Gila River Indian News

Trines stand together on protecting culturally significant South Mountain
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

At the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona building in Phoenix, Ariz., on Feb. 10, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone spoke with members of the Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) about the Community’s effort to halt the construction of the Loop 202.

ITAA passed a resolution to support efforts to stop the South Mountain Freeway through the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Tohono O’odham Nation, which also has cultural connections to Monday Doag, has filed an amicus brief, which is a series of documents outlining the issues related to the construction of the South Mountain Freeway.

In addition to the amicus brief, an opening brief was submitted by the Community, which they expect to have a date in the court of appeals.

Gov. Lewis said whether it is from the state or federal governments, there needs to be a fair and respectful consultation process with tribal governments on issues that impact them.

He said the Arizona Department of Transportation’s consultation process is faulty, because they did not take into account the Community’s religious freedom and the environmental impact the freeway will have on the area.

Gov. Antone said the construction of the Loop 202, it is devastating the cultural connections the O’otham have to South Mountain, which is used for traditional prayer runs and many traditional ceremonies.

She said, there were never consultations and in recent meetings the Army Corps of Engineers were notified of concerns of flood drainage on the Community land that will cause harm to the environment, which is home to a variety of specific plants and animals.

Lewis said that the Community, how this new administration will honor the consultation process between the tribal nations and the federal government, which has a trust responsibility to work with tribes in their best interests,” said Lewis.

Many tribal leaders at the meeting support the Community and passed the resolution to reaffirm that all tribes stand united in protecting culturally significant lands at risk of devastation.

72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising to be held on Feb. 25
Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Seventy-two years ago the island of Iwo Jima was the scene of a massive and grueling battle between the United States and the Empire of Japan from Feb. 19 – March 26, 1945. Over 110,000 United States soldiers, including the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy corpsmen, and the United States Air Force invaded the small rocky island, beginning a five-week battle.

When the smoke cleared and the fighting was over Mount Suribachi, 6,821 U.S. servicemen and over 18,000 soldiers of Imperial Japan Army lost their lives.

In honor of the U.S. servicemen who died during the Battle of Iwo Jima, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84 is hosting the 72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising on Feb. 25 in Sacaton, Ariz.

The event will include a parade, a fly over by a B-17 Flying Fortress and a Boeing Stearman Model 75, special guest speakers, a hot lunch, and powwow.

Post 84 Event Coordinator, Oscar Urrea, said the annual event attracts veterans groups from all around the U.S. with crowds sometimes growing to over 1,500 people.

Urrea said that the parade, which has around 100 entries, will begin around 8:30 a.m. starting at Skill Center Road. The parade will then head east down Casa Blanca Road and end at the Matthew B. Juan - Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park.

“Once at the park we have a massing of colors,” said Urrea. “That means all the different veterans groups come together in a circle and march forward in those group colors.

After the massing of colors, guest speakers will present on stage around 10:30 a.m., shorty followed by a lunch served around noon.

Urrea said that after guests are finished with lunch, they will be directed toward the Sacaton Fairground where the powwow will be held.

Post 84 Adjutant Tony McDaniel, said that there is a special invitation out to all World War II veterans, and that for more information email imt84@hotmail.com or call (520) 562-8484.

File photo of the 2016 Iwo Jima Anniversary parade.

Gila River Indian Gaming Enterprises names new CEO

Gila River Indian News

Gaming Enterprises on Feb. 1.

It is the first time a Community member has been selected to head up the GRGE Enterprises’ casino operations, which is a major source of revenue for GRIC.

According to a GRG press release, “The announcement comes after an intensive search and selection process by Gila River Gaming Enterprises’ Interim Oversight and Planning Committee, consisting of five Gila River Indian Community tribal council members.”

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone expressed their words of encouragement and admiration for the new CEO, who is from District 4.

Lomahquahu indicated the Interim Oversight and Planning Committee for selecting Manuel for the position of CEO.

He said it is a clear demonstration of the Community’s ability to cultivate individuals who look to pursue leadership positions.

Antone said that the Community is bound to assure that Manuel can continue to move the gaming enterprises forward in these critical times.

Manuel said, “There have been many that have contributed to my success, starting with my parents who are [here] today and [this] Community.

The press release said Manuel has spent 22 years working for the enterprise in various leadership positions that began in 1994 working as a slot manager.

He said, “We have so many individuals who have contributed to our success and it is not only a great day for me, but for them as well, because it is from them that I draw my strength and courage to do what I do on a daily basis.”

A few of his recent accolades include being part of the ever-growing expansion of GRGE properties and projects like the renovation of the Lone Butte Casino in 2015 and the Vee Quiva Hotel & Casino, which was completed in 2013, said the press release.

“We succeed together, not just the folks in this room, but all of the 2,500 plus team members back at the Enterprise and all of the interface volunteers help gardening and work with kids
HHC: Talking about the Weather
GRFD members graduate
GRPD Incident Logs
GRPB Officers Reserve Program
Siblings named Indian Youth of Lawrence Royalty
Inno-Nations program to help biz
DSO Attorneys graduate from Gideon’s Promise

Continued on Page 9
Carnival

Food  Games  Prizes

Mar 17 Friday

Huhugam Heritage Center
For more information call: 520.796.3500

Elders Day 2017

The Grill - Breakfast 7 a.m to 10 a.m.
Grab & Go - Beverages 7 a.m to 5:30 p.m.
Daily Lunch Special 11 a.m to 1:30 p.m.
The Grill - Lunch 11 a.m to 5:30 p.m.

Gila River Indian Community
Crisis Hotline
1 (800) 259-3449

GRHC: 520.562.3321 grhc.org

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Tasty, Healthy Smoothies
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At Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

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Two Community members retire after almost three decades of service

Tribal leadership stopped by the GRIC Courthouse to congratulate Robert Luna on his retirement. From left, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Robert Luna, and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

He said that his time working with the Community first began in 1991, when he entered a GRIC Employment and Training program, which led him to working for the City of Phoenix, and eventually back to Gila River to work as a file clerk and receptionist.

Luna said that when he first began working for the tribe, he was used to replace a phone-recording machine.

“Back then, during the lunch hour from noon to 1 p.m., there was a recording system that answered the phones when Community members called the Tribal Administration Office. I was hired and replaced the recording machine,” he laughed.

Luna’s plans for retirement are travel and family. He said that he will be busy taking care of and helping out his family, and when he has time, he plans to travel to Washington to visit his brother and eventually make the trip to the East Coast for a visit to Niagara Falls.

The two retirees were honored and celebrated in one of the Justice Center’s courtrooms where coworkers and friends gave personal anecdotes on how Luna and Bilagody each had an effect on their lives and professional careers.

GRIC Judge Dallas De Lowe, talked about how he knew each of the men had God in their lives and that the Creator would bless them on their new path. He then sang several O’otham songs to the retirees.

Before parting for a BBQ lunch and refreshments, Luna ended the gathering with a few words of advice for his work colleagues.

“You are an awesome work force and what you do for the Community is tremendous, always remember the people we serve and smile,” he said. “To all of you, thank you for being a part of my second family and God bless you.”
A panel of water policy experts discussed the importance of water sustainability at the Arizona Tribal Water Sustainability briefing held at Arizona State University on Feb. 2.

The panel discussed the challenges and opportunities for water sustainability, emphasizing the need for tribes to be actively involved in the decision-making process. The panelists highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnerships among tribes, governments, and communities to ensure effective water management.

The panelists noted the need for tribes to have a seat at the table in water policy discussions and emphasized the importance of having their voices heard. They also discussed the need for tribes to be involved in the management of water resources to ensure that their cultural and environmental values are considered.

The panelists also highlighted the need for tribes to be proactive in addressing water-related issues and to develop strategies to ensure their sustainability. They noted the importance of collaboration and partnerships in achieving these goals.

The panelists emphasized the need for tribes to be involved in the management of water resources to ensure that their cultural and environmental values are considered. They also noted the need for tribes to be proactive in addressing water-related issues and to develop strategies to ensure their sustainability.

The panelists concluded by encouraging tribes to be active partners in water policy discussions and to develop strategies to ensure their sustainability. They emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnerships in achieving these goals.
scheduled for February 2, 2017 at the Community Events – • Next months’ PD Comp Stat community meeting will be held Thurs-day March 2, 2017 at the Gila River Police Depart-ment from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

• We will be hosting our “Coffee with a Cop” scheduled for February 22, 2017 from 08:30 am to 10:00 am at the District 5 Service Center.

Gila River Police officers responded to 566 calls for service and made 44 ar-rests.

District One:

Aggravated Assault – The suspect assaulted the victim after a domestic dis-pute. The victim was found to have bite marks on her arms along with bruising and scratches. The victim also claimed to have been strangled by the suspect, including being thrown to the floor.

Status: Under Investiga-tion

District Four:

Aggravated Assault – A male sus-pect committed burglary of the victim's home and stole several cartons of cigarettes.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

District Five:

Aggravated Assault – During the course of a ver-bal altercation the suspect grabbed a steak knife. The suspect proceeded to strike the victim, while holding her child, resulting in minor injuries. Individuals re-ceived medical attention at a nearby hospital.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Aggravated Assault – The suspect stabbed her ex-boyfriend with a knife during a verbal altercation at the suspect’s residence. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treat-ment of non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Suspect was ar-rested.

Theft – A suspect stole a blue mountain bicycle from a residence in the early morning hours.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

District Seven:

Aggravated Assault – The suspect reported a patron left the res-taurant without paying the re-mainder of her balance.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – The suspect was ar-rested. The victim's purse from her ve-hicle while parked at the hospital.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A suspect was de-layed reporting a theft from a truck. The suspect was located near the scene and reported the theft.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – The suspect stole a motorcycle and a chain link fence at a local farm. The reporting party informed officers that the fence had been cut and bales of hay had been sto-len from the barn.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Aggravated Assault – The suspect stabbed her ex-boyfriend with a knife while walking out of the store without paying for the merchandise.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A suspect proceeded to strike the victim with a brick. The victim was struck with a brick. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

District Six:

Aggravated Assault – The suspect assaulted his brother by striking him in the head with a hammer. The victim re-ceived a small laceration on the back of his head and a concussion.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

District Three:

Theft – A male suspect removed the sus-pect from a vehicle while parked at the Vee Quiva Casino Smoke Shop.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – The suspect was arrested. A female carton of cigarettes was stolen from a residence in the early morning hours.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A female suspect was arrested. She received a small laceration on the back of the head.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A suspect attempted to steal vehicles parked on the road.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A suspect reported theft of her IPhone at Skyline Middle School.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A suspect was arrested. A male suspect removed the property of the store was located near the scene and property of the store.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.

Theft – A suspect proceeded to strike the victim with a brick. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Status: Under Investiga-tion.
Interface flooring company brings volunteers to help around the Community

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Interface is an international flooring and modular commercial tile carpet company that is committed to environmental and social sustainability. Late last month, during a salesperson conference at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, the company took a day to give back to the Gila River Indian Community.

On January 31, Interface employees spent time volunteering at schools and youth centers throughout the Gila River Indian Community, as well as in a community garden.

“From a sustainability standpoint, we just believe it’s the right thing to do,” said Interface President Matt Miller. “Frankly, the social aspect is a very clear definition of sustainability. How do we make areas and communities and the places we touch more sustainable themselves?”

Approximately 250 Interface salespeople visited two Boys & Girls Clubs, two Head Starts, the Casa Blanca Community School and the community garden at the Wellington Ranch.

The largest group, of about 115 staff, rolled into the Wellington property in two large buses. There, some Interface staff played games with GRIC youth in adoptive and foster care in association with the non-profit Three Precious Miracles (TPM), while others lent a hand to the revitalization of the community garden.

Norman Wellington, owner of the ranch, thanked the guests for taking time away from their conference to contribute to the community. “This past year I’ve been working with the Community Garden Project under a grant, and the grant kind of went away. So what I was wanting to do was to still be able to provide a service to the community,” he said. Wellington hopes the garden will continue to provide food for community members and he intends to put the property to use as a venue for weddings or other celebratory events.

Interface painted a gazebo, built a chicken coop, tilled earth, weeded the garden, planted seeds, and put together wooden tables for displaying and selling garden produce.

On the other side of the property, dozens of families with foster and adoptive children played in a sun-splashed lawn.

Elisia Manuel, founder of TPM, used her network of foster and adoptive families to bring their children out to the Wellington Ranch. Kids made bracelets and other crafts, played games, had their faces painted, and met Gila River Police Department officers.

At the District 6 Head Start Center volunteers assist the children in making planting pots with decorations.

“A lot of the kids are placed in non-Native homes and they’re off the reservation, so they [rarely] get the opportunity to come back to the reservation,” said Manuel. “We want to be able to provide these type of events to them to say, ‘Come back to your community. You’re welcome here.’”

They also learned about the history and culture of Gila River and other Native American communities in Arizona. “I think when you have an event for our kids that are in the system, it’s important to keep that cultural connection,” she said.

Interface’s Jane Mahan coordinated the day of voluntarily. “A big part of our culture is sustainability,” she said. “We really are concerned about what goes into our own products, but also how much we affect the entire world.”

Interface holds an annual conference for its salespeople to learn about new products and get up-to-date with company sales goals. About 12 years ago, the company began measuring its impact on the communities they were visiting to host the conferences – how much water they would use, how much waste they would generate and decided to find ways to give back to every community they visited.

“So instead of one day of recreation where all of us would go to the golf course or the spa, we started breaking into teams and doing projects to help the community,” said Mahan. At the District 6 Head Start a small army of Interface volunteers planted potting soil into decorated pots they made with the children.

“A lot of the kids are placed in non-Native homes and they’re off the reservation, so they [rarely] get the opportunity to come back to the reservation,” said Manuel. “We want to be able to provide these type of events to them to say, ‘Come back to your community. You’re welcome here.’”

Mentor Teacher Mindy Alcario welcomed the guests. “I am speechless to see a group of caring people. [Our] children were anxious to get started on decorating their pots with [you all],” she said to the Interface volunteers.

Inside the recreation room the tiny tots soon made friends with the visitors adorning the ceramic pots with color decorations. Volunteers also put together garden boxes outside that will grow an assortment of flowers. Once the garden boxes were completed the kids joined in by planting the flowers, covering their roots with the layer of soil.

Interface Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dan Hendrix said the company is all about being sustainable and that the volunteer projects are one extension of that initiative. “A number of years ago it was decided that [we] wanted to give back to the community where we are having our sales meetings,” said Hendrix.

The practice benefits the communities, but the Interface employees enjoy it as well.

“I think we get more out of it than we give,” said Miller. “This has a huge impact on this organization, but we will all, individually and collectively, walk away from this having received a pretty big benefit from it ourselves.”

Christopher Lomahqua contributed to this article.
Talking about the weather

These next few months mark the beginning of the transition from the cold months of winter into the approaching heat of summer. It is the time of year when we see the most variation in our weather and where it is not uncommon to go from sunshine and warmth one day to clouds and wet weather the next. Before heading outside, it is useful always to ask someone to check what the weather is like. One way to do this in O’otham is by using the phrase “Sha: 'i chu’ig jek’keḍ?” which translates into English as “What is it like outside?” Knowing how much the weather changes this time of year, there is a whole list of possible replies including:

• Si:bañ 'o (jek’keḍ).
• Heveḍ 'o (jek’keḍ).
• Chevgig 'o (jek’keḍ).
• Gev 'o ge:sh (jek’keḍ).
• Chia 'o ge:sh (jek’keḍ).
• Hail is falling (outside).
• Snow is falling (outside).

But let’s say that we wanted to answer the question by saying the weather is really strong in some aspect (really cold, really raining, really warm). We can do this in O’otham by using the word i:vo at the beginning of the statement. The word i:vo (which is pronounced hi:vo by some speakers depending on dialect) works like the words “very” or “really” in English in that it gives emphasis to the action expressed by the verb. Once i:vo is placed at the front of the sentence it automatically requires the auxiliary ‘o to follow it as the second word in the phrase. In normal conversation this auxiliary ‘o does not get emphasized and is dropped out of the statement by most speakers which results in the following:

• I:vo ('o) ge:s heg chia (jek’keḍ).
• I:vo ('o) ge:s heg gev (jek’keḍ).
• I:vo ('o) heveḍ (jek’keḍ).
• I:vo ('o) si:bañ (jek’keḍ).
• I:vo ('o) ju:k (jek’keḍ).

Finally, if you wanted to ask a specific question regarding the weather outside, you can ask a simple yes/no question utilizing the original statements from above. This is done by using the yes/no question marker N- which attaches itself to the ‘o auxiliary and creates the yes/no question “Is it ____?” Doing this creates the following questions based on our first set of weather statements.

• No ge:s heg chia (jek’keḍ)?
• No ge:s heg gev (jek’keḍ)?
• No heveḍ (jek’keḍ)?
• No si:bañ (jek’keḍ)?
• No ju:k (jek’keḍ)?
• Is it cold (outside)?
• Is it raining (outside)?
• Is it windy (outside)?
• Is it cloudy (outside)?
• Is snow falling (outside)?
• Is hail falling (outside)?

Now you have a number of different ways to talk about the weather with your friends and family. Try using these statements and questions with one another to ask each other “Sha: ‘i chu’ig jek’keḍ?” You can see how much you know now by completing this month’s language puzzle.

Match the weather statement with its weather element!

Si:bañ ‘o.
Gev ‘o ge:sh.
Jack ‘o.
Chevgig ‘o.
Chia ‘o ge:sh.
Heveḍ ‘o.

**First Friday Chalk Art Event**

Be sure to stop by with the Kids and encourage your budding artist to create his or her own masterpiece.

**March 3 2017**

5pm-9pm

Free Admission

Food Vendor | Prizes | Art Vendors | Music

Huhugam Heritage Center
21359 South Maricopa Rd., Chandler, AZ 85226
520.796.3500 | grichhc.org
Three firefighters graduate from paramedic academy

On January 20, 2017, three Gila River Fire Department firefighters graduated from the Phoenix Fire Department Paramedic Academy, 16-1. Jamison Ashton, Michael Flynn and Gabri el Rubalcaba spent well over 1,200 hours in their paramedic academy which included anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, cardiac rhythm recognition and interpretation, medical and trauma scenarios, assessment and treatment, training in phlebotomy, IV starting, fluid maintenance and resuscitation.

These firefighters, once Arizona Department of EMS certified as a paramedic, will be the highest level EMTs on an emergency scene and will provide advanced life support care to all types of patients—adults, children and infants. These paramedics will also provide crisis intervention and life saving stabilization of both medical and trauma victims.

After the academy completed, these firefighter s received over 50 credit hours from Phoenix College, which will allow them to receive an Associate’s Degree in Paramedicine.

At the graduation ceremonies, Firefighter Jamison Ashton was recognized as the valedictorian of the 16-1 class. These firefighter paramedics began working on Gila River Fire engines shortly after their graduation.
Manuel introduced as new GRGE CEO from page 1

The Gila River Police Department is looking for volunteers to join its Reserve Officer program. The volunteer Reserve Officer program allows Community members, and non-members, the opportunity to take part in the day-to-day duties as a police officer at GRPD and help serve the Gila River Indian Community.

Unlike GRPD’s Volunteer Police (VIP) program that allows volunteers to participate in non-confrontational duties like funeral escorts, administrative work, and park control, the Reserve Officer program enables volunteers to participate in the same duties as a GRPD officer, like taking calls of service, conducting investigations and making arrests.

GRPD Sgt. Paul Maroney said the role, while non-compensated, is a fully sworn position that is open to Community members and former police officers who have left GRPD or another police department in good standing.

“The reserve officer will do everything a full capacity officer does,” said Maroney. “So, when the reserve officer reports for duty and there is a call for service like a domestic disturbance, the reserve officer will respond as a primary officer, or a back-up officer, and assist. If there is a vehicle collision, a DUI, or shots fired, the reserve officer will respond just like a regular full time police officer.”

He added that the position is geared towards individuals who are pre-viously police officers or Rangers. These individuals may currently have other jobs or careers, but still want to serve the Community as a police officer, he said.

Because the level of responsibility for a volunteer reserve officer position is much greater than the VIPs program or Citizen’s Police Academy, the requirements are more stringent. In order to be eligible for the Reserve Officer program, volcanee applicants must have or obtain their peace officer certification.

“The program is a component of the [VIPs program], but this is the next step up,” said Maroney. “You are actually a certified sworn officer with the ability to arrest, conduct investigations, assist with traffic enforcement, and participate in continuous training,” he said.

At Qualified To Join The Reserve Officer Program?

A Community member has met the minimal Arizona Peace Officer Standards and qualifications to join the Reserve Officer program, then the applicant will be eligible for a position at the Reserve Academy. At the academy, interested participants will be properly trained to be Sworn Peace Officers, and become qualified to join the Reserve Officer program and serve the Community.

“As part of the selection process the applicant will be held to the same standards of background investigation as the rest of the officers of GRPD,” said Maroney.

He said the closest location for training is Chandler-Gilbert Community College and involves an 11-month course with classes three times a week, totaling 20 hours a week. After passing the academy participants will receive the same certification as from any other police academy.

After receiving certification, the trainee will go through a field-training program provided by the GRPD and be trained up to a limited solo status where they can serve the Community.

If you are a Community member, who was previously a police officer or Ranger and are looking to get back on the beat to serve the Community, or if you have no experience and are interested in learning more about how to join GRPD’s Reserve Officer program, call Sgt. Paul Ma-

roney at (520) 562-7114 or call GRIC Tribal Employment and Training at (520) 562-3388.

Housing groups meet at Vee Quiva

Tribal Housing representatives from the South-west met at the Vee Quiva Hotel and Casino on Feb. 7 for the Southwest Office of Native American Programs Annual Roundtable meeting. Also present at the meeting was a Gila Indian Tribal Housing Association, separated into two tribal offices, the former Southwest Indian Tribal Housing Association, which covers Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, and the Nevada/ California Indian Housing Association and for the first time both organizations met with Housing and Urban Development Lt. Governor Monica Antone welcomed SWTHA to the Gila River Indian Community. In her statement, she acknowledged the SWTHA board members for bringing this much needed Housing Conference to help tribes understand HUD regulations and is important to Indian housing block grants. This is the 1st time Nevada tribes and California came together in Arizona. With things changing at the Federal Government level and not knowing the future of housing block grants for Native Communities. Now is the time to stand together, she said. She also gave a special thanks to Laurie Thomas her Deputy Director for the Department of Community Housing and all GRIC housing staff for their hard work and dedication.

“Want to develop strong partnerships, opportunities for communication and make the Southwest as outstanding as it could possibly be for our country,” said Carolyn O’Neil, Administrator, HUD, Southwest Office of Native American Programs.

The meeting was also a chance for the members of each group to network and collaborate. “These meetings are very informative and help presenting best practices in Indian Country with meeting housing needs,” said Laurie Thomas.

O’Neil also said they were going to discuss how to operate under the Trump administration. “We need to work together because we just don’t know what to expect,” said O’Neil.

As part of KTT’s mission, Gooden organized the Keeping Teachers Teaching 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament on Feb. 12 at Main Event in Tempe. Local schools teamed up to bowl, network and collaborate on their goals in education. Pima Leasing Financial Corp. sponsored teachers from Gila Crossing Community School and Sacaton Middle School to participate in the tournament.

“I would like to thank Gila River for giving me this opportunity... that we can give back to our teachers in Sacaton and Gila Crossing,” said Gooden.

Following the tournament the educators and guests listened to Gooden and guest speakers Rep. Isela Blanc, D-Tempe, and Tempe Police Chief Sylvia Moir discuss the importance of teachers in local communities.

As an added incentive for attending the event KTT raffled many prizes for the teachers including laptop computers, printers and household and outdoor items.

The event also included many first responders like Ryan Rivas, Fire Engineer from the Gila River Fire Department. “We all at public safety appreciate what they do and how they affect the Community as well,” said Rivas.
GRIC members selected as Miss Indian Youth of Lawrence and Indian Youth Brave
Native American Student Services of Lawrence Public Schools/USD 497 announces Indian Youth of Lawrence royalty

Submitted by Jennifer Attocnie
Native American Student Services

Lawrence, Kan., Jan. 30, 2017—Native American Student Services is pleased to announce the winners and runner up for our 2017 Ambassadors. The Jr. Miss Youth Runner-Up, Alicia Robin, Oglala Lakota and Three Middle School, 8th grade, is Devon Yellow Bird, South Omaha Tribe. Jr. Miss is Derek White, Kickapoo/Citizen Band.

From left, Kaitlen White, Miss Indian Youth of Lawrence, and Derek White Jr., Indian Youth of Lawrence Brave.

3rd Annual E-Commerce Conference held at Wild Horse Pass

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Conner College of Law Indian Legal Program hosted the Sovereignty and E-Commerce conference at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino on Feb 2 and 3.

The theme of this year’s conference, “Innovating and Reshaping the Borders of Indian Country,” is about bringing broadband Internet to rural tribal communities throughout the U.S.

Chairperson and Gila River Indian Utility Authority Chairman John Lewis, moderated a panel discussion called “Broadband and Telecommunications Infrastructure Development in Indian Country.”

Lewis used the community’s Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., as an example of how a tribally operated business can bring broadband services to its member’s homes.

He said it took 25 years for GRTI to become an “overnight success,” because there were so many steps to get there today.

Lewis said establishing partnerships with the federal government is crucial to establishing a telecommunications business and that funding is also a major contributor as well.

He pointed out that having access to reliable broadband is an essential utility that is as important as having water and electricity, because many of the community’s entities and members rely on it for their day-to-day transactions.

One of the panelists, Lael Echo-Hawk, a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and Of Counsel for Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP, was emphatic about the need for broadband across Indian Country.

“It is incumbent upon

Employee retires after 24 years of hard work

John Lewis moderates a panel at the ASU Sandra Day O’Conner College of Law Indian Legal Program’s Sovereignty and E-Commerce Conference on Feb. 3.

If the infrastructure is not available.

Federal agencies like the Federal Communications Committees’ Office of Native American Programs have been instrumental in getting tribal telecommunications businesses off the ground.

Echo-Hawk said, the real issues that impact tribes is not having the foundation or building blocks needed to bring broadband into their community.

How can tribes overcome the lack of broadband infrastructure?

Echo-Hawk said that tribes will need to take it upon themselves to partner up with network carriers, ranging from reciting poetry in German, and playing orchestral instruments such as flute and violin to presenting traditional tribal dance, artwork and knowledge.

They were supported by their families and friends as well as a few teachers in attendance.

Special thanks to the judges Jancita Warrington, Haskell Cultural Center, Potawatomi/Menominee; Tracey Morris, Head Start Family Engagement Coordinator, Lawrence, North Carolina Cherokee; and Judith Snyder, elder, re-tiress, Haskell alumnaus, Kickapoo/Citizen Band Potawatomi/Ashiniboine of Lawrence.

Native American Student Services of Lawrence Public Schools serves the American Indian/Alaska Native student population, kindergarten through 12th grade.

It is funded by Title VII and Johnson O’Malley federal grants as a partial fulfillment of treaty obligations. USD 497 has about a 5% Native student population, representing almost 100 tribal nations. This wide variety of diversity within this group of about 560 students is due to the proximity to Haskell Indian Nations University, the only inter-tribal university in the U.S.

Deb Eve (front, left) presents Gila River Indian Community Land Use Officer Paul Shorthair with a plaque in appreciation for his years of service in working with the Casa Grande O’odham Tash Pony Express Riders. On horseback from left: Charlotte McGrew, Wendy Riley, Lisa Sevilla, and Marcel Mattie.

Pony Express visits for O’odham Tash

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Inno-Nations program to help Native business community

Christopher Lomahquahu
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From a scribble of notes on a paper napkin to retail transactions, Arizona State University is looking for Native entrepreneurs, who want to get a head start on their business.

The ASU Office of American Indian Policy Institute is teaming up with the Entrepreneurship + Innovation program within the University to attract Native entrepreneurs, who would like to participate in the Inno-Nations initiative program.

In an AIPI press release, Director Traci Morris said, the need for programs like Inno-Nations initiative help support the Native business community and contribute to their economies in a sustainable way.

American Indian Initiatives and American Indian Policy Institute Communications Specialist Sharon Tom, “We hope this ‘incubator’ program can help them get their ideas out and really get a solid idea and hopefully develop a strong business strategy by attending [this] program.” ASU will work in partnership with the Maricopa County Small Business Development Center, the Native American Finance Officers Association and “The Visionary” business magazine, which spotlights local Native entrepreneurs.

The cohort program can expect to accommodate 12-15 individuals, who will go through a three-day program starting in June of this year.

Each day of the program, participants will be introduced into the world of business by industry professionals, who will share their business strategies and success stories.

Tom said the whole purpose for the program, “It’s about taking [their] business idea from conception to something more concrete.”

In order to house the cohort program, The Department, an office space that is a hub of start up businesses activity will be rented out in downtown Phoenix.

It was also chosen because of its central location to Natives coming from all parts of the valley and surrounding tribal communities.

Morris said, “We see the need, and the Phoenix Valley has a very large urban Indian population with a strong commitment to tribal business owners and is surrounded by tribes with tribal enterprises.”

Tom said that among the Hispanic and African-American communities there is a strong presence of support for businesses in their communities, but within the Native community, ASU would like to help Native entrepreneurs create a similar environment.

In March the Inno-Nations program will kick off events that will include a series of talks given by entrepreneurs, who will share their success stories.

Jessica Metcalfe, who is the owner of the online fashion boutique Beyond Buckskin, will be speaking at The Department on March 1.

As a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indians, Metcalfe started her own online boutique showcasing contemporary Native artist and designers in fashion.

On her website there are over 40 featured artists that create unique fashion designs and accessories that are inspired by the tribes they represent.

Tom said that her part in the Native fashion movement has been a case example of taking an online blog and expanding it out into the retail industry where business transactions are made.

Whether it is beadwork, a traditional image printed on a T-shirt, or an evening dress, each of the garments represents a statement about Natives having a place in today’s fashion design industry.

As a participant in the Inno-Nations program the opportunities are endless for those looking to network and expand their business and are open to anyone who would like to market their product to a broader audience.

Tom said, “It’s really about helping Native entrepreneurs connect with resources that will help them develop the best way of starting their business.”

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Inno-Nations program can go to Inno-Nations.org, email at Inno-Nations@asu.edu or give them a call at (480) 965-1055.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The Community Services Department and the Executive Office including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Community Manager Pamela Thompson held a meeting at Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino in Chandler, Ariz., on Feb. 7. The meeting included welcome addresses from Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Antone as well as an introduction from the Community Manager. There was a presentation of CSD programs like WIC, Elderly Nutrition, Recreation & Wellness, among others. The District Service Centers also presented with each Coordinator discussing their districts.

Photo credit: ASU, American Indian Policy Institute

The ASU Office of American Indian Policy Institute is teaming up with the Entrepreneurship + Innovation Program to attract entrepreneurs to participate in the newly created Inno-Nations initiative.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Photo credit: ASU, American Indian Policy Institute

The ASU Office of American Indian Policy Institute is teaming up with the Entrepreneurship + Innovation Program to attract entrepreneurs to participate in the newly created Inno-Nations initiative.
ACTION SHEET
Community Council; PO Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729
CALL TO ORDER
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council was held Wednesday February 1, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona, was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg
D2- Carolyn Williams
D3- Carolyn Williams, (9:06), Rodney Jackson
D4- Nada Celaya, Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison (11:30), Barney Enos, Jr., D5-Marilyn Dixon, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr., D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth (9:20), Sandra Nasewayewa, D7- Dawin Redbird (11:30) Council Members Absent: D5- Brian Davis, Sr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)
1. GRHC Introduction of Alvaro Cañez, Life Center Director
   Presenter: Dr. Jessica Doney
   MS. JESSICA DONEY INTRODUCED MR. ALVARO CAÑEZ. MR. CAÑEZ PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND ONGOING CONCERNS OF THE FACILITY.

2. GRHC Introduction of Alvaro Cañez, Life Center Director
   Presenter: Dr. Jessica Doney
   MS. JESSICA DONEY INTRODUCED MR. ALVARO CAÑEZ. MR. CAÑEZ PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND ONGOING CONCERNS.

3. GRGE Chief Executive Officer
   Presenters: Akin Gump, Linus Everling
   MS. JESSICA DONEY INTRODUCED MR. AYLAO CANEZ. MR. CANEZ PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND ONGOING CONCERNS.

4. Mission Statement and Ground Rules
   Presenters: Linus Everling, PPP Representative (Community Consultants)
   1. A Resolution Approving Revision To The Gila River Indian Community Water OM&R Trust Fund Tribal Management Plan And Agreement To Provide An Annual Audit And Report On Performance Of Withdrawn Funds To The Tribal Membership (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NSRC concurs)
   2. A Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The City Of Chandler And The Gila River Indian Community To Extend Utility Services To The Red Tail Hawk Plaza And District Health Center (A.K.A. Southeast Ambulatory Care Center) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; with noted corrections; H&SSC concurs with G&MSC w/ additional corrections to resolution and to include a memorandum showing changes to be made to the agreement before it is signed by governor)
   Presenter: Rebecca Hall
   APPROVED
   3. A Resolution Approving The General Location For Gila River Sand & Gravel Corporation To Develop And Operate A New Sand And Gravel Plant In District One (NSRC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs)
The core of it is teaching you how to be a better public defender and a better advocate on behalf of your client,” said Peacock. “What Gideon’s does best is to teach empathy and compassion. They teach you how to bring your clients’ story into the criminal justice system.”

Peacock said that many training programs focus on the technicalities of the criminal justice system, like introducing evidence and conducting cross-examinations. However, the GP’s training program takes it a step further by teaching attorneys to create a more client-centered relationship.

“Your client usually has no voice,” said Peacock. “[By] not telling their story, the prosecutor, the judge, they are only getting half of it. Gideon’s teaches if you can convey your client’s story and background, you may end up with a better result in the end.”

Humanizing their clients is a way to get better results in the courtroom, and the three recent GP graduates agree, if they perform better for their clients the Community will also benefit.

“It’s not just being a better public defender,” said Carreras. “It’s really being a better attorney for the Community.” The DSO has a walk-in policy, and while it is partly right, according to [the court case Gideon’s vs. Wainwright], according to [the U.S. Constitution], you deserve to have somebody by your side, speaking your voice,” he said.

DSO attorney Landon, said that in today’s justice system many criminal defendants can be viewed as just another number being processed and that GP teaches them to remind the prosecutors, the judges, the juries, to remember that they are dealing with real people.

Most of us are lucky enough that we have never even stood in court or been on trial, and we have never had the worst thing we ever did happen to us, but if we did have all judged based on the worst thing we ever did, I think we would all be very frightened,” Landon said. “But for our clients that is exactly what happens everyday, they are brought up before the public and [their crime] is read out [loud], probably the worst thing that they have done or been accused of doing,” he added.

“It is really easy [to believe someone is guilty] especially because of the legal series, Law & Order, wearing chains and in a line of 20 other people wearing orange. It is easy to fall into the trap of viewing them as a number,” Landon said.

“[GFP] reminds us that regards of how over worked you may be, you have to remind the court and everybody else involved that this is a person and they have a mom, a dad, children, [go to] school, work any number of things other than this horrible thing they are being accused of at [that moment].”

DSO Director Claude Jackson, who attended the attorneys’ graduation in May and took part in the program’s leadership summit, said that the whole point of sending GRICUA attorneys to GP is to not just help Commuity members better judge, but to actually help them move forward in their lives.

Jackson said that they could approach the situation by coming to a client with a plea offer, giving a reduced sentence and feel the job has been done well. However, that doesn’t fix the initial problem of their client committing the crime, it only punishes them.

“Knowing this person doesn’t have any job prospects, has limited education, comes from a family that may have been abusive,” said Jackson. “Have I done anything to set this person up? Has the Community done anything after their jail sentence? Their probability of re-offending is.

“If [someone] says they need help, they need help with drugs or mental health, then they can make a phone call,” said Jackson. “I can call someone and say Hey, can this person get help with the problems they are currently facing. 24-years-old, are they lost, they want help, how can we help them.”

“That is what we do,” said Jackson.

For more information about the Gila River Indian Community’s Defense Services program, call (520) 562-5700.
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