NABI tournament showcases Native basketball talent

From July 9 - 15, 128 teams representing over 300 indigenous tribes from all across North America and New Zealand battled it out on basketball courts for the largest Native youth basketball tournament in the world, the 15th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational.

The NABI Tournament kicked off with opening day ceremonies on July 9 at Copper Sky Park in Maricopa, Ariz. The event featured speakers, presentations, and prizes for the over 1,600 Native athletes from as far away as Alaska and New Zealand.

NABI is the premier basketball tournament in the country for Native American and Alaskan Native youth. Some of its greatest sponsors include the Phoenix Suns, the Phoenix Mercury, Nike N7, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Gila River Indian Community.

Following a team parade of all the athletes on opening night, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said, “On behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh people, we're proud to stand with our him, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, for being proud sponsors of NABI this year.”

He also noted the importance of youth and high school sports. “Sports builds character and it builds leadership. That’s what NABI is, it’s about leadership.”

Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel acknowledged the growth of the NABI tournament. “It gets bigger and better every year,” he said.

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis signed a $6 million five-party partnership agreement on July 15, to stabilize Lake Mead’s water levels by leaving 40,000 acre-feet of the tribe’s 2017 Colorado River allocation in the lake, where it will be saved in the Colorado River system.

The Community will assist with the Lake Mead preservation efforts and also receive financial benefits.

“Today’s agreement and the Community’s ongoing effort to protect the Colorado River carry immense importance for our people and our neighbors across the Southwest. Being good stewards of this most sacred resource is a part of who we are as a people and what the Gila River Indian Community has stood for across time,” said Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis.

“[The agreement] allows the Community to generate income today from water we otherwise would have stored off-reservation to create long-term credits for future marketing. This revenue will help our economy right now, in the present, without sacrificing our future potential,” Lewis said.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis signs a $6 million five-party partnership agreement to stabilize Lake Mead’s water levels by leaving some of GRIC’s Colorado River allocation in the lake.

Continued on Page 16
“Preserve our Future, become a Foster Parent”

For more information contact: Tribal Social Services: 520-562-3396

Get the new Gila River To Go App

1. Look for the app on Google Play or App Store on your smartphone or tablet.
2. Set up account.
3. Log in, choose, and order your food.
4. Order confirmation.

For more information, please visit GRHC.ORG/CAFE

#BLUEWHALECHALLENGE

Blue whales conjure feelings of serenity and beauty. But do you know what the #BlueWhaleChallenge is? Your children, who speak the language of hashtags and whose social life centers around online social spheres, probably do, and that should spur you to action.

The Blue Whale Challenge is a “game” overseen by online predators who pursue vulnerable children and teens, recruiting them to join a challenge whose completion demands only one outcome — suicide. The challenge is as easy as your child typing a hashtag to Instagram or Facebook which alerts a “curator” to set up a 50-day program of tasks and challenges that include self-harming behaviors. If a child attempts to back out of a certain task or the program, the curator will manipulate him...
GRIC Youth attend basketball camp hosted by the NBA and NABI

Thomas R. Throsell
Gila River Indian News

While 128 teams were battling it out on the court for the 15th Annual Native American Basketball Invitational, 160 incoming high school freshmen, six from the Gila River Indian Community, were hard at work training with NBA legends at the Jr. NBA Youth Camp at NABI for Native American Youth held at the Copper Sky Recreation Complex in Maricopa, Ariz., from July 10 – 12.

The NBA and NABI teamed up to host the three-day camp, which featured NBA players, coaches, and league staff, including pro legends A.C. Greene, Cedric Ceballos, Hall of Famer Annie Meyers-Drysdale, and Sacramento Kings Head Coach Dave Joerger.

The six Gila River teenagers who participated in the camp are: Cathauli Sanchez, Jasmine Mills, Ambrina Laws, Anthony Escalante Jr., Damon Evans, and overall basketball camp MVP, Nickolas Harrison.

The camp is a spinoff of the NBA’s Basketball Without Borders international program, which has hosted basketball camps in 30 cities, 25 countries, and six continents.

GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI President and co-founder, said because Native American communities are sovereign nations they fall under the NBA’s global initiative, which is how the Jr. NBA Youth Camp at NABI for Native American Youth initially came to life. “[The NBA] had an initiative last year to reach out to Indian Country,” she said. “With the NBA Foundation and our NABI tournament, which is a national tournament, at any given year we represent over 300 tribes, so they really wanted that high representation [to get] higher outreach. Partnering up with the NABI...
GRFD Chief Knapp wins prestigious fire officer award

The Gila River Fire Department had plenty to celebrate at the Arizona Fire Service 2017 Leadership Conference, a joint conference of the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) and the Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA). GRFD Chief Thomas Knapp won the AFCA’s Chief Fire Officer of the Year award during the opening session at Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Spa on July 11. Knapp, with his over 35 years of fire and emergency service experience, was humbled by the honor and credited the people who helped shape his career. “I’ve worked with incredible people, I’ve had incredible mentors,” said Knapp.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, recognized Knapp in a statement saying Knapp’s award was a memorable day for Chief Knapp and the Gila River Indian Community. “This recognition bestowed upon Chief Knapp is well deserved for his dedication, leadership, and commitment in making our Community safer and having our fire department become a highly trained and professional department. It’s been through Chief Knapp’s vision and leadership that the men and women of our fire department can be proud of a job well done.”

In his acceptance speech, Knapp, who has been Fire Chief since 2010, credited the Gila River Indian Community for giving him the chance to have success. “And finally to the Gila River Indian Community for allowing me the opportunity to perform what I love, to do my job as a fire chief with a great staff.”

Knapp said that GRFD takes approximately 6,500 calls a year from 4 stations that cover about 600 square miles. Knapp has developed several programs within GRIC including the Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Arson Team, a Management Intern Program, mentorship program and career development opportunities. He is also a board member for several organizations including the AFCA, on which he serves as the Tribal Nations Section Chair and Vice President of the Native American Fire Chief’s Association.

Chief Knapp has been instrumental in improving GRFD’s operations and partnerships with its Maricopa and Pinal County partners, as well as improving relationships between Native American fire agencies and others in Arizona. “We’ve had a good impact on not only tribal fire departments but statewide,” said Knapp.
Incident Log

June 25 - July 1, 2017

Calls for services this week:
704, Arrest made: 80

District One (Blackwater):
No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Two (Sacaton Flats):
No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Three (Sacaton):

Aggravated Assault – The victim called dispatch reporting a male who was a family member had stabbed her with a knife. Upon the arrival further investigation revealed the suspect and victim was talking when the conversation escalated into an argument. At which time the suspect cut the victim with the knife. The victim was able to call police and was later transported to Chandler Regional for further evaluation.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – The victim called dispatch in regards to the suspect attempting to stab the victim by chasing the victim throughout the residence with a dangerous weapon. The victim had known the suspect and victim were both at the residence when officers arrived. The suspect caused criminal damage to the residence by throwing a folding chair at the residence front door and scratching the bedroom door with a knife.

Status: Suspect was booked into jail

Burglary:

Officers responded to a work shop that reported their building had been burglarized. The investigation revealed the suspect had damaged the front window and the image of the burglar was obtained. Inside a dolly had been taken and a portable a/c unit removed.

Status: Under investigation

Theft – A security door was taken from one of the residences and was placed into evidence.

Status: Under Investigation

July 2-8, 2017

Calls for services this week:
560, Arrest made: 70

District One (Blackwater):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Two (Sacaton Flats):

Auto Theft – The victim stated she had her vehicle at her boyfriend’s residence and her keys were stolen. Upon checking on it periodically. During one of these checks she noticed the vehicle was no longer at his residence. The victim stated no one had her permit to remove the vehicle as it was not operable. A stolen affidavit was filled out and entered into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

Burglary - Department employee called dispatch and reported copper wire had been taken from the Office Building and taking a high rate of speed. The vehicle was seen leaving at a high rate of speed. The registered owner was known, but the county could not be contacted. Surveillance foot- age has been obtained in order to assist with identifying the suspect who took the vehicle.

Status: Under Investigation

District Three (Sacaton):

Aggravated Assault – The victim called dispatch stating she had been shot in the abdomen. Upon the arrival Officers it was discovered the suspect had shot the victim in the abdomen during an altercation. The victim was transported to a area hospital where she received further treatment. The victim identified the suspect who was later contacted and arrested.

Suspect Arrested

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Stoicton Area):

Auto Theft – Victim reported police her vehicle had been taken without her permission, which was entered into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

Burglary - The victim reported her wallet was stolen out of his vehicle while at the Qiwi Casino. The victim reported his debit card was used in Tempe on a shopping spree. Video surveillance was obtained to identify the two male subjects.

Status: Under Investigation

Weapon – A female was observed engaging in a domestic call. During the course of the investigation it was discovered the suspect was found to have an active warrant. As the individual was being taken into custody they began to struggle and kicked an officer during the altercation. The suspect was taken into custody and booked into jail

Incident Log

July 21, 2017

Gila River Indian News

Seeking comments on transmission line maintenance agreement

Western Area Power Administration is developing a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for Routine Maintenance and Minor Construction pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the transmission lines and facilities on the Gila River Indian Community, Arizona. The PA outlines processes for identifying historic properties and avoiding or minimizing harm to them. The draft PA is online for review at: www.wapa.gov/regions/DSW/Environment/Pages/PA.aspx

Comments on the draft PA must be received by August 11, 2017, in writing or email to:

Sean Berry, Regional Preservation Officer
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457
Email: DSWRGCPA@wapa.gov

Gila River Police Department

July 2, 2017

Auto Theft – The victim stated she had her vehicle at her boyfriend’s residence and her keys were stolen. Upon checking on it periodically. During one of these checks she noticed the vehicle was no longer at his residence. The victim stated no one had her permit to remove the vehicle as it was not operable. A stolen affidavit was filled out and entered into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The victim stated she had her vehicle at her boyfriend’s residence and her keys were stolen. Upon checking on it periodically. During one of these checks she noticed the vehicle was no longer at his residence. The victim stated no one had her permit to remove the vehicle as it was not operable. A stolen affidavit was filled out and entered into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

District Six (Komatke):

Aggravated Assault – The victim reported several hours had been found from a handgun. One of the rounds had struck the victim in the side causing a laceration. The victim was treated by EMS and later released to the hospital.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The reporting party stated they drove the vehicle to Vee Quiva Casino to gamble. When they were ready to leave the vehicle could not be located. The registered owner was out of the country, but could not be contacted. Surveillance footage has been obtained in order to assist with identifying the suspect who took the vehicle.

Status: Under Investigation

Additional comments are invited and should be addressed to:

Western Area Power Administration

13200 S. 30th Avenue

Phoenix, AZ 85043

Telephone: 480-752-2144

Email: TAJANGEL@wapa.gov

Regional Preservation Officer

Sean Berry, Regional Preservation Officer

13200 S. 30th Avenue

Phoenix, AZ 85043

Telephone: 480-752-2134

Email: SBERRY@wapa.gov

Comments on the draft PA must be received by August 11, 2017, in writing or email to:

Sean Berry, Regional Preservation Officer
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457
Email: DSWRGCPA@wapa.gov

Western Area Power Administration
Quarterly Per Capita payment distribution July 31 for adults and trust accounts

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The per capita payment distribution for July 31 has been announced.

Adult recipients will receive $338.02 and $331.50 will be deposited into minor trust accounts.

The per capita payment amount is determined by 11 percent of net gaming revenues being sent to fund the Per Capita Office. After administrative costs, including office expenses, trust administration expenses and payments to third party vendors, and after adjustments made for previous payments, the fund is divided among eligible members.

Community members enrolled to receive per capita payments can choose to receive their distribution in the form of a Bank of America debit card, via direct deposit into their personal checking account, or via paper check.

To change the method of payment, Community members can visit the Per Capita Office in the Governance Center in Sacaton. For further questions, call (520) 562-5222.
Tribal Education Department sponsors youth for Washington D.C. trip

The Tribal Education Department recently sponsored 15 GRIC youth to Washington D.C. for a week of learning and sightseeing, June 18 - 23.

The individuals selected for the trip were recent high school graduates who demonstrated exceptional character traits and citizenship. The trip was packed with opportunities for the youth to learn about history and visit numerous historical landmarks.

One advantage the group had was utilizing a private tour guide which provided the opportunity to learn about each historical site in depth. The group visited national monuments, which included the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, World War II Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Marine Corps War Memorial and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Visiting the monuments allowed the students to gain a greater understanding of the history of our country as well as the sacrifices made. While there was a tight schedule to keep the students eager to keep learning. Next on the agenda was visiting the National History Museum, the International Spy Museum, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Visiting the Holocaust Memorial Museum was a very emotional experience. Witnessing some of the horrific imagery and hearing stories from those who survived was enlightening for many of the youth. After visiting the various museums the next stop was Arlington National Cemetery to witness the Changing of the Guard and to visit the grave of Ira Hayes. Several of the students joined together to sing a song in O‘otham to honor him while visiting the gravestone. The last portion of the trip, they visited the United States Capitol for a fascinating guided tour of the building. The tour showcased beautiful artwork, described the history of the building and illustrated how it has evolved into the magnificent building it is today. One of the final highlights of the trip was visiting Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, which represents the Gila River Indian Community in various legal issues. The youth were able to engage in a question and answer session, over a nice hot breakfast, with attorney Jason Hauter. Mr. Hauter is a Community member who has worked with the Akin and Gump firm for several years, and he was happy to engage with the group and answer any and all questions asked of him.

The trip was an overall great experience for those selected to attend. After five days braving the humidity in Washington D.C. the group returned back to Arizona with more knowledge and great memories!
The training program was filled with mothers wanting to learn more about how to keep their children safe through proper car seat installation.

Thomas R. Throsell
Gila River Indian News

At first, finding the right car seat for your child may seem like one of the easier tasks of raising a child, however, once you start researching which seat to purchase the flood-gates of information rip wide open and what once seemed like an easy task has suddenly become a massive headache.

Luckily, you aren’t alone. The Tribal Health Department’s Gila River Injury Prevention Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) program has got your back and is ready to show you which car seat to get and how to properly install it.

That’s not all. They will even give you a free car seat for attending one of their car seat safety classes. For Teri J. De La Cruz, Injury Prevention Technician, who has been teaching car seat safety classes throughout the Gila River Indian Community, it is important for parents to learn to properly install their child’s car seat and understand the consequences of improperly installed seats.

“We are just trying to make parents more aware of the safety of car seats for babies all the way up to having your kids in a booster seat up to the age of 12 if needed,” De La Cruz said. “We are trying to save lives by informing parents. We see car crashes, at least here in Gila River, five a month, and some of them, the kids are not in car seats.”

She said that many parents have the misconception if they are driving a short distance from home, to their local supermarket down the road or nearby post office, that their child will be fine riding in their vehicle unrestrained.

“They think they will just run down the road. The important thing is to always, always put your baby in the car seat, even if you are just going a couple of blocks,” De La Cruz said. “These are your children and it only takes a couple of seconds to buckle up your baby.”

“You just never know when you are going to have to slam the brakes, or you might hit something suddenly where the baby will fly out of the car seat if the child is not restrained,” she said. “These are fragile bodies still and having an impact on the console, on the back of the seat, can cause severe head trauma and severe injuries to the body.”

On July 11, Community members took part in a car seat safety class held at the Sacaton Dialysis Center. De La Cruz made sure everyone installed their chosen car seat correctly.

“Our program is a federally funded program, so all [tribal members] are invited to come get a car seat,” she said. “We give away four car seats in our program, a convertible, a combination, a highback booster and a no back booster. We service all the districts here, we try to get to every district every month.”

If you are interested in learning more about car seat safety or would like to receive a free car seat, call the Gila River Injury Prevention Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) program at (520) 550-8000 or email Teri De La Cruz at teri.delacruz@gric.nsn.us or Verena Jackson at verena.jackson@gric.mn.us.

The next car seat training classes will be held on Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Sacaton Dialysis Center and Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Komatke Health Care.
The GRIC Voter Registration Board introduced themselves at the Arizona Native Right to Vote Celebration.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis discusses the importance of registering to vote.

The Native American’s right to vote wasn’t easy to obtain. Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Yavapai, advocated for the Native right to vote in 1928, and in 1928, Peter Porter and Rudolph Johnson, Gila River Indian Community members, sought their voting rights but were denied by the Arizona Supreme Court. In 1848, the Arizona Supreme Court confirmed the voting rights of Native Americans when two Yavapai men, Frank Harrison and Harry Austin filed a lawsuit to secure their right to vote. Judge Levi S. Udall wrote, “To deny the right to vote where one is legally entitled to do so, is to do violence to the principles of freedom and equality.”

With all this history in mind, the Gila River Voter Registration Board sponsored the Arizona Native Right to Vote Celebration at the Boys & Girls Club, Komatke Branch in District 6 on July 15. The Voter Registration Board is a group dedicated to the registration of GRIC voters. The celebration included tribal leaders, special remarks, raffle prizes, breakfast and lunch, and a traditional dance from Achem A’a.

In 2011, former GRIC governor William R. Rhodes proclaimed July 15 as the “Gila River Indian Community Native American Right To Vote Day.” Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who is reaffirming Rhodes’ proclamation, emphasized the historical battle Native Americans, particularly in Arizona, have had in the right to vote. “We can never take our right to vote for granted,” he said.

Gov. Lewis also implored GRIC members to increase their participation in upcoming elections. “We really need to raise the voting levels in Gila River.” Lt. Gov. Monica Antone said. “Keep the outreach going, we need to educate the average voter on issues that affect Native country. And encourage them to practice their right to vote.”

Voter Registration Board Chairperson Zuzette Kisto said her goal is to empower the Community members to vote and, “to provide resourceful information that would educate the average voter on issues that affect Native country. And encourage them to practice their right to vote.”

The Voter Registration Board members are Zuzette Kisto, Jackie Thomas (Vice-Chairperson), Rebecca Kisto (Treasurer), Bonnie Lyons (Secretary), Joyce McAfee, Joella Velasco, Sheri Bodmer, Valerie Webb, Darlene Burnette, Jeanette Pedro, Joyce Lopez, and Jovida Antone.

Several attendees won raffle prizes ranging from NABI tickets to household items.

Casa Blanca Community School
Post Office Box 10940
Bapchule, Arizona 85121

NOTICE OF CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Parents & Guardians:

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

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

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

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

To obtain a petition to run in the election, please contact Ms. Fito Long at CBCS, (520) 515-5489.

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

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

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

Any questions regarding the election should be directed to Ms. Fito Long at the above number.
The championship, which featured four games split into silver and gold divisions, was the culmination of this year’s NABI tournament, where 64 boys teams and 64 girls teams competed for the titles.

The Arapaho team, who were runners-up in last year’s NABI tournament, began the game slow with just 8 points scored against the Sioux’s 30, with only 6 minutes left on the clock in the first half.

The Sioux’s large lead was short-lived however, as the Arapaho picked up their pace and began dominating offensively, closing the gap by the end of the first half, 35-24.

During the second half the Arapaho gained the lead and kept it until the buzzer marked the end of the game and clinched the team’s sixth NABI championship, the score 75-71, Arapaho.

Boys’ Gold Division

The Barrow Whalers out of Sells, Ariz., and the only O’odham team to make it to the NABI championship, faced the San Carlos Chiefs, out of San Carlos, Ariz., in the boys’ silver division.

The game was typical of rezball, physical, high scoring, and fast-paced with both teams neck and neck as the clock wound down during the first half. With only minutes left on the board, the Whalers picked up their pace, pushing to a 10-point lead and winning the boys’ silver division championship, 87-75.

The Whalers continued to play strong, leading the game with just five minutes left. With the clock counting down, the Whaler’s began to slow their pace on the court, scoring less and less each time they had possession of the ball. The Chiefs capitalized on the games changed momentum, gaining a 12-point lead and winning the boys’ silver division championship, 87-75.

The Whalers is a misnomer. The team is actually called Three Nations with boys from the Tohono O’odham Nation, Gila River, and the Navajo Nation. However, due to administrative complications they are listed as the Barrow Whalers with NABI.

Girls’ Silver Division

In a lopsided match between the elite NBVs of Gallup, N.M., and Wa-ziyata Unpi out of Fort Yates, N.D., the NBVs dominated the first half of the game with the help of Amanda Mitchell’s string of three-pointers. NBVs led the game at halftime with a score of 22-14.

Wa-ziyata continued to fight against NBVs powerhouse offense, and with 2 minutes left in the game, slowed their pace and struggled to hold their defense together. The NBVs took the girls’ silver division championship with a final score of 48-26.
GILA RIVER CONGRATULATES ALL THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

At her office at the Department of Environmental Quality, Althea Walker, an Environmental Education and Outreach Specialist, talked about her aspirations and what she’s been able to accomplish in the year since graduating with her Masters in Environmental Technology Management from Arizona State University.

“I’m not your traditional college student, I didn’t go to college right out of high school,” said Walker, “I started in the business program, I thought I wanted to go into engineering… and then I finally realized I want to go into environmental protection.”

She said a chance visit with a University of Arizona Professor Karletta Chief, who works at the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science, sparked her interest on the environmental issues shared among American Indians.

“I remember a Navajo lady talking about being a hydrologist and coming from her home on the Navajo Nation and speaking about the environmental issues and how she brought her education back to her community…so that was part of the inspiration on choosing environmental protection as a field of interest,” said Walker.

Walker said, that her education and job go hand-in-hand, that she is able to gain exposure from each of the areas of service DEQ works within.

“One of the driving factors behind her work is seeing other Native professionals who share a similar passion for protecting the environment. She said, “Just seeing more and more through the years other Natives doing [this] kind of work, protecting the environment is really empowering. Especially when you attend conferences and see a room full of Natives and they’re all doing something that they love with their education.”

Walker said that her position allows her to get a well-rounded experience of the environment and work along the lines of what they’re studying in school.

“Althea Walker, at her graduation, is using her knowledge and experience to make an impact at DEQ,” said Walker.

Walker hopes to continue building her level of knowledge while helping Community members get a better understanding of the tools and what her department conducts to keep the environment safe and how it is related to their health.

“It’s taking every opportunity to educate about the importance of environmental protection in a way that is personal to them…so if [you] think about air quality and how it affects your upper respiratory system and other ways it affects their health,” said Walker.

Since her department works with vast amounts of data on the environment, Walker said she tries to translate that information into something that is useful.

She has aspirations of getting a Ph.D. in sustainability that she hopes will elevate her journey into playing a more integral role building a cleaner more eco-friendly future.

“Eventually I want to take on more responsibilities and be able to be in a position of influence through a leadership role… but we’ll see how that goes. It may not happen that way, but as long as I get to do the work along the lines of what I do now post-doctoral, I’ll be satisfied with that,” said Walker.

She said opportunities to help college students rise two-fold, because on the one hand it shows there’s an interest in protecting the environment and second, it offers her a chance to mentor students that want to make a positive change in the Community.

Walker said, “To help influence another Community member to get them into environmental protection, who is eager to do it… I find that rewarding hopefully they can stay [here] within the department and work along the lines of what they’re studying in school.”
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Language is more than a means of communicating; it is a form of identity that is used to distinguish one group of people to another. The University of Arizona American Indian Language Development Institute held a training for Community members that focused on integrating indigenously languages into a more formal teaching settings. The training was held at the District 3 Head Start building on July 10.

AILDI hosts annual summer session trainings in different tribal communities. This year’s training was coordinated in collaboration with the Tribal Education Department and AILDI Project Coordinator Alyce Sadongei from July 10 to 20.

Other AILDI staff presented the training, including Director Ofelia Zepeda, of the Tohono O’odham Nation Language and a professor of linguistics at U of A.

She talked about the Native American Language Act of 1990, which established federal policy recognizing the language rights of indigenous people across the United States.

Zepeda said she was a part of like-minded individuals who developed a legislative proposal that could help promote indigenous language, which was a response to the “English Only” movement of the 1980’s to make it the National language.

The 10-day session is unlike any other symposium on indigenous languages because it presents language in the context of a living thing that requires nourishment that can only be satisfied through teaching the younger generation of Natives peoples.

Language has significant impact in the lives of tribal members and those who work for tribal communities regarding language and language education within the community and the school and of course in the family.

Zepeda talked about her role in making indigenous official languages for several states that adopted a language other than English.

“The way that I talk about it is from my own experience, because I was involved with [this] particular document in the beginning stages of it, because it started out as a meeting of individuals from various Native language speaking tribes to get together that was hosted by the Native American Language Issues Institute, said Zepeda.

She said the creation of NALA is for those in language education that can take advantage of this particular policy for their school’s and community’s advantage when it comes to language planning and promotion.

Zepeda said, “Language isn’t like an animal, it never dies, it will always be there, but it won’t be quite the same…you can keep it from making a dramatic change over time from what it was in the past.”

From her perspective, language should not be placed on a self like an object or hung on a wall like art.

She said, “Once placed on a wall it can never be fully appreciated, but to be used in order for it to carried on from one generation to the next. [It] either adapts or goes away, and so it is our responsibility to promote the use of indigenous languages.”

Others topics covered at the training included subjects like oral immersion, storytelling and discussions on ideologies and philosophical perspectives.

For the students, she cautions that language does not always translate well into English and vice versa, but for them to always have a creative approach in describing objects and things to their students.

“When we think about language, it actually starts at conception…as parents, we have to understand that, that first step is being able to speak the language to our children,” said Nicholás. “What is the role of language in a child’s life, is always under question, but I think where it stands, it encompasses everything around them and what they see.”

AILDI Training focuses on the preservation of Native languages

The University of Arizona and the Tribal Education Department collaborated on educational training held at the District 3 Head Start Building on July 10.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila River Indian Hotels & Casinos unveil THE CARD


“At Gila River Hotels & Casinos we are known for exceeding our guests’ expectations in all aspects of our hotel and casino experience. Our loyalty program—no different,” said Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. “Now with THE Card, our Players Club members can accumulate points even faster, making it easier to earn incredible rewards.”

THE Card features Emerald, Ruby, Gold and Platinum tiers that offer exciting perks and benefits. The more points guests earn, the higher their status, and access to exclusive perks.

Now with THE Card, guests will be able to:

• Earn new and enhanced rewards including daily cash back and free play playing slots, table games or bingo
• Win Gila River Casino comps at more than 30 convenient locations at all three of the Gila River properties such as Shula’s Steak House and the exciting Ovations LIVE! Showroom Room
• Score other comps including tickets to watch sports teams like the Arizona Diamondbacks and concerts at Gila River Arena
• Enjoy convenient Players Club account management—guests can review balances, points, rewards and manage their account online or on the new Gila River Casinos app
• Be entered into a drawing in free play; they also will be entered into a drawing in which Gila River Hotels & Casinos is giving away an additional $25,000 in free play.

Learn more about THE Card at THECardbyGilaRiverCasinos.com or visit the Players Club at any of the three Gila River Hotels & Casinos properties.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Meaghan Mahar
O’Hara Partners Senior Public Relations Account Executive m.mahar@ohpartners.com (c) 480-330-4608

Teaya Vicente, Gila River Gaming Enterprises Corporate Marketing and Public Relations Manager teaya.vicente@wingilariver.com (c) 520-796-7223

Upcoming Tribal Lot Inspections

Beginning October 2, 2017
The Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning will conduct Tribal Lot Inspections throughout The Gila River Indian Community

Some details that LPZL will be looking for:
• Yard Debris
• Non Working Vehicles
• Unapproved 2nd Dwellings
• Number of Livestock
• Substandard Structures
• Abandoned Lots

For questions, please call: 520-562-6003
291 W. Casa Blanca Rd Executive Ki’ Post Office Box E Sacaton, AZ 85147

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Page 13 July 21, 2017
On July 12, former Phoenix Suns forward, Ceballos, stood in the center of the recreation center’s indoor basketball court with kids sitting around him in a semi-circle intently listening. He explained to the kids the camp is not to just learn about basketball, it is to learn about yourself and how to positively move forward through life.

“The biggest thing is just getting around other kids, so they can get some competition in,” he said. “Sometimes you kind of get stuck in your own environment playing against the same people all the time, when they have camps like this for Native Americans all over the [country], you see different faces, different styles of basketball, which helps you out too.”

Fourteen-year-old Mills, from District 5, said the camp helped her improve her skill on the court, and pumped up her motivation to continue playing the game.

“I learned how to square up to the basket, how to box out somebody, and to actually get the rebound and put it back up,” said Jasmine. “They tell you things about what they did long ago, they tell you and it can encourage someone to actually come out and show the talent that they got. That is why they come out here and do these because they know we have the talent and ability to do it,” she said.

Coach Joerger, said the camp is just the beginning and they are looking forward to hosting more across Indian Country in the future.

“It’s a fantastic program, the NBA is very involved in all parts of basketball in the world and for them to want to put on this event through the Jr. NBA is just terrific,” said Joerger. “The vibe in the gym, the kids are having a good time, they are learning, not just about basketball but different aspects of the education part of it and it’s just a terrific deal.”

---

NBA Coordinator Maria Laterza (center) warms up a group of young girls during the Jr. NBA Basketball Camp on July 12.

**Gila River Wellness Presents:**

**Water Aerobics**

Water aerobics is the performance of aerobic exercise in fairly shallow water such as in a swimming pool. Done mostly vertically and without swimming typically in waist deep water. It is a type of resistance training and is less stressful on joints. Some learn a different way to workout in a safe and effective atmosphere.

- **No swimming experience required**
- **Everyone Welcome**
- **Lifeguards on duty**

**SCHEDULE**

- **Wednesdays**
  - D1/D2 at D1 10:00am-11:00am
  - D5/D6 at D6 9:30am-10:30am

- **Tuesdays**
  - D1/D2 at D1 10:00am-11:00am
  - D5/D6 at D6 9:30am-10:30am

**Items to bring:**
- Towel
- Water bottle
- Water shoes (optional)
- Swim wear or shorts and t-shirt
- no cotton clothing

**For More Information Call:** (520) 562-2026
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • July 5, 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 Tuesday July 5, 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 9:09 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Presenters: Zuzette Kisto, Office of General Counsel

APPROVED

ACTION ITEMS

1. GRHC - Introduction of Stephanie Belton, TCH Assistant Administrator
Presenters: Darlene Barkau
MS. DARLENE BARKAU INTRODUCED MS. STEPHANIE BELTON. MS. BELTON PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS.

2. GRHC - Introduction of John Bell, TCH Director of Nursing
Presenters: Darlene Barkau
MS. DARLENE BARKAU INTRODUCED MR. JOHN BELL. MR. BELL PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

1. Unfinished Business

RESOLUTIONS

1. 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
DENIPSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Jason Hauter
APPROVED

3. Resolution Approving The Fiscal Year 2018 Gila River Indian Community Indian Housing Plan For Implementation And Submittal To The United States Department Of Housing And Urban Development (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Kelly Gomez
APPROVED

4. Resolution Approving Modification No. 39 To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Year 2017 Through 2021 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Suzanne Johns, Pamela Thompson
APPROVED

5. Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Operating Budget Modification No. 2 For Fiscal Year 2017 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Suzanne Johns, Pamela Thompson
APPROVED

6. A Resolution Announcing The Intent Of Gila River Indian Community To Enter Into An Agreement With The United States Indian Health Services (IHS) For The Operation Of The Red Tail Hawk Health Care (Also Known As The Southeast Ambulatory Care Center), Pursuant To Title IV Of The Indian Self Determination And Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, As Amended) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, HSSC, concurs)
Presenters: Linus Everling
APPROVED

7. A Resolution Approving An Alternative Funding Arrangement Among The United States Department Of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services And The Gila River Indian community, To Fund The Lining Of The Casa Blanca Canal In The Amount Of $4,500,000.00 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Jason Hauter
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

8. A Resolution Approving The Reinquishment of Richard Jose Quintero From The Gila River Indian Community Membership Roll (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Wayne Nelson, Jr.
APPROVED

9. A Resolution Approving The Reinquishment of Jamel Lee Bums From The Gila River Indian Community Membership Roll (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Wayne Nelson, Jr.
APPROVED

10. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Gaming Enterprises, INC. Operating Budget And Capital Projects Budget For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Janice Ponziani, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee
APPROVED

ORDINANCES

1. unfinished Business

MINUTES

1. June 7, 2017 (Regular)

2. June 21, 2017 (Regular)

3. December 7, 2016 (Regular)

4. December 28, 2016 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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APPROVED

APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION AS THE STARTING POINT OF NEGOTIATIONS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLOW THE EAST WEST PORTION OF THIS SFPP/KM PIPELINE LS330 TO REMAIN ABANDONED SUBJECT TO THE NEGOTIATING OF A FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF SUCH INFRASTRUCTURE

NEW BUSINESS

1. District One Enrollment Committee Member Appointment (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval in appointing Ms. Ruth Cox to the Enrollment Committee)
Presenters: Wayne Nelson, Jr.
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF MS. RUTH COX

2. District Three Enrollment Committee Member Appointment (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval in appointing Ms. Tonna Mercado to the Enrollment Committee)
Presenters: Wayne Nelson, Jr.
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF MS. TONNA MERCADO

5. Authorization To Release Community Data To The Blackwater School (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Seaver Fields
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

6. Congressional Travel Dates July 20-21, 2017 (H&SSC forwards to Council to open to any Council Member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)
Presenters: Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TRAVEL TO COUNCIL UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

7. Enrollment Department Invitation
Presenters: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TRAVEL TO COUNCIL UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

8. ITA Retreat Meeting
Presenters: Lt. Governor Monica Antone
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TRAVEL TO COUNCIL UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

NEWS & SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2017

MINUTES

1. June 7, 2017 (Regular)

2. June 21, 2017 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> Concerns ExpRESSED Regarding District 7 Representatives

> G&MSC Special Meetings Thursday, July 6, 2017 And Friday, July 7, 2017

> Farm Board Meeting, Thursday, July 6, 2017, 9AM At The Farming Department

> Bruce Brunette Services Friday, July 7, 2017 & Saturday, July 8, 2017

Adjournment
Meeting Adjourned At 12:00 P.M.
* Denotes Tabled from previous meeting(s)
Lake Mead from Page 1 or our water.

“Second, this agreement helps conserve water in Lake Mead. That conservation effort benefits our people and every resident of Arizona by helping to protect the Colorado River and our water future,” he said. “Back in March, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the city of Phoenix, the Walton Foundation, and the Community agreed to work together to address the persistent drought impacting our region. Through our collective efforts and with the cooperation of the Bureau of Reclamation, we were able to reach an historical agreement to conserve another 40,000-acre-feet of water in Lake Mead to help protect Lake Mead’s water levels,” Lewis said. The release said the agreement will help conserve water in Lake Mead, which benefits all residents of Arizona including GRIC, and allows the tribe to generate income that will help its own economy.

“Given the central role of water in our economy and our culture, today’s agreement is truly a cause for celebration,” Lewis said in the ADWR press release. The release said the five partners see the agreement as a down payment for an Arizona-based plan, which will aid in protecting the Colorado River system reservoir from years of drought that have caused water levels to rapidly drop in recent years. The plan, which is called the Drought Contingency Plan, is an effort by local Arizona leaders to keep Lake Mead’s water levels above the first shortage trigger, which has been set at an elevation of 1,075 feet.

According to Terry Fulp, Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Region, as of today Lake Mead’s current elevation is 1,079 feet, just four feet from the first shortage trigger, which will cause the federal government to declare a water shortage and begin a reduction in water supplies to surrounding states.

“Today, Lake Mead is at an elevation of 1,079 [feet] above sea level, that is about 10 million-acre-feet of water storage, but it’s only about 38 percent full,” said Fulp. “It is about 120 feet down from where it was in September of 1999. So 40,000-acre-feet, that is about half-a-foot on Mead given were it is today.

Fulp said contributions from different leaders from Arizona and surrounding states have added up to 750,000 acre-feet of water being kept in Lake Mead this year, which comes out to around 15 feet of water retained in Lake Mead.

“Some might say half-a-foot, is that really historic, is it that important? I think the answer is absolutely yes,” he said.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), State Of Arizona, City of Phoenix and Walton Family Foundation (WFF) agreed to conserve a major portion of the GRIC’s Central Arizona Project (CAP) water entitlement to secure Lake Mead’s water supply.
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New Native film follows story on the Pine Ridge Reservation

“Neither Wolf, Nor Dog” follows a writer’s journey through the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A film about historical trauma and a personal quest for understanding is captured in a movie set against the backdrop of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

“Neither Wolf, Nor Dog,” was adapted from Kent Nerburn’s 1996 novel of the same name.

The film is showing in limited release at Harkins Movie Theatres across Arizona, and is directed by Scottish Director Steven Lewis Simpson.

It was funded through a Kickstarter campaign. Kickstarter is an online crowd sourced funding website that financially supports various creative projects.

This story follows writer Nerburn, played by Christopher Sweeney, who travels to the Pine Ridge Reservation on an anonymous call to write the stories of an elder who goes by the name Dan.

Portrayed by Dave Bald Eagle, Dan is an Oglala Lakota with a story to tell, that’s not just of his own, but also of the Lakota people, and a very traumatic episodic in the history of his people and the United States.

Although Nerburn believes Dan has tasked him with the impossible, it becomes clear that in order to accurately tell the stories of the Lakota people, it requires an empathetic approach.

When Nerburn appears hesitant to take on the task of creating the book from a shoe box of letters and short stories, Dan’s granddaughter Wenonah, (actress Roseanne Supernault), adds ten dashed by Grover’s criticisms as they ride the dusty back roads of the Pine Ridge Reservation in his old Buick in search of common ground about how to write the book.

At the center of Dan’s stories is the horrific retelling of the Wounded Knee massacre that took place on a frigid December day in 1890, which deeply impacted Nerburn’s feelings about completing the book.

By the end of the film, we learn that Nerburn has completed the book, which Wenonah brings to Dan at the dinner table. In a bit of humor he places the book under the leg of the table to level it and makes a comment about the book being just right.

Although the film is slow-paced, it seems purposefully executed to allow the viewer to fully appreciate and take away their own interpretations of what it represents, whether it is engaging in our own tribal and family history by documenting them, or overcoming what we believe is the impossible when we encounter our own challenges.

Outside of the silver screen, what makes actor Bald Eagle’s life extraordinary, aside from being a familiar face in Hollywood, was the fact that he served in World War II as a Paratrooper with the U.S. Army in the 82nd Airborne Division, which is known as the “All-American,” division.

In July of last year, Bald Eagle passed away at the age of 97, he never let the light of fame change the fact that the story of all American Indian people needs to be told and not be forgotten, which is why “Neither Wolf, Nor Dog,” seems to be a role that mirrors his life experiences.

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