GRIC, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sign agreement meant to move parties forward on drought contingency plan

D3 Elder Honored called a ‘Grandmother to Everyone’

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Corrine Escalante, District 3, was honored at an Elderly Concerns Meeting, held at Vee Quiva Casino, Jan. 11.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis signs the Drought Contingency Plan in Sacaton on Jan. 18. From left, Donald R. Pongrace, Akin Gump, Linus Everling, GRIC General Counsel; Gov. Lewis, Rod Lewis, former GRIC General Counsel and Katie Brossy, Akin Gump.

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

On Jan. 19, the Gila River Indian Community Council approved and the Governor Stephen R. Lewis executed agreements with the United States that will allow Arizona parties to continue their negotiations and efforts to conclude a Drought Contingency Plan, or DCP, to address the severe drought on the Colorado River.

These agreements, called the DCP+ Principles Agreement and “Bridge System Conservation Implementation Agreement” have three major components. One, the DCP+ Principles Agreement sets forth major principles on which the United States and the Community agree for purposes of a subsequent “DCP+ Agreement”, which is a necessary condition for Arizona participation in

Continued on Page 3

Pima cotton comes back to Community after two decades

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

While cotton has been a staple fiber used by mankind for thousands of years, there is a more modern and luxurious variation of the plant that stakes its birthplace within the Gila River Indian Community. Pima cotton, or Supima cotton as it is also known, has been making a comeback at Gila River Farms (GRF) for the first time the farm has delved into growing Pima cotton, it is not the first time the farm has delved into the luxury cotton market.

The crop, which in some time since the fields of GRF have

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GRIC, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sign agreement meant to move parties forward on drought contingency plan

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WailaFest held at Rawhide, scholarships given
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Drought Contingency Plan from Page 1

Two, it also sets forth a commitment by the Community and the United States to work together to find ways to conserve additional water on Reservation and provide a mechanism for Central Arizona Project reliability and flexibility features in the Community’s water delivery system. Three, under the Bridge System Conservation Implementation Agreement the Community will commit 40,000 acre-feet of its Central Arizona Project water entitlement to remain in Lake Mead in 2017. This commitment by the Community makes it possible for the overall water conservation efforts contemplated in the proposed DCP+ Agreement to succeed in 2017 while the Arizona parties continue their discussions to finalize it.

These agreements are part of a comprehensive Secretarial Order issued by Secretary Jewell that sets forth the Department of the Interior’s broad initiative for addressing severe drought conditions on the Colorado River. Governor Stephen Lewis stated, “Our agreement with the Department of the Interior is an essential step toward a plan for comprehensively addressing Arizona’s pressing drought problem. The Community is working hard to try and create a framework that will work for all in the State and is pleased with this very successful first step in that right direction. We want to thank the Commissioner of Reclamation,Estepen Lopez, and his entire team for their tireless efforts and we very much appreciate our cooperation with them. This is just the beginning, but it is an essential first step, and this agreement provides federal support for essential infrastructure needed to ensure reliability and flexibility for our CAP water delivery system.”

According to a Department of Interior news release, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell issued the Secretarial Order on Jan. 18, directing the DOI, along with its bureaus, to continue working to finalize drought contingency plans to assist in reducing water shortages in the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins. The order also directs the DOI and its bureaus to come to agreement on the Colorado River bi-national cooperative agreements.

Secretary Jewell said in the news release, “I am proud of the tremendous progress we have made over the last eight years to work with our basin states, tribal and Mexican partners to address water resource challenges in the Colorado River Basin,” said Secretary Jewell. “With water from the Colorado River supporting the life and livelihood for an estimated 40 million people, it is absolutely critical for the Department of the Interior to continue to build on this progress and finalize these agreements.”

DOI Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor said in the release “The Department of the Interior has worked tirelessly with its partners to come to agreements to ensure that all the basin stakeholders move forward with coordinated plans to address the increasing challenges facing all Colorado River communities. This Secretarial Order ensures that Interior will continue to provide essential support for critical actions and pave the way to help carry these important agreements across the finish line.”
Terry Willis
Coolidge High School

Coolidge High School senior Charisma Quiroz received a $400 scholarship from the Arizona Indian Education Association. Students prepared an essay for their scholarship. Charisma’s received the “Make a Difference Outstanding American Indian High School Student” award. She was awarded flowers and a card of congratulations.

On Nov. 29-30, Charisma attended the American Indian University Youth Conference at the University of Arizona. The two-day workshop consisted of welcoming, blessing, keynote speakers, a college panel and an evening event “The Cherokee Word for Water.” Some of the workshops were promoting Tribal Sovereignty, Empowering Native Youth, Water is Life and Nation building for Tribal Wellness. Charisma was selected among over 300 applications. Her essay was written and was nothing more than inspiring and was geared to student living between a society of cultural heritage in today’s lifestyle.

Some of the highlights of Charisma’s essay included how important it is when you invest your time, you make a good decision of something that you wish to accomplish, whether it is making good grades in school, be a great athlete, being a great person or just going down to some community service and help someone who is in need. Charisma spoke of many people who have inspired her along her journey. Speech Therapist Ann Johnson from Blackwater Youth Community School was one of them, as she states in her essay. She was very inspiring to her and helped her overcome many challenges.

Charisma is part of the Akimel O’odham Pecosh Youth Council and has been a Representative for four years. Charisma said her term has ended, but is not the end of my story.

Charisma challenges herself daily. She is involved in many school activities such as FFA, has been a part of JROTC, the National Honor Society, City of Coolidge Young Council, she has received many awards in her four years of high school including Honor Student, Academic Achievement, Chief Azule Award and also attended the WOA Program. She is very involved in her community. She attends many meetings for a variety of needs.

She was Jr. Miss Gila River 2015-2016. She is a part of the Akimel O’odham Basket Dance Group. Charisma spends many hours volunteering in her community for including helping the youth and spending time with elders. She has a unique passion for all people.

I have had the great opportunity to know Charisma for over four years. During that time she has shown a warm and caring positive attitude for all. She is a true role model here on the Coolidge High School campus and has a positive attitude always! She is truly liked by her administration, teachers and her peers.

Charisma will be attending the University of Arizona and majoring in Political Science. Charisma has done an outstanding job in high school years. I have no doubts that she will succeed in all that awaits her in her future.

Charisma is courageous, kind and very consistent. I am confident she will do a great job bringing back much experience, growth and a variety of knowledge to her community. She is a positive asset to all that know her, kind and full of life! Her story does not end here! Congratulations Charisma for “Making A Difference.”
January 1 – 7, 2017

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

January 1 – 7, 2017

Gila River Indian News

January 20, 2017

Aggravated Assault – The victim states while sleeping she was unknowingly moved and when awoke she was outside of the residence. A male was standing near her talking to her when she awoke. As she left the residence she realized she was sexually assaulted and notified police. Criminal Investigations Detectives took over the investigation.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A compressor was stolen from under the porch area during early morning hours

Status: Under Investigation

District Two - (Sacaton, Fendy):

Theft- The victim stated they were in a mall the male allegedly impaled the victim with a knife and when questioned stated he was drunk.

Status: Under Investigation

District Three - (Sacaton, Fendy):

Theft - A vending newspaper machine was taken from the Sacaton Super Mart; the victim stated he received a call indicating his machine was found in the desert area of Azaile Station.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – The victim states that her ex-boyfriend physically assaulted her and placed a gun to her head. Criminal Investigation Detectives took over the investigation.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – A juvenile victim was stabbed twice and air lifted to a neighboring hospital where they underwent surgery for non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The victim reported that their Making Chevy Impala was taken without permission and reported to dispatch as stolen. The vehicle was entered as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The victim stated that a family member took her vehicle without her permission and was requesting to report it as stolen. The suspect later returned to the residence with the vehicle that sustained minor damage. The suspect was taken into custody.

Status: Suspect was arrested

Shoplifting – The suspect stole a gift card from the Saks Fifth Avenue Off Fifth by removing the theft detection device and left the store without paying. Loss Prevention was able to retrieve the stolen merchandise and detain the suspect.

Status: Suspect was cited into Kyrene JP

Auto Theft – The victim reported that someone stole her white and brown Birkenstock shoes.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – The suspect was taken into custody. The victim reported the suspect was on scene when the altercation occurred.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – The victim was physically assaulted and strangled by her boyfriend of four months. The suspect was intoxicated and would not allow the victim to leave.

Status: Suspect was arrested and taken into custody

Aggravated Assault – The suspect and victim were involved in a physical altercation while intoxicated. The suspect caused injuries to the victim which resulted in the victim to be transported to Chandler Regional Hospital for his fractures and broken bones. The suspect was gone prior to officer arrival.

Status: Under Investigation

Shoplifting – The suspect stole a toy from across from the street from the Sheraton Resort Conference Rooms.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The victim reported his car being taken without his permission as it was stationary on Beltline due to having car trouble and becoming disabled. The vehicle has been recovered.

Status: Under Investigation

District Six – (Komatke):

Aggravated Assault – A juvenile victim was shot in the shoulder for unknown reasons. The juvenile was transported for non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The victim reported his car being taken without his permission as it was stationary on Beltline due to having car trouble and becoming disabled. The vehicle has been recovered.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven – (Maricopa):

No incidents regarding part 1 crime
Tribes converge at State Capitol

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Tribal leaders from across the state of Arizona attended 22nd Annual Indian Nations and Legislative Day at the Arizona State Capitol on Jan. 17.

The daylong event was an opportunity for American Indian communities to get to know their state legislature and show how meetings are held concerning important matters to tribes.

Senate President Steven Yarbrough welcomed the gathering of tribes expressing his appreciation for attending the tribal legislative day.

The Office on Tribal Relations, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, and the Arizona Indian Gaming Association organized the event to recognize American Indians for their contributions.

The sharing of culture and history are just some of the reasons tribes are recognized at the legislation day. It was also an opportunity for tribes to share ideas on health, agriculture and economic development.

With a few opening remarks Yarbrough, said it was a day for sharing stories, talking, listening and learning about the rich history of the indigenous peoples of Arizona.

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard spoke about the partnership between the state and the tribes.

He said they are responsible for thousands of jobs and billions of dollars generated by tribal gaming, which have helped improve the state’s economy.

White Mountain Apache Tribe Chairman Ronnie Lupe has had a front seat to politics that dates back to 1966.

He said tribal gaming is a beacon of success that can only be expressed in the way that it is used, which is for education, capitol projects and public safety.

“Tribal gaming supports emergency services, education, wildlife conservation and the state’s tourism industry,” said Lupe.

Lupe said despite the overwhelming success of tribal gaming, there are other tribes that live in rural areas of the state that are still working to reach the success other tribal communities have enjoyed for years.

From one leader to another Lupe encouraged his fellow tribal leaders to use the legislative day to collaborate with one another and build partnerships on matters that are important to them.

After a brief lunch break there was even more reason to stick around the capitol for presentations.

On the third floor of the old senate room of the capitol museum, a presentation on indigenous food was hosted by the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

Department Director Mark Killian talked about the importance of recognizing the state’s Native farmers and the practices they have followed for hundreds of years.

According to a press

Continued on Page 13

Thomas R. Throsell
Gila River Indian News

In this modern age of technology where every one seems to be connected through social media and can tell you what the latest hip celebrity had for breakfast this morning, the average person still might not know who their neighbors are or what types of criminal activity are occurring within their own community.

To strengthen communication between the Gila River Police Department and the people it is sworn to protect, the GRPD in partnership with LexisNexis Risk Solutions has rolled out a six-month pilot program for Community members to stay informed about local crime through an online map called Community Crime Map.

The map, which can be visited at http://communitycrimemap.com, shows all reported crimes that have occurred within GRIC since January 2016 and automatically updates itself with new data three times a day.

Information on the website details the type of crime, date, time, and general location of where criminal activity occurred.

Community members will not only be able to see and learn about crimes that occur in their own neighborhoods, they will also be able to directly send anonymous tips to GRPD.

GRPD is also working with LexisNexis on a neighborhood crime alert system that Community members can signup for that will alert them to any criminal incidents that occurs in their designated area. This alert system is currently offline but will soon be a feature in the Community Crime Map.

Continued on Page 10

The Community Crime Map will show all reported crimes in GRIC.

The Community Crime Map will show all reported crimes in GRIC.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila River Police rolls out online Community Crime Map

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis meets with state and tribal representatives at Indian Nations and Legislative Day at the Senate Building, Jan. 11.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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CELERION

Students from tribal communities visit informational booths at the Indian Nations and Legislative Day held at the Arizona State Capitol on Jan. 11.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
A common question that is often said amongst O’otham speakers is “Tho:ḍ hegai?”, which is a question that might be directed at you if you’re a newcomer or stranger amongst the group. This question literally asks “Who is he/she/that one?” and is the conversational version of the more formal phrase “Tho: ‘o vud hegai?” This question utilizes the O’otham word vuḍ which is often heard in O’otham conversations and has a specific purpose in O’otham sentences. In O’otham sentences vuḍ is used to link or identify two words (often nouns) as being one and the same. This can be seen in the following example sentences.

1) Añi ‘añ vuḍ Akimel O’otham. (‘I am Akimel O’otham.’)
2) Mateo ‘o vuḍ viappoi. (‘Mateo is a boy.’)
3) Hegai uvig ‘o vuḍ ba’ag. (‘That bird is an eagle.’)
4) A:pi ‘ap vuḍ eñ navoj. (‘You are my friend.’)

All four sentences above have the same form in that they each start off with a noun (Mateo) or pronoun (Añi, Hegai, A:pi), are followed by a form of the auxiliary (‘añ, ‘o, ‘ap), are then followed by the word vuḍ and end with a type of noun. What is interesting about all of these sentences is that there is no true verb in the form of an action word present in the sentence. The auxiliary verb which is present (‘añ, ‘o, ’ap) is only there to provide information about the subject and does not provide any information on the type of sentence. Vuḍ in these sentences expresses the idea that the subject (the first noun) is linked or identical with the predicate (the final noun). You can think of vuḍ as being like an equals sign (=) in that it communicates the idea that the two nouns are one and the same (Añi=Akimel O’otham, Mateo=viappoi, Hegai uvig=ba’ag). This type of word is called a copula and works similar to the word “be” in English.

In everyday conversations vuḍ shortens to ḍ and it is often this form that is used by speakers. The corresponding sentences from above would shorten to the following.

5) Añi ‘añ ḍ Akimel O’otham. (‘I am Akimel O’otham.’)
6) Mateo ḍ viappoi. (‘Mateo is a boy.’)
7) Hegai uvig ḍ ba’ag. (‘That bird is an eagle.’)
8) A:pi ḍ eñ navoj. (‘You are my friend.’)

Although there is no change in meaning with these sentences you can imagine that it is harder to hear the word vuḍ in its shortened form. Even O’otham speakers may not (consciously) realize that the shortened form ḍ is the same word as vuḍ. This is especially true in commonly used phrases and questions (Tho: ḍ hegai? Sha:chuḍ i:tha?) where the ḍ sounds like it attaches to the closest word.

O’otham ñeo’ok is flexible and allows for different orderings of words without changing the basic meaning. This is true with sentences that use vuḍ. Another possible ordering for the sentences above is one where vuḍ appears at the beginning. It is actually this order that is commonly heard in casual conversations. Vuḍ is never spoken in its full form when it appears at the front of the sentence but shortens and changes slightly to sound like a th (in some dialects it will sound like a d). When appearing at the front it will attach to the following auxiliary to create the sentences seen below.

9) Thañ Akimel O’otham. (‘I am Akimel O’otham.’)
10) Tho viappoi heg Ma-teo. (‘Mateo is a boy.’)
11) Tho ba’ag hegai uvig. (‘That bird is an eagle.’)
12) Thap eñ navoj a:pi.

By this point you should be able to understand the word vuḍ and all its forms that it appears in. As you can see it is a very useful word when you want to identify someone or something to another person. So the next time you hear the question “Tho: ḍ hegai?” you should be able to think of an answer using the word vuḍ. See some of the possible answers in the following puzzle.

**Tho:ḍ hegai? Word Match:** Match the person or animal with its picture!

Tho:ḍ hegai?

Hegai kell ‘o vuḍ mackai.

Hegai uc’ ‘o vuḍ ha-mashchamtham.

Hegai cheoj ‘o vuḍ ba:l-chichvitham.

Hegai chehia ‘o vuḍ e-valatham.

Hegai haichu thoakam ‘o vuḍ mizhul.

Hegai uvig ‘o vuḍ kakaichu.
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Post 84 repairs and paints damage to Japanese internment camp monument

From left, Ira H. Hayes Post 84 Sergeant at Arms Gilbert Gonzales, concrete mason Martin Isvak, Post 84 Senior Vice Commander Bill Dixon, and Post 84 member Thomas Dauer.

Over the past two months, members of Ira H. Hayes Post 84 have been hard at work repairing damage to the Japanese internment camp and veteran monument located in District 5 within the Gila River Farms area.

The site received multiple gunshots to three of the eight columns that make up the structure. One of the columns was so severely damaged it was almost completely shot through. In addition to the damage to the monument’s columns, the base on which the monument’s plaque sits, was vandalized with spray paint.

After being notified of the vandalism by Lt. Gov. Monica Antone during a Nov. 12 GRIC Council meeting, Post 84 members Thomas Dauer, Sergeant at Arms Gilbert Gonzales, Senior Vice Commander Bill Dixon, and concrete mason Martin Isvak repaired the vandalized structure on Dec. 12.

Members of Post 84 cleaned the damaged areas by scraping out remnants of broken concrete, applied a glue polymer, filled in the holes with fresh concrete and left it to dry.

Dixon, who assisted in repairing the damaged columns, said it was the largest amount of vandalism he had ever seen inflicted on the monument. He added that he was hopeful the site would become protected. “That way, we won’t have so much of this trouble here,” he said. “We will be coming out here and be repairing it if necessary, up until there is some kind of protection put up for this place.”

On January 11, members of Post 84 added the last coat of white paint to the patched areas of the monument’s columns and covered several spray painted areas of the site.

Post 84 Adjutant Tony McDaniel, said that while people do come to the area and shoot guns, it appeared that this specific act of vandalism was a deliberate attempt to destroy the monument.

“Nobody has ever actually shot up the monument like that before. People come out here and they shoot off in to the distance all the time,” he said. “It looked like they were trying to destroy a whole pillar. That’s just crazy, there is no reason for it. This represents United States military personnel and their families that got stuck here due to circumstances beyond their control. It’s a place to respect.”

The Japanese internment camp and veterans monument now stands fully repaired and repainted due to the efforts of Ira H. Hayes Post 84 members and their commitment to taking care of the monument.

“It took a little work, but it is just part of serving the Community,” said McDaniel. “It’s part of what we do, (a) commitment to serve.”

While Post 84 is committed to serving the Community, the group of veterans feels a special sense of responsibility to the monument due to one of their former members, Mas Inoshita.

“As a young man, [Inoshita] was interned here at the camp,” said McDaniel. “From here he enlisted into the service,” Inoshita joined the Military Intelligence Service in the U.S. Army, serving as a translator during World War II.

“Mas took in the responsibility to maintain this place. When [he] got too old to keep coming out here, [he] asked [us] to commit to maintain this area, so that is what we have been doing for 20 years now. It is a commitment that we made to Mas, and a commitment that we made to the Japanese American Citizens League, and to those who were interned here, that we come out and…clean it up and repair it,” he said.

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Tony McDaniel adds a coat of white paint over one of the monument’s columns that was damaged by vandalism.

Art and Essay Guidelines:

**Art Guidelines:**
- Creatively depict the Community’s culture, strength, and unity
- Art entries should be on an 8 1/2” X 11” sized paper or for 3 Dimensional items 8 1/2” X 11” X 4” - pens ( colored), pencil ( colored), markers ( colored), paint, ceramic, wood, clay, etc. entries are allowed.
- Art Rubric will be used to judge entries.

**Essay Guidelines:**
- Express your perception of the Community’s culture, strength, and unity
- Essays should be no less than 200 Words for 4th-5th Graders, 300 Words for 6th-8th Graders, 400 Words for 9th-12th Graders. All essays should be typed, 12 point font, and double spaced.
- Six Traits Writing Rubric will be used to judge entries.

All entries must be submitted to Tribal Education Department by Friday, February 3, 2017

*Late Entries WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED*

Winners will be announced on Monday, February 13, 2017

Any questions, please contact the Tribal Education Department at: Office: (520)-562-3662
A Gila River Indian Community veteran’s monument, located outside the old District 1 Service Center in Blackwater, was vandalized earlier this month with portions of the concrete structure smashed to pieces. Because of the severity of the damage parts of the monument were dismantled and are undergoing repairs.

The monument, which is sponsored by Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51, was erected in 2008 to honor veterans for their sacrifices and lists the names of Community veterans who were killed in action during wartimes. The monument’s plaque reads, “A grateful nation and our tribal community thanks all its Veterans. From all wars, conflicts and peacetime. We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your sacrifices.”


The District 1 Service Center will rebuild the concrete structure of the monument and Post 51 will polish the plaque and are in the planning process of adding more names to the monument.

Post 51 member, Darrell Whitman, said that there were pieces of broken concrete littered around the vandalized monument and it appeared someone used a hammer to chip away at the concrete part of the structure. This huge undertaking.

While this system is useful to Community members who want to see what criminal activity is going on in their neighborhoods, it is also a useful tool for the GRPD.

Villescaz said that there are two parts to the new system, one is the Community Crime Map that Community members can view to see criminal activity within GRIC, the second is a more robust tool offering GRPD officers quicker and more detailed access to information about possible suspects and local neighborhoods.

GRPD Public Information Officer Caroline Brown explained how the system works using a hypothetical criminal incident of an individual vandalizing property.

“If I were to go to that call for [vandalism], I would respond and have to take that person to jail. I would request a case number from dispatch, they would assign me that case number and I would take the [individual] to jail [and] book [them] in,” she said. All information about the vandalism from the suspect’s name, location, date, time, case number, and more is entered into the GRPD’s electronic record management system.

“LexisNexis would pull that information from that case number; they only pull certain information like the time, the date, and populate that onto the map.” Villescaz noted that the map is a huge benefit to GRIC because Community members can actively know what is going on around them and better protect themselves. Unfortunately crime is there, so how can you as a citizen do more? For example, if I log in [to Community Crime Maps] and see quite a lot of burglaries around my area, now I can take those proactive measures. Let’s make sure doors are locked, taking that extra step to protect myself,” she said.

“It also allows us to build a transparency with the Community without affecting ongoing investigations or our victims. This allows them to see what’s been going on. This is as real time as we can get. It pulls from our database three times a day so they are seeing really live information,” said Villescaz.

Photos Courtesy of District 1 Service Center

Photos Courtesy of District 1 Service Center

Community Crime Map from page 6

GRPD Commander Jeff Hunter and Communications Administrator Teresa Villescaz.
ASU alumnus served as special agent in the FBI before working for GRIC

From being a first-gener- 
ation college student to catching a notorious bank robber featured on “America’s Most Wanted,” Arizona State University alumnus Manuel J. Johnson leveraged his interpersonal skills to build a career.

“I’m really proud of my service in the FBI. It was a great career,” said Johnson, a member of Gila River Indian Community.

“But I really feel like the accomplishments I’ve had in my life happened because I stood on the shoul- ders of those who have come before me and sacri- ficed before me.”

Born in Phoenix, Johnson was raised by his mother who worked hard and pursue- a higher education. He said he always knew he would attend ASU, but his chosen field of study didn’t come so easily to him.

“Some students know exactly what they want to do when they get here; oth- ers it takes a while,” John- son said. “I started in the business college, but as I took more courses, I didn’t have the same interest.”

Johnson sought out an African-American studies class to draw parallels be- tween the plight of Afri- can-Americans and his own experience as an American Indian. The course was taught by professor and chair of sociology A. Wade Smith, who worked tire- lessly to improve race rela- tions on the ASU campus.

“When I was here, there weren’t many mi- nority professors,” Johnson said. “I identified with him because he was a minority… and always had time for me. I remember he suggest- ed I get a degree in sociol- ogy.”

In 1987, Johnson grad- uated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. He started work- ing for the Gila River Indi- an Community in the social services department. Then he worked for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, an organization represent- ing most of the tribes in the state. Johnson said dealing with law enforcement in his position piqued his interest in the FBI.

In 1990, Johnson ap- plied to the FBI, training at the FBI Academy the fol- lowing year. His first indoc- trination to the bureau was as a special agent assigned to the Salt Lake City Divi- sion in the small town of Vernal, Utah. He handled federal criminal violations on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.

Johnson transferred to the Los Angeles Division as part of a resident agency in West Covina, California. He was assigned to the vio- lent-crimes squad and pursu- ed a range of criminal in- vestigations including bank robberies, kidnappings, ex- tortions and fugitive mat- ters.

“Los Angeles was a good experience for an agent because it’s a big city,” Johnson said. “I re- member getting a lead in my position about the Okla- homa City bombing. We got a DMV photo of this individual who looked like the composite drawing of suspect John Doe No. 2. It turns out it wasn’t him, but you never know in those situations.”

After Los Angeles, Johnson was transferred to Flagstaff, Arizona. He was assigned to the Navajo and Hopi reservations, where he handled violent crimes such as homicides, child abuse and assault cases.

“When you work with Native American commu- nities, you really have to build trust,” Johnson said. “You use your people skills a lot. My understanding and educational back- ground in sociology came in handy as I worked in various communities as a special agent.”

Johnson retired from the FBI in 2014 and went back to the Gila River Indi- an Community. Currently, he works in the Executive Office as the intergovern- mental liaison where he fosters and maintains gov- ernment-to-government rela- tionships at all levels on behalf of the community.

“When I came back to Gila River, all I wanted to do was fit in, work with my community and help,” Johnson said. “If I can in- fluence young people in some way to find their pas- sion in life, then I feel like I made things a little better for somebody, for others, for the community.”

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • January 4, 2017

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 held Wednesday January 4, 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 9:07am

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Sandra Nasewytewa

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-Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams (9:17), Rodney Jackson; D4- Nada Celaya, Christopher Mendoza, Bamey Evans, Jr., D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villarreal, Sr. (2:01), Charles Goldtooth (9:11), Sandra Nasewytewa
Council Members Absent: D4- Jennifer Allison; D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)

1. Office of the Prosecutor FY 2016 Annual Report

Presenters: Brian Tacheenie, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

2. Casa Blanca Area Drainage Master Study Finalizing and Reporting Results

Presenters: Seaver Fields, Yichun Xu

REPORT HEARD

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)

1. Western Town to Offer Governmental Employee Benefit Plans To Their Governmental Function Employees (EDSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Jason Croxton, Dale Gutenson, Linda Sauer

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Confirming the Ability of Wild Horse Pass Development Authority and Rawhide Western Town to Offer Governmental Employee Benefit Plans To Their Governmental Function Employees (EDSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Treasurer Keller, Suzanne Johns

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

1. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Gila River Indian Community, Department Of Environmental Quality, And The Salt River Project To Install And Maintain An Artificial Nesting Structure In The Gila River Community Riparian Corridor For The Preservation And Conservation Of Bald Eagles (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Russell Benford, Robert DeLeon

APPROVED

3. District Three Citizens Advisory Board Representatives (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval for appointment)

Presenters: Darren Pedro-Martinez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MARLO SCHURZ [LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTOINE CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVNEWSNED AT 2:01 P.M.]

4. Presentation of Community Crime Map (LSC forwards to Council for discussion and possible action)

Presenter: Teresa Vilvezac

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO PILOT FOR 6-MONTHS AND BRING ALL DATA BACK TO COUNCIL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> LITIGATION TEAM MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017, 2PM

> HOLY FAMILY MISSION FEST IN BLACKWATER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017, 10AM-10PM

> CARSON MANAHAN, JR. SERVICES, DISTRICT 7, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017 & SATURDAY JANUARY 7, 2017

> SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017, 9AM

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:50PM

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Pima Cotton

from page 1

1960’s to the 1980’s and then discontinued production due to costs and commodity prices,” said Horne.

Over the next 25 years no Pima cotton was grown at GRF, but was brought back to the farms in 2015 in an effort to diversify the farm’s crop mix.

“We brought it back… to try it out to see if we could grow it here again,” she said. “And it did really well last year so we decided to put a majority of our crop outgrow for Pima for 2016.”

Pima cotton is considered to be a luxury item and is in high demand overseas, where almost all of the harvested fiber will be shipped.

“What we grow here is Supima, which is a combination of the term super and Pima,” said Horne. “The Supima cotton that is grown here in the United States is considered to be the highest quality cotton in the world.”

The 2016 crop, which was twice the size of 2015’s harvest that produced just under 600,000 pounds of Pima cotton, did well, and according to Horne, was reported to be of a high quality, meaning a premium return on their harvest of just over 1 million pounds of Pima cotton.

Home said domestic demand for Pima cotton was up in 2016 from last year and markets for the extra-long staple cotton are typically 50 percent higher than the upland cotton primarily grown in GRF over the past two decades. From the ground to your t-shirt, how it’s made

From planting to picking, the process of growing Pima cotton, harvesting, ginning, milling, and eventual production into apparel, is a long and complicated process that is fraught with the ups and downs of international politics, volatile market prices, and the will of the weather.

“If the weather is great, we like to start planting at the end of March,” said Horne. “We have to wait until the soil temperature reaches a certain level before we can put the seeds in so it will germinate properly.”

In 2015 and 2016, the weather was hotter and lasted longer than on average, said Horne, meaning that the date of the harvest for the past two years was a little later than usual. She added that they were able to estimate the harvest date and future yield of both crops by measuring accumulated thermal unit data gathered by weather stations in the area.

“We try and use some more scientific data,” she said. “Agriculture is becoming more [data driven]. You really have to use that data in order to be… some what profitable or successful because there is just no margin for error.”

After the cotton is planted the crop begins a long 9-month growing season, which is more expensive than upland cotton due to higher water usage, pesticide and herbicide costs, and growth regulators to inhibit the plant from growing too tall.

The successful candidate will be selected until December 31, 2018. Any eligible resident within the Sacaton Elementary School District who is interested in being appointed can apply online at http://www.ecrsc.org/pinalselec tions/board-member-vacancies. The application can be completed online, but it must be printed out, signed, notarized and the original mailed in and delivered by the deadline. For applying is no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2017.

For the past two years GRF has grown some of the highest quality cotton in the world. So the next time you go shopping and pick up a Supima cotton t-shirt or pair of socks, there is chance that it was grown in the fields of Gila River Farms, right here, in the Gila River Indian Community.

“Interviews for this article were conducted at different times, from Sep tember through December 2016, as the Community’s Pima cotton was growing and harvested.”

Legislative Day from page 6

kit provided by the department, “Indigenous farmers operate on 11,190 farms with almost $67 million in sales of agricultural products.”

The press kit also stated that Native communities account for over 56 percent of farms in Arizona and have a large number of women who are farmers.

During the presentation session a list of topics were covered from food safety and distribution practices to addressing the issue of food deserts, which dot urban and rural areas of the state.

Food deserts are defined as locations where there is a lack of access to fruits, vegetables and other types of healthy foods.

At the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, Native youth gathered for a workshop provided by the Northern Arizona University Center for American Indian Economic Development.

The workshops primary goals is to help Native youth learn how to manage their finances through simulated transactions that occur everyday.
Please join the Gila River Police Department for our upcoming Citizen’s Police Academy starting February 27, 2017. This Academy is a 40-hour program which includes both classroom and “hands-on” instruction presented by members of the Gila River Police Department.

Classes will meet on various days from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Gila River Police Department in Sacaton.

To register, please complete the application and return it to the Gila River Police Department by February 24, 2017. **No applications will be accepted after that date.**

To participate in the Citizen’s Police Academy you must:

- Be a minimum of 18 years old
- Enrolled member or reside within the community
- Employees of the community or any of its enterprises
- No Misdemeanor or Felony convictions
- Must have a valid Arizona Driver’s License
- Successfully pass a Criminal background investigation

**Class size is limited so get your application in early!**

For more information about the Citizen’s Police Academy please contact:

Officer Caroline Brown
Gila River Police Department
(520) 562-7105
caroline.brown@gric.nsn.us

*For those interested in a career in Law Enforcement this is a good way to learn more about the department!!*

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**Fire Drills and Fire Alarm Testing**

All hospitals nationwide are required to periodically conduct fire drills and fire alarm testing. It is mandated by the National Fire Protection Association (Life Safety Code NFPA 101) and affects both patients and hospital staff. Gila River Health Care is prepared to respond to any fire incident with plans that ensure patient and employee safety. We respectfully request your patience and understanding while Gila River Health Care conducts required fire drills and fire alarm testing.

**How does this affect patients?**

- When the fire alarm goes off, staff and patients must evacuate the building to a predetermined meeting location which is different for each department.
- We ask that patients and their families stay with the department in which they are receiving care until the drill or alarm is cleared.

**Important** - Patients within the Inpatient / IMS Department and the Emergency Department are exempt from this requirement.

Thanks again for your understanding. If you have a question about fire drills or alarms, please contact:

LaTonza Miles, Security Director x1146
Kathia Durain, Safety Officer x1207
Kolea Silo, Facilities Management Director x1057

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GRHC’s Behavioral Health Services Prevention Program is offering classes for:

- Active Parenting – giving you empowering tools to parent your teens
- Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA) – assisting you to identify mental health issues and crises in others and how to identify mental health resources
- safe2Talk – helping to identify those who may be considering suicide and how to take the first steps toward prevention
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) – showing how to recognize suicide warning signs and give helpful information in intervention

For updated training dates, look for registration form postings. You may also contact the GRHC BHS-Prevention Program at (520) 562-7321 ext. 7137 or email BHS-prevention@gric.org to request a registration form.

Visit GRIC.ORG/COMMUNITYINFORMATION for more information on each class.

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**GERMS! They’re everywhere!** Door knobs, faucets, towels, your desk.

“In fact - a cell phone carries 18 times more bacteria than most public toilet seats!”

Wet where you put your personal items – purses put on bathroom floors can pick up a slew of germs such as strep, staph, E-coli, MRSA, and much more. Here are some interesting facts:

- When co-workers came to work sick, within 4 hours, 50% of surfaces and employees were contaminated with the virus!
- Many people become ill from hospital or clinic-related infections NOT because these places are dirty but because there is a high concentration of vulnerable people and germs from people that are ill together in the same place.
- Many times sicknesses can be contagious before symptoms appear.

So what can you do to actively fight germs that are everywhere?

- Wash your hands (or use hand sanitizer if antibacterial soap and water are not available).
- Use common sense: There is such a thing as “too clean.” Don’t obsessively clean everything and everyone who crosses your path. Killing all germs prevents our bodies from building up resistance.
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72nd Anniversary
Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Military parade and flyover begin at 8:30AM.

Ceremonies follow at the
Matthew B. Juan, Ira H. Hayes
Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton, AZ.

All public and veterans groups are welcome.

Luncheon hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 84 with
St. Peter Church and School. Event sponsored by American Legion
Ira H. Hayes Post No. 84 and Auxiliary Unit No. 84.

Saturday,
Feb. 25, 2017