Mul-Chu-Tha parade brings out thousands to GRIC’s annual Fair & Rodeo

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Ramona Farms joins Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame

Ken Clemmer Photo – cameraco.net

Rod Lewis appointed to CAWCD

Leslie Paqual Day Proclamation

GRPD Incident Logs

Gov. Lewis MCT Thank you message

HHC: More plurals in O’otham

Mul-Chu-Tha coverage

Native Fashion Show

Community Council Election Day May 2, more info

Chief Azul Scholarship awards deadline March 31

What’s New at GRICUA?
The Communications & Public Affairs Office would like to thank the following individuals, tribal departments and business entities for their volunteerism, hard work, cooperative efforts made in order to produce the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo.

The success of the event could not be possible without the support of our tribal corporations, tribal departments and business entities!

**GRIC Departments:**
- Property & Supply Department
- Contracts & Grants
- Public Safety (GRPD, GRFD, OEM)
- Environmental Health
- Risk Management
- Facilities Department
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Transportation
- Executive Offices
- Community Services Department
- Finance Department

**MIS**
- Revenue Audit
- Tribal Education Department
- Enrollment
- Office of the Community Manager
- Wellness/Tribal Recreation
- Community Nutrition Program
- Human Resources

**District Service Centers:**
- District #1 Service Center
- District #2 Service Center
- District #3 Service Center
- District #4 Service Center
- District #5 Service Center
- District #6 Service Center
- District #7 Service Center

**Businesses:**
- Desert Sky Mustangs
- Arizona Professional Audio Services, LLC.

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**2017 SPONSORS**

![Wild Horse Pass Development Authority](image)

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![Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.](image)

![Gila River Sand & Gravel Corp.](image)

![Gila River Indian Community](image)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2017

Governor Ducey Appoints Gila River Indian Community Member and Noted Arizona Attorney Rodney Lewis to CAWCD Board

Lewis, first member of an Arizona tribe to become a member of the State Bar, now becomes first Arizona Tribe member to serve on Water Board.

PHOENIX, AZ. – Governor Doug Ducey today announced the appointment of Gila River Indian Community member and longtime tribal water rights attorney Rodney B. Lewis to the 15-member Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Lewis, the first member of an Arizona Indian tribe to gain admission to the State Bar, becomes the first member of an Arizona tribe to serve on the CAWCD Board in its 46-year history.

Lewis, whose Director’s term will expire in 2018, fills the open Maricopa County seat created by the March 2nd resignation of Guy Carpenter.

“The opportunity to serve on the CAWCD Board is, for me, the culmination of a career-long interest and passion for effectively managing Arizona’s water supply and the water rights of Indian Tribes across the state and the Southwest,” said Lewis. “I want very much to be an advocate for Tribes and for every Arizona resident, making sure the Central Arizona Project manages our water and our tax dollars with a focus on true stewardship and sustaining the environment.”

After graduating from UCLA Law School in 1972, Lewis served as the General Counsel for the Gila River Indian Community beginning in 1978. Since the mid-1980s, Lewis has led the Community’s negotiations with the federal government, the State of Arizona, and over 30 non-Indian parties for settlement of the Community’s water rights and claims. As a result of these negotiations, the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004 was signed into law on December 10, 2004, by President George W. Bush.

Lewis is the father of Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis. The younger Lewis called his father’s appointment “an opportunity for our Community to further our long-standing efforts to better manage Arizona’s water supply.”

“This public service milestone for my father is also an exceptional moment for our Community,” said Governor Lewis. “The Gila River Indian Community controls the largest entitlement of Central Arizona Project water delivered through the CAP system in the state. As one of CAP’s largest customers, our perspective and engagement on water issues can only make CAWCD’s efforts more effective and contribute to, more efficient solutions to Arizona’s water’s efforts to relieve drought conditions.”

In 1980, Rod Lewis became the first member of an Indian Tribe to successfully argue a case before the United States Supreme Court, appearing as counsel in *Central Machinery v. Arizona State Tax Commission*. In 2010, Lewis was honored by the Crow Tribe of Montana for his contributions and dedication leading to the Crow Nation Water Settlement of 2010.

Lewis also worked as a principal representing the Pechanga Tribe of California. The Pechanga Water Settlement was approved by Congress and signed by President Obama enacted into law in 2016.

Lewis was inducted into the Maricopa County Bar’s Hall of Fame in 2009.

Said Rod Lewis: “For the past 45 years, I’ve been deeply involved in the water issues faced by Arizona’s residents at the state, federal and tribal levels – everything from conservation efforts to protect Lake Mead to restoration efforts focused on restoring the Gila River. It’s an honor to be able to bring such experience and my tribal perspective to the CAWCD Board to effect positive change for our people and our state.”

###

Gila River Indian Community, located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona, is home to the indigenous people of the O’Odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa). The people are known for their farms, deep traditions, basketry weaving and pottery. The Tribe comprises seven districts. The administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton, and serve the people throughout those community districts. 100% of its profits from gaming and 17 other Enterprises are utilized by the community to provide services and opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life.
Blackwater Convenience Store under construction

Mikhail Sundstut
Gila River Indian News

A new gas station is being built between Sacaton and Florence.

The Blackwater Convenience Store is under construction at the southwest corner of State Route 87 and Signal Peak Road. The 4,200-square-foot store is slated to open in July of 2017 and will feature 12 gas pumps available 24/7. The store will feature a smoke shop and is expected to be open daily from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The store will carry the Shell brand name and a job fair will be held in May to fill employment positions.

Originally, the community wanted to replace the old Blackwater Trading Post and Museum right where it was in place.

“But we found out that whole area is a flood plain,” said Tom Bechtel, an assistant general manager of development at the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority. “And after they did the surveys and the ground flows for the water, they decided this was a much better location.”

The site of the future Blackwater Convenience Store is just one mile from the old Blackwater Trading Post and Museum.

Because of its rural placement, the old store is readily available in the area and electrical and telecommunications developers spent months digging to find water.

“That was a huge effort,” said Bechtel. “That was a thousand-foot well. It was a really difficult dig, but eventually they hit water.”

Bechtel said the underground reservoir is an abundant water source, and “if the community decides to build out later, maybe add some retail pads or something across the street, we’ve got enough water supply to handle that.”

The well will feed a 28,000-gallon tank, which will provide running water and serve as an amenity to its Gila River Indian Community.

Recent project milestones include the foundation being laid and underground utilities being installed. The first course of blocks has been poured. The perimeter walls and will be going up soon. Bechtel said the area was once a logging site, Wutty is shot down in the middle of his own personal rituals, his own territory. He now lives in a labor camp, Wutty is shot down in the middle of his own personal rituals, his own territory. He now lives in a labor camp.

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Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a call for shots fired call with a description of a vehicle. Once Officers were in the area they located a vehicle matching the description in the area of Gila Butte housing. As the officer attempted to make contact with the driver, the driver put the vehicle in reverse and accelerated, striking the police vehicle. The suspect vehicle then fled but was later located. Officers were able to locate the vehicle and were able to determine who had possession of the vehicle. A weapon and ammunition were located in plain view and were determined to be reported stolen out of the City of Maricopa. The suspect was arrested and booked into jail.

2nd – John Miller jr.
1st – Mike Payne
Horse Shoe
3rd – Silver Hawks

Aggravated Assault - The two victims reported that the suspect “flipped out” during a verbal alteration pointing a weapon at the first victim and striking the second victim at least three times in the shoulder with the butt of the stock. The Suspect also punched one of the victims in the face causing her nose to bleed. The suspect was gone prior to officer arrival but was known to the victims. Charges are being forwarded to the law office.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – An employee of the casino reported his bicycle was stolen out of the 1st level parking garage.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A black 200- 400 MM Nikon lens was stolen from the media trailer at the Wildhorse Motorsports Park during the NHRA event.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A 50 inch Westinghouse television was taken from the victim’s residence. The victim stated she had been gone from her residence for an extended period of time. When she returned she noticed the television was gone and believes it may have been taken by a familiar person.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were requested to a residence regarding a theft. The victim stated that her son took her cell phone and money from her purse, after she would not allow him to use her phone. The suspect was observed prior to officer arrival.

Status: Under Investigation

Departments

District Seven (Maricopa):

Fire

Officers responded to a report of a fire.

Status: Under Investigation

Weapons

Weapons- Officers responded to shots fired in the area. Officers were able to make contact with some individuals and weapons were impounded into evidence.

Status: Under Investigation

Natural Gas Safety

Wherever you live, work, or play.

NATURAL GAS LINES

can be buried anywhere, even in areas where homes don’t use natural gas. So it’s important that EVERYONE knows how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak, wherever they are.

A LEAK MAY BE PRESENT IF YOU:

SMELL:

a distinct sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, even if it’s faint or momentary.

HEAR:

a hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above-ground piping.

SEE:

dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or plants, or standing water continuously bubbling.

IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK

• Exit the area or building immediately. Tell others to evacuate and leave doors open.

• From a safe place, call 911 and Southwest Gas at 877-860-6020, day or night, whether you’re a customer or not. A Southwest Gas representative will be there as soon as possible.

• Don’t smoke or use matches or lighters.

• Don’t turn on or off electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls; or do anything that could cause a spark.

• Don’t start or stop an engine, or use automated (garage) doors.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call 877-860-6020

Gila River Indian News March 17, 2017

Page 5

Natural Gas Safety

Wherever you live, work, or play.

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dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or plants, or standing water continuously bubbling.
I’m proud to say that this year’s Mul-Chu-Tha was a resounding success. It was important to have festivities for our elders, veterans and all of our members to celebrate 55 years of culture, strength and unity. The 55th Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo carried on the vision first established by those first organizers back in 1962, and I’m happy that they were named Grand Marshalls.

I want to say thank you and especially recognize all the staff and volunteers who brought so many smiles to the faces all of those who attended this year. Their dedication is very much appreciated. From the parade, rodeo, carnival, powwow, traditional games and all the entertainment, it was truly a year to remember. A thank you is also in order for the visiting tribal leaders and most importantly the Community Council for providing the funding for the Mul-Chu-Tha. I also want to congratulate, once again, Mr. Leslie Pasqual as the Veteran of the Year and Elder of the Year.

For all the visitors that came to the Mul-Chu-Tha this week, I want to thank you and please know that you are always welcome in our Community. The 56th Mul-Chu-Tha will be here before you know it, and I want to see everyone return for another great celebration.

Thank you,

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis
Gila River Indian Community
More plurals in O’otham

In a previous article last year we talked about the difference between one and many in O’otham, and described how O’otham uses a different process than English when forming plural nouns. In English when we want to make a difference between one tax return and many tax returns we add an -s suffix at the end of the word. This distinguishes one item (dog, cat, car) from many (dogs, cats, cars). O’otham however uses a completely different system where you don’t add anything to the end of the word, but instead you double (or partially double) the beginning of the word. For example, when you want to talk about one dog you use the word goks but to talk about one dog you use goks/goks. This process of transforming the word by doubling (or partially doubling) the word is called reduplication and it is a common process among the languages of the world. Indonesian, for example is another language that uses reduplication by doubling the entire word to create plural nouns as seen in the following pairs: pulau/pulau “island/islands”, anak/anak-anak “child/children”, apel/apel-apel “apple/apples.”

Reduplication in O’otham is unique in that there are a number of different doubling patterns that are used to create plural nouns. The most simple and straightforward are those examples where the first syllable (usually the first two sounds) is doubled to create a plural. This is seen in the single and plural words for dog (goks/goks), cow (haïvah/haïvah) and horses (kawa-yu/kakaviyu). This is not the only pattern as some words become plural by doubling and then dragging the vowel to where it is longer than the vowel sound in the original word. This can be heard in the singular and plural words for child (mad/madám) and coyote (bun/bunchan). There is also a third pattern where the first syllable is doubled but the vowel in the middle of the word is deleted and not pronounced. This is seen in the word for packrat (koson/kokoson), javelina (thaskul/thathiskel) and shoulder (kothva/kokthva).

One of the most interesting things about forming plurals happens with words that have a “v” sound at the beginning. These words also use a doubling pattern to create plural nouns but have a unique twist. With these words an unexpected “p” sound will be pop up in the middle of the word and take over the expected “v” sound. Take for example the word for irrigation ditch vaika. Knowing how plurals are formed in O’otham we would expect the plural to sound something like *vaika but that isn’t what is heard. What is heard instead is vapthak, which means “irrigation ditches” and which you’ll notice as you say the word it has an unexpected “p” sound that pops up in place of the original “v” sound in the singular word. Another example is the word for arrow bag vaqer which is yosoga. The plural word to refer to many quivers is yosopshga, not the expected *yosovogs-ha. Again, notice as you say the word how the “p” sound pops up in the middle of the word. This pattern where a “p” takes over an original “v” only happens with words that start with a “v” sound and is very consistent with only one or two exceptions (vamad “water snake” becomes vahammad “water snakes”).

More examples with words that start with “v” show the same range of doubling patterns that we see with other nouns. There are examples where the vowel that is doubled will be dragged out and sound longer. An example of this is the word vaga which means ‘hole, burrow.” The plural word for many holes is vapthak which you’ll notice as you say it is pronounced with an “a” vowel that is dropped out slightly longer and also has an unexpected “p” sound in the middle. Another pattern is seen in the single and plural words for cotton rat (voshov/vooshop) and wheat straw basket (vashom/vashom). Notice how the plural nouns in these words both lose a vowel in the middle of the word. Finally there are words that don’t change in both their single and plural forms. These examples include the word for hummingbird (vipusamal) mesquite beans (violob) and body hair (vopo). The words are the same whether you are talking about one or many.

Plural nouns like everything else in our language will vary from speaker to speaker based on dialect so it is always best to ask your elders how you say these words in your area. Pay attention to the different patterns of forming plurals and don’t be afraid to ask another speaker if you’re not sure. Now that you’ve learned a bit more about plurals try your hand at this month’s word match to learn about more plurals that start with an initial “v” sound.

Tax prep. for GRIC members, employees

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The April 18 Federal and State Tax Deadline for 2016 is just around the corner and the Gila River Indian Community’s Internal Audit Department’s IRS Certified Volunteers are helping to relieve the stress by providing free tax preparation services for all Community members and GRIC employees.

Debra Baubie, GRIC Information Systems Internal Auditor, said every year more and more people drop by to take advantage of the services they provide and this year looks to be their busiest season yet.

“Last year we prepared over 1,800 tax returns here alone,” said Baubie. “The year before that it was just over 1,800, so each year we have increased the amount of tax returns we have prepared. It seems the word is getting out more and more each year. We have been busier this year than we have been in past years. That is very good news,” she said. Baubie said it is important for Community members and GRIC employees to make an appointment for their free tax preparation as they are given priority over walk-ins.

“We take appointments first and then we also accept walk-ins,” said Baubie. “But we let [the walk-ins] know that they will have to wait until [those with] appointments are completed.”

She added that it is necessary to bring a photo ID, Social Security card, last year’s tax return, a Form W-2, Per Capita 1999 and Supplemental Security Income forms, proof of winnings from gambling, and proof of a bank account for direct deposits.

“They are the same as the IRS,” she said of the tax forms they use to determine tax credits and refund amounts. “We have to follow the rules and regulations set by the IRS. The only thing that is different is the amount of tax dollars each person is entitled to receive based on their income level.”

She added that it is necessary to bring a photo ID, Social Security card, last year’s tax return, a Form W-2, Per Capita 1999 and Supplemental Security Income forms, proof of winnings from gambling, and proof of a bank account for direct deposits.

“A second location is at the Santa Cruz Office located at 1630 W. Sigafus Drive across from the Santa Cruz Courthouse,” Baubie said. “The IRS has given us permission to use their building during their regular hours of operation. This location is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is a great resource for those who don’t have access to a computer.”

AIDLi announces a second summer session!

July 10-21, 2017

Location: District 3 Headstart Center, Sacaton, AZ

Gila River Indian Community

Schedule: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Earn 3 credits in 10 days

Teaching Language: What language & culture teachers need to know - historical perspective, policies, know your language learner

Register now at aidli.az.gov/2017_summer_how_to_apply
Community Day kicks of the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha

The 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo started off with Community Night, inviting all tribal members to join in on an evening of traditional barbeque and entertainment on March 10. With the smell of fresh chumuth in the air and joyful cheers from carnival goers as they brave their way onto the Zipper, it was a great way to kick off this year’s Mul-Chu-Tha.

To get the fair in motion, a frybread contest was held at the Cultural Circle, which saw Stephanie Rhodes win first place, Nicole Pasqual win second place and Eugenia Apkaw win third place in the contest. At the wood-chopping contest, Avery Garcia, Billy Bragg and Sheridan Garcia took first, second and third, respectively.

This year’s Mul-Chu-Tha was the first time the Community Elder and Veteran of the Year awards were presented. The recipient for the inaugural award was given to District 3 elder and veteran Pasqual.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis presented Pasqual with a commemorative piece of artwork made by District 6 artist Aaron Saborni and read the proclamation declaring March 10 Leslie Pasqual Day.

Pasqual served in the United States Army and is one of the Community’s last remaining World War II veterans.

Free admission was given to veterans, which Gov. Lewis said was a small token of appreciation for their service. He also acknowledged the GRIC elders in attendance.

Sac City Throwdown brings out talented youth

Just one day before the main festivities of the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo began, skaters from around the Gila River Indian Community descended upon the District 3 Skate Park for the Sac City Throwdown Skateboard Competition on the evening of March 10.

Over 20 skateboarders making up three age categories, the 7-10-year-olds, 11-15-year-olds, and 16 and up, gave their all in an attempt to grab the top position in their respective categories. Skaters participated in timed sets of two 1-minute runs where three judges scored them based on their overall style and tricks landed.

According to event organizer Reuben Ringlero, first place winners of the skate competition each received a skateboard, and second and third place holders received a skateboard deck and tickets to the rodeo and fair.

The event also had a raffle where competition organizers gave away two skateboards, several backpacks, and a multitude of other prizes. Ringlero said that funds raised during the raffle will be used to purchase prizes for future Community skating events.

The Sac City Throwdown Skateboard Competition was sponsored by the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo, Seven Layer Army, and Cowtown Skateboards.

Results of the competition are below:

1st  Fabian Norris
2nd  Shawn Coleman, winners in the 16 & Up category in the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo. They also received a skateboard and a commemorative piece of artwork made by District 6 artist Aaron Saborni.
3rd  Antonio Hernandez

Dancers enjoy one of the many waila bands at the Chicken Scratch Battle of the Bands.

Mul-Chu-Tha parade from page 1

While the fairground was filled with tons of entertainment, vendors were also serving up delicious treats to famished fair-goers. Food vendors filled the bellies of families with early fries doused in chili, Indian tacos, and burritos, while refreshing them with ice-cold lemonades and citrussy Texas Twisters.

This year’s Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo was filled with a variety of tournaments and festivities, which took place over a period of two weeks beginning in early March. Activities included a base- ball, tee-ball, and little league tournament, a co-ed slow-pitch softball tournament, elder chair volleyball competition, wood chopping competition, popewater contest, annual footrace half-marathon and walk, thoka tournament, songi- ve’ tournament, gospel jam, men’s and women’s basketball tournament, and Sac City Throwdown skate competition, and of course a variety of great food and delicious beverages.

From left, Adrian Thomas, Taymen Chatlin and Keyshawn Coleman, winners in the 16 & Up category in the Sac City Throwdown.

Sac City Throwdown 2017 Winners

1st  Antonio Hernandez
2nd  Taymen Chatlin
3rd  Keyshawn Coleman

For upcoming Community skating events visit sevenlayerarmsgskateboards.com.

Fourth Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo.

Hail Gonzales is crowned as Jr. Miss Gila River.

Anissa Garcia is crowned by Oriana Apkaw.

Antonio Davis congratulates winners of the Frybread Making Contest.

Leslie Pasqual, vest, is flanked by his family during Community Day as he was announced as the Veteran of the Year and Elder of the Year.

Dancers enjoy one of the many waila bands at the Chicken Scratch Battle of the Bands.

Gila River Indian News March 17, 2017

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
Brenton Wood closes out Mul-Chu-Tha

Sixties soul sensation Brenton Wood closed out the Mul-Chu-Tha with a musical set that made hearts flutter, hands wave, and hips groove. The crowd moved to the beat of classic hits like *Me And You*, *Take A Chance on Me*, *Oogum Boogum Song*, and *Gimme Little Sign*. The audience swayed with Wood’s melodies and sang along to their favorites like *I Like The Way You Love Me* and *Baby You Got It*. The crowd on Sunday night, March 12, was estimated at about 2,000 people – some older and reminiscing on good times, some younger and feeling something new.

Wood, 75, lit the stage with the glimmer in his eye and gently wrapped up the night with the smooth vocal performances that made him famous.

Mul-Chu-Tha Essay Contest Winners

The Tribal Education Department hosted an Essay and Art Contest for GRIC students in elementary through high school. Students focused their art and essays around the Mul-Chu-Tha theme of “Unity, Strength, and Culture.”

First place winners took home a $100 gift card to Harkins Theatres, second place winners received $75 gift cards to UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, and third place winners took home $50 gift cards to Main Event in Chandler. Winners are as follows (first place through third per category):

**Essay Contest**

Grades 4 and 5 – Meeya Fanholz, Blackwater, 4th Grade; Maudicia Osife, Casa Blanca, 4th Grade; Siawog Urquides, Blackwater, 5th Grade.

Grades 6-8 – Zeara Enos, St. Peter Mission, 7th Grade; Natalie Jose, St. Peter Mission, 8th Grade; Pahe Tsinhnahjinnie, St. Peter Mission, 7th Grade.

Grades 9-12 – Selena Jackson, Coolidge High, 12th Grade; Brigette Smith, Coolidge High, 12th Grade; Charisma Quiroz, Coolidge High, 12th Grade.

**Art Contest**

Grades 4 and 5 – Raquel Manuel, Casa Blanca, 4th Grade; Francis Hista, Sacaton Elementary, 4th Grade; Augustin Medina, Casa Blanca, 4th Grade.

Grades 6-8 – Adriana Valenzuela, Sacaton Middle, 8th Grade; Azaria Enos, Sacaton Middle, 6th Grade; Cyndi Lopez, Sacaton Middle, 6th Grade.

Grades 9-12 – Ellayna Plingyowma, Coolidge High, 12th Grade; Suzette Toosie, Coolidge High, 11th Grade; no third place.
Ramona Farms failure is not falling down, instead failure is not getting back up.”

Not only that, he said, but they “have always connected with us and shared their appreciation that you all have shown,” said Terry, who launched into a brief history lesson on the des-

tert’s original farmers.

“It needs to be recog-nized,” he said, that the farming traditions of the Akimel O’otham...must be acknowledged for their importance to the develop-ment of this great country we live in. This has been left out of the history books. The dawnng of Arizona’s agricultural economy was along the Gila and Salt Rivers. The Pimas were the first irrigators of the desert Southwest and have farmed here for many centuries.

“The Akimel O’otham raised corn, tepey beans, Pima limas, squash, gourds, cotton, and tobacco. They harvested the desert in sea-son for berries, mesquite beans, cactus fruit, buds and flowers, chia seeds, wild chiles, agave, and na-tive greens. Desert plants were their medicine. And when the Gila ran through the Pima lands, fish was a staple food.

“When first contact-ed by the Europeans in 1685, the Akimel O’oth- am obtained white Sonora wheat from the Mediterrane-an, black eyed peas from northern Africa, chickpeas and melons from Persia. These crops were adapted into their irrigat-ed farm rotations, filling a niche between corn and beans’ growing seasons.

The “Pima fed pio-ners, trappers, and trav-ellers, as well as the U.S. Cavy-alry and Civil War troops with millions of pounds of wheat shipped as far as Kansas. Today, we are proud to help preserve those traditions by grow-ing, preparing, and market-ing these crops so they may survive and provide everything that we ate, and put away ev-erything, and prepared it. And also taught me about the desert herbs and how to heal and manage them.”

Ramona and Terry have carried on that tradi-tion, teaching their chil-dren to work the land and plants of the Sonoran desert. Today, their daughter Brandy, a chef, promotes their food and uses it in catering events around the state. Their other daughter Velvet develops health con-scious recipes using Ramona’s recipes, and they join the children of the Native land and offered his support of the entrepreneurial partnerships.

Terry said, “it wouldn’t have been possible for us to do what we’ve been recong-i-zeed for without the sup-port of our family, without Ramona, my brother Dale, Carl, my sister Karen, our children Brandy and Velvet and our son Edward, Maria, and our grand-daughters, and all of the members of our communi-

ty.” Ramona said, “I think the story to this is, when we join together, we work as one and become one. Thank you.

Learn more about Ramo-na Farms, and find rec-ipes, at www.ramona farms.com.

Native fashion show raises awareness on Indigenous representation

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Beyond Buckskin and Southwest and have farmed

welcomed Jessica Metal-

fe, who is the creator and owner of the online Native fashion blog and boutique Beyond Buckskin to speak about Native fashion. Metalfe, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chip-

sew Indians, was to take a stand against the media influenced her deci-

sion to take a stand against the idea that Native fashion companies are to be held accountable for their actions and to consider how they represented Native people.

She said these unfortunate repre-sentations in the media influenced her deci-

sion to take a stand against the idea that Native fashion companies are to be held accountable for their actions and to consider how they represented Native people.

Metalfe said, “We are the minori-
ties of ourselves, a group which companies such as Adidas, Ralph Lauren and Urban Outfitters took Na-

tive entrepreneurs for granted and made a profit off of them, without consideration for how they represented Native people. She

said that the second night a re-

settlement agreement and that in the future the company was going to collaborate with the Nation on selling items like jewelry.

“Bringina Native Fashion to the Fore-

front”

The premise of the Beyond Buckskin blog, which ultimate-

ly became a full-

fledged store, is just one way Metalfe is pushing Native fash-

ion forward.

She started out with 11 artists and de-

signers, but has now grown to over 40 in-

dividuals featured on her online store. Her goal is to be successful in her business is that she show-cases some of the oldest tradi-tional forms of craftsman-ship andcontemporary setting.

Metalfe showed an example of porcine quilt-work of Caroline Blicher, who comes from the Inu-

ualuit people of Western Canada.

“It’s only found in Na-tive North America. You will not find it anywhere else in the world and it is continuously being still being practiced today,” she said.

Her boutique sells these items, which come in earrings and bracelets, which support the contin-

uation of the ancient tradi-tional practice.

Fashion Night

The second night con-

sisted of a fashion show called “Protection In all Directions,” that featured

the designs of Native artist Jared Yazzie, a member of the Navajo Nation, who created his brand of apparel called OXDX, which is a play on words that means “Ovredes.”

Yazzie said when he first ventured to the Valley he experienced an “ovredes” of everyday life that he had to adjust to, but most impor-tantly it was about finding a way of representing Native culture and the strengths that his people draw from in Navajo culture.

“Just like showing the beauty of Native culture and by showing the strength of women in our society, because they represent a very powerful presence in Native culture, so I feature them a lot in my clothing designs,” said Yazzie.

He said working with Metalfe has helped him

Continued on Page 13

Gila River Indian Community Council Election May 2, 2017

Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6

Deadline: To register to vote or make changes is April 3, 2017.

For questions, call the GRRC Tribal Elections office at (520) 582-9735.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis welcomes the attendees to tradi-

tional O’otham land, and offered his support of the entrepreneurial partnerships.
Chief Azul Scholar Awards Program and Citizenship Awards deadline is March 31

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department (TED) wants Community students to know that time is running out to hand in applications for the Chief Azul Scholar Awards Program and the Citizenship Award, which are both due March 31.

Each award requires different attributes for applying students, with the Chief Azul Scholar Award focusing on academic achievement and the Citizenship Award looking for students who perform well in school and possess a good character.

Chief Azul Scholar Award Program:
The Chief Azul Scholar Award is to recognize the academic achievements of students from the fourth through twelfth grades, and undergraduate students, in order to motivate the Community’s youth to pursue higher education.

Schools may nominate two students from each grade level, one male and female, which will be reviewed by a committee organized by TED. After the committee reviews all applicants they will select the top three students from each grade level, who will then be chosen as the Chief Azul Scholar or receive an honorable mention.

Anthony Gray, TED Cultural Coordinator, said the Chief Azul Scholar Award is given to Community students who possess a friendly demeanor, positive attitude, and represent the ideal Community member. Only 15 high school twelfth graders will be selected for the award.

While the Chief Azul Scholar Award is based off of academic success, the Citizenship Award is more focused on a student’s behavior and participation in extracurricular activities and school life.

“It doesn’t necessarily have to be a high achieving straight A student,” said TED Assistant Director Fredrick Poitra. “It could be somebody who maybe had a rough time, but persevered and came out and was successful at some point. That definition of success for the Citizenship Award is different for each student and their story,” he said.

The 15 winners of the Citizenship Award will receive an all-expenses paid one-week trip to Washington D.C., where chaperones will take them to some of the most famous monuments in the United States. TED Director Isaac Salcido, said some of the popular locations the students will visit on their trip include Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian, and the American Indian History museum.

“I think this is an opportunity for those students who do participate, who do engage in the school experience, who do understand the idea of helping each other,” said Salcido.

“I think it is a really opportunity to play up those role models that we have amongst our kids in the Community.”

Salcido added that because competition is high, it is important for students who have accomplished extraordinary goals to make that they put that information on their application form.

“If they are members of the honor society, if they are members of the honor roll, that they provide that type of documentation, so it can support their application,” Salcido said. “If they have received any other types of awards or scholarships from community clubs, that they put it down so that it can be verified and it can be taken into account.”

For more information on either the Chief Azul Scholar Award or the Citizenship Award, pick up application forms at your local district service center or call the Tribal Education Department at (520) 562-3662 and ask to speak to Kenyen Thompson or email Kenyen.thompson@gric.nsn.us
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • March 1, 2017

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

REPORT HEARD
Presenter: Rebecca Martinez, Jason Jones

9. Gila River Boys & Girls Club Quarterly Report October

REPORT HEARD
Presenter: Chesley Juan, Robert Amado

6. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84 1st Qtr FY-2017 Report

REPORT HEARD
Presenter: Betty Molina

5. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51 1st Qtr FY2017 Report

REPORT HEARD
Presenter: Carletta McDaniel

8. Community Technology Center Quarterly Report

REPORT HEARD
Presenter: Connie Jackson

[LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTOINE CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENCED AT 11:50 A.M.]


REPORT HEARD
Presenter: Gabriella Alvarez

REPORT HEARD

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors Appointment (1)

Presenters: Reviewing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT

KARIN CELAYA JACKSON

NEW BUSINESS

1. Advertisement of Appointed Positions:
Community Council Secretary, Community
Treasurer (Advertise for 60 days, Subject to the
Code of Conduct)

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADVERTISE
BOTH POSITIONS FOR 60-DAYS, SUBJECT TO
THE CODE OF CONDUCT

2. Request for Review and Consideration for
Approval of ITCA Research Project for Survey of
20 Community Members (LSC forwards to
Council under New Business with
recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Kimberly M. Antone

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. 2017 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for
Native and Tribal Communities Scottsdale, AZ
- April 9th, 2017 (ESC forwards to Council, to
open up to any interested Council
Representatives or Community At Large
members)

Presenters: Education Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TO
ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES OR
COMMUNITY AT LARGE

4. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors – Declara-
tion of One (1) Vacancy – Subject to the Code of Conduct

Presenters: Reviewing Committee

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

5. Special Council Meeting Request

Presenters: Dale Gutenson, WHPDA Board

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 30, 2017

6. FY17 Revenue Internal Audit-1st Quarter Report

(Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward
to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Denia Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT #6

& #7

7. FY17 Gaming Internal Audit-1st Quarter Report

(Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward
to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Denia Thomas

ACCEPTED AT #6

MINUTES

1. February 1, 2017 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. February 15, 2017 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, THURSDAY,
MARCH 2, 2017, 11A.M.

>SPECIAL G&M MEETING, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017,
9A.M.

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE ALVINA LEWIS FAM-
ILY

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE BRIAN PABLO FAM-
ILY

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE JUSTIN FAMILY

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:26PM

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Native fashion show from page 10

better understand the fashion industry and has inspired him to seek a place to work with music professionally in the downtown area.

Gila River Indian News

March 17, 2017

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March 17, 2017

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GRICUA Summer Internship Programs

GRCUA Summer Internship Program is now accepting applications for High School and College internships. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 28. Please stop by our office or visit our website at www.gricua.org to get more information and to download the application. Please submit applications via email to gricua-gricua@gmail.com or fax to 480-452-1426 or mail to GRCUA Human Resources Dept. at 4801 W. Riggs Rd. Box 991, Chandler, AZ 85226. Interviews will be held the week of May 8th and internship dates will depend on student’s last day of school.

OPPORTUNITIES:

• Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
• Pay will be $10.00 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
• Students will learn from experienced craftsmen, warehouse personnel, managers, contractors, technical, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility.

REQUIREMENTS:

• High school students must be at least 16 years of age.
• College students must be at least 18 years of age and currently enrolled as full-time student at an accredited university or college.
• Students must be enrolled in the Gila River Indian Community.
• Students should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets.
• Students must pass a drug screen and background check.
• Students must submit the GRCUA Application for Employment- which can be found at http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/quality-of-life/employment.

GRCUA’s Budget Billing Program is a no-cost program that averages out your seasonal highs and lows costs on a rolling twelve-month average of your bills. Customer billing cycle will vary from month to month, however they should stay at a consistent average based on their rollings average usage.

The Gila River Indian Community (GRC) Department of Environmental Quality (REQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for the issuance of the air quality operating permit for the following facility:

GRCUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to gricua-gricua@gmail.com. You can also go to our website at www.gricua.org.

GRICUA’s Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Payment are accepted on-line and by phone both during our normal operating hours as well as after-hours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment method, please call during normal business hours.

For further information, please contact Ryan Berte (928) 796-3781 or visit our office at 445 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147. Our office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PRESS RELEASE

Pinal County Superintendent of Schools, Jill Broussard has announced the appointment of Anika Evans to the Sacaton Elementary School District Governing Board.

Mrs. Evans will be the vacancy created due to an opening left after the election.

Mrs. Evans will be seated until December 31, 2018.

Native fashion show from page 10

better understand the fashion industry and has inspired him to seek a place to work with music professionally in the downtown area.

“My name is Adrian D. Thomas. I am 17 years old and am from District One Representative and I’m a member of the Marine Corps JROTC program. I reside at 4231 W. Riggs Rd., Chandler, AZ 85224. I am currently serving in the Marine Corps, and I am also a member of the American Meteorological Society. I am also a champion jingle dress dancer. I am honored to be representing the Akimel O’otham and Jacovini Molina has been selected to represent our Community. My name is Adrian D. Thomas. I am 17 years old and am from District One Representative and I’m a member of the Marine Corps JROTC program. I reside at 4231 W. Riggs Rd., Chandler, AZ 85224. I am currently serving in the Marine Corps, and I am also a member of the American Meteorological Society. I am also a champion jingle dress dancer. I am honored to be representing the Akimel O’otham and Jacovini Molina has been selected to represent our Community.

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Japanese Americans who lived through the difficult circumstances and it was important to remember those times in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past.

In honor of the 13,348 Japanese Americans who were interned behind the barbed wire fences of the Gila River Relocation Center, the game of baseball was not just a game for recreation, it was not only a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon, it’s helped Americans get away from the daily grind, to think about the past and be reminded of past mistakes. Despite the circumstances, we not only survived but we thrived and that is exemplified by the kiosk and in the accomplishments of our community,” he said.

“I hope that this kiosk will not only be a reminder of past mistakes but also as a reminder to not repeat the history,” he said.

Former Nippon Professional Baseball infielder for the Hiroshima Carp and GRWRC internee, Kenso Zenimura, talked about his time living in the internment camp and how he helped his father, Kenichi, build a ballpark outside the internment camp.

“Representing the Gila River Indian Community, Paul Shorthair, GRIC Land Use Ordinance Officer, said Japanese Americans and people of the Community came together during difficult circumstances and it was important to remember those times in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past.

“The [kiosk] provided a thread to the fabric weaved back in history,” said Shorthair. “That fabric was unfortunately weaved of racial prejudice and conceived in irrational thought. In 1942 the destinies of our two people were brought together, and together we relied on the land and its resources. Despite the circumstances, we not only survived but we thrived and that is exemplified by the kiosk and in the accomplishments of our community,” he said.

“I hope that this kiosk will not only be a reminder of past mistakes but also as a reminder to not repeat the history,” he said.

The late Noriyuki “Pat” Morita, left, at the Japanese Internment Camp monument in June 1998. The Nozomi Park history kiosk was unveiled during a Jan. 21 dedication.

The kiosk project was partially funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program asking the community to work together through the efforts of the Japanese American Citizens League, Nisei Baseball Research Project, City of Chandler, and the Chandler Parks and Recreation Division.
SALES EVENT

*Payment based on 700 credit score, 4.5% APR @ 72 mos. with TT&L down. Not all customers qualify based on approved credit.

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Five Tribes Treaty of Peace

Saturday, April 08, 2017

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Gila River Indian Community
District 7
8035 S. 83rd Avenue
Laveen AZ 85339
(83rd Avenue, South of Baseline Rd.)

General Information please call District 7 Recreation at (520) 430-4780