Two GRIC servicemen honored at Run for the Fallen

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

In honor of two Gila River Indian Community military veterans who fell in combat, 240 students from St. Peter Indian Mission School put on their running shoes and ran two miles throughout the school’s campus on Oct. 13 for the 2nd Annual Run For The Fallen, an event where participants run one mile for a specific service member killed in combat.

The two Community veterans given tribute during the event were U.S. Army Cpl. Billy B. Farris, who was killed on December 12, 2006 during operations in Iraq, and U.S. Marine Corps L.Cpl. Joe M. Jackson, who fell on April 24, 2011 while serving in Afghanistan.

The event, which was attended by St. Peter students, staff, Community veterans, and tribal dignitaries, began with the singing of the national anthem and Pledge of Allegiance performed by students, followed by the Posting of Colors presented by members of the USMC Color Guard from Yuma’s U.S. Marine Corps Air Base, and a welcoming from Gary Anderson.

Anderson performed a roll call, where he called out Community veterans’ ranks and names. Each veteran whose name was called stood at attention. Veteran after veteran stood at attention reporting back to Anderson until he came to Cpl. Farris and L.Cpl. Jackson’s names. For Farris and Jackson’s roll call, only silence was heard. Shortly after Taps was played in honor of the fallen soldiers.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said veterans and Community members who have fallen in combat are important to the Community, which has a rich and storied military history, from Matthew B. Juan and Ira H. Hayes, to members of his own family, including his great uncle Cpl. Richard Lewis, who served in the First Marine Division Reinforced during World War II and was killed in action in 1943.

USMC Sgt. Maj. Robert Foster said he was humbled by the presence of the veterans in attendance and the Community’s sacrifices its members have made in service to the country.

“Today, our fallen Arizona heroes are being honored for their unselfish service to our country,” Sgt. Maj. Foster said. “The Gila River Indian Community is a rich part of this story, your sons and daughters have heard the call and stepped forward to be part of this story and to give to this great nation. This community has always rallied behind and supported those efforts, and this great community has also lost. The gold-star families giving the ultimate sac-

GRIC firefighters help fight devastating northern California fires

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Over the past several weeks a series of wild fires have devastated areas of Napa, Sonoma, Lake, and Butte counties in northern California, destroying over 3,500 structures, killing at least 41 people, with over 400 still missing, and forcing the evacuation of over 20,000.

Firefighters from around the United States, and the world, have been traveling to the affected areas to help put out fires, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency Type 2 IA Crew, which is primarily comprised of Native Americans firefighters. Several members of the crew come from the Gila River Indian Community: Julian Murgia, D6, Anthony Allen, D5, Gabrielle Baker, D5, and William Morago, D4.

Alan H. Sinclair, BIA Fire Management Officer Pima Agency/Salt River Agency, said the crew is currently fighting the Mendocino Lake Complex Fire located in Ukiah, Calif.

Sinclair said the loss of life and property has been significant and the crews are working hard to make sure the fire is contained.

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In an effort to enhance emergency communications, in mid-October, GRHC will be initiating Plain Language Emergency Communication, to further ensure the safety of patients, visitors and employees. Adopting simple phrases or plain language (see example below) during emergency communication will reduce confusion and limit possible errors.

“Code Red” for fire alarms or drills, will CHANGE TO:
Facility Alert + Fire Alarm/Drill + Location

Thank you working with us as we demonstrate our commitment to your safety.

Respectfully,
Scott Gemberling, Chief Executive Officer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
PLAIN LANGUAGE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

VETERANS DAY 2017 HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital • Komatke Health Center • Ak-Chin Clinic
CLOSED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

PHARMACY HOURS:
11/10...10 am - 8 pm • 11/11...CLOSED • 11/12...12 Noon - 10 pm
Normal business hours will resume Monday, 11/13/17. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.
U.S. Department of Justice Official Visits GRIC

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

During a visit to the On Eagles Wings domestic violence shelter in District 3 Sacaton, Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis welcomed U.S. Department of Justice Associate Attorney General Rachel Brand on Oct. 4.

On Oct. 3 Brand announced that American Indian and Alaska Native people will be receiving $130 million of DOJ funds to boost public safety.

According to a DOJ press release, the funds will be distributed in grants that will address violence against women, serve victims of crime and assist Native youth programs nationwide.

Brand, in the press release said, “Supporting our tribal partners as they work to protect their communities remains fundamental to our mission at the Department of Justice.”

On the morning of Brand’s visit, Lewis said, “We really consider [you] partners in addressing the issues among tribal communities nationwide and for being able to come out and tour the facility.”

Before a tour of the On Eagles Wings facility with Brand, Lewis said, “It’s a lot about the Department of Justice’s interest in addressing the many issues that affect tribal communities in regards to crime.”

He said the Community is invested in protective measures like VAWA and the Tribal Law and Order Act, which increases dialog between the DOJ and tribal public safety to decrease violence in tribal communities.

Brand said, “It’s great for me to come here and see what the needs are and why it is important to fund important services within tribal communities.”

Lewis said the domestic violence shelter’s beginnings stemmed from the Community’s commitment to safeguard the welfare of Native women, who have been the victim of domestic violence.

“We are actually working with the implementation of VAWA and are learning how to strengthen our commitment to the mission of providing this crucial service in our Community. We know that this is a constant path that we have chosen to undertake, which is lea by dedicated staff, who run the facility,” said Lewis.

Brand said the Community’s DV shelter is a great demonstration of how tribal communities like GRIC are able to address the issue on their own, but that it also includes a cooperative approach from the DOJ to aid in the safety of tribal members.

As part of Brand’s announcement about the funding of DOJ funds to tribes, GRIC will receive two grants, one of those will bolster jurisdictional matters under the Violence Against Women Re-authorization Act and the other will reinforce the safety of DV, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking victims.

For tribal communities across the nation, the DOJ grant funds will be dispersed through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation program, which so far has awarded 125 tribal communities, including Alaska Native villages.
Arizona’s only artificial bald eagle’s nest raised in the Community

The artificial bald eagle’s nest is the only one of its kind in Arizona and was raised on Sept. 29. The nest is made of a 40-foot telephone pole, donated by SRP, with a platform mounted near the top on which the nest rests. The artificial bald eagle’s nest is the only one of its kind in Arizona and was raised on Sept. 29. The nest is made of a 40-foot telephone pole, donated by SRP, with a platform mounted near the top on which the nest rests.

The pair of bald eagles are believed to be the same birds that come to the Community year after year. However, while it is likely the birds are the same pair of eagles, no one is 100 percent certain.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Decades of research have gone into it,” said Benford. “There is a body of literature out there that we have read, and [and] what the characteristics of the trees are.”

He said many of the nest’s attributes were carefully constructed and ensured the pair of bald eagles would find the structure comfortable.

“One of the calculations we made for this nest was to make sure the sun wouldn’t shine too brightly on the eagles in the nest in the middle of the day, which might cause them to overheat,” Benford said. “So the central post sticks up over the rest of the nest, and that is going to shade [the eagles] during the hottest part of the day.”

Even the sticks used to build the eagle’s nest were measured to precise lengths of 2 meters with a diameter of 2 centimeters, a size found to be appealing to bald eagle’s nest building sensibilities.

The pair of bald eagles is believed to be the same birds that come to the Community year after year. However, while it is likely the birds are the same pair of eagles, no one is 100 percent certain.

It is reasonable to think they are the same ones. Eagles are very territorial and if a breeding pair finds a good territory [and] can successfully have offspring in that territory, they will defend it and come back to their same nest site every year,” Benford said.

Earlier this month the pair of bald eagles had just recently returned from their travels north in Saskatchewan, Canada, and are currently on the lookout for a new nest to call home. The hope is the bald eagles will find the artificial nest too good to pass up, but there is always a chance they will choose an alternative nesting site.

“Even the sticks used to build and raise the artificial bald eagle’s nest have been almost two-years in the making and been a large collaborative effort.

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District Four (Lone Butte Area): Aggravated Assault – While at the Wild Horse Pass Casino, the suspect assaulted the victim (ex-girlfriend) by striking her in the face, biting her hand and strangling her through the window of her vehicle. Both the suspect and victim were located off community road. The suspect was transported to custody. Photos were taken of the victim and impounded evidence. The suspect’s vehicle was towed by Elite.

Status: Suspect was booked into DRS for aggravated assault.

Suspect: No

Victim: Yes

District Five (Casa Blanca): No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Two (Sacaton Flats): Aggravated Assault – The suspect went into his bedroom and choked her. The suspect went into his bedroom and choked her.

Status: Open Investigation.

District Four (Lone Butte Area): Aggravated Assault – The suspect entered the Lone Butte Casino, stole an empty metal cash box from the casino floor and fled the premises prior to police arrival.

Status: Charges forwarded.

District Six (Komatke): Aggravated Assault – Several subjects were gathered at a residence when an argument led to several suspects assaulting a single victim. The suspects fled a vehicle in prior to police arrival. The victim was transported to a local trauma hospital for further medical treatment.

Status: Under Investigation.

Theft – The suspect was arrested.

District Three (Sacaton): Aggravated Assault – The victim called her mother stating that her boyfriend had physically assaulted her.

Status: Open Investigation.

District Five (Casa Blanca): No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Two (Sacaton Flats): Aggravated Assault (Assault on LE) – The suspect threatened to physically assault the victim (ex-girlfriend) by striking her in the face, biting her hand and strangling her through the window of her vehicle. Both the suspect and victim were located off community road. The suspect was transported to custody. Photos were taken of the victim and impounded evidence. The suspect’s vehicle was towed by Elite.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Auto Theft – The victim reported her vehicle taken by a cousin who was intoxicated and the keys had been left in the ignition. The vehicle was later located and towed.

Status: Closed.

District Seven – (Maricopa): Suspect arrested in connection with theft.

Status: Open Investigation.

District Five (Casa Blanca): Aggravated Assault – Responded to a possible assault that had taken place. The victim stated that officers learned the victim had been struck on an object, possibly a machete. Witnessing her through the window of her vehicle, the suspect struck the victim about the head with the object/machete, which caused a laceration on her head and right forearm. The suspect was subsequently booked into DRS for aggravated assault.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Auto Theft – The victim reported her vehicle taken by a cousin who was intoxicated and the keys had been left in the ignition. The vehicle was later located and towed.

Status: Closed.

District Seven – (Maricopa): No incidents involving Part 1 crime.

Theft – The suspect called dispatch to report her purse had been taken. Upon contact with the victim, she stated that she was given a ride, when a verbal altercation occurred. The victim was asked to get out of the vehicle the suspect then fled in a vehicle prior to contact. Contact was made with the alleged suspect whom the victim stated was associated and she did not have a purse with her. The suspect was compliant with the officers allowing them to search her vehicle and home. The victim was advised of the findings and search of her home.

Status: Closed.

District Six (Komatke): Theft (Shoplifting) – The two suspects entered Phoenix Premium Outlet and took items from the shelf and hid it from sight in the stroller. The suspects then exited the store without paying for the merchandise. The suspects later returned to the store paying for the items which had been taken. Both suspects were banned from the store for approximately 90 days.

Status: Closed.

Theft – Reporting party called dispatch stating criminal damage had occurred. Further investigation revealed the graffiti was done to a total of three Thurman resident units and the air conditioning unit being stripped of its parts. Both the tenants stated the damage had occurred.

Status: On-going investigation.

District Seven – (Maricopa): No incidents involving Part 1 crime.
**Cardinals youth football clinic**

Christopher Lomahgaih古丽族卡里纳新闻

Arizona Cardinals mascot Big Red and company visited the Gila River Indian Community to host football camps for Community youth on Oct. 17.

During a recent outing, the Arizona Cardinals and Big Red were at the District 4 football field to show the young fans that it will help them on and off the field.

Before the large gathering of students, Big Red fired up a fun filled morning, filled with drills that mirrored what the pros go through to stay in top playing form.

The kids were put through a series of drills common to passers and backs normally intended for Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald.

There was also some fancy footwork at play, as the moves to return Cards running back Adrian Peterson, the kids ran their way to the finish line for some celebratory cheers from their peers.

Each student was presented their own lunch tote, personally signed by Big Red and best of all received a memorable lesson on the fundamentals of football.

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**GRIC Environmental Health Program Reminds of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**

GRIC Environmental Health Program Reminds of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Although ticks that carry RMSF like to live on dogs, a person must know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in or around grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. In addition to these places, spend time outside camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with these ticks. Our memories when have ticks residing on the outside of their homes, in their yards and even dog houses.

Another way to combat ticks and their bites is to treat clothes and gear to be worn outside with EPA registered insect repellent treats. Treat boots, shoes, clothing, and camping gear, blankets, towels just to name a few. Do not forget to protect your animals by checking their bodies frequently and if you are able, buy a tick collar that is compatible for your pet. GRIC Environmental Health Program recommends make several seasonal reminders for tick spays, Vitality Health Program warns against too many sprays during a short amount of time, may lead to ticks becoming resistant to the Pesticides in the spray. Strict adherence to Integrative Pest Management Protocols by the GRIC Environmental Health Program prevents this resistance by ticks by alternating different pesticides and the frequency of pesticide applications. If you are unfortunate enough to have been bitten by a tick carrying RMSF, here are some signs and symptoms to look for that may occur in the two weeks after a tick bite. Nausea, lack of appetite, headache, achy, and pains, red spots, red bumps, or a rash on the hands and feet (some people may never get a rash). If you are able, please save the tick that has bitten you for the doctor to examine. The doctor may examine the tick, a sample or a blood sample. Because the early signs and symptoms are similar to those caused by many other diseases, doctors will begin early treatment with antibiotics and will not wait for test results before starting treatment. Furthermore, after the initial Doctor visits, a second doctor visits and blood test is required to confirm a positive RMSF case. A confirmed RMSF case will require GRIC Environmental Health Program to adjust their Integrative Pest Management Control of the mosquito and also send out warnings and awareness to the community and other GRIC programs involved in the management and control of these problems. The GRIC Environmental Health Services Program would like to thank you and be aware of RMSF and if you have any concerns about the RMSF, please call 520-562-5100 and ask to speak with a representative of the Environmental Health Services Program.
The O’otham word he’ekia is used in different situations when you are asking how many people or things are being counted. It is also used when you want to ask how much something costs or is worth. This is accomplished in O’otham by using the question He’ekia namkig? Very often speakers will shorten he’ekia to he’eki in everyday speech by dropping the final vow-
el. There are many possible answers to the question He’ekia namkig? that range from l’ov o-namkig “It’s real expensive” to l’ov shai namkig “it’s not that expensive” to giving an actual price using pick and li’dollars and cents” like Tho vaik pish ch heg huma-kokoli if it costs $3.25.

He’ekia can also be used if you want to ask someone how many children they have. Asking this question will be different depending on if you are talking to a man or a woman. For a man their children are referred to as alithag or if you’re talking about many children you use the plural form a’alithag. For a woman, children are referred to as maid or if you’re talking about many children you use the plural form a’alithag. For example if you only had one child you would say Thovai hemako heg eh mad. But if you had three children you would say Tho vaik heg eh mad. If you are a man and wanted to say that you only had one child the phrase is the same as the woman except you change the child term to alithag and say Thovai hemako heg eh alithag. But if you had four children you would say Tho gi’ik heg eñ a’alithag making sure to use the right term for children that is specific for males.

One last example for counting how many pets someone has. This can be done with he’ekia by using the general term for pets shoiga or by asking specifically using the animal name. For example if you wanted to ask in general how many pets somebody has you can say He’ekia ap ‘i shoshiga? Keep in mind that the pet word shoiga/ shoshiga (plural) while in a general sense refers to all pets it also refers specifically to horses so you might get an answer that is more specific if you’re asking someone who owns hors-es. You can also be specific with your question by naming the animal and using the word ending –ga which denotes ownership. For example you can ask He’ekia ap ‘i mimitholga? Answering these questions also make use of the name for the animal along with the O’otham number for how many you own. For example you can say Thovai hemako heg eh goksga or hemako heg eh hemako heg eh mimitholga o vud gi’ik.

Run for the Fallen from Page 1
rifice, and your sons giving their lives, Cpl. Billy Farris, United States Army, and L.Cpl. Joe Jackson, United States Marine Corps. As we run for the fallen, each mile represents a hero and each hero has a story, every story includes a family and loved one. Today we give tribute to them by name, to say the sacrifices they gave and the sacrifices of their families.”

Gov. Lewis presented, Shawn Marceau, with an Arizona Gold Star medal in honor of L.Cpl. Jackson, which is a symbol of ap-\reciation and recognition of service and sacrifice to the United States. The medal was created by the Arizona State Legislature to honor\ or members of the armed forces of the U.S. who have been killed in action.

“It’s great medicine,” said Marceau. “It is helping us complete our circle of who he was. Now we are coming back to his roots. It was really powerful to see how loving and accepting the tribe and veterans community is here.”

How many are there?

Say you wanted to ask a friend how old they are. One way to ask this in O’otham is to say He’ekia ap ‘i shoshiga? “How many pets do you have?” Match the pet number with its picture!

St. Peter Indian Mission School students run two-miles.

Students sing at the 2nd Annual Run For the Fallen held at St. Peter Indian Mission School.

October 20, 2017
Gila River Indian News
Page 7
For 35 years the City of Phoenix has been home to a diverse parade that highlights the local Native American heritage in the Valley of the Sun. That tradition continued on Saturday, Oct. 14, in Phoenix with the Native American Connections (NAC) 35th Annual Parade, as 56 entries marched for two miles from 3rd Street & Oak Street to Steele Indian School Park.

Under the theme, “The Colors of Nature’s Beauty,” Native American groups and organizations gathered for one of Phoenix’s longest running spectacles before 3,000-4,000 spectators. Arizona’s tribes are spread all across the state, but for the NAC parade they were all lined up on one street for one day of celebration and unity with representation for tribal leaders, veterans, youth groups, royalty and faith-based groups.

According to NAC this year’s parade was heavily promoted and received a lot of participation thanks to a strong presence on social media.

The Grand Marshal was the Native PFLAG Phoenix Chapter. Native PFLAG Phoenix Chapter is an advocacy and support group for the LGBTQ community and their families, and according to Native PFLAG’s founder Sheila Lopez, it is the only chapter, among 400 PFLAG chapters nationwide, that is Native American focused. Native PFLAG was joined by Gila River H.O.P.E. group, the GRIC LGBTQ support group. “We really help supporting each other,” said Lopez.

Kelly Haven, who competed in the 90th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee, was the Junior Grand Marshal.

Just as in year’s past, the annual parade included several GRIC representatives.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Ira H. Hayes Post 84, Miss Gila River Anissa Garcia and Jr. Miss Gila River Haili Gonzales were among the groups representing the Community along with dance groups and volunteers. GRIC member and U.S. Army veteran Reuben Jenkins was among the many veterans honored.

The Achem A’al Indigenous Traditional Pima Basket Dancers and the Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam – Gila River Basket Dancers took second and third place, respectively, in the Performance Category.

The fun didn’t end with the parade. Following the procession, spectators convened at the Steele Indian School Park for the grand opening of the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center. Several tribal dignitaries attended along with City of Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

Photos by GRIN
“I always liked figuring things out,” said Jay Johnson, who graduated with a degree in math and geology this past May from Arizona State University.

Johnson is an Environmental Intern with the Department of Environmental Quality and has been working with the department since before graduating from ASU.

“Math has always interested me and always pretty easy for me,” he said. “Water was the big interest and ASU didn’t have a hydrology degree and so I decided to do major in geology to combine my two interests.”

Although obtaining dual degrees with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Bachelor in Science in Earth and Space Exploration with a concentration in Geological Sciences was a journey in itself, an accomplishment. Johnson always had the Community on his mind to do more for his people by applying his education.

He said the Community’s cultural connection to water and how it is managed today is what inspired him to pursue two degrees along with his yearning for the outdoors.

“It’s important everywhere you go throughout the Southwest and you think about [here] and how much water is important to our culture and future...that interests me the most,” said Johnson.

As an intern with DEQ, Johnson said his days are not always the same, because it has taken him from one program to another within the department.

He said, “I work with all the other programs, like water quality, waste, pesticides and wildlife. Each of these programs has provided invaluable experience about our community and what’s around us.”

The work with DEQ has taken him out to the Pee Posh wetlands in helping restore the area by planting native vegetation and taking water samples and ground water measurements.

“They offer a lot of good hands on experience and have a good group of people in every program that are very knowledgeable and have a ton of experience and are all willing to help...it’s a good place to be to help out the Community,” said Johnson.

Another part of his responsibilities is his assisting with the wildlife program, which earlier this summer allowed him to help Chuckwalla conservation efforts at South Mountain.

According to Johnson, getting a foot in the door before graduating from college, allowed him to apply what he learned in the classroom.

He recalled one such occasion where his knowledge from the classroom was immediately put into practice out in the field.

After taking a final exam that went over water sampling, Johnson was out at the Pee Posh wetlands doing what he had just completed on the example.

He said experiences like that are making the whole reason for going to school very exciting, because he can apply concepts learned in the classroom outdoors.

Johnson said he encourages Community members to look for opportunities that will help fund their education, such as scholarships.

“The Student Services Department is a great resource both in terms of financial and general support,” he said.

Johnson was able to have his tuition covered through AIMS’s (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards) scholarship, but the Community was helpful in providing funding for books and housing and a year of funding for tuition.

His experiences working in the Community have seen the benefits of his education paying off both as an intern and ambassador for education.

Through his internship Johnson has been able to share his passion for math through science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics activities with the youth of the Community and how much getting an education can expand upon those topics.

“I want to reiterate that getting an education opens up many doors and that Community members are in such a good position from a financial perspective with the aid of the Tribal Education Department that it makes sense to take advantage of the resources available and pursue a higher education,” he said.

Johnson’s advice for Community members, who want to pursue a higher education is, “Make sure you go into a field you enjoy, if you go to school and you find out that you are interested in something else, than take the time do that, especially if it sets you up for the rest of your life.”
In an effort to remove invasive salt cedar and re-store native vegetation to areas of the Gila and Salt rivers and to promote ben-eficial ecosystem manage-rment through fire man-agement, two resolutions passed by the Gila River Indian Community Coun-cil on Sept. 6 will allow the Department of Envi-ronmental Quality and Bu-reau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency Fire Management to begin restoration work this Fall.

Resolution GR-104-17 approves the implementa-tion of the fuel reduction and native plant communi-ties restoration project, and resolution GR-105-17 ap-proves the Pima Agency’s programmatic burn plan for piles.

These two resolutions are in effect partner resolu-tions that will be utilized to remove portions of the Gila and Salt rivers of salt cedar, re-plant native plants in their place, and burn or dis-tribute the left-over organic material to the Community.

**Invasion of the Salt Cedar**

If you’ve spent any time in District 6 or 7, you’ve probably noticed a belt of lush greenery grow-ing throughout the bottom of the Gila and Salt rivers. While it may be nice to look upon, the greenery is in fact an invasive species harming the river’s native ecosystem and the project of several recent wildfires.

The culprit, salt ce-dar, also known as tama-ri, was placed in river watersheds throughout the American southwest by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) around the turn of the cen-tury, in an effort to reduce soil erosion.

Russell Benford, GRIC DEQ Senior Wild-land Firefighter, said the issue began when the USBR re-engineered waterways by channelizing rivers and diverting water, changing them from a natural state to what is now an unnatural state.

“They realized very early on that those chang-es resulted in a lot of soil erosion,” Benford said. “To stabilize the river banks and prevent soil erosion, they needed to re-vegetate them with something.”

That “something” turned out to be salt cedar, a plant native to Mongolia, which is very salt and heat tolerant, grows quickly, and does not require much wa-ter.

“They seeded river-banks with salt cedar as part of a soil conservation initiative. They weren’t thinking about the broader impacts then. In the inter-vening years, ecologists have studied these systems and realized salt cedar is as big of a problem as soil ero-sion, if not worse,” Benson said.

Over the years salt ce-dar has gone on to aggres-sively spread throughout southwestern river water-sheds, especially systems that have been modified. It has greatly impacted the Gila and Salt rivers, and once the plant begins taking over an area, it pushes out almost all other vegetation, leaving only salt cedar. Be-cause plant diversity is low where salt cedar grows, an imal diversity is also low in affected areas.

“The only thing that really lives in salt cedar is no-see-um bugs, and therefore there aren’t a lot of birds that eat bugs there, there aren’t a lot of mam-mals that eat the birds or the bugs directly. They are pretty depauperate sys-tems,” Benford said.

The areas of the Gila and Salt rivers that will be restored are located in Dis-trict 6 and 7, with much of the focus being on the por-tion of the Gila River just east of St. Johns, and west-ward to the confluence with the Salt River, and the low-er Salt River starting at the Pee Posh wetlands down to the confluence with the Gila River. It is in these ar-eas the greatest densities of salt cedar have been found. We [will] remove the trees by cutting, and selec-tive use of herbicide, and once we are sure we have removed the trees then we are going to reseed that area with the seeds of native plants,” Benford said.

The project areas will be reseeded with plant species either beneficial to wildlife or culturally use-ful to the people of the Com-munity, for exam-ple, plants used in b a s k e t w e a v i n g like dev-il’s claw or plants used in tra-di-tional structures like screw-bean mes-quite, which is used in the construc-tion of va-tos.

After crews cut and re-move salt cedar from the project areas, the leftover biomass will be burnt in piles, or chipped and laid down as mulch, or distributed to the Community for personal use. **Fighting Fire with Fire**

Alan H. Sinclair Jr., Fire Management Officer for the Pima Agency/Salt River Agency has worked in GRIC for the past nine years mitigating fires and reducing fuel hazards in the Community, and seen first-hand the severe effects of salt cedar fires to the Com-munity’s plant and wildlife.

Sinclair was instru-mental in creating the res-toration and fuels reduction plans and will lead their im-plementation by utilizing the expertise of Pima Agen-cy Wildland Firefighters.

The firefighting crews, which are made up of Com-munity members, will be-gin the restoration project by cutting fire breaks into the masses of salt cedar, remove the invasive plants, apply herbicide, and reseed cleared areas with native vegetation. The firebreaks will also function as intend-ed, to create an obstacle for future fires.

The new plans will not only restore portions of the two rivers and allow the Community to get rid of dangerous fuel hazards, it will also create jobs for Community members.

Pima Agency Wildland Firefighters, who spend much of the year fighting fires in different states in need of assistance, come back home to the Community when not actively assigned to a fire. The passing of the two resolu-tions, the firefighters now have an opportunity to get back to work in the Com-munity restoring the Gila and Salt rivers to their nat-ural glory. With funding for the project spanning the next four years, there is plenty of work ahead for the crews.

“Now [that] we have a tribal fuels crew they are doing the fuels work and when the fire bell rings we put them on a fire crew and they go off and fight fires, then they come back and are back on project dollars working in the Community,” restoring the local river systems, said Sinclair.

“We are] getting fed-eral dollars, and instead of putting it into the BIA and building a BIA fuels crew, I’ve partnered with [GRIC] Employment and Training and DEQ, Employment and Training is hiring [Community mem-bers] to do fuels work and we are putting that money back into the Community,” he said.

Sinclair said the point of the programmatic burn plan is to stop wild fires from occurring by reducing hazard fuels. He said while burning salt cedar piles is part of the plan, it will also be used to rid the Commu-nity of other fuel hazards.

"This programmatic pile burn plan is going to allow us to burn piles throughout the Community, whether it is stuff coming out of the weeds, out of the trash rack in the canal sys-tem, or any of the woody debris (salt cedar) in these project areas," Sinclair said.

Fire crews will fol-low strict protocols while burning piles of biomass, igniting fires only under the authority of prescribed fire plans approved by GRIC’s DEQ and the State of Ar-i-sona’s Department of En-vironmental Quality during favorable conditions all in an eff ort to keep the Community’s air clean.

“[We have] nine plus years to get to this point,” said Sinclair. “I think there is a challenge with the cur-rent condition of the envi-ronment and I think we’ve got an opportunity to make a difference,” Sinclair said.
Dept. of Interior Appoints New Bureau of Indian Affairs Director

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke named the new Bureau of Indian Affairs Director on Oct. 16.

According to a DOI press release Zinke appointed Bryan Rice a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma to head the BIA.

“Bryan has a wealth of management expertise and experience that will well serve Indian Country,” said Zinke in the press release statement.

Rice, in his previous postings was a veteran federal administrator and oversaw the DOI’s Office of Wildland Fire.

On the day of Zinke’s announcement, Rice officially took office and will be overseeing the government-to-government relations of the 567 federally recognized tribes, said the press release.

In a statement by Rice, he said, “Native Americans face significant regulatory and bureaucratic hurdles to economic freedom and success.”

As director, Rice will assist Zinke in reforming the BIA into a “top-notch service delivery agency for tribes and tribal leaders,” said the DOI.

Rice comes to the position with over 20 years of experience, spending most that time working within the U.S. Forest Service in various leadership positions.

Two of Rice’s other recent leadership positions, included serving as the Director for the BIA Trust Services and Forest Management with the USFS.

Zinke said, “I have full confidence that Bryan is the right person at this pivotal time as we work to renew the department’s focus on self-determination and self-governance, give power back to the tribes, and provide real meaning to the concept of tribal sovereignty.”
Gila River Wellness Presents:

TOTAL BODY

w/ Bee

District 7 Service Center

October 2nd to December 28th

Monday/Wednesday
5:30PM - 6:30PM

Obstacles do not block the path, they ARE the path!

For more information call (520) 562-2026

Senior Fitness Classes

Gila River Wellness Center now offers various fitness and wellness classes for our senior community members. Find one that works for you!

Toolbox for your Body: Total Body

MONDAY

District 4
Bones & Balance
8am-10am
w/ Ryan

District 7
Chair Yoga
9am-10am
w/ Denise

District 8
Stretch & Flex
9:30am-10:30am
w/ Shy

District 5
(Elderly Center)
Chair Zumba
1pm-2pm
w/ Fabby

TUESDAY

District 3
Bones and Balance
12pm-1pm
w/ Ryan

District 4
Chair Zumba
9am-10am
w/ Fabby

District 6
Indoor Water Aerobics
9:30am-10:30am
w/ Denise

WEDNESDAY

District 7
Bones and Balance
9am-10am
w/ Shy

District 1
Water Aerobics/Chair Yoga
10am-11am
w/ Denise

THURSDAY

District 3
Chair Zumba
9:30am-10:30am
w/ Fabby

District 5
(Elderly Center)
Elders Fitness
10am-11am
w/ Denise

Everyone is welcome to any of our classes! If you miss a few classes, that’s okay, come back!

For more information call (520) 562-1096

ZUMBA FITNESS

DONT JUST WORKOUT
JOIN THE PARTY!

October 2nd to December 27th

Monday/Wednesday
5:30PM-6:30PM

Gila River Tribal Rec & Wellness Presents:

Trail of Doom

October 25, 2017

Gila River Wellness Center and Parking Lot

For more information call (520) 562-1096 or email info@grandcanyon.gov
WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced his nomination of Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, a prominent Alaska Native and accomplished businesswoman with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, to be the department’s next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Sweeney, a member of the Native Village of Barrow and the Inupiat Eskimo community of the Arctic Slope, would be the first Native Alaskan and only the second woman in history to hold the position.

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs oversees Interior’s manifold responsibilities to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity and provide quality educational opportunities for American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives, while protecting and improving their trust assets.

“Tara is a results-driven team leader and coalitions-builder who has an impressive combination of business acumen and service to her community,” Secretary Zinke said. “Her lifelong active engagement in Native American policy development and her outreach, advocacy, and organization skills are the combination we need to carry out the President’s reform initiative for Indian Country. I look forward to welcoming her to our leadership team.”

“I am honored to be nominated to serve Indian Country in this capacity,” Tara Sweeney said. “My goal is to develop strong relationships with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations to work on innovative solutions for lifting up our communities. I am motivated to work with Indian Country to find efficient, effective ways to deliver Interior’s mission. As Secretary Zinke has said, improve service delivery and culturally relevant curriculum in the Bureau of Indian Education, and create a more effective voice for Tribes throughout the Federal Government. I am humbled by the confidence President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Zinke have shown in me and ready to serve.”

“Secretary Zinke’snomination of Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs taps a strong advocate for Native American self-determination and tribal self-governance for this key leadership position,” said Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs John Tahsuda. “Her extensive organizational knowledge and collaborative management experience will well serve Indian Country by reforming federal policies, empowering tribal communities, and reining barriers to their economic advancement.”

Sweeney grew up in rural Alaska and has spent a lifetime actively engaged in state and national policy arenas focused on advocating for responsible Indian energy policy, rural broadband connectivity, Arctic growth and Native American self-determination. She has served her Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and its subsidiaries in a variety of capacities for nearly two decades. The $2.6 billion corporation is the largest locally-owned and operated business in Alaska, with about 13,000 Kivalina and 12,000 Ekuk members working to be a leader in several major business sectors, including energy support services, industrial services, construction, petroleum refining and marketing, government services, and resource development.

In her current role as the Executive Vice President of External Affairs, she is responsible for all facets of government affairs and community communications. Her roles include strategic policy and position development, implementation and execution; engagement with federal and state executive and legislative branches; improving policies affecting Indian energy, taxation, resource development, government contracting, broadcast development and access to capital; as well as all facets of corporate communications as official company spokesperson, including stakeholder engagement and crisis communication.

Sweeney also has served in leadership positions on numerous business and nonprofit boards at both the state and national level, including chair of the Arctic Economic Council from 2015 to 2017, on the Inupiat Eskimo Federation of Natives (2013); Coast Guard Auxiliary Board of Regents (2013-2014); the University of Alaska Foundation Board of Trustees; FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age; Analytical Services, Inc.; Holomik Broadcast Corporation (parent to the first Native American owned, publicly supported FM radio station); Chevak Nation New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board CBH Economic Development Company, LLC; beneficiary); Breast Cancer Focus, Inc. and Arctic Power. “This is a historic appointment for Alaska and for our country,” Senator Dan Sullivan said. “I’ve worked with Tara Sweeney for years and I have witnessed firsthand her ingenuity, dedication to our country’s Indian Affairs, improve service delivery and culturally relevant curriculum in the Bureau of Indian Education, and create a more effective voice for Tribes throughout the Federal Government. I am humbled by the confidence President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Zinke have shown in me and ready to serve.”

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I am a teenager sitting at the school library reading up on computer books written by various computer gurus of their generation. Most of the books were written in the 1960’s and early 70’s, entertained different types of computers along with various storage sizes, memory, and displays. After a few months buried in computer books, I came to a realization that I wanted to pursue a career in computer systems. After completing my high school education, I attended college for a year. Shortly thereafter, I decided I wanted to work so that I could support myself and my family. I began my computer career working in the semiconductor industry and Indian Health Service (IHS). While working as an IHS Computer Systems Analyst, I decided that I wanted to return back to college to complete my degree program. I applied for an Indian Health Scholarship Award and was blessed and fortunate to receive the award in 1992.

Prior to attending college in early 1993, my father Bennett (Hopi) passed away. I began college with a heavy heart. This was a hard run, I knew I had to be strong for myself and my family and to complete my college education. After receiving my college degree along with additional computer knowledge power, I headed back to the Gila River Indian Reservation and jumped back into the local computer ‘work force.’ I was able to seek employment in various jobs pertaining to tribal database management systems/net-works, computer training, and casino Indian gaming IT systems.

The double edged sword

On a rainy evening at home a few days ago, I began reflecting on both my computer schooling and computer career. I also began thinking about how computer technology has massively evolved in the past forty or so years. Only now did this include advances in computer systems overall but how computer technologies were utilized in our world today. As I continued to reflect on the ‘good ole’ days, a burst of lightning sounded off nearby by leaving my house in total darkness. Instead of playing card games on my laptop, I continued my trip down the computer ‘memory lane.’ I also began thinking of a word that best described our current computer technology world today. I pondered for a second or two, and finally, a definition popped into my mind: ‘double edged sword.’ I grabbed a dictionary and read through several definitions until I found the one that described our technology today: ‘Something that has or can have both favorable and unfavorable consequences.’

As long as I have worked with computer systems, I have witnessed many ‘favorable and unfavorable edges’ on one side of the sword. I have seen technology and respect for the ‘favorable edge’ of the sword and negate the ‘unfavorable edge’? I, for one, continue to educate all others in both the Indian community and business world that computer technology is to be used as a positive ‘help tool’ and should never be exploited in a damaging or negative way. If one uses computer technology in such a way, it is pretty much guaranteed that any or all ‘unfavorable consequences’ will surely follow. I’m pretty certain that my past and current education in telling all to use computer technology in a positive and productive way have fallen on several deaf ears. But as it stands today, my personal undertaking to fight for positive and productive good things found on the ‘favorable edge’ of the sword will continue its journey forward in my lifetime and hopefully, in generations to come. It is with the greatest of hope that this important article will reach many others so that the ‘favorable edge’ of the sword will continue to ‘shine, sharp in a positive way for all.”
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • October 4, 2017

The City Medical Respite Center (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

1. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Equine Spirit Programs Warrior Spirit (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

9. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Friendly House Inc. Central Park Recreation Center (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

12. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The ICM Food And Clothing Bank Children’s Nutrition Program (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

13. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Flood Control District Of Maricopa County Salt Cedar Management And Fire Hazard Reduction In The Gila River Project (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

14. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Leukemia And Lymphoma Society Arizona Local Travel Assistance Program (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

*Continued on page 16*
Action Sheets from page 15

15. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Marc Community Resources, Inc. Employment Training And Day Program For Individuals With Severe Developmental Disabilities (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

16. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Maricopa County Education Service Agency Technology Integrated Teaching Systems (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

17. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The National Kidney Foundation Of Arizona ESRD Patient Transportation Program (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

18. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Phoenix Indian Center Urban American Indian Cultural Enrichment Project (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

20. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Southwest Autism Research And Resource Center Intensive Parent Training Program (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

22. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Mission Of Mercy Access To Care For Medically Indigent In The East Valley Project (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

24. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Special Olympics Arizona Unified Strategy For Schools (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

25. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Sun City Fire Department Municipal Imaging Camera Replacement Program (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

26. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community’s State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Welton Police Department School Traffic And Pedestrian Safety Program And Vehicle Replacement (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #2

27. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

28. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Dorsey & Whitney, LLP For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

29. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Greenberg Traurig, LLP For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

30. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Rothstein Law Firm For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

31. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Keller-Bliesner Engineering LLC, LTD For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

32. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Public Policy Partners For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

33. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Sun City Fire District For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

34. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Policy Partners For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

35. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Center For Applied Research, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy APPROVED

36. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Arizona State Board Of Health For Fiscal Year 2018 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Linda Sauer APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Housing-Summary Response To Tentative Approval To The Construction Of The FY2014 RHIP Applicants (G&MSC motioned to forward the item to Community Council for approval and to proceed, further recommend the Council direct the Community Treasurer to identify the funds and proceed with a budget modification and coordinate with the necessary departments to identify the total cost of the project(s))
Presenters: Pamela Thompson, Jo Ann Garcia

2. Gaming Compact Issues
Presenters: Governor Stephen R. Lewis, Linus Everling, Barney Enos, Jr.

Continued on page 18
Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Fredrick Poitra with verbiage change by OGC)
include a clean and redline copy; ESC concurs

Allison

Presenters: Leslie Pasqual, Councilwoman Jennifer

1. Pesticide Ordinance Concern (LSC forwards to

NEW BUSINESS

GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR
COMPACT
GOALS OF THE COMMUNITY’S GAMING
Enterprise activities involving a) Hotel,
Operations; b) Marketing ; and c) Food and Beverage.
In 2016, the Gaming Commission proposed added MICS for Hotel, Marketing and Food and Beverage.
In January 2017, the Commission under the advice of Tribal Administra-
tion withdraws the MICS from the 2016

Special Session the Gaming Commis-
sion accepted two documented Com-
ments issued by the GRC Treasurer and Gila River Gaming Enterprise, on the intent of the Gaming Commission to revise Rule 9 for Marketing, Hotel and Food and Beverage.
In summary, the Two Comments were similar in messaging that 1) MICS for the marketing, hotel and food and beverage or non gaming activities was outside the responsibility of Gaming Commission regulatory duties; 2) that any hotel MICS could regulati-
on the validation of the Mediation Agreement between the Community and Arizona Department of Gaming which ensured the separation of gam-
ing and non gaming; 3) the Food and Beverage operating standards are not gaming related; 4) that GRC Treasurer and Internal Audit has the responsibility of food and beverage routine auditing of Hotel and Marketing. . So that Rule 9 incorporates the NIGC MICS and Tribal State Compact; thus, Rule 9 is set out MICS for Gaming activities and the primary role of the Gaming Commission and administration is gaming. Both comments, objected to the Gaming Commission’s intent to re-

Gila River Indian Community.
The investigation in the case was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Af-
fairs and the Gila River Police Depart-
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PHOENIX - On Oct. 17, 2017, Car-
nelia Marcelle Lopez, 38, of Sacaton, Ariz., and a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. Dis-

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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:
Allie Walking Badger, Special Events Coordinator at 520-562-9713/520-610-3754 or special.events@gric.nsn.us