Jalen Joaquin wins 2017 Indian National Final Rodeo Saddle Bronc World Title

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

The words, ‘World Champion’ has a new inspiring meaning to many in the Gila River Indian Community, as Jay (Jalen) Joaquin, took home the Championship Saddle Bronc riding honors at the 2017 Indian National Finals Rodeo held November 7-11, at the South Point Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was one of only three bronc riders at the INFR who was able make clean rides on four broncs, winning the contest with a 75-point ride in the final go-round to give him a 305 point total average score to win the championship.

Stephen R. Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, commented, “Congratulations to Jay Joaquin on becoming the 2017 Saddle Bronc World Champion [at the] Indian National Finals Rodeo this weekend!” Lewis adds, “You carried our Community flag proudly in Las Vegas and now you’re the first Gila River Indian Community member Saddle Bronc World Champion! Congratulations to your family for raising a World Champion! We are all proud of you back home!”

Jalen has competed in many rodeo contests since he was a young boy. He has traveled all over the country competing in rodeo contests at all levels of competition, from local Indian rodeos, high school rodeo contests, and at the collegiate level at Cochise College in Douglas, Arizona.

Military members honored on Veterans Day in D1

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

It was a star spangled morning in District 1, as veterans from Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 led the parade down Blackwater School Road on Nov. 11.

Many of the parade entries were from the Blackwater Community School such as the cheer squad and color guard, who presented the colors at the morning’s event.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, also participated in the parade with his father Rodney Lewis, who served in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Ranger.

They were followed by the Post 51 Ladies Auxiliary post and local groups from District 1 who came out to support the veterans.

As soon as the parade started, it was time to head over to the District 1 Multipurpose Building where attendees and veterans were treated to a special video highlighting the armed forces and the names of the Community veterans who have passed away.

Along with the show of recognition for veterans, awards were given to parade entries for their patriotism.

A special warrior song was sung for the veterans in attendance and words of appreciation to the veterans were provided by Gov. Lewis.

At the event Gov. Lewis said, “We honor our veterans with much love. As a Community, we are forever grateful for their dedication, devotion, and sacrifice.”

“Serving all seven districts of the Gila River Indian Community”

Gila River Indian News
P.O. Box 459
Sacaton, AZ 85147
Change Service Requested

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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

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The Gila River Indian News welcomes new Newsperson

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Dear Reader,

I am happy to introduce myself as the new Community Newsperson for the Gila River Indian News. My name is Aaron Tohtsoni and I am an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. My mother is Cindy Stevens and my grandparents were the late Jess Stevens, Sr. and Evelyn Pike Stevens.

I am extremely excited to be a part of the GRIN staff and learn more about the Akimel O’odham and Pee Posh.

A little about myself, I recently graduated from Arizona State University as an individualized major. I studied science, society and mass communications. I’ve spent the last five years writing for a newspaper in San Carlos called the Apache Messenger. I also have written for other Arizona newspapers including the Eastern Arizona Courier, the Sierra Vista Herald and the Douglas Dispatch.

My niche has been covering high school sports in all corners of the state of Arizona. Nothing was more thrilling for me than being a sports reporter then covering the high school state playoffs, whether it was football, volleyball, baseball, softball, track and field or tennis. However, the experience of covering a state basketball championship game featuring a Native American community is nothing short of electrifying.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing tennis and practicing the art of bikram yoga. I also like to get involved with various charity organizations and hope to one day chair an event. My favorite past time is watching college sports and cheering on the goeliths that are the Alabama Crimson Tide football team, the Duke Blue Devils men’s basketball team and the University of Connecticut women’s basketball team. And if I am ever feeling sad, I will watch any Star Wars episode to cheer myself up. My second home is Las Vegas, quite often throughout the year I make the sojourn and play bingo with my best friend.

I cannot wait to meet Community members and learn more about the traditions and culture this job will allow me to get to know and for that I am extremely grateful and excited to be here. If you ever see me out and about, please say hello.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. Tohtsoni

Gila River AmeriCorps

NOW RECRUITING!
The AmeriCorps Program is currently seeking motivated individuals to Serve Gila River Veterans and the Environment in FULL or PART time service opportunities.

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Community member receives Spirit of the Heard Award

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Community member Arlene Joyce Hughes received special recognition for her life’s work in educating the people of the Gila River Indian Community on Akimel O’otham traditions and language.

Hughes was awarded the “Spirit of the Heard,” award at the Phoenix Indian Center’s annual American Indian Excellence Award banquet held at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas on Nov. 14.

Hughes’s work has spanned several years, which has helped to link the youth of the Community with its elders with the inclusion of traditional Akimel O’otham teachings.

From the village of Santa Cruz in District 6, Hughes said she grew up learning the Akimel O’otham language and traditions from her parents.

She said the knowledge about the language was her family’s strength and connection to the land.

“I had a very stable upbringing and it was through culture…when you have both, you become a very strong person,” said Hughes.

She attributes many of her successes to her traditional teachings, which she said has steered her away from the negative influences that are abound in the Community.

After the award, Hughes said it comes as a bit of surprise when she was notified by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who nominated her to be recognized. Gov. Lewis nominated Hughes for the award with the help and support of TED Culture Language Teachers and Diana Antone, Executive Assistant for the Office of the Governor.

According to a Heard Museum press release, “Every year, the Heard Museum’s Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of its American Indian Advisory Committee, honors with the ‘Spirit of the Heard’ award to an individual who has demonstrated personal excellence either individually or as a community leader.”

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said, “It is an honor to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of Ms. Hughes as she is awarded the ‘Spirit of the Heard’ award.”

He said Hughes has dedicated her life to preserving the Community’s Akimel O’otham heritage, that is intertwined in the lives of its members through language and culture.

While attending University of Arizona, Hughes received language training from the American Indian Language Development Institute.

Lewis lauded Hughes for helping develop the O’otham “way of life” for the Community and for pursuing her education.

Hughes, a Traditional Language Instructor at Gila Crossing Community School said teaching the language and cultural teachings has been her lifelong mission and that every position that she has held has involved teaching culture to Community members.

Looking at her take on teaching language and culture, Hughes says the instruction has to go deeper into the spirituality and way of life of Akimel O’otham people.

“Overall I speak about plain basic teaching for the beginners, but I also include the spiritual part about the way of life for Akimel O’otham,” said Hughes.

A metaphor Hughes uses is about the amount of cultural teachings Community members receive compared to the mesquite tree.

“At the top of the tree is the leaves and branches. That’s the basic knowledge of O’otham traditions that we teach,” said Hughes.

“Most of us don’t go into the in-depth thing like the roots, the roots are what

Arlene Joyce Hughes

ARLENE JOYCE HUGHES

Ms. Hughes is a tireless educator and cultural preservationist. She is committed to the traditional perspective and principles given to her by her family and elders. Ms. Hughes has been a humble leader in the cultural revitalization efforts for her tribe and she has been instrumental in her community’s language preservation efforts since 1999. Working as an educator, in 2007, she became the Gila River Indian Community’s first culture coordinator. As culture coordinator, and under the direction of then Governor, William Rhodes, Ms. Hughes was an important part of the effort to develop an alphabet system for her tribe’s language. In a 2005 interview conducted while she attended Arizona State University, Ms. Hughes comments, “Our language, our Hirmthag, is the number-one source of our soul, our pride, our being, our strength and our identity.” Since earning her Arizona State University Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education- Multicultural/Multilingual Education (2005), and University of Arizona Master’s in Linguistics, Native American Language and Linguistic (2016), Ms. Hughes continues to work throughout her community teaching Akimel O’otham Hirmthag (“way of life”) and Akimel O’otham language. She is currently a Traditional Language Instructor, developing curriculum and coach of the culture program classes at Gila River Community Crossing School.

About the Spirit of the Heard Award

Every year, the Heard Museum’s Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of its American Indian Advisory Committee, honors with the Spirit of the Heard Award an individual who has demonstrated personal excellence either individually or as a community leader. The recipient’s nomination by the American Indian Advisory Committee is ratified by the Board of Trustees.

From left, Phoenix Indian Center Board President, Traci Morris, Phoenix Indian Center’s CEO Patricia Hibbeler, Arlene Joyce Hughes and the Heard Museum’s CEO, David Roche.

We carry with us...all these things that go down to the roots is what people should know.

Throughout her years of experience working in various public service positions, Hughes said those that she has taught traditional Akimel O’otham teachings to have found a sense of identity and have made improvements in their lives.

She said as Akimel O’otham teachings help Community members understand they are part of the preservation of the language and culture and that like a most treasured keepsake, it should not be put on a shelf to collect dust.

Congratulations 2017 honorees

Congratulations!

Ms. Hughes on her special recognition.

Arlene Joyce Hughes
2017 Spirit of the Heard Recipient
District One (Blackwater):

Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched to a residence for a report of a disturbance. The victim was transported to a local hospital for further medical treatment. The suspect discharged a firearm toward a residence striking a male multiple times along with the residence. Criminal Investigation responded and assumed the investigation.

Status: On-going Investigation

Auto Theft – Officers were dispatched to a local church in reference to a theft of a purse. The investigation revealed the suspect took the victim’s purse during an event being held at the church. The suspect was located and the purse was returned to the victim.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail.

Theft – The victim reported that she had used her electronic bene- fit transfer card (EBT) exhausting all the funds that she had available. The suspect was located and questioned regarding the incident. The suspect admitted to using the card.

Status: On-going Investigation

District Four (Stonotic Area):

Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a call of an assault. The investigation revealed the victim had been assaulted by the suspect with a knife. The victim was transported to a local Medical Center for a non life threatening stab wound. Charges for the suspect will be long forwarded to the law office for review (Due to medical reasons). Photos taken will be placed into evidence.

Status: On-going Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte):

Theft – At Saks Off Fifth Ave at Phoenix Premium Outlets a male walked into the store grabbed some clothing items and ran out of the store. The suspect was last seen jumping into a dark SUV. The suspect was not located.

Status: On-going Investigation

Theft – Officers responded to the Phoenix Premium Outlet to reference a toshoplifting. Investigation revealed a male walked out of the Coach Retail Store and was apprehended by the store security. The suspect placed an item’s in the suspect’s carry all bag before exiting.

Status: On-going Investigation

District Six (Komatikke):

Burglary – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a burglary. The suspect picked a crowbar up and hit the victim in the back and on the forehead causing the left forehead to break. The victim was transported to a local hospital for further medical treatment. The suspect was gone prior to police arrival.

Status: Under Investigation.

Incident Log October 21, 2017

Gila River Police officers responded to 673 calls for service and made 45 arrests.

District One (Blackwater):

Aggravated Assault: Suspect(s) assaulted the victim by striking her with her hands and feet. During the altercation, the victim attempted to run away and was cut with a knife. After being cut by the suspect(s), the victim was able to flag down a vehicle passing by and then contact the Gila River Police Department. The victim was transported by Gila River Emergency Medical Services to a local hospital for further medical treatment for her non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Under Investigation.

Theft – Suspect(s) stole a cell phone and laptop from the victims while they were sleeping in their room at the night’s residence. When the suspect was interviewed by officers they admitted to taking the cell phone and laptop but returned only one of the items.

Status: Charges are being forwarded.

Theft – Suspect(s) stole a backpack from Volcom Super Market that the victim left outside due to the store’s no backpack policy. The victim advised there were several personal items in the backpack which had been taken.

Status: Under Investigation.

Burglary – The suspect pointed a rifle at the victim and then struck her with their firearm. The weapon the suspect used was a rifle and was left in the residence and was later located by officers. The victim was treated by Gila River Emergency Medical Services and transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

District Five (Komatikke):

Aggravated Assault – Suspect(s) assaulted the victim with a knife and left him in a ditch. An individual arrived at the residence and observed the victim bleeding in a ditch off of a back road. The victim was located with a stab wound to his abdomen and transported by Gila River Emergency Medical Services to a local trauma facility for further medical treatment.

Status: Under Investigation.

Burglary – The suspect(s) forcefully entered the shed of a private residence by tearing through a screen window and stole several tools. The chain link fence around the residence was found to have been cut as well.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Seven (Maricopa):

No incidents involving Part I Crime

District Three (Saca ton):

Aggravated Assault – The suspect and victim were involved in a verbal domestic dispute which turned violent. The suspect punched the victim in the head and on the forehead causing the left forehead to break. The victim was transported to a local hospital for further medical treatment. The suspect was gone prior to police arrival.

Status: Under Investigation.

Shoplifting – Suspect(s) entered the Shopko store, located at Phoenix Premium Outlets. The suspect(s) were attempted to enter through a glass door then left but returned shortly taking several items and left the store without pay ing for the merchandise.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Five (Cas a Blanca):

Aggravated Assault – The suspect pointed a rifle at the victim and then struck her with their firearm. The weapon the suspect used was a rifle and was left in the residence and was later located by officers. The victim was treated by Gila River Emergency Medical Services and transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

Status: Suspect arrested.

District Six (Komatikke):

Aggravated Assault – Suspect(s) assaulted the victim with a knife and left him in a ditch. An individual arrived at the residence and observed the victim bleeding in a ditch off of a back road. The victim was located with a stab wound to his abdomen and transported by Gila River Emergency Medical Services to a local trauma facility for further medical treatment.

Status: Under Investigation.

Burglary – The suspect(s) forcefully entered the shed of a private residence by tearing through a screen window and stole several tools. The chain link fence around the residence was found to have been cut as well.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Seven (Maricopa):

No incidents regarding Part I Crime.
The New Creative India

Indians and Aliens

Native Shorts

Impact of the Frolic

The Beginning of the End

Aboriginal Adventures

Native Report

Creative Native

Native Shorts

Native Distribution of Wealth

Creative Native Symbolism

The New Creative India

with its festive decorations, means the Christmas sea-

11:30pm

around the corner, which

9:00pm

Gila River Fire Department, Gila River Police Department and tribal departments,

5:30pm

Thomas R. Throssell

Gila River Indian News

3:00pm

said, “The purpose of the toy drive is to get toys for

1:30pm

Community kids that are under the umbrella of our

1:00pm

Thomas R. Throssell

Gila River Indian News

0:00pm

Working It Out Together

Gila River Indian News November 17, 2017

While many Gila

River Indian Commu-

nity children will be open-

presenting on Christmas
data, there are youngsters in the Community who

1:00pm

Japanese Native Girls

Call to Blood Thicker Than Love

2:00pm

Gofin: Places of Refuge for Runnings People

Working It Out Together

Indian Pride

On Native Ground: Youth Report

Native Shorts

Making Regalia

4:30pm

The Tarahumara running

tribe, striving to main-

tain their ancient culture against all odds.

1:00pm

Aboriginal Adventures

Common Ground

Native Shorts

Stones

On Native Ground: Youth Report

Billy Mills

Common Ground

5:00pm

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First and sixth grade students joined the middle school boys and girls during a presentation for National Native American Heritage Month.

What do you like?
When thinking about buying gifts for the Holidays and what to get your loved ones you can always ask someone in O’otham “What do you like?” This question literally asks someone what it is that they enjoy, an activity, or what sort of thing do they like. It is a useful question to use when you want to indirectly ask someone what they like without giving away that you’re thinking of buying them a gift. This question makes use of the word s-ho:hith, which is an action word that is used when describing something that is liked or enjoyed by a person. For example if you want to say you like dogs you can say Mañ s-ho:hith heg gogoks, or if you want to say that you enjoy the rain you could say Mah s-ho:hith heg juck. Both of these sentences consist of a sentence introducing prefix ma-, a first person auxiliary word ‘ah, the action word s-ho:hith, an article heg, and the object that is being liked (gogoks, juck). The auxiliary word ‘ah in these sentences corresponds to the English word “I” and specifies who is doing the liking in the sentence. If you wanted to change the statement to say that the person being addressed says Bi ah s-ho:hith heg mimmith. This sentence uses the negation word bi which is followed by the auxiliary ‘ah. In this example we can see that the action word s-ho:hith “to like” drops its initial “s” sound and is pronounced only as ho:hith. Another example that shows the same pattern is Bi ‘ah shai ho:hith heg vaila “I don’t really like to dance.”

When you want to talk about an action that you enjoy doing, you use a slightly longer sentence that is made up of two parts. The first part consists of the two words Mañ s-ho:hith that we saw in our first two examples and basically states that “I like (something).” The second part consists of a phrase that starts off with the word mantho which means something like “when I” followed by another action word and then an object. For example if you want to say that you enjoy playing guitar you would say Mañ s-ho:hith mantho hukshañ heg gogoks shoshiga. This sentence makes use of the word chichvith “to play” as well as the word eñ “my” and shoshiga “pets.”

Listening to speak O’otham can be intimidating at first, but once you start learning small phrases and get the idea of how sentences are put together you can make use of the regular patterns in O’otham grammar to create new sentences. Sometimes it is just a matter of thinking about different ways you can answer a question like Shoshiga wap’gi? “What do you like?” or “What do you enjoy doing?”

St. Peter students sing and dance for National Native American Heritage Month

National Native American Heritage Month took on a special meaning on Nov. 14 when about 60 students visited the Governance Center in Sacaton to share traditional songs and dances. St. Peter Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Gila River Indian Community’s Human Resources Department hosted the school and invited GRIC staff to attend the 10 a.m. presentation, which featured first and fourth grade students and the middle school boys and girls.

“It’s what we do as O’otham, we come together,” said Bryson Hall, Culture Teacher at St. Peter Mission School. “It’s an opportunity to share traditional songs and dances.”

According to Hall this was the fourth time the students have danced in honor of National Native American Heritage Month, which highlights tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

The songs and dances lasted about 45 minutes with staff observing the students and listening as they described the cultural significance of each song.

Jr. Miss St. Peters Angel Pasqual introduced herself and thanked the staff members for attending the presentation.

Corina Harrison, Culture Teacher at St. Peter Mission School at the Governance Center on Nov. 14.

Dena Blake, eighth grade, leads a line of basket dancers from St. Peter Indian Mission School for a presentation at GRIC.

Huhugam Heritage Center
Gila River Indian Community

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

November 17, 2017
Gila River Indian News

Page 7
Tribal Education wants to change the culture of reading in Gila River

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The strength of a community is its children, and the direction those children lead their community in the future is rooted in their education.

The future of the Gila River Indian Community is already being sown in the tribe’s youngest generation and the Tribal Education Department (TED) believes literacy is key to future success and has begun implementing an ambitious plan to put 100 books inside 80 percent of homes in the Community with young children.

The plan is called Growing Readers and Developing Leaders (GRDL), and is an effort to jumpstart children’s interest in reading, which has been found to have a profound impact on a child’s academic and future success regardless of nationality, education level, or parents’ economic status.

According to the 20-year international study “Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success: Books and Schooling in 27 Nations,” children growing up in homes with 100 books or more have three times the chance of completing the ninth grade as those from bookless homes.

The plan, which began on Oct. 1, 2016 and is funded by the Native Youth Community Projects (NYCP) grant, is a community-wide initiative aimed at changing the culture of literacy and communication within GRIC.

John Molina, TED Project Manager, said the Community has been identified as a book desert, meaning people do not have access to literature like they would in other communities. He said the four year NYCP grant will allow TED to implement their plan, which is made up of four goals, and will distribute tens of thousands of books into Community homes.

The first goal is to change habits of reading in the Community and give families tools to further their own education with literacy.

“Currently we have book distributions going on in every district,” Molina said. “We are aiming to put 100 books in 80 percent of the homes with young children under six.”

He said during their first book distribution this past March, they gave out 1,300 packets containing 10 books each, which comes to a whopping 13,000 books. The 9-page books are illustrated and written with simple phrases that are either descriptive or tell a short story. More distributions are currently underway and planned for the future.

Unite for Literacy, the organization contracted to print and assist in the development of books, also helps Community members create their own short stories using local landmarks, traditional culture, and slice-of-life tales from tribal members.

DeAnna Ringlero, TED Literacy Coordinator, who works with families at the literacy sessions, was also one of several Community members to create their own book. Her book, “Let’s Skateboard” tells a short story about skateboarding and her own family.

“It’s something relevant in the Community right now,” she said. “My kids skateboard and my husband skateboards. This book is about helping, trying again, promoting our community, and healthy things that you can do outside with your family,” she said.

So far nine books have been created by Community members, with more on the way.

The second goal of the first half of the first goal is hosting family literacy sessions to teach parents how to engage and support their child’s development. These sessions are being taught by Southwestern Human Development, which specializes in the development of young children.

We want them “to be self-directed reading, to further their own education with literacy,” said Molina. “The family literacy gatherings and the book distribution are both aimed at putting books in their homes and giving the people in those homes all the tools they would need to interact with their children.”

The second goal of the GRDL plan was to establish a demonstration preschool classroom at Blackwater Community School, that utilizes a literacy focused curriculum and print rich environment to demonstrate how well the new system performs when compared to traditional academic formats.

“Really what we want to do is (to see) how great these families are doing, look how much these kids have grown by having exposure to books, and literacy.”

Continued on Page 16

Deanna Ringlero, TED Literacy Coordinator, works with families at a literacy session.

The Tribal Education Department is promoting literacy with the Growing Readers and Developing Leaders program.

The Gila River Indian News

continued on page 16
This year’s River of Lights Parade theme will celebrate “Christmas in the Desert”

Friday, December 1, 2017
6:00 p.m.
Sacaton, AZ

For more information or to obtain an application please contact Alie Walking Badger at (520) 562-9713 or Shannon Redbird at (520) 562-9859.
Veterans Day
From page 1

ments, with proclamations, with parades, but we must always honor them with our heats and our deepest feel-
ings of gratitude.”

During the video trib-
ute to veterans that have passed away, Gov. Lew-
is, read the names of each veteran and later said that it is because of the sacrifices of our people to serve in the armed forces that the Community will show its continued thanks for their service given years ago.

Post 51 member Gary Anderson Sr., gave a video presentation that was put together by his son Gary Anderson Jr., who could not be present at the event.

Anderson’s son is a Paratrooper in the 82nd Air-
borne, spent nine years in the U.S. Army, talked about his deployments overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He said his time deployed was one of the most challenging, but also made him think about the sacri-
fices at home that are made by serviceman and woman in defense of the nation and their tribal communities.

Before closing the event, Gov. Lewis said, “In times of conflict and battle, the soldier fights for our freedom and defends our independence so that we may continue to live in a country founded on the rights endowed to us by our Creator.”

The morning was capped off by a traditional meal, along with music and entertainment for the families with jumping castles, arts & crafts and games.

- Photos by Christopher Lomahquahu
At-risk youth come together for 2017 GRIC Juvenile Drug Court Conference

At-risk youth in the Gila River Indian Community, who are working to get back on the right path participated in the 2017 GRIC Juvenile Drug Court Conference held at the District 3 Head Start on Oct. 28.

The conference is held for youth who are in the Community’s Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) program, which is an intensive program requiring weekly counseling, community service, activities that contribute to healthy living, and mandatory school participation. Youth in the program are typically facing charges from GRIC’s Prosecutor’s Office, and by participating in the JDC program their charges are put on hold, and once they finish the program their charges are dropped, which leaves them without a record, allowing youth another chance at leading a normal life.

Norma Nahsonhoya, GRIC Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator, said the conference began five years ago, after they found kids in the program had trouble integrating with other youth at the annual Youth Council Conference.

“A lot of them come from disadvantage households, they are struggling, they are not in school, social issues, some are wards of the court, no fault of their own,” said Nahsonhoya. “They didn’t feel comfortable with the big tribal youth conference so we decided to work on something and in 2013 we held our first conference and ever since then we have been having one every year.”

This year’s conference was emceed by 2017-2018 Miss Gila River Anissa Garcia, with an introduction by GRIC Children’s Court Judge Jay Pedro, opening blessing performed by Anthony Gray, and keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Monica Antoine. The event was filled with activities from door prize drawings, ice breakers, a BBQ lunch, a performance by the Gila River Basket Dancers, speeches on recovery and empowerment, as well as a motivational presentation by Michael Preston, and cultural presentation by Jii-vik Siik.

Judge Pedro, who has been involved with the conference since its inception five years ago, said the event is for Community youth who may not have control over their lives, and the program is helping them get through some of their own serious issues.

“They aren’t really serious offenders, but they are at risk,” Pedro said. “They are at the stage where if somebody does not intervene, they probably are going to get more into the court system by committing more serious crimes, and we are trying to head that off now.”

He added that the Community court system, from the GRIC Prosecutor’s Office to the Defense Services Office, is fully in support of turning the youth’s lives around, so they have an opportunity to lead a healthy and positive life.

“We are a team, we have representatives from the probation department, behavioral health services, tribal social services, tribal education, our law enforcement, our prosecutor’s office, and our defense attorneys, they come together and collaborate,” Pedro said.

Nahsonhoya said the conference is there to support the youth, and show them that they are supported outside of the court system as well.

“I think all the children in the Community are of value and they all need some encouragement and support in their lives, and in these types of programs, we offer that for them, and we do our best and try to help them as much as we can,” she said.

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017 & DECEMBER 13, 2017
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Please join us for a FREE support group for the Gila River Indian Community

A SAFE SPACE TO FIND HEALING

MONTHLY SUPPORT FROM OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

COME TO LISTEN, OR COME TO SHARE

NON-THREATENING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

GROUP HELD AT:
SACATON DIALYSIS CENTER
565 W. Seed Farm Rd.
Sacaton, AZ

Large Conference Room (located on the east side of Dialysis building)

Sponsored by:
Red Mountain Behavioral Health Services
480.641.9552
**OBITUARY**

Terri Lynn Allen
DOB 1/17/1968
DOD 10/30/2017
From Sacaton, Arizona
Services entrusted to Legacy Funeral Home, Chandler

Casimiro Garza, Jr.
Born in Phoenix, AZ
December 3, 1963 - October 21, 2017
Survived by:
Daughter Shawnelle Martinez
Son Mikel Martinez
Granddaughter Elena Hernandez
Father Casimiro Garza Sr.
And Brother Arturo Garza
Cass was a loving, wise, caring, hilarious individual who will be missed deeply but never forgotten. We love you always Dad, Bro, Lil Grandpa & Son. Services entrusted to Legacy Funeral Home Chandler.

**COURT NOTICE**

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

In Re Case: Audrey Failauga vs. Matthew Failauga
Docket Number: FM-2017-0083-DV
This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered.

Issued by:
Matthew Failauga
Answer/Response Hearing
AKIMEL O’OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
721 West Seed Farm Road,
Sacaton, AZ 85147
18th day of December, 2017 at 3.00 PM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Dallas DeLowe

**OBITUARY**

Walk & Run
Saturday, November 25, 2017
District 5 Multi-Purpose Bldg.
Registration @ 8AM
Walk & Run Starts @ 9AM
More Information Contact:
Allie Wolking Balder - 480-531-4256
All Fun & Run Together.
To Celebrate Shaylon's Life

4th Memorial
For Shaylon Paul Sunna

Shaylon left us beautiful memories and his love is still our guide. Although we cannot see him, he is always by our side.
We Miss You, Shaylon!
Pony Express visits Sacaton to Promote Gilbert Days Rodeo

Sacaton Middle School students, Miss Gila River Anisaa Garcia and members of the Gilbert Promotional Corporation pose in Sacaton on Nov. 3 for the arrival of the Pony Express to promote the Gilbert Days Rodeo.

Robert A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

On Nov. 3, the Pony Express along with Gilbert Days Rodeo royalty, and the GPC stopped in District 3 to deliver a formal invitation to the festivities on behalf of the City of Gilbert. Miss Gila River Anisaa Garcia, and about 30 students from Sacaton Middle School spent time with the Pony Express for the ceremony, which included a brief lesson on the famous old west delivery service. James Tree, President of the GPC, welcomed the students and the GPC representatives by acknowledging the value of the history of the riders and festivities in Gilbert. “It’s a part of history, it’s also a part of our Gilbert Days celebration,” said Tree.

The 2017 Gilbert Days Rodeo Queen Taryn Cantrell sang the national anthem and Jullee Brady, GPC, gave a brief lesson on the riders and importance of honoring America’s past. “We think the past is a presage to the future,” she said.

The middle school students brought some letters to them, and even though they were right across the street from the United States Postal Service branch in Sacaton, they gave their letters to the trusty riders of the Pony Express in a gesture of friendship and respect for Cowboy traditions.

Pony Express visits Sacaton to Promote Gilbert Days Rodeo

Robert A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

The 2000-mile-long route of the celebrated Pony Express has receded to history, fading with the brush and the Western twilight. The daring riders are frozen in the amber of time and the heroes only trot in the silence of the past where the dreams of a young nation moved toward the setting sun.

With no more letters to send or lives to risk, the Pony Express of today carries on the traditions of the Old West for educational purposes and prepares the exploits of these riders for students who were not alive during the mail service’s 18-month ride to glory.

Every year the riders visit Sacaton as a harbinger for the Gilbert Days Rodeo, which is presented by the Gilbert Promotional Corporation (GPC). This year, the splendor of the Pony Express leaped from history and into Sacaton for a special western ceremony to once again promote the Gilbert Days Rodeo.

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Graceland by AZ Park It
Sheila Havrish
(602) 596-9777

5036 E Van Buren St
Phoenix, AZ 85008
parksheds@gmail.com

Black Friday Special 11/24-12/31 $99 Down!
Rent To Own ~ No Credit Check sheds, tack rooms, barns, garages & more!
D4 Elderly Complex
Community Yard/Food Sale
Open to Everyone!!!

Saturday, Nov 18, 2017
6:30 a.m. until it gets too HOT!!

Limited tables, chairs and tent space.
First come, first serve.
Parking lot spaces available.
Best to bring own set up, especially canopies.

Electrical outlets available but bring your own cords.

For info and sign up, call
Preston Osife (520) 418-1043
Francis Hart (520) 418-1350

Attention Community Members

Please call or visit the Enrollment Department, if there is a change with any of the following

- Address
- Name
- Marital Status
- Guardianship/Placement
- Power of Attorney

The Enrollment Department provides the following services:

- Tribal ID Cards
- New Enrollment
- Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)
- Storage of Original Wills
- Enrollment Verification for Per Capita
- Minor Trust Agent Verification

Gila River Indian Community Enrollment Department
525 W. Gu-u-Ki Rd.
Sacaton, Arizona 85147
Phone: (520) 562-9790

Effective January 02, 2018 to be eligible to obtain a Tribal ID by mail you must have a current photo* and signature on file at the Enrollment Department.

*photo on file must have the current ID background

A Tribal Identification Card Request Form and payment must be submitted with the request.

Tribal IDs are available to members 18 years of age and older. The first Tribal ID is provided at no cost, replacement cards are $8.00.
Community members 55+ receive a card at no cost.

Gila River Indian Community
Property & Supply Surplus Giveaway
***Community Members Only***

Date: Tuesday November 21st 2017
Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Location: Property & Supply.
Shipping & Receiving Warehouse
1576-C South Nelson Drive
Chandler, AZ 85226

Items: ***Desks, File Cabinets, Chairs, and misc items***

1. Registration opens at 8:00 am. (Entrance on the north side of building)
2. Must have Gila River Tribal Identification at time of registration. (No exceptions)
3. Registration closes at 12:00PM.
4. Each Community Member will be issued (4) tickets
5. Must be Age 18 and over.
6. All items are "AS IS" and GRIC is not responsible for liability of items.
7. Must have your own vehicle & tie straps or you will not be able to participate.
8. All items must be loaded and taken away immediately after selection.
9. Items that are not taken away will be returned back to surplus.

***There is no holding of any items by Property & Supply***

For further information, please call S&R Warehouse at 520-796-3950
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

ACTION SHEET
Community Council; PO Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729
CALL TO ORDER
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday November 1, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:09 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Absent:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman (9:30), Azie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz;
D3-Carolyn Williams (9:11), Rodney Jackson; D4-Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison (10:42), Barney Enos, Jr., Pamela Johnson; D5- Janice Steward, Martin Dixon, , Franklin Padilla, Sr.; D6- Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans (9:21), D7-Devin Redbird (9:20)
Council Members Absent:
D5-Robert Stone; Df-Anthony Villareal, Sr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)
1. Introduction of Head Start Program Bureau of Indian Education Officials
Presenter: Isaac Salcido
MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED THE HEAD START OFFICIALS MR. TODD LERTJUNTHARANGOOL AND MS. SHAUNE’ NICHOLLS. EACH OFFICIAL PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THEIR BACKGROUND AND EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

REPORTS
1. Imagine Elementary and Imagine Prep Coolidge Schools Presenters: Angela West, Clara Thigpen, Freddie Villalon
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
2. GRICUA’s FY17 Q3 Report Presenters: Angela West, Clara Thigpen, Freddie Villalon APPROVED AS AMENDED

ORDINANCES
1. October 4, 2017 (Regular) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVED AS AMENDED
2. October 16, 2017 (Special) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES
1. October 4, 2017 (Regular) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVED AS AMENDED
2. October 16, 2017 (Special) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS
> LITIGATION MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017, 1PM

ADJOURNMENT

November 17, 2017
Gila River Indian News
Page 15
TED Literacy

Page 16

**TED Literacy**

November 17, 2017

**Gila River Indian News**

The third goal of the plan has been to engage kindergarten through eighth graders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) print rich activities that support self-directed reading habits outside of the classroom.

This past summer TED worked with summer school programs at Sacaton Elementary and Middle Schools, Gila Crossing Community School, Blackwater Community School, and Casa Blanca Community School, where students participated in STEM activities designed to engage kids using science based projects.

“Sometimes it is creating a landform model and participating in STEM based activities, which will foster professional development of local teachers. To do this, TED is holding four professional development days next year between September and May of 2018. Fredrick Poitra, TED Assistant Director, said the current contractors and consultants already working with them will provide professional development to all K-8 teachers in the Community.

“The K-2 (grade) teachers are going to be meeting in the same room and talking about best practices in the classroom that relate to literacy, same thing with the 3-5 (grades) and the 6-8 (grades),” Poitra said. “All teachers will be involved and in the end, they are all going to get eight hours of specific training in literacy and 21st century learning in the classroom, what you should do, what you shouldn’t do, all based around literacy.”

The end goal of the GRDL plan is by the end of four years to change the culture of literacy and communication in the Community, to get parents who don’t read to their children to begin picking up books and reading bed time stories, to engage their children with simple conversations on a daily basis, and provide an education format focused on literacy.

Isaac Salcido, TED Director said the GRDL plan is a massive undertaking and nothing like it has ever been attempted, but they are confident their focus on academic achievement through literacy education will produce results.

“Right now, we know that Community members don’t have a lot of books in their homes, and they don’t read to their kids regularly, so ultimately at the end of four years, we want to change that paradigm,” Salcido said. “Success isn’t going to be that we distribututed 100,000 books, the success isn’t that we train 50 teachers. Success is how many people changed. What cultural shift can we point back to on October 1, 2016, when the grant start-ed, and say this is where it began.”

**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 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.
Honoring Our Veterans & First Responders (Our Heroes)

NO PAYMENTS Until February 2018

2013 Honda Civic
2012 Cadillac CTS Low Miles
2009 Chevy Silverado 4WD

 Rates as low as 1.99%

2015 Nissan Pathfinder BLOWOUT PRICING!
2017 Ford Fusion 3 AVAILABLE
2014 Ford Mustang LOW LOW PAYMENTS

2011 Chevy Silverado
LOW MILES • 22" RIMS

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Wholesale Pricing for Veterans & First Responders

2014 Cadillac SRX FULLY LOADED
2014 Chrysler 300 HERO PRICING
2017 Chevy Malibu 3 AVAILABLE

2015 Volkswagen Golf Only 7,000 Miles

2015 Kia Cadenza LIKE NEW • FULLY LOADED
2015 Chevy Camaro
2011 Toyota Tundra

2010 Chevy Colorado

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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Gila River Indian Community Council has declared the following Board vacancies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board/Committee</th>
<th>Number of Vacancies</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Utility Authority Board of Directors</td>
<td>Two (2)</td>
<td>December 12, 2017 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation &amp; Drainage District Board of Directors</td>
<td>Seven (7)</td>
<td>December 8, 2017 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest, a Résumé, an Application, the Financial Disclosure and an Affidavit to the Community Council Secretary’s Office by the deadline date. (include your address and phone number on your résumé). Community Council Secretary’s Office is located at the Governance Center, 525 West Gu u Ki, mailing address P.O. Box 2138, Sacaton, AZ 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720.

Pursuant to GRIC 2011 Code of Conduct, Chapter 6, Section 1.601.C.4: All individuals who apply for a vacancy shall submit to the Community Council Secretary a letter of interest, résumé, an application and financial disclosure statement in a form as may be prescribed by the Community Council Board from time to time and an affidavit attesting that he/she has not been or is not a) convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, as defined in Title 4, chapter 2, Section 1.203.B., in the preceding five years; b) removed from office pursuant to this title in the preceding five years; c) currently delinquent with respect to a debt owed to the Community; d) able to meet any other condition imposed by the office in question. The GRIC 2011 Code of Conduct application/affidavit and financial disclosure can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary’s Office.

Pursuant to GRIC 2011 Code of Conduct, Chapter 6, Section 1.601.F. Community Employees: A Community Employee may sit on a Community enterprise board subject to the Community’s Employee Policies and Procedures Reference Guide. A copy of the specified job description can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary’s Office.

Pursuant to GRIC 2011 Code of Conduct, Chapter 6, Section 1.601.G. Duties of Community Enterprise Boards: Community enterprise boards and their members shall follow a standard of care requiring that any decision of, or action taken by, the Community enterprise board members shall be one that would be made with the degree of care that would be exercised by a reasonably prudent and competent person seeking a reasonable return on investment and preservation of financial resources. A copy of the specified board position description can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary’s Office.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

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520-423-8181
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*Visa card will be given after funding. Must present ad upfront. See Premier Auto Center for details.
TOY DRIVE

Collection Dates:
November 1st - December 9th, 2017

Toy Drop off Locations:
Fire Station 426 - 4793 W. Pecos Rd. Laveen Village 520-796-4515
Fire Station 423 - 599 East Seedfarm Rd. Sacaton, AZ 520-796-4580
Fire Station 429 - 5002 North Maricopa Rd. Chandler AZ 520-796-5900
Fire Station 421 - 829 Blackwater School Rd. Coolidge AZ 520-796-4510
Gila River Indian Utility Authority - 6640 W. Sundust Rd. Ste. 5091 Chandler 520-796-0600
Gila River Police Department - 639 W. Seed Farm Rd. Sacaton, AZ 85147

All collected gifts directly benefit underprivileged youth of Gila River Indian Community
A partnership between Gila River Indian Community Fire Department & Police Department.

For more information or drop off locations, please contact:
Alia Walking Badger, Special Events Coordinator at 520-562-9713/520-610-3754 or special.events@gric.nsn.us