ASU moving forward with GRIC housing study

A large audience of interested Community members attended the ASU Sustainable Housing Study community outreach meeting at the Huhugam Heritage Center June 15.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Our ancestors had to be smart to live in this desert, where it’s scorching in the summer sun and sub-freezing on a winter’s night. The key to their success? Adaptability. They knew how to overcome by better design. Now, a team of architects and designers from Arizona State University is endeavoring to combine the old and the new in a project called the Sustainable Housing Study, which aims to create houses that are environmentally conscious and will endure for generations, but also echo the genius of our ancestors who have lived here for millennia.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

It’s no secret that the need for quality housing in Gila River is high, but the goal of this project is not expediency. The team’s objective is to design a new kind of home for Community residents, one that is sustainable, durable, affordable, modern, and intelligently designed to meet the needs of desert dwellers. The project also seeks to respect O’otham heritage by seeking the influence of traditional housing structures and promulgating O’otham culture. The team hopes to develop a number of prototypes of houses at the project’s conclusion.

In a public meeting on June 15 at the Huhugam Heritage Center, project staff sought input from Community members on design and construction materials. The team asked residents what they would like to see in future Gila River homes.

“You can’t have any action on something like this that will affect the Community so much, without the Community’s input,” said project lead Wanda Dalla Costa. “It would be nice if the Community [was a] co-creator of whatever the final product will be.”

Dalla Costa is from the Saddle Lake First Nation in Canada. She said, “I’ve been living a year and a half here and I’ve realized the best people to ask are the people...
The O’otham New Year has always been a time of thanks and prayer. We welcome the changing of the seasons, the monsoon rain, and the barley harvested. These celebrations are significant to our culture, and they help us understand who we are as O’otham.

The O’otham New Year, which is recognized during the summer solstice, is one of our great social gatherings. It’s a time for spiritual renewal as we look to the beginning of summer. When we celebrate the O’otham New Year we share our songs, dances and traditional way of life, and we become stronger in our culture. The women play thoka and the men play gins, and we come together as our ancestors did many generations ago when we prayed for rain and a good harvest.

We look forward to a new year with strength from our elders, honor for our veterans and guidance for our youth. Those prayers will help us in the forthcoming season.

I thank those who assisted with this year’s gathering, and I urge you to attend next year’s O’otham New Year celebration. It was a great sight to see all the families coming together during this special time of the year.

From my family,
Happy O’otham New Year
Gila River Indian News

Page 3

Gaming Commission swears in four members

Thomas R. Throsell

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Gaming Commission swore in one incumbent, one returning, and two newly appointed members during a ceremony held at the Wild Horse Pass Corporate Center on June 26.

Incumbent Serena Joaquin was reappointed to commission, Dale Enos was newly appointed to vice chair, Denise Allison re-appointed to the commission after being appointed to fulfill a former members term for 10-months, and newly appointed Duane Johns will fulfill a former members term for 2 years. Gaming Commissioner Gary Williams is currently in the process of fulfilling his term.

The purpose of the Gila River Gaming Commission, which is made up of five members who serve terms of three years, is to regulate and monitor gaming on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community.

According to Allison, the commission acts as gaming regulator management for the legislative branch, and performs tasks such as licensing of applicants and vendors and to enforce compliance all while abiding by the Indian Gaming Commission and Indian Gaming Regulatory Act's guidelines. In addition to these responsibilities, the commission's job is to protect the integrity and sovereignty of the Community.

Below are short biographies written by each member of the commission, except for Joaquin's entry, which was compiled by GRIN staff.

Serena Joaquin
Joaquin resides in Casa Blanca and Joaquin’s parent’s are Joseph T. Joaquin, a prominent member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, and Ethelyn L. Joaquin. Her children are Josh and Alyssa. Joaquin has had 15 years of experience working in the Gila River gaming industry. She began her career in the field as a revenue audit clerk, and worked in both the operations sector as well as the regulatory sector.

She has also served as commissioner for the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Dale G. Enos
My name is Dale G. Enos and it is an honor to be appointed as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission. I will be fulfilling a former commissioner’s term for the remainder of that term and also have been reelected to the Secretary for the Gaming Commission.

I reside in the District #6 community. My parents are the late Gilbert C. Allison, from District #4, and the late Helen C. Allison from District #6. I have served the community in various capacities, most recently with Tribal Social Services as a Case Manager. Previously worked with the Contracts and Grants office under the Community Manager’s Office as well as a short time as an Acting Division Manager.

In 2011-2014, I had the privilege to serve as a Council Representative for the District 3 Community. From 2000-2010, served on the Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Board of Directors.

As a newly appointed Gila River Indian Community Gaming Commissioner, I am looking forward to working with the commission to continue to uphold the integrity of gaming and protect the interest of the Gila River Indian Community.

Denise Allison
My name is Denise Allison and I have been re-appointed as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission. I will be fulfilling a former commissioner’s term for the remainder of that term and have also been elected to the Secretary for the Gaming Commission.

I reside in the District #6 community. My parents are the late Gilbert C. Allison, from District #4, and the late Helen C. Allison from District #6. I have

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Whittaker would like to congratulate their grandson, Christian, on his recent graduation from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. He plans to pursue a career in the field.

5 children, Melissa, Jacob, Zachary, Suzannah, and Matthew. I also have six grandchildren. I have worked in the gaming industry for over 15 years as an F & B Purchasing Agent. I began working at the former Wild Horse Pass Casino and then continued at Vee Quiva Casino. I have obtained numerous management skills through my experience in this industry. I have had the privilege of serving a three-year term as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Indian Community and have also obtained comprehensive knowledge in the regulatory aspect of the gaming industry. This industry is fast paced and is an ongoing learning environment for me.

I appreciate and value the opportunity to serve my Community as a Gaming Commissioner.

Gary Williams
Originally born in Phoenix attended Buckeye H.S., Phoenix Union H.S. and went on to graduate from Camelback H.S. I am the Grandson of the late Alfred Jackson and son of Julia Etta Jackson of District Three. I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Animation and Marketing from California Institute of the Arts.

Currently I have over 16 years working for Gila River Indian Community. Some places of employment in the community would include: GRIN, GGRGE, WHPDA, GRIC and currently Tribal Gaming Office. I believe it has been a mutual benefit of contribution so far and I hope it continues.

As we work to provide and protect upward mobility for our community, I hope to encourage more tribal members to embrace the opportunity in which you have to help all.

Duane Johns
My name is Duane Johns and I am a resident of District 5, a Veteran of the United States Air Force, and a father of four children and grandfathe of two grandchildren.

After leaving the Air Force in 1995, my gaming career in Indian Gaming began as a Gaming Inspector and ended as a Gaming Commissioner in 2009. During my 14-year career with Indian Gaming, I was fortunate enough to be part of Gila River Casino’s growth either as an employee of the gaming operation or the regulatory body for both Gila River Casinos and the Tribal Gaming Office.

Since my departure from Indian Gaming in 2009, I took my professional work experience and applied it as a Gila River Indian Community employee for Tribal Housing, Tribal Subdivision, and Internal Audit Departments over the past 8 years.

I appreciate the opportunity for this Council Appointment to the Gaming Commission and I look forward to see gaming continue for the Gila River Indian Community.

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Jose “Why”

April 2, 1984-July 10, 2015

Prettiful Yvonne you’re so beautiful, Akinmel O’otaham girl, you Pima mermaid, may you rest in peace, you are the air that I breathe, the life inside of me, the center around which my life circles, the mysterious ground of my being that I cannot penetrate the audience before who the drams of my life are played out. You are the judge who pronounces me guilty or innocent. The Garden of Eden from which I am exiled and the paradise for which my body longs, you are the Pima Goddess who grants me salvation, my shining star in the sky, my man behind the moon saying always and forever I love you, 143Y...

Elmer A. Miller Jr.
SEEKING DETERMINED AND DRIVEN CANDIDATES FOR
New Certified Nurse Assistant Training Program

THOSE INTERESTED IN APPLYING, SHOULD RESPOND NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!

With funding from Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), GRIC’s Employment and Training Department together with GRHC’s Caring House is pleased to launch a new Certified Nurse Assistant Training Program aimed at training GRIC members for careers in healthcare.

Certified nurse assistants are important in today’s society because healthcare is something everyone needs at some point.

• Do you want to provide respectful care to residents of GRHC’s Caring House?
• CNA candidates from GRIC, who appreciate their Community’s customs and traditions, will be able to offer care in a respectful and culturally appropriate way when training is completed.
• Do you feel fulfilled by nurturing and caring for others?
• Do you want to jumpstart a career path that’s growing?

TRAINING PROGRAM DETAILS:
The CNA Training Program requires 120 hours.
• 80 hours of classroom coursework
• 40 hours of clinical experience

For more information, contact:
Darlene Barkau, The Caring House: (520) 562-7400
Email: dbarkau@grhc.org
Anita Esquer, GRHC Education Department: (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1410
Email: anitae@grhc.org
Employment & Training Department: (520) 562-3387

2017 Summer Family Health Event

Child & Adult Immunizations
Well-Child Exams
Sports Physicals
Labs
Blood Sugar Checks
Blood Pressure Checks
Diabetes Education
Asthma Education

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 10 am - 2 pm
Dist. 1 • July 11th and July 13th
Ak-Chin • July 18th and July 20th

For more information, contact:
Robin Henry, FNP, Community Outreach Mobile Unit
520.610.2379.
Verdict: The suspect entered the store,1 and a bag of trash and proceeded to leave the store after 20 minutes. The store security released an alarm, and the suspect was caught on surveillance video. The suspect was then arrested by Gila River Police and booked into the Gila River Jail.

The suspect, 22-year-old John Doe, 2 of Tempe, Arizona, was charged with shoplifting and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The victim, 21-year-old Jane Smith, 3 of Gilbert, Arizona, was not injured and declined medical attention.

Gila River Police Department

District Two (Saclate Flats):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Three (Saca-
ton):

Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a residence in reference to an unwanted subject. The suspect was gone prior to officer’s arrival and is still under investigation.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Two (Sachat-
ton Flats):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Four (Stotonic-
Flats):

Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a residence in reference to an unwanted subject. Upon arrival it was discovered the reporting party opened the door believing it was the officer. As the door was opened the unwanted subject began to attack the victim. The front door of the house was left open due to damage to the face. The suspect had left the vicinity prior to Police arrival. This case is still under investigation.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Four (Sotonic-
Area):

Aggravated Assault – The victim originally called Gila River EMS at 2:30 a.m. while she was sleeping. The suspect entered the residence and assaulted her with brass knuckles. During the altercation the suspect utilized the brass knuckles to strike the victim in the head. The victim was then dragged by a vehicle during the altercation. The victim replied she had been assaulted and was taken to Gila River Medical Center for treatment.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Five (Casa-
Blanca):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Six (Komat-
ike):

Auto Theft – Officers responded to Vee Quiva Casino in reference to an auto theft. Investigation revealed the suspect arrived at the casino to gamble. Upon returning to the location he had parked his vehicle, he was unable to locate it. The vehicle was later recovered by Phoenix Police after the suspect made contact with officers due to not having the correct license plate attached to the vehicle. The investigation was taken into custody and information related to an auto theft case was passed on.

Status: Suspect was ar-
rested by Phoenix PD

District Four (Lone Butte-
Area):

Auto Theft – The victim requested officers to the Wild Horse Pass Casino parking garage due to her vehicle having been stolen.

The investigation revealed the victim had parked her vehicle and gone into the casino. Upon returning to the parking garage the vehicle had been stolen. The vehicle was entered into the National Crime Information Center database as stolen. The suspect’s identity was positively identified through surveil-
ance footage from the casino and matched in connection with another auto theft.

Status: Suspect was contact-
ed by Phoenix PD and released

Shoplifting – Officers responded to the Phoenix Premium Outlet in refer-
ence to a shoplifting. In-
vestigation revealed the suspect entered the store carrying a white shop-
ning bag and proceeded to walk over to the wallet stand. The suspect is then observed, through video surveil-
ance, taking several wallets and exiting the store without paying for the merchandise.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Seven (Mar-
icopa):

Aggravated Assault – Officers were called to the residence in reference to a domestic assault. Investigation revealed the suspect hit the victim in back of the head with a folding chair causing a laceration.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Five (Casa-
Blanca):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Six (Komat-
ike):

Auto Theft – Officers responded to Vee Quiva Casino in reference to an auto theft. Investigation revealed the suspect arrived at the casino to gamble. Upon returning to the location he had parked his vehicle, he was unable to locate it. The vehicle was later recovered by Phoenix Police after the suspect made contact with officers due to not having the correct license plate attached to the vehicle. The investigation was taken into custody and information related to an auto theft case was passed on.

Status: Suspect was ar-
rested by Phoenix PD

Aggravated Assault – Two juvenile females were involved in a physical alter-
cation while at a communi-
ty function. The victim sus-
tained a fractured nose as a result of the altercation. The suspect was contacted, interviewed and taken into custody.

Status: Juvenile female suspec-

District Two (Saclate Flats):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Three (Saca-
ton Flats):

Burglary – Multiple suspects burglarized the MTO Smoke shop causing damage to the door and taking a significant amount of items from the store. Some of the items were recovered along with some physical evidence.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

Burglary – The sus-
ppect(s) entered the Riv-
er of Life Church taking a keyboard belonging to the church. During the in-
vestigation it was learned church members had lost their copy of the keys to the church within the last month. There were no signs of forced entry or damage to the facility.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

Continued on Page 6

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Casa Blanca Community School

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(520) 251-1212

Casa Blanca Community School

Home of the Roadrunners!

**Required Documents for New Students:**

- Enrollment Packet
- Birth Certificate
- Certificate of Indian Blood
- Immigration Record
- Legal documentation (guardianship/power of attorney/sys.)
- Individual verifiable transcript report card from former school

**Required Documents for Returning Students:**

- Enrollment Packet
- Legal documentation (guardianship/power of attorney/sys.)
GRPD Reports

Arson - The suspect was observed lighting flowers and bushes on fire while in the parking lot of the Huletakum Memorial Hospital. The suspect was located and taken into custody with permission to search the vehicle. Status: Suspect was booked into jail

District Four (Stotenic Area):

Burglary – The victim reported that a subject entered the residence per- forming without permission. Upon returning home the victim discovered her bedroom window was ajar and the back door was left unlocked. It appeared someone had entered the residence though nothing appeared to be taken. Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Auto Theft – The victim reported that his vehicle had been towed into a friend’s residence with approval to keep it there. After the vehicle had been at the residence the victim was later informed the vehicle was now missing. The victim contacted police and requested the vehicle be listed as stolen. The vehicle was later located. Status: Auto Theft - The victim reported his flat bed trailer was taken into custody. The trailer was located and taken into custody with permission to search the vehicle. Status: Under Investigation

Stories of the Many:

The context of paleo-Indian human migration and survival tools from the prehistoric era. The investigation revealed a male suspect removed an air compressor, along with numerous craftsman tools from the premises. The suspect’s description and vehicle descriptions were passed on to other officers for possible identifi-

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers responded to a construction center to see if there were Napa batteries that were stolen from a piece of equipment. A cell phone was located near the site which did not belong to any of the employees. The cell phone and photos were entered into evidence. Status: Under Investigation

District Six (Komatik):

Auto Theft – A man unknown subject stole a 2013 Mazda 3 from the driveway of a residence in the Pops Place area. Status: Under Investigation

District Seven (Mariposa):

Theft – A man unknown subject complained theft after removing a Trail Cam- era without permission from its location. Status: Under Investigation


Continued on Page 16
O’otham New Year from Page 1
dancing they would have more groups of singers, one group would sing, then they would take a break, then another group would sing and last throughout the night. 

But for the singing group Lewis was a part of that night, there was no backup. Only taking small breaks in between singing a variety of songs about orioles, swallow, black birds, and macaws, the group of men sang on through the night until sunrise.

“…The spirit of the song always gives us strength, that pride, that thankful- ness,” Lewis said. “We are able to share and have the O’otham hear the songs, and become familiar with the songs, and to actually put into practice their him- dag in dancing and experi- encing the whole event,” he said.

Just outside the Cultural Circle, next to a crackling mesquite fire, men huddled together with eyes focused on the ground below, a tradi- tional O’otham game of chance called gins at the center of their attention. The game is played on a board fashioned from holes dug in the ground with players positioned in the four cardinal directions: North, South, East, or West. Players toss sticks into the air, and according to the markings on the sticks when they land, move their game piece around the board.

Players can place mon- ey or possessions in the center of the board with the winner taking all. The sound of drums, singing, and the movement of dancers continued until the sun rose on the morning of June 18, when the O’otham New Year celebration ended and guests dispersed.

“I am very pleased that we have a great number of people that were interested in experiencing this activi- ty and making themselves stronger in their way of life, our himdag,” said Lewis. “Over time the people that participate are part of cul- tural events and activities (and) they grow spiritually. That pride just gets stronger and stronger in remembering that we as O’otham are still maintaining our cultural and traditional song cul- ture, dance culture, and our traditional way of life.”
Youth find their voice at 2017 Gila River Youth Conference

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The 2017 Gila River Youth Conference was “living in tradition” in recognition of the theme “Living In Tradition” in the first annual conference, which organizes the annual conference held on June 23 and 24 at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa, across from the Fiesta Mall.

“Starting today, you find your voice. Starting today, you find an interest in who you are,” said keynote speaker Mikey Enis of the Tohono O’odham Nation.

He said young people desire to know where they come from and where they belong. The weekend offered a chance for them to explore what their traditions mean to them.

Enis, a culture teacher at Ajo High School and former chairman of community relations for the Tohono O’odham Nation, said it is important for parents and communities to give young people “a sense of understanding and a sense of belonging.” Meanwhile, the youth-organized-and-run conference stirred curiosity in the hearts and minds of its young guests.

“When this conference ends, [that search] doesn’t stop,” said Enis. “You go home and ask these questions: What clan do I come from? Do I have an O’otham name? Or why did you name me this? What happened at my birth?”

More than 350 young people attended the Youth Conference, which was held on June 23 and 24 at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa, across from the Fiesta Mall. The Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council, which organizes the annual conference, chose the theme “Living In Tradition” in recognition of the friction between being a teen in the digital age and holding fast to their analog heritage.

Shantell Terrazas, a Youth Council District 3 Representative, served as the conference chair. “Living in tradition means to us as the youth that [our] traditions will only be passed on through us and that they will only live on if we keep them going,” she said.

“We are the next generation and we have to set the example for the next ones to come,” said Terrazas, “to show we are the only ones to keep our traditions going like our games, songs, and ceremonies.”

The conference serves multiple purposes. First, it welcomes GRIC youth once a year for a fun time and chance to meet new or old friends from different parts of the Community. Second, the conference offers a number of classes on a wide variety of topics. Finally, it provides a central location for the AOPPC Youth Conference, which began its young guests a sense of understanding and a sense of belonging. Meanwhile, the youth-organized-and-run conference stirred curiosity in the hearts and minds of its young guests.

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The Youth Council held nomination sessions and certified candidates on Day 1 of the conference. On Day 2, the young electorate voted to create a central location for the AOPPC Youth Conference, which began its first annual event.

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The 2017 Gila River Youth Conference offered a chance for them to explore what their traditions mean to them.

Guests from the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin were afforded the opportunity to visit the Managed Aquifer Recharge 5 site, to see water flowing in the desert.
Housing study

From Page 1

As broiling 118-degree temperatures blasted the surrounding desert during one of the summer’s most intense heat waves, over 30 skaters from all over the Gila River Indian Community made their way to the District 3 Skate Park, on June 21, to participate in a world-wide skateboarding holiday known as Go Skateboarding Day, hosted by Seven Layer Army Skateboards.

The event began at the skate park, where skaters of all ages performed tricks of increasing difficulty. Just outside of the skate park’s gates and under the shade of trees, parents watched their sons and daughters participate in a timed race, trick competitions, and prize giveaways.

Dalia Acuna, of District 1, was one of several parents who came out to support their child’s passion. He said skateboarding is a great way to keep his son Jacob busy while doing something he loves.

"Oh, I love it, it keeps him out of trouble," Acuna said. "I take him skating as much as I possibly can, all events everywhere. We come out here every year and he participates every year, so I think it is really good for him." Jacob, who has been skateboarding for several years, said he has participated in three or four Go Skateboarding Days over the years, and his passion for the sport has become a family affair.

"It’s great because my dad and my mom and everyone in my family is just hyped about skateboarding because it is just something that gets everybody outside and there are competitions like this," Jacob said. When the heat reached record levels, skaters cooled off at a pickle slushy booth set up just outside the park’s gates, where they picked their favorite ice-cold treats. But while parents and skate fans watched from under the cool shade of trees in an effort to beat the heat, one skateboarder was unfazed by the summer heat wave.

Jay Reese, of District 5, whose talent is readily apparent to even the most casual skateboard enthusiasts, said skating is not just about doing tricks, it has an artistic side to it, where each skater can express themselves differently.

"I like the artistic side of it," Reese said. "You just press yourself differently. Everyone else, every other skater sees something different. So, let’s say you see a ledge, every skater might see [that] ledge and think about grinding it, and I might think about ollieing over it. You get to express yourself by doing tricks and that is what I really like about skateboarding," he said.

The event moved to the Gila River Wellness Center’s basketball court where event staff set up wooden ramps and grinding platforms, where local skaters attempted to do their best trick in an effort to win prizes.

The day ended with a large prize giveaway of brand new skateboards, apparel, and other merchandise, all provided by the Gila River Indian Community.

Event organizer, Ruben Ringlero, who hosts numerous skate competitions throughout the Community, said Go Skateboarding Day is a holiday recognized by skaters throughout the world and they were there to represent the tribe and celebrate skaters from their own Community.

Ringlero hosts the skating events to provide motivation for the youth to go skateboarding in a positive and safe environment, something, he said, and his friends did not have when they were growing up.

"My drive is the kids, the kids that skate out here in the community," he said. "When I was growing up skating out here, we didn’t have anything like this, it was just me and my buddies, and we didn’t have skate parks," he said.

"I’m older now and I just want to give back to the kids, I’m able to and the Community supports what we do, which I am thankful for. It keeps motivating the kids to keep skating and that is what I like to do, that is the full drive, giving the kids prizes and motivating them," he said.

For more information about upcoming local skating events contact Seven Layer Army. More information can be found at sevenlayerarmy@gmail.com or visit www.sevenlayerarmy skateboards.com

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis hands out prizes of new skateboards, hats, and stickers to excited Community skaters at Go Skateboarding Day on June 21.

Megan Fahnholz performs a win-win.

Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Making the Old New

Whether or not the flip products make use of adobe, some reinterpretation of adobe, or none at all remains to be seen. New forms may include fiber reinforced enhanced adobe, a combination of rigid foam and concrete, rammed earth, or prefabricated modular homes. There are many options out there, but as the conversation between Gila River and ASU continues, the team will move closer to a best-fit solution.

The project is a long-term, multi-year endeavor. Dalia Costa said the team will return for another round of input as their work progresses. She said the team learned a lot from the initial public input meeting last month, and has to go back and work it all into their study before they can develop some samples.

"It’s so much nicer to have something that the Community can review and critique and provide feedback on. So, the aim is to come back...before Christmass with some concrete drawings and to have the Community to critique the work." The final product or products of the study will be determined by the desires of the Community members who participate in the public input meetings. Dalia Costa said, "It could be very contemporal. It could be more traditional. I think there’s an endless possibility with how it could be designed, but I think what’s most important is the technology within that. Does it save energy? Is it better for this climate? And I think that, as a person coming from ASU, this is really important to me. If I can reduce the energy bills of a house and it is based on an indigenous technology, I think it’s a win-win."
DEQ promotes awareness about their Air Monitoring Network

The Department of Environmental Quality’s Air Quality Program (AQP) visited the Governance Center on June 21 in an effort to provide outreach to community members and educate the public about their Air Monitoring Network.

Leroy Williams, Environmental Engineer for AQP, said the program has gathered air quality data for the year of 2016 and is sharing the information with community members. He said the program is using the gathered data for regulatory purposes to determine the community’s compliance with federal air quality standards.

“We started the program back in 2002, so we have data all the way back from then,” Williams said. “We do this every year, see if we need to make changes, (like) add another pollutant that we would like to monitor.”

He said the two primary pollutants their program monitors in the community are ozone and particulate matter, which are coarse particles created from crushing and grinding operations, road dust, and agriculture.

According to the 2016 Gila River Indian Community Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network Review, there are three ambient air monitor stations within the community. There is a station in District 6 located at St. Johns in a residential area nearby Gila Crossing North Campus School, District 5 in Casa Blanca near Casa Blanca Elementary School, and a station in District 3 near the Ira Hayes Memorial Library. All three stations monitor ozone and particulate.

“They are continuous monitors,” said Williams. “We have an instrument that basically does the calculations of what the concentrations of each pollutant is. For particulate matter, what (the monitor) does is it has a pump that pulls the dust from the ambient air, the ambient air goes through the monitor, it senses it and it gives you what concentration of what the different matter is. (It’s) the same for ozone, we have instruments that basically breathe like a human and it will give you (the concentration of ozone) there at that site,” he said.

Since 2002, Williams said, their data has shown a drop in ozone concentrations levels in the community. He said levels used to be much higher than they are now, explaining the reason for this may be due to the improvement in vehicle emissions and more stringent emission testing.

When it comes to particulate matter, it is too difficult to determine whether there is a trend of it getting worse or better. However, unlike ozone, which predominately comes from outside sources such as the Phoenix Metropolitan area and Interstate 10, there is one step community members can take to lessen particulate in the air, especially during the drier months of summer.

“You don’t get a lot of moisture in June, so the soil starts drying out, the dirt roads become really dusty, which impacts our monitors,” Williams said. “Make sure that when (you) are driving on dirt roads, (try) to keep that speed limit to maybe 15 or 20 miles an hour. The slower you go, the less dust you make,” he said.

For more information about the Community’s Air Monitoring Network Review and Air Quality Program, visit gricdeq.org, email air@gric.nsn.us, or call (520) 796-3781.
Managing large-scale agricultural knowledge is required with agriculture business, a lot said after 17 years in the ag business,” she said.

“Switched my major into Ag classes like I did in high school to CAC it was just in general, didn’t take too long to figure out.”

“And then when I went to CAC it was just in general business and I kind of missed taking all those Ag classes like I did in high school, so then I just switched my major into Ag business,” she said.

Her mentor and supervisor Santos “Sonny” Nieto said after 17 years in the agriculture business, a lot knowledge is required with managing large scale farming operations.

“It takes a lot...You know how to have your stuff, you have to build your list of contacts to refer to and give a lot of advice and encourage community gardens,” said Nieto.

Quiroz said she is impressed at the amount of knowledge Nieto has about agriculture and that he has provided hands-on training on how to care for plants and how water is brought to the fields for farmer’s to use.

Working with Sonny I do a lot of watering for the green house located nearby and we are going to be transplanting some plants soon...basically I’m working [here] for GRIDD” said Quiroz.

Sonny said part of the responsibilities of his position that he is showing Quiroz is how it helps farmers take up good farming practices and help them see what farmers will plant at a specific time of the year to get the most of their investment.

When it comes to her own interest, Quiroz said that she is interested in the livestock sector of agriculture.

She and her younger sister participated in the Coolidge High School 4H program and Future Farmers of American organization. Raising swine and veal for the Pinal County Fair for six years, has taught her about the commitment it takes to be successful in raising animals.

Quiroz said that mentors at CAC have given her guidance on how to develop the right college program that fits her field of interest.

She said one such professor and mentor Kristen Benedict advised her on what program would provide her with the most return on knowledge gained.

“Kristen has been a real help ever since I started going to CAC, just helping me and encouraging me and making sure I am on track to pass all my classes,” said Quiroz, “Bob, he graduated from ASU with a degree in Ag business, so I go to him to ask if I’m taking the right classes as well and basically asking him on his perspective on the program there.”

Nieto said, “I think it is very important there are young students that are interested in getting into the agriculture field and Ag business, but we need somebody, not just one person, but many of them to go into these fields, so they can continue to help manage the Community’s agriculture.”

He said he would like to have other aspiring Ag business or minded individuals to mentor and teach, so that when the time comes to pass the torch, the Community’s future in agriculture is in good hands.

Quiroz said having an open mind and knowledge for the Community’s agricultural heritage and how it is a part of the agriculture industry in GRC, builds a good relationship among farmers, who still practice the “old ways.”
Men’s Health Awareness” campaign provides leadership and training

Members of the First Nations Warriors Society pose with comedians James Junes and Ernie Tsosie.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

If the health of the men in the Gila River Indian Community is a measure of the health of the Community itself, both are on the path to improved wellness. Last month, the Men’s Health Awareness Committee hosted a number of events to bring attention to the health of the Community itself, both are on the path to improved wellness.

“The Men’s Health Awareness campaign [provided] us the opportunity to establish a series of activities for the month of June,” said Michael Mercado, the Vice President of the Men’s Health Awareness Committee.

Men’s Health Awareness Month included a spiritual run from District 7 to District 2, a class to help men make their own shashavkud (gourd rattle), two song-instruction classes, and a shongival class. (Shongival is the traditional men’s kickball game.)

The men’s activities focused on physical wellness as well as cultural teachings and traditional practices. “These particular activities not only promote healthy, active living, but they also promote spiritual and mental wellness as well,” said Mercado.

The month wrapped up with a gathering at the Hashan Kehk Multipurpose Building in District 2 on June 29. The afternoon gathering featured inspirational speakers, comedians James and Ernie, and a dinner.

The Men’s Health campaign is a way for men to provide leadership training and pass on the strength of their ancestors through their traditions and customs.

“So through those particular teachings, we find that it’s an investment for our future to be able to pass those particular teachings to the younger generation,” said Mercado.

John Davis, a father from District 5, said the Men’s Health activities have been invaluable to him and his son, ‘Ino.

“It’s sad to say, but a lot of our heritage is starting to kind of disappear,” he said. “So for them to put something on like this, I think it’s great.”

Davis said he particularly enjoyed spending quality time with his son while making their own shashavkud in a class led by Aaron Sabori and learning songs in O’otham from Barnaby Lewis.

“One thing is just, for my son. Just bringing him, showing him some of the traditions,” he said, was very special. “I appreciate the committee for them to put on something like this.”

Part of the motivation behind the campaign is to support men in their fight to resist the social ills that can bring harm to one’s community, challenges like drug abuse, alcoholism, depression, and even simply poor physical health.

Mercado said that because of “a lot of these social challenges and health disparities that we face within our community, we thought that it would be best to approach the men of the Community to see if we can start proactively looking to revive a lot of the cultural traditions and practices that we once took part in so long ago.”

Davis said the Men’s Health campaign is a move in the right direction.

“It’s making the men stronger, more aware,” he said. Men are supposed to be the head of a household, but “there’s a lot of drugs and stuff that take away from our people.”

Davis knows first-hand the impact negative forces like alcoholism can have on a community, a family, and his own son.

“I’m a recovering alcoholic,” he said. But, “I’ve changed myself in order for me to be here longer for my family. I’d rather me be here in good health and be here for my kids and show them the things I’ve been shown.”

Furthermore, he said, “I want my son to get more involved as far as taking care of himself,” and his overall well-being.
SRPMIC traditional Pee Posh potter gives workshop at HHC

District 4 Community member Laverda Lewis mixes water with clay that will be shaped into a earthen vessel during the three-day workshop on July 1.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Community members tried their hand at tradition-al red-on-buff pottery making at a three-part workshop at the Huhugam Heritage Center on July 1.

The workshop was led by Salt River Pima-Maricopa member Ron Carlos, who took the time to share the art of traditional Pee Posh pottery making with members of the Community.

Carlos talked about the history of Maricopa pottery and how those practices to have continued with today’s contemporary practices, which is a practice shared by Huhugam people.

The red earthy colors that red-on-buff pottery is known for are representative of the rich content of materials found in the clay. Some potters take it a step further by giving their pot a fine polish with a stone to give it a smooth shine.

He said one of the most important aspects of pottery relies upon the quality of the clay and where it is found that may take some trial and error.

Clay, which is a rich source of soil, is often hard to dig up, but it results in very fine and artistic finished product.

The workshop walks participants through the preparation process that requires the grinding of clay materials that is sifted and re-sifted again to remove particles like rock and plant vegetation.

Carlos said for beginners working with clay, it can be a difficult medium to work with, but with time and patience, and some imagination, individuals can make some truly creative pieces of pottery.

Many of the participants that came out to the workshop came for a specific purpose to return to their cultural roots and to learn something they have studied by profession.

Ron Carlos demonstrates grinding the caliche into a fine dust before sifting it of imperfections.

Ron Carlos instructs workshop participants on how to knead clay once it has been shifted of excess material.

Pesticide Control Office
Summer Insect Hunt

Summer break from school can be fun, but at times bring on boredom for kids. As a way to give your kids a break from television or video games, why not send them outside exploring for insects! There are many different types of insects to be found in your own backyard or even at the park. Some insects may have even found their way indoors.

Your kids may find ants carrying food off to their colony underground, or a grasshopper hopping on its way to find its next grassy meal. Every insect has its own unique habits, but they all need food, water, and shelter.

Have your kids try to identify the insects they find and determine what type of food they eat, where they are finding water, and where they hide. This will help your kids understand if the insect is a pest. Encourage your kids to complete the following checklist in their search for insects, and to take photos of the insects they find which you can send to the Pesticide Control Office for identification.

Have your kids observe but not touch the insects, because some insects may be harmful.

My Insect Observation Log

Child’s Name:

What type of insect did you find?

How many legs does it have? Does it have wings? If yes, how many?

What color(s) is it?

Is it big or small?

Does it make noise?

What does it like to eat?

Where does it like to hide?

To learn about Integrated Pest Management, visit us on the web at www.GRICDEQ.org

The DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING - LIVESTOCK

Contact us by email at GRIC.Pesticide.Office@gric.nsn.us or by phone at (520) 562-2234

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING - LIVESTOCK

Phone: 520 562 9000

FEEDING

Horses need 3 to 5% of their body weight in feed to maintain weight. Split feedings into at least two times a day. For example, 1000 pound horse would preferable be fed 10 to 20 pounds of feed a day. Most of the feed should be in the form of fiber (hay, hay pellets) if a horse needs more calories for weight gain supplement feed can be added.

In Arizona we recommend not feeding off the sand because this is a big cause of colic. Use some kind of a fineder or mat to place feed in.

Deworming

Horses should be dewormed every 2 to 3 months. Foals should be dewormed every six to eight weeks.

Hoof Care

Adults need their feet trimmed every eight weeks on average. Foals would require to be trimmed more often.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING - LIVESTOCK

Phone: 520 562 9000
Gila Crossing Community School
Believe you Can!

**Job Fair**

**When:** Tuesday, June 27th, 2017  
**Time:** 9 AM—12 PM  
**Where:** Gila Crossing Community School  
Interviews on site
- Parent Educator
- K-8 Teachers
- Garden Assistant
- Substitutes
- Crossing Guard
- Bus monitors
- Computer Teacher
- Behavior Teacher
- Agriculture Teacher
- FACE EC Teacher

Breakfast will be provided upon application receipt.

Please bring the following documents:
- Completed Application
- Resume
- Three letters of Reference
- Immunizations
- Unofficial Transcripts
- Current AZ fingerprint card
- Teaching Certificate

-believe you can!

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- Teaching Certificate

Dale Ohnmeiss is the new Director of the Department of Environmental Quality

Dale Ohnmeiss introduced himself to the Gila River Indian Community Council as the new Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during a June 21 Community Council Meeting.

He said it was an honor to work for the Community and with his 28 years of experience, his goal is to protect the local environment.

“Regardless of whether it is air, water, [or] waste issues in the environment, my job is to assist all districts equally and to go wherever it is needed to protect the Community,” Ohnmeiss said.

While protecting the Community’s environment is Ohnmeiss’s main goal, he is also interested in creating a process within DEQ where members of the tribe who are interested in environmental protection can find entry-level work with the department.

“If you go to different state agencies or other tribal nations, they have departments but there is no real mechanism for anybody to come in [at the] entry level, learn the job, decide whether they like it or not, move up within the department and then all the way up to management, and maybe even director. That is what I want to create here in Gila River,” he said.

Ohnmeiss received his bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Arizona. He spent the next year-and-a-half working in a medical laboratory then transitioned to an environmental testing laboratory where he worked for the next five years.

After graduating from the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy, Ohnmeiss worked for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (AZDEQ) as an environmental crimes investigator for the next 11 years. During his time with AZDEQ, he also served as manager, overseeing several environmental programs.

He was then offered the position of Executive Director for the Rural Water Association of Arizona. Ohnmeiss then made his way to the Ak-Chin Indian Community where he worked as a water scientist for the next five years. Ohnmeiss said he has a great staff at DEQ and is happy to be working in the Community.

“It is an honor to be here,” Ohnmeiss said. “I am going to serve everybody equally and fairly.”
## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • June 21, 2017

### ACTION SHEET

Community Council; PO Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday June 21, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governor’s Office in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:04 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilwoman Janice Stewart

**ROLL CALL**

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:
- Governor Stephen R. Lewis
- Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:
1. D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg (9:37); D2- Carol Schurz
2. D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson
3. D4- Nada Celaya, Barney Enos, Jr. (9:14); Pamela Johnson
5. D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:14); Terrance Evans
6. D7- Devin Redbird (9:17)

Council Members Absent:
1. D4- Jennifer Allison; D6- Charles Goldtooth

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

1. Department of Environmental Quality Director, Dale Ohnmeiss
   
   Presenter: Pamela Thompson

2. Ms. Pamela Thompson introduced Mr. Dale Ohnmeiss.
   
   Ms. Ohnmeiss provided a brief overview of his background.

3. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND ENCOURAGEMENT

4. 2. GRHC Introduction of Stephanie Bellon, TCH Assistant Administrator

5. Presenter: Darlene Barkau

6. TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. GRHC Introduction of John Bell, TCH Director of Nursing

Presenter: Darlene Barkau

4. GRHC Introduction of Scott Gemberling, Chief Executive Officer

Presenter: Myron G. Schurz

COUNCILWOMAN CAROL SCHURZ INTRODUCED MR. SCOTT GEMBERLING. MR. GEMBERLING PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS AND LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTONTE EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND ENCOURAGEMENT

REPORTS

1. Development of Culturally Sensitive Food Safety Grower Trainings

Presenter: Valerie Joe

**TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**


Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Pamela Thompson, Kelly Gomez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT BOTH REPORTS

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. A Resolution Approving The Amendments Of The Current Gila River Indian Community Voter Registration Board Bylaws (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval with the additional material)

Presenters: Zuzette Kisto, Office Of General Counsel

**TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. A Resolution Amending GRICUA’s Plan Of Operation To Allow Board Members With Expired Terms To Continue To Serve On The Board Until The Community Council Appoints Or Reappoints An Individual To Serve A New Term On The GRICUA Board (EDSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, LSC concurs)

Presenters: GRICUA Board

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Memorizing An Amendment To The Current Membership Of The Litigation Team Be Replacing Former Councilman Brian Davis Sr., And Councilwoman Christopher Mendoza With Councilman Barney Enos Jr., Councilwoman Nada Celaya, And Councilwoman Carol Schurz (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council for discussion and action)

Presenters: Linus Everling

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving The Memorandum of Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department And Sacaton Elementary School District #18 (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Joanne Nelson

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

(GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:36 A.M.)

1. Legislative Standing Committee Appointment – (1) Council Seat

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT NADIA CEYLA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Declaration of Children’s Court Judge Vacancy

(LSC forwards to Council to declare the vacancy for the Children’s Court Judge for 60 days subject to the Code of Conduct, all interested applications to be submitted through Human Resources)

Presenters: Victor Antone

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

2. Public Broadcast Proposal – Primary Election Candidate Videos (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Nadine Shields, Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. Revenue Internal Audit FY2017 2nd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert G. Keller

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #3, #4, & #5

4. Gaming Internal Audit FY2017 2nd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert G. Keller

ACCEPTED AT ITEM #3

5. Basic Financial Statements Independent Auditors Report, And Single Audit Reporting Package Ending September 30, 2016 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Corrine Wilson, Chris Bitakis

ACCEPTED AT ITEM #3

MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> SAN JUAN FEST SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017, 10AM
> COUNCILMAN FRANKLIN PABLO, SR. ASKED TO BECOME AN NCAI MODERATOR

> ST. PETERS’ FEST SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017, 10AM-5PM

> YOUTH COUNCIL CONF FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017 AND SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

> 4-TRIBES MEETING, SALT RIVER, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

> TENTATIVE IHS MEETING, FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2017

> E&C WORK SESSION, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017, 9AM

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:56 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
PHOENIX — Yesterday, Anthony Erwin Jackson of Casa Grande was sentenced to 5 years of supervised release. Jackson had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor.

The evidence showed that Jackson sexually abused a 9-year-old victim in 1987 while living on the Gila River Indian Community. Jackson and the victim were enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community.

COURT NOTICE
IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

[Case Number: CV-2017-0153-RS vs. Frank Sunn]

TO: JOHN DOE

Respondent/Defendant

Petition for Customary Adoption filed by:

JOHN DOE

If you fail to appear and defend, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may be imposed.
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Enhanced Lifeline now covers telephone and broadband services. This change will appear on your July 1st statement.

The total amount of your discount is *$34.25 a month for telephone and broadband.

For lifeline benefit information visit:
www.gilarivertel.com/residential/discounted-services

To speak to the GRTI lifeline representative call:
520-796-3333.

*Amount is subject to change.
HELD OVER

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$9,999 2011 Kia Soul
$258/mo 2013 Buick Encore

$245/mo 2014 Ford Escape
$305/mo 2015 Kia Optima
$275/mo 2014 Nissan Altima
$275/mo 2010 Ford Fusion
$315/mo 2015 Dodge Charger

Priced at $10,999 or Lower

$220/mo or Lower

2015 Toyota Corolla
2014 Ford Focus (3 available)
2016 Nissan Sentra
2013 Hyundai Elantra
2013 Mini Cooper

2016 Volkswagen Jetta
2016 Ford Focus
2013 Nissan Altima
2012 Chevy Colorado
2015 Chevy Equinox

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