Huge crowds attend the 72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

On February 23, 1945, just five days after the invasion of Iwo Jima, six United States Marines made their way to the top of Mount Suribachi and were photographed raising the American flag, capturing one of World War II’s most iconic images and making the six men war heroes. In recognition of those six soldiers and the service of all U.S. veterans, the 72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising was held in Sacaton, Ariz., on Feb. 23, bringing out over 2,000 spectators from across the United States and Canada.

Tony McDaniel, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 Adjutant, said that members of the post worked hard over the past seven months organizing the annual event, and were glad to see it finally come to fruition.

“We have veterans from approximately 16 different states,” said McDaniel. “They come down here for our weather and to honor the World War II veterans, especially Ira Hayes.”

“Seven months of putting this together, today, it is all worth it, this is what it is all about,” McDaniel said motioning towards the long line of parade floats.

Thousands of spectators lined the sides of Casa Blanca Road from Skill Center Road all the way down to the Matthew H. Juan - Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park where the grandstand was located. The rumble of a chrome four-engine propeller driven B-17 Flying Fortress caught the attention of spectators as it performed four separate flyovers, signaling the beginning of the parade and flag-raising ceremony.

The spectacle was filled to the brim with 119 floats led by a Post 84 Color Guard and three parade Grand Marshalls: 102-year-old World War II Navajo veteran Sophie Yazzie, Ira Hayes’s brother and Korean War veteran Kenneth G. Hayes, and Rene Gagnon Jr., son of Iwo Jima flag-raiser Rene Gagnon.

Spectators cheered and applauded passing floats filled with veteran dignitaries from across North America and a variety of tribal nations, including Iwo Jima survivors, Oliver Babbitts, Navajo Code Talker Talleyer H. Begay, the Puyallup Tribal Veterans Color Guard, Canadian veteran and member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Graham Murdock, and World War II Army veteran Rev. Monsignor Edward Meulemans.

Representing the Gila River Indian Community in the parade were Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, a large group of St. Peter Indian Mission School students carrying a U.S. flag, the Pee Posh Veterans Association, Pee Posh-O’otham Veterans Association, the Gila River Fire Department Honor Guard, Achem A’al Indigenous Pima Basket Dancers, the Gila River Basket Dancers, and much more.

As the parade wound down, the large crowd of spectators made their way to the veterans’ memorial park where keynote speaker Gov. Lewis welcomed the audience to the Community.

“Each of our families has its stories of a son who went off to war and a daughter for who the service meant more than self, a relative we never got the chance to know well, but who we regard with deep pride every single time we hear their name,” said Lewis.

“In my family, that man is a relative I never had,” said a relative I never had…actually three sisters I never had…”

“Iwo Jima survivors, Oliver Babbitts, Navajo Code Talker Talleyer H. Begay, the Puyallup Tribal Veterans Color Guard, Canadian veteran and member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Graham Murdock, and World War II Army veteran Rev. Monsignor Edward Meulemans.

“Each of our families has its stories of a son who went off to war and a daughter for who the service meant more than self, a relative we never got the chance to know well, but who we regard with deep pride every single time we hear their name,” said Lewis.

“In my family, that man is a relative I never had,” said a

Lewis said that while he had never met his grandfather’s brother, he was an inspiration to him throughout his life.

“My granddadd’s brother enlisted during World War II…served as a member of the First Marine Division Reinforced, said Lewis. “He was also a dear friend of Ira Hayes.”

“Richard Lewis fought until a mid-January day in 1943 when he was killed in action,” he said.
INTRODUCING EZ LIFT
PATIENT TRANSFER EQUIPMENT

Gila River Health Care is dedicated to providing high-quality healthcare for Native Americans. Along with major healthcare organizations across the country, we have unveiled a safe and secure solution for transferring our patients from one place to another.

This EZ Lift is designed to keep patients safe during transfer from a chair to an exam table or from a chair to another chair.

We respectfully ask that patients work with us as we introduce new and safe equipment for our patients. We will always make every effort to make your transfer as safe and comfortable as possible. We appreciate your trust and confidence in us.

Should you have any questions or would like to see an informational video, please contact the Cultural Customer Service Department at (602) 528-1424 or visit GRHC.ORG.

HEALTH INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (HIP) WEEK
MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 2017

Health information management or HIM (formerly known as Medical Records) is an allied health profession responsible for ensuring:

- The availability, accuracy, and protection of your clinical information for healthcare-related decisions.
- HIM plays a key role in the effective management of health data and medical records needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public.
- The work HIM professionals do benefits everyone from the exchange and use of health information that is accurate, accessible, secure, and available to the right person at the right time.

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) invites all health information professionals (HIP) to join the celebration and be recognized during the 28th annual HIP Week. This year’s theme is Health Informational Professionals Leading the way to quality data.

If you have questions about your medical record, call the Health Information Management Department today at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1256 or 1376.

8TH ANNUAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017 • HUHUHAM HERITAGE CENTER
21559 SOUTH MARICOPA ROAD, CHANDLER, AZ 85226
HONOR WALK: 7:00 A.M. MAIN EVENT: 9:00 A.M.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL DEVIN PABLO (520) 550-8000
Harlan Bohnee, farmer, community leader, passes away at 81

Harlan Bohnee (Paak’hooy - Little Frog), 81, a resident of Tempe, AZ, O’odham (Hopi), and a member of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) was called to his heavenly home on February 14, 2017. He was born October 8, 1935 in Blackwater, AZ.

As a U.S. Air Force veteran, farmer, consultant, community leader and educator, Harlan led a dynamic and impressive life, and touched many people on his journey. He was a generous man who had a passion for sharing his culture, and teaching Native people throughout Canada and the U.S. about economic development and governance. Harlan was always an advocate for the success of Native people. He created the first tribal management degree program at Scottsdale Community College where he worked for 17 years, and built a successful agri-business on the Gila River Indian Community. He was an active community leader serving on numerous nation building initiatives for the Gila River Indian Community including the Tribe’s water settlement, industrial park, gaming enterprises, irrigation district, marina, heritage center and raceway. He is known to be the first member of the GRIC to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA), graduating from the University of Massachusetts. Throughout his life he learned, he led, and he inspired many lives.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth; son, Gary (Patty); and three daughters, Liz and Jean Bohnee and Kay Severson; a sister, Delores (Alfred) Flores; daughter-in-law, Josie Gaisithea; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and many nephews, nieces and relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruth and Eugene Bohnee; and a son, Gene Bohnee.

Christopher Lomahquahu

Gila River Indian News

Seventh and eighth grade students at Gila Crossing Community School were given a look into the tragic story of a Tucson girl who was slain at the hands of an ex-boyfriend.

At the GCCS assembly hall, students gathered to hear a presentation provided by Bobbi Sudberry on teen dating violence on Feb. 9.

Sudberry’s daughter, Kaity, was shot and killed in 2008 by her abusive ex-boyfriend Daniel Byrd. Sudberry started Kaity’s Way in her daughter’s memory on Feb. 9.

Continued on Page 13

Bobbi Sudberry talks to Gila Crossing Community School students on teen dating violence on Feb. 9.

She said a lot of people tend to think it is an easy transition, it’s not always easy to walk away.

Sudberry said Kaity’s Way is about getting teens and adults more aware about abusive relationships.

The victim of an abusive relationship herself, Sudberry said it’s not always easy to walk away from an abuser.

She said a lot of people tend to think it is an easy transition, but in the tragic circumstance of her daughter, it ultimately cost Kaity her life.

“Some people think abuse is just physical harm, hitting, punching and slapping. It’s actually verbal and psychological, emotional and a lot of manipulation that goes on,” said Sudberry.
GRIC will argue before the Arizona Supreme Court on the transfer provisions of ICWA.

GRIC will argue before AZ Supreme Court in ICWA case

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community is fighting to determine the future of a 2-year-old child known only as A.D.

According to a press release, A.D. was born off the Gila River Indian Reservation to a GRIC mother who lived on the reservation for most of her life. After birth, A.D. was placed into the Arizona foster care system.

The Community initially "sought transfer of the state court case to its Children's Court under the Indian Child Welfare Act," but its motion was denied, read the press release. After an appeal, the Arizona Supreme Court has granted a petition for review. Community attorneys argue that the "case is significant to Arizona's Indian tribes and tribal families and that the Arizona Court of Appeals' decision was contrary to the plain language of the Indian Child Welfare Act."

According to the release, "the case will be the first of its kind argued before the Arizona Supreme Court focused on the transfer provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act."

"The Gila River Indian Community will do everything in our power to protect our Community members and their families, every Indian child and every Indian family," said GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "We will not stand idly by when our children are at risk of losing their tribal roots, their culture and their families, and when the Indian Child Welfare Act is at risk."

"Since 1978, ICWA and the tribal court system have worked as intended to keep Indian families together. This landmark law should not be stripped of its key role in protecting our people."

Candidates must declare by March 6 for the May 2 election.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Community Council Election is May 2. Community members seeking to run for Community Council have until Monday, March 6 to declare their candidacy. Members nominated to run for Council have five days after their district has made the nomination official to notify the Tribal Elections Office. Voters are encouraged to register as soon as possible and make sure all their information is correct - name, address, etc. ctr. April 3 is the voter registration deadline. 17-year-olds turning 18 years of age on May 2 before that date are eligible to register to vote in this election. Call the Tribal Elections Office at (520) 562-9735 for information on how to get registered.

Absentee voting begins April 10, and will close May 1. May 2 is Election Day. Council seats are open in Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6, but not in 2 or 7. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Community Council election is May 2, candidates must declare by March 6

GRIC will argue before the Arizona Supreme Court on the transfer provisions of ICWA.
Gila River Indian Police Department

Incident Logs

March 3, 2017

Gila River Indian News

Reports from 2/12-2/18

District One (Blackwater):

Aggravated Assault – A verbal altercation occurred between the suspect and girlfriend but then became physical. The suspect punched the female three times in the face and squeezed her throat with his right hand. The victim stated she could not breathe but added the suspect was only holding her there. The suspect was transported to Chandler Regional for further medical evaluation.

Status: Suspect was arrested and released later due to medical conditions.

District Two (Sacaton Flats):

No incidents regarding part 1 crime.

District Three (Sacaton):

No incidents regarding part 1 crime.

District Four (Stotontap):

Aggravated Assault – A verbal altercation between brother and sister resulted in a physical fight. The sister picked up a hammer and hit the brother causing his arm to break. The sister was gone prior to officer arrival but was later located and brought into DRS after admitting to hitting her brother with the hammer.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Aggravated Assault – The victim requested officers to her residence after the suspect placed his hands around the victim’s neck and appeared drunk during an altercation. The victim was able to free herself and the suspect but he then placed his arm around her neck and applied pressure. The victim stated the one year old daughter was pushed down by the suspect and began to cry. The suspect was gone prior to officer arrival but was located and taken into custody.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Theft – The victim reported that a license plate was taken while in his vehicle that was on property. The victim was asked if she had an idea as to whom may have taken the plate and she did not. The plate was entered into the system as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a call regarding a suspect that pulled out a gun on the victim while driving in the Lone Butte area. grill and Chandler PD were given the description of the suspect and the vehicle he was driving but were unable to locate.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A wallet was stolen at the Phoenix Premium Outlet which was later recovered by the maintenance crew in a garbage can; the money that was in the wallet at the time was taken and not recovered.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers responded to a complaint regarding a suspect that rammed a gun into the victim while driving in the Lone Butte area. The victim stated that he was able to escape the suspect and was able to get back to the machine it was being used at.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – The suspect was stopped for multiple traffic violations. While stopped the suspect was able to free herself and then fled the scene.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Aggravated Assault – Responded to a complaint the victim’s one year old daughter was pushed against and the suspect was attempting to get her to leave the residence. During the incident the victim was struck with the ground by her hand. The victim kicked, punched and was stabbed. The victim was able to give a description of the weapon along with the suspects.

Status: Suspects were arrested.

Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a call for service when the victim reported she had been hit in the head and was bleeding. On scene, the victim stated the suspect was intoxicated and arguing with her. The victim had told the victim to leave but when she attempted to place his hands on her throat and began to squeeze. The victim was able to free herself but was quickly grabbed by the suspect when he then began to swing a head against the dresser.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Theft – Department of Public Works employee reported a work cell phone was stolen from one of their work trucks while at the 76 gas station.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Items were taken from the residence of a victim of a residence on Barbery without permission.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Stotontap Area):

Auto Theft – A concrete mixer truck was reported missing from a (temp. location) job site.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to an intoxicated suspect taking off with the victim’s vehicle without permission. While on scene officers learned the suspect was allowed into the residence to sleep for the night. During the night the victim heard his vehicle start and leave the residence. A couple of hours later, a family member observed the stolen vehicle, off the Community, and called dispatch. A neighboring police department was made aware of the vehicle’s location and a traffic stop was conducted. Gila River Police Department was notified the suspect was in custody and the vehicle was returned to the owner.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Theft – The victim reported a suspect had damaged the fence back to her residence and took her grandchildren’s beach cruiser.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Shoplifting - A male subject left the store with two drinks for a car charger. The suspect was located and taken back to the store and taken into custody for the incident.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Theft – While parked at the Love’s Truck Stop the victim reported that someone stole mad flags from his Semi trailer. Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca):

Weapons – The victim reported that while driving along Nelson Rd and SR 587 they were forced off the road and stopped near Sweetwater housing. A white male suspect brandished a weapon at them then fled the scene.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca):

Theft – Officers responded to the A.C. joint separation.

Status: Suspect is prohibited possession of a firearm.

District Six (Komatke):

Aggravated Assault – The victim stated that a verbal altercation with the two suspects ensued when they accused the victim of infirmity on their niece. The altercation became physical and the victim was hit multiple times in the upper portion of his body. While being assaulted the victim felt a sharp pain in his arm where he was struck with an aluminum baseball bat. The victim was medically evaluated and released.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – The suspect was held at the bus stop near the Komatke Market. During the assault the victim stated he was struck with a pipe in the abdomen area. EMS arrived to evaluate the victim and transported to an area hospital for further medical attention. It was later discovered that the victim suffered a fractured rib and a compound fracture to his arm.

Status: Under Investigation

District Two (Sacaton Flats):

No incidents regarding part 1 crime.

District Three (Sacaton):

Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a call regarding the victim’s one year old daughter was pushed against and the suspect was attempting to get her to leave the residence. During the incident the victim was thrown to the ground by her hand. The victim kicked, punched and was stabbed. The victim was able to give a description of the weapon along with the suspects.

Status: Suspects were arrested.
RELATIVES CELEBRATE BOND BETWEEN FLAG RAISERS HAYES AND GAGNON

Mikhail Sundust

Rene Gagnon Jr. and Wayne Allison live on opposite ends of the country, but are linked by a photograph taken generations ago on the other side of the world.

Gagnon Jr. of New Hampshire is the son of Rene Gagnon Sr. (1925-1979), one of the soldiers captured in the iconic World War II photo by Joe Rosenthal: Raising the Flag on Mt. Suribachi. The American forces landed on the island for more than a month.

“I would have to say that the battle of Iwo Jima was valiantly fought,” said Gagnon Jr. “It was a horrific battle, and somehow people like Ira Hayes and my dad were able to stand out as heroes – not so much in their own eyes – [but] for everybody who fought and died on that island.”

The photograph meant more than a month. To him, the photo was a reminder that, like Ira, who had a family and an entire community behind him, the men in the flag raising photo had relatives and lives that stretched beyond one particular moment in history.

After his mother passed in August of 2016, Allison took the initiative to learn more about the other soldiers.

He first learned of Rene Gagnon Jr. from a documentary on the flag raising. After some online research, he was able to contact Gagnon through a journalist in New Hampshire. In December of 2016, near the end of their first phone call, Allison invited Gagnon Jr. to Gila River for the annual Iwo Jima remembrance festivities in February 2017.

“I told him that we have this event every year, that I wanted to invite him to come down and join us, that we would talk to some people to see if we could get him down here for this year’s event,” said Allison.


Continued on Page 13
Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 hosts banquet to honor Iwo Jima veterans


Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The O'otham area, here in Gila River and also with our sister tribes, has been a part of our lives for the past two years. The Ak Chin community celebrates Masik Tas in December, and then late January had the Tohono O'odham Ro- deo and Fair. Rain / Jack stayed in Casa Grande for an O'odham Tash. Now in March / Kui I'vakad Ma- sad it is our turn with the Mul Ch Tha. In June, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will keep the piasts going. Each celebration is unique, but offer parades, rodeos, contemporary and old time athletic contests, food booths and music. For many O'odham music means vai- la, now a part of the culture.The Christian mission- aries who journeyed to our land arrived with many European things: cattle, wheat, and music, to name a few. When O'odham learned how to play the violins, guitars, and bass drum, they quickly put a tribal spin on the Mexican interpretation of European dances like the mazurka, the waltz, and the polka. Explaining European or- igin, the Waila Festival, Inc. website states waila is similar to a polka, the cho- di is from Scotland and/ or Ireland, and the cumbia is Polish, and the cumbia came to us from Columbia by way of Mexico. Cum- bia usually gets everyone on the dance floor. Don’t worry about the footwork – it’s all upper arm and body style while floating around—with or without a partner! Another dance was the quadrille/kwariya, which for the O’odham is more of a circle dance. Paheko o’ola is the Yaqui/Hakim term for “Old Man of the Fiesta” which is a dance we also borrowed. Entering the “global village” brings a lot of new music to all cultures. An earlier polka move had dancers kick up their heels when turning it. We re- minded people of chicken- scratching the ground, hence the term “chicken scratch.” Musician Philip- ip Miguel took exception and remarked, “We are not chickens; we’re O’odham, and this is O’odham music.” Boarding school in- troduced different instru- ments and with tribal and Mexican influences, the “voices of waila,” the accordion and saxophone were added. Rock and roll and electricity ushered in amplifiers, electric guitars and microphones. O’odham musicians didn’t skip a beat. It’s said that the Lawrence Welk Show was popular for the polka music with urban O’odham away from the reservations. In the mid 1950’s, a large O’odham community exist- ed in Los Angeles due to the Relocation program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Angelo Joaquín, Sr. and family formed an orchestra to fill the O’odham need to dance in LA. The popular- ity of the Joaquin Brothers band would extend nation- wide, performing at the National Folk Festival in Wolf Trap in 1980 and New York City’s Carnegie Hall in 1992. Waila music seems to have stood the test of time by changing with the times. Old time dancers remem- ber the practice of specific songs being played at cer- tain times of the night and the retuning of instruments at midnight to a higher pitch. Singing in O’odham has a religious aspect and is reserved for special oc- casions. Traditional songs don’t translate well into waila music. Vaia bands do sing Mexican favorites, but with an O’odham flavor. However in the 1970’s, The Molinas recorded an O’odham cult classic, The O’ok Oik Polka. The band earned the title of Super Scratch Kings, won in 1974 at Salt River during the National Indian Trade Fair. Today bands have women musicians with one band of renown by a woman. Our himdag is constantly changing and so has vaia. Both have en- debled by being able to keep pace with the changing world. Attend the Mul Ch Tha and listen to survival. Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, Univer- sity of Arizona professor of linguistics and Tohono O’odham language, puts it best with a poem, “Waila Music.”

It is 1:30 am. Sleep won’t come. She listens to music. O’odham vaia music. San Antonio Rose, a wild saxophone and accordion. She listens in her mind. She dances with a hand- some cowboy. His hat is white, his boots are dusty. They turn in rhythm together. They don’t miss a beat. Their hearts beat in sync. Their sweat is mixed as one.

The earthen dance floor, the stars and moon above them. That rhythm, that rhythm, it makes them one.


The earthen dance floor, the stars and moon above them. That rhythm, that rhythm, it makes them one.

Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 hosts banquet to honor Iwo Jima veterans


Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN


The earthen dance floor, the stars and moon above them. That rhythm, that rhythm, it makes them one.

Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 hosts banquet to honor Iwo Jima veterans


Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
Strank, Franklin Sousley, Rene Gagnon, and Harlon Block, would raise the U.S. flag over the island of Iwo Jima, he said.

“Ira Hayes stands as a giant to generation upon generation of Gila River Indian Community members,” said Lewis. “We, the fortunate many, who have the chance to stand here today because of the service of men and women like Ira Hayes, who fought courageously, who risked everything so that we can be free.”

“To each of you veterans here today, to the members of the Ira Hayes family, and my family, and all the many Community families who send loved ones off to… war let me close by saying this,” said Lewis. “We stand in awe of what you have accomplished and your commitment, and each of us working in our own way to bring honor to your service and to continue on in your footsteps. Our community will never forget you and we will do everything in our power to support our veterans and to live up to your example.”

The ceremony continued with greetings brought on behalf of Arizona Governor Doug Ducey by Director of Arizona Veterans Services, Wanda Wright, who briefly spoke about the importance of celebrating the military legacy of Ira Hayes and the legacy of all U.S. veterans.

After the event’s dignitaries concluded their speeches, five wreaths were blessed and placed at each of the veterans memorial park’s monuments; the Iwo Jima, Matthew B. Juan, Purple Heart, Women veterans, and P.O.W./M.I.A. monuments.

Photography by Thomas R. Throssell
More scenes from the 72nd Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising parade

Over 200 participate in Iwo Jima 8K & 2 Mile Walk

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

In the cold and early morning hours of Feb. 25, before large crowds of spectators descended upon Sacaton to take part in the 72nd Annual Iwo Jima Flag Raising, over 200 runners and walkers of all ages traveled to the Sacaton Fairgrounds to participate in the Iwo Jima 8K & 2 Mile Walk. The run was held to honor and remember World War II veterans and all veterans who have served. One veteran in particular was honored during the run, Ira H. Hayes, who’s relative Wayne Michael Allison was on-site with a special piece of family memorabilia, Hayes’s military identification tag. Allison said that he came out to the run to help community members better understand what the whole event was about, and bringing Hayes’s I.D. tag was a way for people to really connect with the World War II hero.

The event, which was sponsored by Gila River Indian Community’s Communications and Public Affairs Office, began with the 8K runners taking off from the Sacaton Fairgrounds and making their way west down Seedfarm Road, shortly followed by the 2-mile walkers and runners.

In the 8K run, Lee Nasewytewa, 15, of District 6, took first place overall with a time just over 38 minutes. Sequoia Lucero, 14, of Snaketown, came in first place overall and Lee Enos, 17, of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community came in second place.

Nicole Watson came in 1st place for women in the 8K run.

Lee Nasewytewa, 15, came in 1st place overall for the 8K run with a time of 34.08.
120 Sacaton Middle School students graduate from G.R.E.A.T. program

Over the past thirteen weeks, Sacaton Middle School (SMS) students learned the importance of making responsible decisions in difficult circumstances and how to navigate the pitfalls of drugs, gangs, and violence through the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program taught by Gila River Police Department School Resource Officers.

On Feb. 23, middle school students of the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades, making up around 120 pupils in total, celebrated their graduation from the program in the school’s gymnasium and were treated to slices of cake and pizza.

GRPD SRO James Milano, who taught the program at SMS, said the program is all about teaching youth how to make the right choices in difficult situations.

“The program focuses on making good choices and not letting people dissuade you,” he said. “When you do make good choices, you have the world open to you.”

He added that even though the students have completed the 13-week program, they will continue to use the knowledge they learned to create a better school campus.

“The idea is that now, they are going to try to improve the school,” said Milano. “Report if you see bullying, if you see somebody that is doing gang behavior, try to talk them out of it, if not, tell an adult,” he said.

 Also in attendance at the SMS G.R.E.A.T. graduation were GRPD Sgt. Manuel, who congratulated the students on their accomplishment, and GRPD Officer Esther Poolaw, who helped hand out generous portions of cake and slices of cheese pizza.

The graduation’s special guest speaker was USMC veteran Roland Enos, who congratulated the students on finishing the program. He told students that receiving an education was an effective way to improve one’s life.

Enos said in his own life experience, he learned that taking chances, learning new skills, and even leaving home for better opportunities, were all important steps towards a happier life.

“Enjoy your life,” said Enos. “Yes, there will be bumps in the road, but learn from them and move forward.”

G.R.E.A.T. is a gang and violence prevention program used to teach children to stay away from violence, gangs, and delinquency, all-the-while building trust between law enforcement officers and the community. The program is taught at four schools in the Community, Sacaton Middle School, Sacaton Elementary School, Gila Crossing Community School, and Blackwater Community School.

The program was created by the Phoenix Police Department in April of 1991 and due to its effectiveness was adopted nationally when the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-arms and Explosives agency helped expand the program throughout the United States.
AmeriCorps office opens at Hu Hu Kam Memorial

Greetings from your Gila River AmeriCorps! This year we have a new service site location at the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital. Three of our AmeriCorps members are placed in a new office near the temporary entrance.

Just to get to know your AmeriCorps Members a little better: Wesley Rhodes is a proud Marine Veteran from District 4. He

Leonard Bruce
AmeriCorps Program

The office has been a member of the AmeriCorps program since it began in 2014. Stan Holmes is also a proud Marine Corps Veteran from District 4 who is just beginning with the AmeriCorps program. Finally, Kenneth Madrid is an Army Veteran with nearly a decade of experience as a Service Officer with the American Legion in Casa Grande.

We will be stationed in the hospital to provide assistance with locating resources, obtaining DD214’s, headstones, and answering questions about becoming service connected, with the VA regional and medical centers. We also have a service office there that can answer your questions about benefits and assist you in getting the paperwork done. The office is open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Service Officer Hours are from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We look forward to seeing you!
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • February 15, 2017

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday February 15, 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 9:12 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Carol Schurz

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1- Joey Whitman, Azrie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Cary Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4-Nada Celaya, Barney Enos, Jr. (11:10), Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (9:30), Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Sandra Naseleyewa; D7- Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Charles Goldtooth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)
1. GRHC Introduction of Judith Roth, Chief Financial Officer
Presenter: Ginger Fligger
MS. GINGER FLIGGER INTRODUCED MS. JUDITH ROTH. MS. ROTH PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR EXPRESSED WORDS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND CONCERNS

REPORTS
1. Family Advocacy Center
Presenter: Sunshine Whitehair
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
2. Protective Service Office
Presenters: Curtis Slatina, Sunshine Whitehair
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. Gila River Indian Irrigation Drainage District (GRIID) Annual Report
Presenter: Ronald Allison
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. Gila River Sand & Gravel Quarterly Report FY-16 Qtr 4
Presenter: Michael H. Morago
REPORT HEARD
5. Gila River AmeriCorps Program Report
Presenters: Leonard Bruce, Lana Chanda, Pamela Thompson
REPORT HEARD
[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12:05 P.M.]
6. Judicial Department FY16 Annual Report Update
Presenter: Victor Antone
REPORT HEARD
7. Blackwater Community School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017
Presenter: Jagdish Sharma
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #7 THRU #14
8. Casa Blanca Community School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017
Presenter: Patricia Avalos
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
9. Gila Crossing Community School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017
Presenter: Dr. Gregory Sackos
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
10. Sacaton Elementary School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017
Presenter: Leslie Rychel
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
Presenter: Sister Martha
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
12. Skyline Gila River School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017
Presenter: Vaughn Flannigan
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
Presenter: Larisa Gujiano
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
14. Sacaton Middle School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017
Presenter: Philip Bonds
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7
[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 1-HOUR LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENCED AT 2:08 P.M.]
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
15. Office Of General Counsel CY 2016 Annual Report (Executive Session)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
16. Quarterly Treasurer’s Report Ending December 31, 2016 (Executive Session)
Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Johns
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Johns, Kelly Gomez
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION
18. Resolution Approving The General Location For Gila River Sand & Gravel Corporation To Develop And Operate A New Sand And Gravel Plant In District One (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, EDSC concurs)
Presenter: Michael H. Morago
APPROVED
2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The October 1, 2016 Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Greenberg Traurig, LLP (GMSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy
APPROVED
3. A Resolution Approving A Sublease Between The Sun Valley Marina Development Corporation And The Bob Bon杜兰特 School Of High Performance Driving, Inc. (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, EDSC concurs)
Presenters: Dale Gutenson, Jason Croxtom
APPROVED
ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
[ADDITION TO AGENDA]
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Compact Negotiation (Executive Session)
Presenter: Linus Everling
ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION
[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENCED AT 5:38 P.M.]
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO (1) REJECT CAYUCU YAQUI TRIBES PROPOSAL; (2) REAFFIRMING THE COMMUNITY’S POSITION OPPOSING OFF-RESERVATION GAMING; AND (3) DIRECTING COMMUNITY’S NEGOTIATING TEAM TO ATTEND THE PLENARY SESSION AND MAINTAIN THE COMMUNITY’S POSITION NEW BUSINESS
1. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies – Subject to the Code of Conduct
Presenters: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS
2. Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Board of Directors Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies – Subject to the Code of Conduct
Presenters: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT
3. GRCUA FY16 Audited Financial Statements (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business to accept)
Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold, Adam Cavin
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT [ADDITION TO AGENDA]
4. Housing Concerns
Presenters: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
ITEM DISCUSSED
MINUTES
1. January 6, 2017 (Special)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
2. January 18, 2017 (Regular)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTION
3. February 3, 2017 (Special)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
> PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR MR. LOUIE BLACKWATER’S FAMILY
>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR MR. HARLAN BOHNEE’S FAMILY
>LITIGATION TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017, 9AM, LAW OFFICE
>G&M GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017, 9AM
>WJO JIMA FLAG RAISING EVENT, FEBRUARY 24 & 25, 2017

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:29 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Flag raisers from page 6

ter named Clinton Whita-
ker and Emma Cook (née Whi
taker) whose descen
dants attended the evening
reception at the HIC.

Kenneth Hayes, Ira’s
brother, is the only living
relative of the Hayes fam-
ily line from their parents
Joe and Nancy. In an es-
tially touching meeting,
Kenneth and Rene Jr. met
for the first time Feb. 23.

Allison said the story of
Hayes has helped people
from Gila River feel a sense
of pride and inspired young
men and women to join the
 Armed Forces.

Sudberry said that
blaming the victim is the
least effective way some-
one can help them out, be-
cause it creates the idea
that the victim has somehow
done something wrong to
deserve being abused.

She said for those who
are exposed to violence,
all it is at home or elsewhere,
the cycle of abuse is a pat-
tern that can be broken.

Gagnon said that when
Ira comes home for the
first time with his new
girlfriend, he is going to
keep those who have gone
through a violent situation.

The students then
broke up into groups to
share ideas about abuse and
what they can do to stop a
similar situation from hap-
pening.

They then shared their
answers with rest of the
groups stating how they
would address an abusive
relationship.

One of the responses
was to speak up about it
and talk to an adult, as well
as having a direct line of
communication on how a
relationship is going.

Another response was
to listen to the victim and
hear them out before pass-
aging judgment or blaming
them for being abused.

Sudberry said that
blaming the victim is the
least effective way some-
one can help them out, be-
cause it creates the idea
that the victim has somehow
done something wrong to
deserve being abused.

She said for those who
are exposed to violence,

Mrs. Moore, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

Serious bodily injury.

But Gagnon Jr. said
heroes, but Gagnon Jr. said

However, even if you do so, you

presence at the Answer/Re-
response Hearing is still re-
moved if a written answer or
response is made, it shall be filed
and served before the date of the
hearing, unless the time is extended
by order of the Court.

If you fail to appear and defend,
judgment by default will be
entered against you for the relief
sought in the complaint or
petition.

If you choose to respond
and file a pleading,
you will be required to
pay a filing fee.

She wants the students
to understand that
they are not to blame and
that there is hope in getting out
of an abusive relationship by
spooking out about it.

The purpose of the
presentation is not to scare
the students away from re-
lationshions or to give them
the impression that every
relationship has the poten-
tial to become abusive.

The message is that
abuse is not part of a
healthy relationship and
they have the power to
stop it from happening.

A video was played

Saconton Community

CIVIL SUMMONS

TO: CANDACE SEKAYOUMA

Gila River Indian Community Court.

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You are hereby notified,
Interested in taking a trip to Washington DC?

GRTI wants to send two Gila River member youth to Washington, D.C. for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour. To apply contact Melanya Pasqual at 520-796-8808.

FRS Youth Tour 2017
June 3–7 Washington, D.C.
Deadline to register is Thursday, March 16, 2017

Requirements
• Must be 16 or 17 years of age
• Provide two personal references (i.e. teacher, counselor)
• Submit an essay related to the telecommunications industry
• Must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
• Submit a biography
• Must submit a current photo

Join our campaign!
“Bringing fiber optics to every home in Gila River by 2019”
Learn more at www.gilarivertel.com/FTTH
AT CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER

YOU'RE Our #1 PRIORITY

Incredible Offers
Under $199 Per Month

SAVINGS Up To $4,000 OFF

All Applications Accepted!

CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER
1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE
520-836-2112
INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL • www.crossroadsauto.org

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 08, 2017

Multi Purpose Building & Park
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