The Community mourns the passing of Legal Icon and Tribal Leader Rodney B. Lewis
First Native American to Practice Law in Arizona, First Native American to Argue and Win a Case Before U.S. Supreme Court Passes Away at 77

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

Rodney B. Lewis, a giant of the legal profession in Arizona and across Indian Country nationally, passed away Tuesday, April 10 at the age of 77 years old. Known simply as “Rod” to thousands of fellow members of the Gila River Indian Community, Mr. Lewis was the first Native American attorney to be admitted to the State Bar of Arizona and the first Native American attorney in the nation to argue and win a case before the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Willardene Pratt Lewis, and by three adult children: Stephen Roe, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, John Blaine and Katherine Elizabeth.

“My father lived to serve our people in every way possible,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “He spent 30 years of his life working on the Gila River water rights settlement, finally bringing that landmark agreement to fruition in 2004. That was only one of his proud moments. He was equally thrilled to have served as an Army Ranger during his time in the military and to have been appointed last year by Gov. Ducey to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board.

“No one loved his family, his community and Native American people more,” said Gov. Lewis, “or had a bigger heart when it came to helping Indian people better our lives and our communities.”

Mr. Lewis joined the U.S. Army Infantry in 1962. He received an honorable discharge in 1965, having become Airborne- and Ranger-qualified and rising to the rank of First Lieutenant.

Five Tribes Peace Treaty celebration held in D7

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

In the early morning hours, a 5K run and 2-mile walk started the fun filled day of events that would last from sun up to sun down.

The District 7 Maricopa Colony celebrated the 155th Annual Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration with a morning fun run, parade, music, games, and traditional Pee Posh bird dances and songs on April 7.

People lined up along 83rd Avenue for the parade to see the various entries make their way toward the District 7 multipurpose building.

The parade consisted of veteran organizations from across the Community, school marching groups and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone. This year’s grand marshal was Irving Jenkins of District 7.

Underneath the large ramada, attendees heard about the history of the treaty of peace. In 1863, a truce was brokered between five tribes: Akimel O’otham, Maricopa Yuma, Hualapai, and Chemehuevi to exercise peace over the region.

The treaty was established to provide a safe passage for settlers moving into or through Arizona, who were prone to attacks from hostile groups.

In addition, vendors and Community departments provided informational booths for the visitors.

In the afternoon a horseshoe tournament, DJ entertainment and several traditional dancers performed to cap off the evening.

At the north end of the park a skate competition was held for Community youth.

Gila River Police
Dept. reports

Gila River Police Officers become mentors in program

Gila River Broadcasting guide

HHG: Kui Hiosig Mashath

G.R.I.C. Fit news and information

Council Action Sheets for April 4-, 2018
Gila River Health Initiative Presents:

Light The Night

May 4th, 2018

Gila River Indian Community Glow Fest
5K Fun Run and 2 Mile Glow Walk

Music, Games, Food, Raffles, Photo Booth and more!

District 4 Park
Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m.
Fun Run/Walk will begin at 7:30 p.m.
Registration will be conducted onsite only!

First 350 participants will receive a customized glow medal, t-shirt and glow goody bag!

For more information please contact Alie Walking Badger at (520) 562–9713 or Shannon Redbird at (520) 562–9859
Rod Lewis remembered

From page 1

Ranger creed: “Rangers Lead the Way.”

In 1962, Mr. Lewis earned a B.S. from Trinity University in San Antonio. He received his M.A. in History from Arizona State University in 1969. In 1972, he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Admitted to the State Bar of Arizona in 1972, Mr. Lewis – the first Native American attorney in the state of Arizona and founding chair of the Arizona Bar’s Indian Law section – ultimately became a go-to attorney for tribal clients across Arizona and nationally. In a legal career that spanned nearly four decades, Mr. Lewis specialized in Indian law, tribal gaming compacts, water and energy law, and public policy matters.

In 1980, Mr. Lewis became the first Native American attorney to successfully argue a case before the United States Supreme Court. The case, Central Machinery Company vs. the Arizona State Tax Commission, resulted in a 5-4 vote in favor of the Gila River Indian Community. Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote the majority opinion.

Almost 40 years after this victory, Central Machinery remains critically important as the basis for granting Indian tribes the right to operate beyond the taxing jurisdiction of states.

Mr. Lewis served as the general counsel of the Gila River Indian Community for 30 years, beginning in 1976. In this role, he led the GRIC’s negotiations with the federal government, the state of Arizona, and more than 30 non-Indian parties. The Arizona Water Rights Settlements Act of 2004, Public Law 108-451, was passed as a direct result of these negotiations. It remains the largest tribal water rights settlement in the history of the United States.

In private practice later in his career, Mr. Lewis served as a consultant for the prominent Washington, D.C.-based law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld. His private practice work led to successful federal water rights settlements on behalf of the Crow Tribe of Montana and the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians in California, among many tribal clients.

A lifelong basketball fan and Phoenix Suns fan, Mr. Lewis was born to Sally and Roe Lewis in 1940. He is also survived by his brother, John, and by six grandchildren. Mr. Lewis was preceded in death by his brother, Robert “Bob” Lewis.

On Wednesday, Gila River Indian Community Lt. Governor Robert Stone requested that all flags in the Community be lowered to half-staff out of respect for Mr. Lewis.

“My father lived an extraordinary life,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “yet he always felt like his signature accomplishment was being a great dad, a terrific grandfather and a loyal friend to so many of his loved ones and neighbors. He was proud, yet forever humble. He worked hard, but he always had time for you whenever you needed him. Being the child of Rod Lewis – nothing in life will ever make me or my brother and sister more proud.”
Gila River Police Department Incident Log

April 1 - 7, 2018

Calls for services this week: 656
Arrest(s) made: 53
District One (Blackwater):
Theft - The suspect(s) removed a water spigot from the rear of an abandoned residence. Housing security reported the missing item to law enforcement with an estimated replacement value of $50.00 dollars.
Status: Under investigation.

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

District Three- (Sacaton):
Aggravated Assault - The suspect, after being arrested for disorderly conduct, during the booking process became agitated and verbally threatened three detention officers with death. Then the suspect spat on victim number four, another detention officer.
Status: Under investigation.

District Four (Stotonic Area):
Theft - The suspect(s) removed the license plate from the victim's vehicle while it was parked at a residence on Hunt Highway. The victim stated she left the vehicle parked at the residence overnight and when she came to pick it up the following day the license plate was no longer on her vehicle.
Status: Under investigation.

District Four (Lone Butte Area):
Aggravated Assault - While responding to a call for service in reference to a reckless vehicle in the area, Officers conducted a traffic stop on the reported vehicle, a black Chevrolet Impala. During the officers' contact with the driver it was learned he had an outstanding felony warrant out of Maricopa County for aggravated assault and resisting arrest. While attempting to take the suspect into police custody, he actively fought the officer and struck him in the head with landscaping rocks causing a laceration to his forehead. The suspect also struck the officer in the head several times with a closed fist.
Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into 4th Avenue Jail for Aggravated Assault.

Theft - The suspect(s) broke into a Red Dodge Ram and removed the owners personal items. The vehicle was parked at the Best Western Plus Hotel and Suites at the time of the theft.
Status: Under investigation.

Shoplifting - The suspect(s) entered a store located inside of the Phoenix Premium Outlet and shoplifted a long sleeve shirt. The store video surveillance footage details the suspect's activities while they were in the store. The suspects left the area prior to police arrival, but were contacted at their home.
Status: Under investigation.

District Five (Casa Blanca):
Aggravated Assault - The suspect struck the victim, his sister, in the head multiple times with a can of fruit after a verbal altercation. The victim attempted to shield herself from the suspect by hiding under a kitchen table but was pulled out from underneath. The victim was transported to a local trauma hospital for medical treatment for her non-life threatening injuries.
Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail.

District Six (Komatke):
Aggravated Assault - The suspect, after a verbal altercation escalated, struck the victim, with a crowbar causing a six inch laceration to her head. The victim was transported by EMS to a local trauma hospital for her non-life threatening injury.
Status: Under investigation.

Shoplifting - The suspect entered the Komatke Market and took 2 bags of chips, and 3 bottled drinks. The suspect then left the store without paying for the merchandise.
Status: Under investigation.

Weapons - The suspect(s) drove a vehicle down W. Saint Johns Rd and fired off two 12 gauge rounds at the home destroying the rear aracdia door. A description of the vehicle and the suspect were given to Law Enforcement and being followed up on. No persons sustained any injuries during the incident.
Status: Under investigation.

District Seven (Maricopa):
Theft - The suspect(s) committed criminal damage and theft by breaking the rear passenger side window of a red vehicle and taking personal items from inside.
Status: Under investigation.

Theft - The suspect(s) committed theft by stealing the front bicycle tire while it was chained to the carport at a residence along South 78th Avenue.
Status: Under investigation.

Certain reports may not be available or are currently under investigation which GRPD holds the right to restrict public release.
Eight Casa Blanca students represented at robotics competition

By Casa Blanca Community School

The Sacaton Middle School Gym was buzzing with activity on the morning of April 7 as the 2nd Annual Indigenous Robotics Competition was under way. The whirring, beeping and mechanical sounds of robots along with the voices of student competitors, coaches and spectators filled the air. It was an exciting day to watch student teams from schools across the reservation compete against each other.

Eight students represented Casa Blanca Community School in the competition. The students competed against other teams in various events using different kinds of robots. One type of robots which students used to compete were the Lego EV3 robots, which are programmed using an iPad and have different sensor inputs for a variety of functions. Students also competed using the small Ozobots which follow lines and are programmed using different color combinations as they move. Finally, CBCS students put on a demonstration of the Wedo robots using their programming, building and coding skills.

The events for the EV3 robots included robot racing, maze-following and sumo-bot wrestling. The Ozobots competed in a line-following course with programming code that the students created. Many of the students, families and CBCS Robotics Teams have been taking time out of their weekends to practice for the events since November. It was fun and exciting for everyone involved to finally see the students compete. Representatives from Honeywell and Intel Corporation were present as sponsors for the event.

The Casa Blanca Robotics Club is proud of the following students who competed this year:

1. Kaylee Luna and Syndel Preston – 3rd place in the Maze Challenge, EV3 robots.
2. Niecey Preston and Jacob Luna – 4th place in the EV3 maze challenge.
3. Jaden Johnson – 1st place, Ozobot challenge
5. Zy-lus Jones – 3rd place, Ozobot challenge.

The members of the Casa Blanca Robotics Club are Mr. Lopez, Ms. Mar-chenh, Mr. and Mrs. Young. The club recently received a $5,000 grant from the AZ Coyotes Foundation and plan on using the money to invest in more robots, iPads and drones for the CBCS students. The Club goals for the future include increasing student interest in STEM and robotics as well as getting more parents and families involved. Sometime this month, the Club hopes to host their own competition here at CBCS.

The CBCS Robotics Club would like to wish the best of luck to Sacaton Middle School as they compete in an international robotics competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico later this month. They’ll be representing Gila River and the U.S. as they compete against robotics teams from all over the world. CBCS students, families and teachers had a great time this year at the event and look forward to building our skills in robotics and programming again next year!
Gila River Police Officers mentor youth in Bigs in Blue Program

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America teamed up with the Gila River Police Department to roll out a mentorship program at the Gila River Branch – Sycamore of the Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley.

One of the functions of a police department anywhere is to serve and protect, but for GRPD, they are taking it a step further through a national mentorship program.

Through the Big Brothers Big Sister’s Bigs in Blue program, GRPD is making strides in working with the youth of the Community.

According to the Big

GRPD Officers and their youth mentees, took part in a year long program “Bigs in Blue.”

Brothers Big Sisters website, the Bigs in Blue program is a one-to-one mentoring program that is about building relationships with the youth and police officers.

The idea is to help the youth develop into confident adults that will build towards stronger connections with the Community.

On April 4, GRPD visited the Boys & Girls Club with a group of police officers to discuss their line of work.

From the motorcycle unit, K9 and drone demonstrations, the students saw the wide range of capabilities the officers have to fight crime.

GRPD Chief Kathleen Elliot said, “It’s very important to start these relationships with the youth, because we get to interact with them in a more fun atmosphere.”

Elliot said she is aware of the negative stigmas regarding police, but programs like the Bigs in Blue offers more positive opportunities for the Community to see police officers in a different light.

“It has been a successful program nationwide and we were very excited to see Big Brothers Big Sisters here in the Community… they needed mentors and we were like ‘yeah’ we can do that,” said Elliot.

Elliot added, when August comes around the Big Brothers Big Sister program and GRPD will pick up where they left off and offer more mentorships with the Boys & Girls Club.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Tribal Partnership Coordinator, Bobbi Nez, said the program has been operating in the Community for six years, and is the first time collaborating with GRPD, which started last September.

“Chief Elliot has really championed for the department and its officers to participate by partnering through the Bigs in Blue program,” said Nez.

Nez said, “Our overall program works with youth 6-18 years of age, but for the Bigs in Blues, we have 6-12 years old, being that the teens are involved, but now that we have adult mentors in program we can match them with the teens.”

A critical function of the program, said Nez, is the mentors’ commitment to the youth they are paired with, because it generates good traits of success.

Currently the GRPD has six officers participating in the program mentoring the youth. Elliot said more officers are interested.

GRPD Commander Ronald Blais, a mentor in the Bigs in Blue program, said opportunities through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program offers the youth a side of the police department that most don’t always get to see.

He said it’s about bridging those relationships with the department and showing the youth that they can have a future in law enforcement.

“We want to be mentors, we to be friends, and we want to be there to support the program and support the kids,” said Blais.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

District 7 veterans Irving Jenkins was this year’s Five Tribes Peace Treaty parade grand marshal.

The Gila River royalty court was present in the parade to welcome attendees on April 7.

A mother and child from the Gila Crossing Community School F.A.C.E. program march down the parade route to support child and parent education.
Kui Hiosig Mashath

The name for this month refers to the hiosig (flowering) of the Kui (Velvet Mesquite bean pods) in a few months. Other desert plants begin to enter flowering-stage including Kuk Chehnedag (Foothills Palo Verde) and Ko’okmadk (Blue Palo Verde) trees, their abundant s-oam hiosig (yellow flowers) are hard to miss. One category of plants easily overlooked are the ho’i hab ma’s haichu vu’vai’tagh (cactus-like plants, plants with spines). In the Akimel O’otham plant classification system ho’i hab ma’s haichu vu’vai’tagh have their own unique category and includes all cacti and spine-bearing desert plants. Our Hekiu O’otham didn’t over look the cacti as they observed their shapes, where they grew and other characteristics. From these observations they assigned names to many different cacti species. A few ho’i hab ma’s haichu vu’vai’tagh that produce hiosig (flowers) are; Hannam (Buckhorn Cholla) which grow up in the nearby Tho’oag (mountain) and on the Tho’othonk (foothills). Some families still pick the buds before they flower and slow roast them overnight in the Hannam cha’ai (rock-lined cholla roasting pit), Hoi (to de-spine the cholla buds), then Hannam gakithaj (to dry the cholla buds) and stored to be used later for haichu (food). I’svik (Engelmann’s hedgehog cactus) can be found on the Tho’othonk and sometimes in isolated areas on the S-sheliñ Jeved (floodplain). There are two species of Chiavul (Barrel Cacti) that thrives in our community, one grows only on the Tho’oag and Tho’othonk while the other thrives on the S-sheliñ Jeved. One easily recognized plant is the Melok (Ocotillo) with their red clusters of blossoms that grows on the nearby Tho’oag and Tho’othonk. Another easily recognized cactus is I’ibai (prickly-pear cactus) which will bloom later on in the summer. One cactus that may be hard to find is Ban Bishulthag, ‘Coyote’s Paws’ (Fishhook Cactus) since they rarely grow over six inches and can be hidden between rocks on the nearby Tho’othonk. Our most important gift is the Ha:shañ (Saguaro Cactus) which will bloom near the end of next month. This month’s word-match will focus on ho’i hab ma’s haichu vu’vai’tagh hiosig. We encourage you to learn these O’otham words and use them in your everyday lives. We also encourage you to get out and take a look at a few ho’i hab ma’s haichu vu’vai’tagh when in hiosig.

Kui Hiosig Mashath: Match the O’otham cactus name with its Picture!

- hannam
- I’svik
- chiavul
- melok
- I’ibai
- ban bishulthag
- ha:shañ
- hanam
- i’svik
- chiavul
- melok
- i’ibai
- ban bishulthag
- ha:shañ

Life Center Patient Highlight

Introducing Lance Wells

Lance is a participant in the Life Center’s Diabetes Prevention Program.

What did you learn in the class?

“I learned how to manage the sugar that I’ve been eating. I never realized how much sugar and cholesterol is in the food we eat, whether it is in candy or hidden in sauce and condiments.”

How did you learn to reduce sugar in your diet?

You had classes focusing on food and I also received a small book detailing the nutritional value of certain foods, brands and restaurant.

What is the most important thing you learned at the Life Center?

The most important thing I learned is to not only do it for yourself but do it for other people who count on your help. You know, your family and your friends.

What was did you like best about taking the Life Center?

The thing I liked best about the Life Center classes was the support you get from everybody there as well as the instructors: it was a group effort.

NO REFERRAL NEEDED

We are ready to serve you. Walk-in or call (520) 562-7940.
GRIC FIT NEWS

Tribal Recreation & Wellness has New Adult Fitness Classes in the Districts

D 2 - Mondays – Total Body Workouts 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday & Thursday – Circuit work-out Training 6:00-7:00 pm

D3 – Mondays & Wednesday – Zumba in the Dark w/ Shaker Toning weights at the Wellness Center - 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Incentives and points are given out.

D5 – Tuesday & Thursday - Circuit Training 5:45pm – 6:45 pm

D6 – Mondays & Wednesdays Lunch hr. - Warrior Sculpt 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

D7 – Mondays & Wednesdays – Warrior Sculpt 5:30pm -6:30pm

30 minute - Lunch Hour Work outs daily at the Wellness Center from 11am-1pm

Look out for the Registration packets for the following Fitness events;

• Strong Man- Strong Woman Challenge
• Employee Fitness Week
• A Day of Legends Elders Chair Volleyball Tournament- Player’s will come dressed as their favorite Legend – “Best Dress Team Award”

SPORTS & TOURNAMENTS

• The 13-15-year old youth Basketball award event was held on April 5. Many activities, food and awards were given out.
• Sponsorship Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming Inter-Tribal Baseball & Softball Dbacks Tournament.
• 16-17-year-old youth Basketball League has started on April 13.
• Sac City High School Tournament was held on April 5-7 at the Wellness center and the Boys & Girls Club.

SAC CITY JAM WINNERS

Boys Division
Champions- TO Storm
2nd Place- Dynasty
3rd Place- Gila River Hawks
Girls Division Champions- Lady

Brandon is the Lead Fitness Instructor at the Wellness Center. He has been with the program for 2 years. He is dedicated to making sure the Community has the tools and knowledge to achieve their fitness goals. He provides class instruction as well as one-on-one classes to clients. Brandon has great planning and organizational skills. He wants to reach out and bring new people in at any level to begin a wellness program designed for them. He has great experience & knowledge for those who want to train or have been working on their own fitness to enhance in their growth. Brandon is a great asset to the program.

For more information call (520) 562-2026
Agencies check on young eagles and monitor their activity

District 7 Council Representative Devin Redbird, AZGFD biologist Kenneth Jacobson and GRIC DEQ Senior Wildlife Biologist Russell Benford stand with eagle nesting material.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Two week old female bald eagle nestlings, a symbol of national pride, were at the center of attention, during a recent outing to see how they have adapted to their unique environment.

The eagles, who live a short distance from the Community, were given a checkup, that included, being equipped with a blue identification band and cellular GPS transmitter courtesy of the Arizona Game and Fish Department on March 29.

Wildlife biologists were on hand to examine the hins before they are ready to fly.

Getting up to the nest is a huge undertaking, requiring the efforts of a coordinated team of individuals from the AZGFD, Salt River Project and the Gila River Department of Environmental Quality, to bring the nestlings down.

The crews and agencies used this opportunity to learn more about the large raptors and how they interact with their surrounding environment, as bald eagles build nests ever closer to the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Russell Benford, Department of Environmental Quality Senior Wildlife Biologist, said, the pair of bald eagles have been nesting just outside of the Community boundary since last year.

Although the nest is within the City of Phoenix, DEQ still monitors the eagles through the Nest Watch Program.

They keep watch, because of the cultural value the eagles have on the Community’s culture and a mission to ensure that the bald eagles are safe from their biggest threat, humans.

“The Community is certainly still very invested in these eagles, culturally, emotionally even,” said Benford.

As with previous bald eagle projects, Benford said it is important to learn how bald eagles behave and adapt to their surroundings with so much activity going on around them.

“A lot of the reasons the nest watch program is in place, is to provide some positive encouragement to members of the public, who might either not know that [this] is a sensitive area or in some cases have a disregard for the wildlife here,” said Benford.

DEQ Nest Watch volunteer Thomas Rivas, a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, and District 7 Council Representative Devin Redbird had the honor of holding the nestlings during the whole banding and transmitter rigging process.

Rivas said, “As a nest watcher, it’s a blessing to see them and to be close to them after a month and a half of observing them.”

He said the task may seem benign, but serves an important purpose, that requires spending hours watching over the bald eagles and their young nestlings.

“Ceremonial-wise we use eagle feathers and it is a blessing for me to watch over them as an O’otham…they carry the messages of prayers, so [we] really respect them,” said Rivas.

Redbird said, “You read about the birds, you talk about the birds and [we] have songs about them, but to actually be there and hold it and to be in partnership with all these entities that also respect the bird is something that is really special for the Community.”

Understanding the eagles

When the SRP bucket truck arrived, the AZGFD was ready to ascend up to the nest, while one of the bald eagle parents kept a watchful eye on the activity below. When the biologist reached the nest, the nestlings, a bit taken by surprise by their human visitors, were in no hurry to leave the nest, but after 30 minutes of careful work, the eagles were brought down in short time.

The team began measuring, weighing, determining sex, banding, and outfitting the nestlings with a transmitter and had time to answer a few questions through the AZGFD Facebook livestream.

Kenneth Jacobson, AZGFD Raptor Management Coordinator, said the ability to track the eagle’s habits using a transmitter would allow them to learn more about the birds behavior in a metropolitan environment and, in turn, help protect the large birds from harm.

He said the transmitters work from a cellular network, which sends updates in the same way a person receives text messages or phone calls.

With the transmitters, the biologists can track and locate a bald eagles’ positions and how they are faring in the wild.

This method of tracking is used to understand what types of encounters the bald eagles have on their journey, especially if they are in an urban environment.

“That information we get from those transmitters will help us identify any risk factors they have in these urban environments. It gives us a chance to address those ahead of time before the birds get themselves into trouble, injured, or worse,” said Jacobson.

With their large size, bald eagles can find themselves among powerlines, possibly nesting near them, thus increasing the risk of electrocution.

It is a problem the team of biologist wants to prevent as the presence of bald eagles near metropolitan centers increases.

What to Do if You Encounter a Bald Eagle Nest

Benford said around breeding season, it is best not to disturb a bald eagle nest, which may contain nestlings. “It is a sensitive area for the spring time breeding season, so we try to encourage people out of the respect for the eagles, to stay away and let them be new parents,” he said.

In recent cases, bald eagle nests have even been found among busy construction sites and near power lines.

Benford said the early stages of a bald eagle’s life are important to their development. “The baby eagles will be flying soon, they need a little bit of time to practice and to get sturdy on their wings.”

His advice for those, that have an interest in seeing bald eagles, is to stay clear of the nest and to observe them through a pair of binoculars or a spotting scope.

When people venture off the paved road for recreational purposes, it can have a negative impact on the bald eagles’ wellbeing, and can disturb the nest.

On a few occasions, Benford said he has asked individuals with drones to leave the area, which has brought a new concern to the nest.

If you come in contact with a bald eagle’s nest within the Gila River Indian Community call the Department of Environmental Quality at (520) 562-2234.

AZGFD Birds and Mammals Biologist Kurt Licence affixes a GPS transmitter to one of the nestling bald eagles at the site of their nest on March 29.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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• Wait for the site to be marked
• Respect the marks
• Dig with care

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For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call 877-860-6020.
Governor Employee of the Month award handed out for January, February and March

Individuals recognized for dedication and effort through contributions toward building a strong community

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Three Community employees were chosen as the January, February and March winners of the Governor Employee of the Month award. On hand to present plaques was Lt. Governor Robert Stone, stepping in for Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

“On behalf of the Governor’s office, Executive Office and myself, Lt. Governor, we all know that we have a huge workforce and it is a great task to be involved in the government structure and to do our jobs. It’s quite commendable that with the thousands and thousands of employees we have that you guys have been chosen for the month of your awards,” said Lt. Gov. Stone. “From the Governor’s office and myself, congratulations.”

Officer Ethan Messerly was the winner for the month of January, Jill Jackson was chosen for February and Lynn Simon was the March winner. Officer Messerly has been serving the Community in Law Enforcement Services since October 2010. As a Field Training Officer, he had the chance to mentor fellow and new officers. Officer Messerly takes the philosophy of ‘Community Policing’ as a personal challenge to influence the lives of not only Community members but anyone that he comes into contact with while on the job.

Jackson works in the Finance Department as an accounts payable technician III. She has been with the department since 2008 working from a temporary employee up to her current position.

Simon works as the Cartography Manager in the Cultural Resources Department mapping archeological sites and translating GIS formats to visual representations along with a whole host of other duties.

All three nominees were described as exemplary role models with excellent attendance who give a helping hand whenever the situation rises and have stepped up in their departments on numerous occasions.

“I want to congratulate every single person here,” said Richard Weschrob, Training Specialist. “These guys are nominated by their peers, people who work in their department. You guys should be commended for the work that you do. It is amazing the work you guys do and it’s amazing what you bring to the Community. I just want you to realize that your peers have looked at you and thought you deserved this award.”

The winners of the Governor’s Employee of the Month award were presented with their awards by Lt. Gov. Robert Stone. From left, Officer Ethan Messerly (January), Jill Jackson (February), and Lynn Simon (March).
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS**

**Courtsey of the Community Council Secretary's Office • April 4, 2018**

**ACTION SHEET**

Community Council; PO Box 2138, Sacaton, Arizona 85547; (502) 562-9720; Fax (502) 562-9729

**CALL TO ORDER**
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, April 04, 2018, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona, was called to order by Lt. Governor Robert Stone at 9:17 a.m.

**INVOCATION**
Provided by Councilwoman Janice Stewart

**ROLL CALL**
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present: Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Executive Officers Absent: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4-Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison, Barney Enos, Jr., Pamela Johnson; D5-Janice Stewart, Martin Dixon, Lawrence White, Sr., Franklin Pablo, Sr., D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
APPROVED AS AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)**

1. Gila River Gaming Enterprises 2018 ADYY Awards Presentation
Presenter: Kenneth Manuel
MR. KENNETH MANUAL INTRODUCED MR. AND MR. SCOT HARKY. MR. PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE MARKETING AWARDS. MR. HARKY FURTHER EXPLAINED THE AWARD PROCESS. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE EX-PRESSED WORDS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND ENDORSED THE AWARDS.

2. Introduction Of New Department Of Community Housing Director Mr. William Picotte
Presenter: Rachel Hernandez Pamela Thompson
MS. RACHEL HERNANDEZ INTRODUCED MR. WILLIAM PICOTTE. MR. PICOTTE PROVIDED A BRIEF OVER-VIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE EX-PRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

3. Tribal Social Services Transition
Presenter: Pamela Thompson
DISENTEED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Judicial Department
Presenter: Donna Kisto-Jones
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. Amendments to Title 1 Regarding Duties of Community Election Coordinator (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, EDSC concurs)
Presenters: Nadine Sheld, Shannon White

6. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community 2018 Procurement Policy and Rescinding The Existing Procurement Policy Authorized Pursuant To Resolution GR-230-08 & G&M motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval, H&SSC & LSC concur
Presenters: Lawrence Makil, Treasurer Robert G. Keller
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Transit Services Inter-Governmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The City Of Phoenix Providing For Fixed-Route Transit Services And Providing For A Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity (G&M motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)
Presenters: Pamela Thompson, Gregory McDowell
APPROVED

8. A Resolution Declaring Intention To Reimburse Certain Expenses for Removing Proceeding (G&M motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Michael Carter
APPROVED

9. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community For Other Purposes
Presenters: Lawrence Makil, Treasurer Robert G. Keller
APPROVED

**ORDINANCES**

1. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Amends Title 5, Criminal Code To Include A New Chapter 18, Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenters: Michael Carter
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISPENSE

2. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Amends The Gila River Indian Community Code By Rescinding Title 6, Chapter 9, Residency Ordinance And Enacting The Revised Residency Ordinance (LSC forwards to Council for recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Michael Carter
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISMISS

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Notification of Upcoming Court of Appeals Vacancy (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation to declare the vacancy as per the Code of Conduct)
Presenter: Yolanda Johnson
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE FOR 30-DAYS

2. Seeking Guidance on Bald Eagle Mortality (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval to have Governor write a formal request to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services for the remains of the juvenile bald eagle that was fledged from the Hayfield/Pee Posh Wetlands nest site, CRSC concurs)
Presenters: Russell Benford, Dale Ohnmeiss
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Certification of Qualifications for the 2018 Community Council Candidates (LSC forwards the candidates for District 2, District 4, and District 6 to Council for recommendation for certification)
Presenters: Nadine Sheld, Shannon White
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY FOR DISTRICT 2, BETTY MOLINA, CHERYL COPPEDGE, SHIRLEY MILLER, AND ARZIE HOGG
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY FOR DISTRICT 4: MONICA ANTOINE AND NADA CELAYA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY FOR DISTRICT 5: THOMAS R. WHITE, FRANKLIN PABLO, SR., VERLENE BANKETEWA AND CHERYL JEFFERSON
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY FOR DISTRICT 6: SANDRA NASEYTWETA AND ANTHONY C. VILLAREAL, SR

4. Letter of Concern – 2018 Community Council Candidate (LSC forwards to Council as FYI)
Presenters: Nadine Sheld, Shannon White
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HAVE THE COMMUNITY ELECTION COORDINATOR PROVIDE WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS GUIDELINES FORREGISTERED VOTER LISTINGS AND A PLAN TO UPDATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL COMMUNITY ELECTIONS AND PRESENT FOR APPROVAL THROUGH LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE

5. Amendments to Title 1 Regarding Duties of Judges and Standards of Judicial Conduct (LSC

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Continued on Page 12
Sacaton students work with GRIC departments to create new street signs

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Students from Sacaton Middle School presented new street signs to the Community’s transportation department. Fifth through eighth graders from the Exceptional Student Services spent the last few months working on the wooden street signs.

This is the second time that students from Sacaton Middle School have gifted the Community with handmade signs.

The last batch of signs were given to the Community in 2016. At that time, 17 signs were presented, this time the class made 35 signs that will be put up in Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Community.

“It’s been really fun for the kids to get involved and make street signs for the roads that they live on,” said Barbara Wilson, bus driver and teacher’s aide. “It’s been good for them because it makes them feel a part of something. When they walk through the Community they can say, ‘Hey I made that sign.’”

The entire process took over three months and the students were hands-on from the get-go. From the unloading of the wood, to measuring, sanding, stenciling and painting the students were hard at work.

They also worked with Leslie Stovall from Land Use Planning and Zoning to get the correct street names.

According to Wilson, after the positive response from the first batch of signs, she reached out to Transportation Director Timothy Oliver about making more signs.

“It’s giving them real educational skills,” said Oliver. “They are working on spelling, about fitting things on the signs in an appropriate size and having to think about all of those things. It’s a good opportunity for these kids who need opportunities.”

Wilson said that the original signs are still up and haven’t been vandalized, a show of respect, and that prompted her to inquire about the second batch.

As with most Native American communities, street signs and physical addresses can be an issue. The street sign project helps address those issues and make it easier to navigate around the Community.

The project was also a way to teach the students the importance of giving back to the Community where you live as well as a way to show pride in your Community and heritage.

The street signs were presented to Oliver and will be put up throughout the Community in the coming weeks.

State passes Native American Day bill

Christopher Lomaquahu
Gila River Indian News

State law makers passed the bill establishing an official day as Native American Day in June.

On April 5, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed Senate Bill 1235, passed with an overwhelming vote of 56 in favor and 0 not in favor of the bill.

Additionally the press release said, “It’s important that we continue to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Native Americans have made and continue to make to our state.”

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The street signs were presented to Oliver and will be put up throughout the Community in the coming weeks.

When: June 4-28, 2018
Time: 7:45am-1:00pm, Monday-Thursday
ASU Student Pavilion recognizes indigenous lands with plaque

Gila River Indian News
April 20, 2018

The new student pavilion on the main Arizona State University (ASU) campus unveiled a new plaque honoring and respecting the traditional homelands of the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh, which the university sits on.

The ASU American Indian Council lobbied for which the university sits on. O’otham and Pee Posh, homelands of the Akimel Gila River Indian Community, unveiled a new pavilion on the main Arizona State University (ASU) campus on April 16.

Also speaking was ASU junior and reigning Miss Salt River Mikah Carson. This plaque acknowledges its campus sits on traditional homelands of Native Americans. A similar plaque was unveiled in 2016 honoring the Lenape People.

Also speaking was ASU President Michael Crow has publicly acknowledged that the campus is on ancestral O’otham homeland, one of just two major universities presidents to do so.

The plaque was unveiled in the lobby near the staircases and elevators. In the past, ASU President Michael Crow has publicly acknowledged that the campus is on ancestral O’otham homeland, one of just two major universities presidents to do so.

Plaque at Arizona State University welcomes visitors to the ASU Student Pavilion recognizes indigenous lands with plaque

following facilities:

- Express Stop AZ, LLC
- Casa Blanca Market
- 7777 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Bap- chula, AZ, District 5
- Express Stop AZ, LLC
- Konukala Market
- 17197 S. St. Ave, Lawern, AZ, District 5
- Air Contaminants Emitting Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

Public Notice Start Date: April 20, 2018
Public Notice End Date: May 21, 2018
Public comments will be accepted in writing until the public notice end date, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received.

In writing, you may submit a written comment to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at the following address:

Att: Ryan Eberle
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Ground material will be available for review at the DEQ Sacaton office during normal business hours and on the AQP website at: http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/education-outreach/public-notices.

Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to:

Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Ryan Eberle
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147
Physical Address: 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147

For further information, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520)-786-3784 or visit our office located at 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147.

In Loving Memory of Yvonne F. Jose
April 2, 1974-Jul 10, 2015

You may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Hearing for the issuance of the air quality permit is required. Therefore, you may respond in writing.

If a written answer or response hearing is still required, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing.
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5.18.18

MARIACHI VARGAS
5.5.18

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5.19.18

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