allows GRIC members to get acquainted.

In 2016, Jackson, Thompson and other UAII employees including CEO Jeremy Billy made a trip to Arizona. Billy, who was encouraged to see so many representatives from GRIC visit California, said the July 29 meeting was one of the largest turnouts he’s seen. “It shows that the tribe does care about the tribal members,” he said.

UAII, Inc. is a non-profit organization that services the Native population in Los Angeles County. They provide health care services, mental health services, treatment, social services, education programs, and programs for elders and youth.

The visits for GRIC members to California will continue in the fall. The L.A. members will be hosting the elders from District 6 in September for the UAII American Indian Day 16th Annual Community Gathering and Family Picnic at Griffith Park.
GRIC-Urban Members Association celebrates 18th Anniversary in Phoenix

The Gila River Indian Community Urban Members Association (GRIC-UMA) held its 18th Anniversary celebration at their headquarters in Phoenix, Ariz., on the morning of July 29.

The celebration was attended by over 100 Community members and a host of special guests and presenters, including: GRIC-UMA founding member Bernice Nelson, the Gila River Basket Dancers, District 5 Representative Robert Stone, District 1 Representative Joey Whitman, GRIC Community Manager Pamela Thompson, staff from GRIC’s Land Use Planning and Zoning Department including Director Dr. Kimberly Antone, and GRIC Department of Education Assistant Culture Coordinator Tammy Histia.

Non-profit organization, Three Precious Miracles, was also at the event, handing out 100 backpacks, 100 pairs of shoes, and 100 hygiene and dental kits. Anthony Newkirk, GRIC-UMA Chairman said, “They did that for us last year and it was a big success, because a lot of kids have already started school or are starting school this week.”

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who was out town attending a GRIC Los Angeles Urban Members meeting in California, had a special video message presented at the event.

Keynote speaker Waylon Pahona, who runs the Healthy Active Natives Facebook page, talked about the resilience and perseverance of Native peoples. He spoke about his past struggle with weight and how many other Natives in Indian Country are struggling with similar issues. “There were a lot of tears and hugs,” said Newkirk. “People went up to him after his speech and told him that they needed to hear [his] message and it was inspirational.”

What is GRIC-UMA?

GRIC-UMA provides services to urban tribal members, including free bus passes, assistance with utility bill payments, monthly elder breakfasts, and transportation to various Community events. Newkirk said while providing services to urban members is a main focus of the association, they are also working on changing Gila River’s constitution, which currently states that any Community member who lives outside of the reservation for 20 years is automatically un-enrolled from the tribe.

“We really want to get that out of our constitution so that is something that we are going to be working with Council to get out of there,” he said.

In addition to changing the Community’s constitution, GRIC-UMA is dedicated to getting urban members more active in Community issues. To do this, they are getting urban members registered to vote so they can participate in how the Community forms its policies. “We want more active urban members voting on constitutional issues, on members of council, those are the things we are focusing on,” he said.

If you are interested in joining GRIC-UMA or learning more about the association, visit www.gilariveruma.org, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GRIC-UMA, email gilariver-uma@gmail.com, or call (602) 244-9927.

Notice of unclaimed property held by GRTI

Please see below if you are listed to receive an unclaimed vendor payment or customer refund with GRTI.

MARK DAWAHOYA

To claim your vendor payment or customer refund you must appear in person at the GRTI office located at 7065 West Allison Road, Chandler, Arizona within 60 calendar days of August 4th, 2017. Photo ID and proper identification must be presented when representing listed name.

Please call (520) 796-3333 for more information.

ORDINANCE GR-10-09

ORDINANCE GR-10-09
GRICUA hosts inaugural STEA³M Summer Program

Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority held its inaugural week-long STEA³M Summer Program that featured a long list of notable presenters including Intel, Adobe, Sandia National Laboratories, and more.

Eighteen 5 – 8 graders participated in the camp, which was held to expose the Community’s youth to different careers in science-based fields including technology, engineering, and agriculture.

John Lewis, GRICUA Board Chairman said the purpose for focusing on 5 – 8 graders is because it is an ideal time to inspire them to move toward certain career paths.

"We realized, by the time we are talking to kids and giving them industry exposure by high school and college age, they are already on a certain trajectory (in life)," said Lewis. "(These campers) are the kids who are going to go into these technical disciplines, who want to go to college and study business, economics, science and math."

The camp’s name, STEA³M, is derived from the original meaning of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, but with the addition of arts, architecture, and agriculture.

The presenters who participated in the summer program were: Intel, the Arizona Science Center, Kitchell, Adobe, Arizona State University Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technologies, ASU Construction in Indian Country, GECO Drones, Sandia National Laboratories, GRIC DEQ, Councilman Robert Stone, and Yolanda Hart-Stevens.

Lewis said GRICUA was able to utilize its partnerships with existing industries and companies to come out and present at their STEA³M Summer Program, which day-to-day, focused on different areas of the sciences.

During the first day of the program, students were given an overview of what STEA³M was all about. To do this the students spent a whole day at the Arizona Science Center.

The following day was geared toward natural resources, water, wetland ecology, farming, and agriculture. The third day of the program focused on engineering where students were able to spend time at ASU.

On the fourth day, students learned about technology with GECO Drones and Adobe each putting on their own presentations. Sandia National Laboratories presented to the students on the last day of the summer program.

While the week was a busy one for the students, they were able to kick back and let off a bit of steam on the afternoon of the final day of the program with a trip to Main Event Entertainment, where they were treated to games and pizza.

If you are interested in learning more about next year’s STEA³M Summer Program, call GRICUA at (520) 796-0600.
As part of our series following up with college graduates a year after graduation, we take a look at one Community member, who is digging her way to success.

Raquel Romero, who is an Archaeological Technician with the Cultural Resource Management program, is unearthing the ancient past of the Community.

Last May, Romero received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Arizona State University. Like a history detective, she is using her education and experience to piece together the history of the Huhugam.

While working out at one site in District Four Upper SanTan, Romero and the rest of the excavation crew worked the soil under the rising summer sun.

“I always liked to be outdoors and I like history, so that’s why I got involved with [this],” said Romero, watching a backhoe remove layer upon layer of soil from the ground in front of her.

Romero comes from a diverse background of Akimel O’otham, Filipino and San Carlos Apache, which has added to her interest in learning more about each culture.

She said, “I didn’t grow up out here, so working here has been a great opportunity, because I got to know the people and more about the culture and about the history.”

After the backhoe finished digging a trench, Romero and her fellow workers start the meticulous task of uncovering the layers of history that lie beneath the surface.

Each time Romero goes out into the field with her crew there is a sense of excitement she explains happens when they uncover pieces of the Community’s ancient history.

“As a crew member with the Cultural Resource Management program, on a daily basis I go out and excavate with a crew of maybe five different people,” she said. “More often than not, we find artifacts, whether it be old homes or canals and pottery…sometimes we will find human remains, which are handled as respectfully as possible and are buried elsewhere, not to be disturbed again.”

Many of the artifacts that are found are recorded and collected and are cleaned back at the CRM facilities where they are handed over to the Huhugam Heritage Center for storage.

“It’s interesting when we find houses, just to see the outline and imagine how the people lived and to see the fire pits where they would have cooked, it’s pretty fascinating,” said Romero.

The traces of pottery left by the Huhugam, that are discovered date back hundreds of years and show distinctive period of the period of ancient history it was made in.

Her interest in ancient American Indian history was also driven by her curiosity to learn outside of what was taught to her in high school.

“When I went from high school to college and started learning about American Indian history…just the difference of what [they] taught us in high school and learning the real side of it in college inspired me to learn about the pre-history…that’s where everything started,” she said.

What makes Romero’s job unique is not only the ability to discover new things each day, but what she is capable of doing beyond the present.

In the fall, Romero will be attending Northern Arizona University to start her graduate program to work towards a Master’s Degree in Archaeology.

Although Romero has her sights set on a graduate school, she’s still figuring out her future and what that will entail.

She said that there is still some exploring to do, but that she would like to work for the Community in the same capacity, but in a supervisory role.

“I always planned on going for my masters, but I didn’t know how soon I wanted to do it and when I got here I learned, I realized I could do more with my education,” said Romero.

“When I got into the field I wanted to contribute more, so I thought I better go back to school and work towards that next degree.”

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Parents & Guardians:

The Casa Blanca Community School is pleased to announce that it will be holding an election on Thursday, September 14, 2017 to fill two (2) seats on its Board of Trustees. The polling station will held at Casa Blanca Community School. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CIBCS’s Board meets at least once (sometimes twice) per month and attend periodic work sessions (usually held over a two day period on the weekend); attend various out-of-state trainings and conferences; have reliable transportation; be available to reach by phone; and be available to meet when given short notice.

If you are interested in running in the election, you must meet the following member qualifications:

- Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age as of September 14, 2017 (the date of election);
- Be a Community member;
- Reside in District 3, 4, or 5 and have lived in the District in which you are running for at least one year prior to September 14, 2017;
- Have a high school diploma, or GED;
- Successfully undergo a background check and drug/alcohol screen;
- Obtain an Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card; and
- Submit a timely petition signed by seven eligible voters from your District.

To obtain a petition to get on the ballot, please contact Ms. Flo Long at CIBCS, (520) 315-3489.

Petitions must be returned to Casa Blanca Community School no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2017.

The following persons are eligible to vote in the election (and sign petitions for Board candidates):

(1) Enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community who are at least eighteen (18) and who reside within District 3, 4, or 5 as of September 14, 2017, OR
(2) Parent, grandparent, or legal guardian whose name is on file as the responsible party for a child currently attending Casa Blanca Community School.

Any questions regarding the election should be directed to Ms. Flo Long at the above number.
Gila River Veteran’s Conference sets sights on building connections

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

A conference aimed at making connections with Gila River Indian Community Veterans will be hosted at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass on September 9, 2017.

Under the theme, “A Day of Celebration & Remembrance,” the Gila River Veteran’s Conference will focus on bringing awareness to the issues that impact the Community’s Veterans and provide local services that can supply information on housing, education, post traumatic stress disorder and other topics.

This conference will enable resources and local programs to connect with Veterans.

There will also be a resource room with several information booths on employment, legal services, housing and education that will be able to meet with veterans on a one-to-one basis.

A banquet will be held during the evening of the conference to honor the Veterans that have come out to the conference. The banquet is provided to show appreciation for their service to their country.

Entertainment will be provided by Men in the Maze a band who plays classic rock, country, oldies and blues.

For more information, contact:
Leonard Bruce: 520.560.7317
Darrell Whitman: 520.610.0316
Pamela Thompson: 520.610.0413

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass
5394 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona

Gila River Veterans - Healing, Culture & Wellness

September 9, 2017
8am - 5pm
Banquet to Follow
Families of Veterans’ Welcome

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass
5394 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona

For more information, contact:
Leonard Bruce: 520.560.7317
Darrell Whitman: 520.610.0316
Pamela Thompson: 520.610.0413

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News
New Tribal Recreation and Wellness Programs emphasizes wellness lifestyles

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Tribal Recreation and Wellness Program would like to notify Community members of a number of upcoming classes. Tribal Recreation has developed a variety of classes for people of all ages, including adults, elders, and youth.

The program is putting an emphasis on wellness lifestyle within the Community to aid in the prevention of diabetes. The program is sending out an open invitation for Community members to attend any class at any district. Everyone is welcome.

Here is a list of classes Tribal Recreation is offering:

- Water Aerobics with Denise James – This class is offered in District 6 on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and in District 1 on Wednesdays from 10 – 11 a.m. No swimming experience is required, but be sure to bring proper swimwear. Water aerobics is done in waist to chest-deep water, so it is a fun, low-impact way to work out that’s easy on the joints.

- Traditional Dance with Yolanda Elias – This class will be held at the District 5 Elderly Center at 1 p.m. on Mondays until Sept. 29. Morning Grid with Raychell – Held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Sacaton Wellness Center at 6:15 a.m. Wake up with a heart-pumping, calorie-burning workout and feel rejuvenated all day.

- Incycle with Brandon – Similar to “spinning” classes, participants can burn up to 1,000 calories with Incycle. This class will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. Riders must be 16-years or older to participate.

- Circuit Training with Ryan – This class is also on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. but it’s at the District 5 Multipurpose Building. Bring a friend and some water.

- Adult Yoga with Denise James – Yoga will be held in District 2 on Mondays from 6 – 7 p.m. and in District 4 on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Mats will be provided, but bring a sweat towel and water.

- Hard Core, Rock Bottom! – Will be at the District 2 Multipurpose Building through Sept. 29, classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 – 7 p.m.

The Wellness Center is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Fridays, closed weekends. For information, call (520) 562-2026.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Wellness Center @ 520-562-2026

*Class schedules and times are subject to change*

**August 2017 Wellness Center Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunch time workout W/ Brandon 11:00 am, 11:45 am, 12:30 pm</td>
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**District Five**

**Monday**

5:45 pm – 6:45 pm

Every Tuesday & Thursday

Green Diabetic Smoothie

This recipe includes some diabetic “superfoods” and no added sugar to help with glucose control

**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 1/4 cup spinach, baby kale, or a mix of the two
- 1/2 cup frozen berries (blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, etc)
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt (Greek yogurt is high in protein)

**Instructions:**

1. Blend the ingredients together.

2. Drink your smoothie cold and refreshing for the summer!

**For more information call (520) 562-2026**
Up to $3000 per month rental subsidy for qualified applicants.

The Department of Community Housing (DCH) has identified a need to assist low-income Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) members who reside off Reservation in the Maricopa County area. The number of rental units currently available in the Community is insufficient to meet the current demand for housing. To address the need for rental assistance, DCH has established the Urban Rental Assistance Program for families who are in a contract with a landlord or a residence that is not part of GRIC.

To qualify:
1. Must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.
2. Must reside in Maricopa County, Arizona, that is not part of GRIC.
3. Applicant must be a member of GRIC.
4. Applicant must be a member of a Section 8 program or any other Federally Funded Program that is available.
5. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements of any other Federally Funded Program that is available.
6. Must be in an existing lease agreement or have a lease or tenancy agreement with a landlord or landlord representative.
7. Must be an existing member of GRIC and have a good tenant history.
8. Current GRIC CDR for head of household and tribal ID for all other members in the household.
9. Approved and waiting for applicants must attend a mandatory orientation to be held in September.

Applications can be picked up beginning Monday, July 24, 2017 at the DCH Main Office or call 385-232-7821 to schedule an appointment. All applications and required documentation must be submitted by Thursday, August 31, 2017.

Open: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 (Closes: Thursday, August 31, 2017)

Applicants can be picked up beginning Monday, July 24, 2017 at the DCH Main Office or call 385-232-7821 to schedule an appointment. All applications and required documentation must be submitted by Thursday, August 31, 2017.

FIGHT THE NIGHT! WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

Presented by:

Join Us for a Halloween Celebration

October 25, 2017

Fright Walk - Ghouls - Costumes - Witches' Brew

Gila River Wellness Center and Parking Lot

For more information call (520) 562-2026

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE EAST VALLEY Gila River Branch - Sacaton

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

for grades K-12

FREE for members of GRIC!

Program Starts August 7th

Program Hours:
2:15pm-7:00pm (youth) / 2:15pm-8:00pm (teen)

Fun Programs that include:
Homework, Hula, Sports, Fine Arts, Technology, PE Activities

Early Release Hours:
1:00pm-6:00pm (youth) / 1:00pm-7:00pm (teen)

Office Hours:
11:00am-7:00pm

OPEN (8am-5pm) ON MOST NO SCHOOL DAYS & BREAKS!

For more information, contact Amy (amy.rhodes@clubzona.org) / (520) 562-3890

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Traditional DANCE

with Yolanda Elias

July 3rd to September 29th

D5 Elderly Center

MONDAYS 1:00pm

For more information call (520) 562-2026
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A Resolution Approving An Alternative Funding Arrangement Among The United States Department Of Agricultural, Natural Resources Conservation Services And The Gila River Indian Community, To Fund the Lining Of the Casa Blanca Canal In The Amount Of $4,500,000.00 (G&amp;MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)</td>
<td>Jason Hauter</td>
<td>APPROVED</td>
<td>2. A Resolution Correcting And Affirming Resolution GR-66-17 Which Authorized The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within the Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Approval 2172) (G&amp;MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)</td>
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### WATER AND SEWER BILLING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Business item with recommendations</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Non-Commercial Water Usage (G&amp;MSC motioned to forward to the Community Council as a New Business item with recommendations)</td>
<td>Kelly Gomez, Ross Schroeder</td>
<td>for forward to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A Resolution Approving the Memorandum Of Understanding Between the United States Department Of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services And The Gila River Indian Community, To Fund the Lining Of the Casa Blanca Canal In The Amount Of $4,500,000.00 (G&amp;MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)</td>
<td>Zuzette Kisto, Office of General Counsel</td>
<td>APPROVED</td>
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</table>
NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
ADOPTING 2012 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

The Legislative Standing Committee (‘LSC’) will be considering the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code adopting the 2012 Edition of the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, and the 2011 Edition of the National Electrical Code at their regular meeting on September 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. located in Conference Room A and B of the Community Council Secretary’s Office. If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code, please attend the scheduled LSC meeting. You may also contact your Council representative or the LSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Written comments may be emailed to Casaundra Wallace at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147.

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CREDIT APPROVALS FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET,

THE LOWEST PAYMENTS ON EARTH,

AND DOWN PAYMENTS SMALLER THAN THAT ANT GUYS.....WALLET!

This month Premier Auto Center is fighting for truth, justice and a Nicer, Newer car for all with some of the LOWEST PAYMENTS AND DOWN PAYMENTS WE HAVE EVER OFFERED.....EVER!

COME SEE US TODAY FOR THE BEST DEALS OF THE YEAR!

FREE LIFETIME MAINTENANCE ON EVERY VEHICLE PURCHASED *LIMITED TIME ONLY
**GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE**

**IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S SAFE. IT'S PLAIN LANGUAGE.**

**GRHC TO IMPLEMENT PLAIN LANGUAGE TO REPLACE EMERGENCY CODES**

Gila River Health Care is launching the new Plain Language Emergency Communications Initiative. The thrust of this initiative is to replace long-standing code words used to announce and describe any GRHC emergency event with words and phrases that are clear and plainly understood. Not only does this initiative increase clarity, but it will also limit protocol error.

When a patient hears an emergency announced while visiting a GRHC facility, he/she will hear simple words and phrases. As an example, instead of hearing the phrase “Code Red” for fire alarms and drills, patients will hear the words describing the facility, the event, and the location.

Our facility is one of the first in the state of Arizona to put these standards in place. GRHC strives to adhere to national best practices and continues to implement procedures which best serve our patients.

Plain Language Emergency Communication ensures our patients, visitors, and staff members’ safety by minimizing confusion. The launch of this initiative will begin October 1, 2017, with permanent implementation January 1, 2018.

We encourage patients to be aware of this change. Should you have questions, please contact Kathie Dumais at (520) 562-3321 ext. 1207 or kdumais@grhc.com.

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**WITH RAIN COMES MOSQUITOES!**

See your doctor if you develop a fever plus muscle/joint pain, headache with pain behind the eyes, rash, or pink eye. Zika is transmitted through mosquito bites, blood transfusion, sex with an infected person, and infected mother to unborn child.

There is no vaccine or specific treatment, so stay in air-conditioned buildings or that use screens to keep mosquitoes outside. Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters and can also bite at night.

**Use insect repellent!** Look for active ingredients of DEET, PICARIDIN, IR3535, OIL OF LEMON EUCALYPTUS; wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants; and treat clothing with permethrin. Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months. Pregnant? Consider postponing travel to Zika-infected areas.

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**BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER**

Refer your family and friends to Gila River Health Care

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

- Chief Operating Officer
- Director Revenue Cycle
- Compliance Officer
- Human Resources Supervisor
- Dental Speciality
- Lifestyle Coach

For more information, please contact the GRHC HR Department at: 602-528-1342 or visit us online at: grhc.org/careers

**GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

Gila River Health Care will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **LABOR DAY – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017**
- **NATIVE AMERICAN DAY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

Main Phone: 520.562.3321

High winds, dust storms, flash floods, and power outages from severe weather have threatened the GRIC in the past. Are you prepared to make it on your own for a few days in the event of an emergency?

Be Informed
Learn what to do before and during an emergency. Before a disaster, learn how you will get information on hazardous events through local alerts and warnings.

Make a Plan
Prepare, plan, and stay informed for emergencies. Learn what to do in different situations and customize your plan for local hazards. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so your plan should consider the following:

• How you will get to a safe place?
• How you will contact one another?
• How you will get back together?

Build a 72-Hour Kit of Emergency Supplies:

• Water, one gallon per person per day
• Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
• Flashlight
• AM/FM radio with extra batteries
• First aid kit with medications
• Small tool kit to turn off utilities
• Matches, paper, pencil, etc.
• Personal items such as soap and a toothbrush
• Infant, child and elder care items

Learn more about Gila River Indian Community health and safety emergency planning and preparedness by contacting the Office of Emergency Management (520) 796-3755 or go online to gricready.org OR gricready.com.