Water flows in newly completed 16-mile Casa Blanca Canal

A small celebration was held in honor of the completed Casa Blanca canal in District 5 on April 2 by the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project. The 16-mile long canal was finished in a little under a year, starting in the spring of 2017.

With farmers from Districts 3 and 5 in mind, P-MIP set out to get the project completed as quickly as possible. The original timeframe was 3 years for construction.

“Good to see the project completed here on this main stem,” said Lt. Gov. Robert Stone. “We got one more to go in San Tan. I’ve seen all of this growth here during my time here. This will really help District 5 with major areas of farming.”

Representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation and United States Division of Agriculture spoke to the small crowd recognizing the joint efforts with P-MIP to complete the project. To date, construction costs have been close to $50 million. The USDA has contributed $8.5 million to the project.

“USDA is very happy to be the newest person, newest unit at the table,” said Keisha Tatum. “I know that Gila River Indian Community and Bureau of Reclamation have a very long relationship. We have worked traditionally with GRIC with individual farmers, that is where we have primarily worked, helping to address their irrigation or natural resource issues.”

With special authority in the farm bill, available to Native American tribes, the USDA was able to work on a large-scale project. GRIC is the first tribe to utilize this part of the farm bill and the national office is paying close attention with GRIC with individual farmers, that is where we have primarily worked, helping to address their irrigation or natural resource issues.”

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Arrival Experience completed at HuHu Kam Memorial Hospital

The renovations to the main lobby of the HuHu Kam Memorial Hospital were completed on March 26.

Construction, the project started as a simple renovation of the lobby in 2014. However, after a patient-flow study was conducted in 2015 the hospital realized that their transportation department was not in an ideal location. An additional 300 square feet was added to the main lobby and construction on the project began in 2017.

According to Robert Ball, Director of Planning Design and Construction, the project started as a simple renovation of the lobby in 2014. However, after a patient-flow study was conducted in 2015 the hospital realized that their transportation department was not in an ideal location. An additional 300 square feet was added to the main lobby and construction on the project began in 2017.

“The intent of Gila River Health Care is to ensure quick access to quality care and that is what we were trying to achieve and add upon,” said Derrick Giam, Chief Operating Officer. “Our patients come first and that’s what drove the design with this facility and this space.”

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FACEBOOK: “Gila River Indian News”
GRIC HIRES

GRIC Member Employment Highlights: Several Community members, GRHC’s newest employees, began working in the following departments: EVS, RTC, Primary Care, HIM, Facilities, Transportation, Optometry, and The Caring House.


Visit us online at GRHC.ORG/CAREERS and apply today, email us at hireme@grhc.org. If you prefer to speak with someone, call (520) 562-3321 ext. 1342 to speak with a recruiter today.

NEW MEDICARE CARDS

- Medicare will mail new cards between April 2018 – April 2019.
- New cards will not include Social Security numbers. Instead, each person will get a new, unique, Medicare number.
- Medicare will never call and ask for personal information before sending new cards, so don’t share your Medicare number or other personal information if someone calls and asks for it.
- Once you have received your new Medicare card, please bring it to the Patient Registration Department or Benefits Coordination on your next visit.

If you have any questions, please contact Patient Registration at (520) 271-1287.

LIFE CENTER PATIENT HIGHLIGHT

Recently, Linda Nish shared her appreciation and positive experience with the Life Center. She stated, “I think it would be good for everybody to come to the Life Center to learn about all your eating habits. It really helped me out.” Linda also mentioned the Keeping Track Booklet has helped her keep track of the fat grams, protein, and calories she eats.

For more information about the Life Center, please call: Sacaton: (520) 562-7940 or Komatke: (602) 271-7940

PHARMACY / PHN DELIVERY

If patients have multiple prescriptions to be filled during a visit, please be advised it will take additional time for us to prepare them.

To support our homebound and elderly Community members, we offer prescription refill delivery from our Public Health Nursing Department Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). PLEASE ALLOW 24 HOURS AFTER THE REQUEST FOR DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME.

You may contact Public Health Nursing at (520) 550-6479.

GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

GRHC.ORG

HU HU KAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL GRAND RE-OPENING

March 26, 2018, GRHC celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of the Arrival Experience at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

- The new circular drive has created a safe traffic flow for patients and visitors.
- Customer Service and Transportation staff are now located in the main lobby.
- The temporary lobby is also now closed.

MARCH 2018

GRIC Reduces

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Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449
Southern Apache Development Authority

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Lt. Governor
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Shannon White, Community Council Secretary
Gila River Indian News

CHRISTOPHER LOMAHQUAHU/GRIN

Vacant seats filled after special election

Lawrence White Sr. is sworn in by Chief Judge Donna-Kisto Jones on March 21.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Anthony J. Hill was sworn in by Associate Judge Janice Breckenridge on March 21.

The Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley - Gila River Komatke Branch sent three teams to compete at the Talking Stick Resort Arena on March 15. Chandler managed to tie the game and took the lead in the final seconds, 29-27, with 8.2 seconds left. Komatke had a chance to win but missed a field goal at the buzzer. The last two minutes of the game time was crucial with each team fighting to get shots.

The teams are coached by volunteer coaches Regan Themans, Marie Molina and Amanda Vasquez.

Gila River Indian Community
Home of the Brave

Gila River Indian News

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Komatke Teams play for championships in Phoenix

The Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley - Gila River Komatke Branch had three teams compete for a championship against teams from the Chandler and Gilbert clubs at Talking Stick Resort Arena on March 15. Komatke claimed two championships on the night. The Juniors, ages 10-11, competed against teams from the Chandler and Gilbert clubs at Talking Stick Resort Arena on March 15. Komatke claimed two championships on the night. The Juniors, ages 10-11, competed against the Gilbert Club. The Juniors, ages 10-11, competed against the Gilbert Club. The Seniors, ages 12-14, competed against the Chandler Club. The Seniors, ages 12-14, competed against the Chandler Club.

In the Juniors game, Komatke had to rally in the second half. They held a slim 9-6 lead after the first quarter and led 13-11 at halftime. However, Gilbert started to increase their defensive pressure and cut the lead down to 20-19 heading into the final quarter. Komatke claimed two championships on the night. The Juniors, ages 10-11, competed against the Gilbert Club. The Juniors, ages 10-11, competed against the Gilbert Club.

In the fourth quarter, the Komatke Juniors played tough defense, frustrating and outscoring the Gilbert Club, 12-2, to take a 31-22 win. Two of Gilbert’s top players fouled out allowing Komatke to take advantage.

In the final game of the day, Komatke Seniors battled the Chandler Seniors in an exciting game that went down to the final seconds. Komatke led 12-6 after one quarter, 16-11 at halftime and 25-19 heading into the final quarter of the game. However, Chandler started to increase their defensive pressure and cut the lead down to just two points, 27-25, with 2:15 left in the game.

In the final game of the day, Komatke Seniors battled the Chandler Seniors in an exciting game that went down to the final seconds. Komatke led 12-6 after one quarter, 16-11 at halftime and 25-19 heading into the final quarter of the game. However, Chandler started to increase their defensive pressure and cut the lead down to just two points, 27-25, with 2:15 left in the game.

The winners of the March 1 Special Election were sworn in during a Community Council meeting in Sacaton on March 21. The swearing in ceremony fills the vacant seats for District 5 Council representative and associate judge. Chief Judge Donna-Kisto Jones swore in Lawrence White Sr., who won the District 5 race, and Associate Judge Janice Hill, who will serve in the GRIC Court as associate judge.

White joins Franklin Pablo Sr., Marlin R. Dixon and Janice Stewart on council for District 5. White previously worked for Gila River Emergency Medical Service. Hill returns to the GRIC bench after previously serving as Chief Judge.

A brief reception was held following the oath of office.

Komatke Teams play for championships in Phoenix

Two of three Boys and Girls Club teams win titles at Talking Stick Resort Arena
stole tools from a vehicle belonging to Gila Crossing Community School. The subject caused damage to a chain link fence and a vehicle window. During the investigation a subject was identified as a possible lead. A second subject was also located and admitted to200the suspect in the desert and bringing the belongings out of the desert. Status: Under Investigation Incident Log March 18 - 24, 2018 Case for services this week: 530 Arrest made: 32 District One (Blackwater): No Incidents involving Part 1 crime District Two (Sacaton Flats): Incidents involving part 1 crime The victim stated he noticed the truck missing as he watered his yard which he does on a daily basis. Status: Under Investigation Auto Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting an officer in reference to a stolen vehicle report. The investigation revealed a suspect took a 2005 white ford F450 diesel flat bed truck. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. Status: Under Investigation District Four (Lone Butte Area): Auto Theft – While at the Wild Horse Pass Casino, the victim reported he lost his key to his truck and advised the investigator he would return later with a spare key. A couple of hours later the suspect was called and asked if he picked up his vehicle. The victim stated he had not and he was informed the vehicle had just left the property. The victim then called the police requesting to file a report stolen vehicle. The vehicle was entered into the stolen vehicle database as stolen. Status: Under Investigation Theft (Shoplifting) – A male suspect stole a men’s style wallet from the Coach Store at the Phoenix Premium Outlet. Status: Under Investigation Aggravated Assault (DV) – The suspect was involved in an aggravated assault when he was told he would not be able to enter the residence. The suspect struck the victim multiple times with an unknown object causing injuries to the victim. The victim was later transported to a nearby hospital for further medical evaluation. Status: Under Investigation District Six (Komatke): Aggravated Assault – The victim and suspect were engaged in a verbal domestic at their residence. The suspect then assaulted the victim by punching her and then choked her when they were in the bedroom. The victim was transported to the scene and advised of the incident. The suspect was transported to a nearby hospital for further medical treatment. The suspect was booked into DRS. Burglary – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a burglary. The victim stated that upon returning home it was observed that the back door to the residence was left open as well as a back window being broken. The victim observed the residence was ransacked with property and personal items being removed. Status: Under Investigation Aggravated Assault (DV) – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a burglary. The victim stated he was alerted that his vehicle was taken off of his vehicle. The victim stated his vehicle was located top of the tire under the vehicle. The victim called dispatch then admitted to taking the merchandise and requested to pay for the item which was stolen. Status: Suspect was cited for his crime Auto Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting file a report for stolen medication. During the course of the investigation it was learned that the victim’s wife, the left residence unsecured and the medication was taken by someone. The victim stated in order to receive more medication from the doctor a report needed to be provided. Status: Under Investigation Phone Calls for services March 18 - 24, 2018 Case for services this week: 530 Arrest made: 32 District One (Blackwater): No Incidents involving Part 1 crime District Two (Sacaton Flats): Incidents involving part 1 crime Status: Under Investigation District Four (Stotonic Area): No Incident Involving part 1 crime Status: Under Investigation District Four (Lone Butte Area): Theft (Shoplifting) – The suspect entered a store at the Phoenix Premium Outlet and took a pair of sweatpants without paying for them. The suspect was located by mall security and escorted back to the store. The pants were returned to the store and the suspect was released to his parents. Charges are being forwarded to Maricopa County Prosecutors Office. Status: Charges forwarded for the juvenile male suspect District Five (Casa Blanca): Aggravated Assault (DV) – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a burglary. The victim stated he was alerted that his vehicle was stolen by a white vehicle. The suspect was located and upon observation the orange parts of the weap- on were colored black. No injury was observed to the dog or anyone in the area. Status: Under Investigation District Seven (Maricopa): Aggravated Assault – A male subject contacted an aggravated assault by shooting the victim in the right thigh with a shotgun it was learned the victim possibly had a broken fing- er on his right hand after his being slammed in the door during the verbal altercation. GREMs was dispatched and the medical unit advised that the victim will possibly have to have surgery on his finger to re- pair damage. Status: Under Investigation District Six (Komatke): Auto Theft – Officers responded to Vice Quiva Casino in reference to a auto theft report. Investigation revealed the victim had his vehicle stolen by a male subject while on the complaint. The suspect’s footprint confirmed the vehi- cle was taken by the sus- A woman in a brown shirt arrived at the casino. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. Status: Under Investigation Theft – A suspect(s) took a green hand truck from the front yard of the store with merchandise from the shelves. Status: Under Investigation District Four (Stotonic Area): Auto Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting an officer in reference to a stolen vehicle report. The investigation revealed a suspect took a 2005 white ford F450 diesel flat bed truck. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. Status: Under Investigation District Four (Lone Butte Area): Auto Theft – While at the Wild Horse Pass Casino, the victim reported he lost his key to his truck and advised the investigator he would return later with a spare key. A couple of hours later the suspect was called and asked if he picked up his vehicle. The victim stated he had not and he was informed the vehicle had just left the property. The victim then called the police requesting to file a report stolen vehicle. The vehicle was entered into the stolen vehicle database as stolen. Status: Under Investigation Theft (Shoplifting) – A male suspect stole a men’s style wallet from the Coach Store at the Phoenix Premium Outlet. Status: Under Investigation Aggravated Assault – The victim reported while taking walks from a relative member’s home she was assaulted by the suspect coming up from behind. The suspect placed their hands around the victim’s neck and began to squeeze. The victim stated to scream and the suspect then ran north in the dirt area. The victim was evaluated on scene and was released with no further treatment. Status: Under Investigation Auto Theft – The victim reported that her vehi- cle was stolen by the sus- pect while she was asleep. The victim stated the suspect did not posses permission to take the vehicle. The vehicle was entered into the stolen vehicle database as stolen. A couple of hours later the vehicle was reported to have been in a pursuit with Casa Grande Police Department result- ing in the vehicle being disabled. The victim placed it in a bag from another store and then imme- diately walked out of the store. Status: Under Investigation Theft (Shoplifting) – A shoplifting at Calvin Klein was reported to have taken place and was being inves- tigated. Status: Under Investigation Auto Theft – Officers were dispatched to the Phoenix Premium Outlet in reference to a shoplifting which occurred at one of the stores. During the investigation, it was learned a sus- pect entered the store and went to a specific area. The suspect grabbed some clothing and placed it in a bag from another store and then im- medately walked out of the store. Status: Under Investigation Theft (Shoplifting) – A shoplifting at Clark Klein was reported to have taken place and was being inves- tigated. Status: Under Investigation Auto Theft – Officers were dispatched to the Phoenix Premium Outlet where a store was wishing to re- port a theft. The victim was speaking with the store manager, the investigation revealed a pair of swimming trunks and placed them in a bag before walking out of the store. The store alarms sounded and the suspect blamed another customer. Contact was made with the suspect who denied taking any merchandise. His bags and vehicle were searched with no items located. Status: Under Investigation Theft (Shoplifting) – A shoplifting at Clark Klein was reported to have taken place and was being inves- tigated. Status: Under Investigation Auto Theft – The victim reported that his license plate was taken from his vehicle near the Wild Horse Pass Casino. The vehicle was left locked and secured while a spare was obtained. Upon returning the victim observed his license plate was taken off of his vehicle. 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Arrival Experience

From page 1

the transportation department was moved, adding more comfortable space to wait. Another addition to the renovated lobby was new, updated furniture for patients and their families.

Another important feature is the new roundabout which added space to provide a quick pick-up and drop-off access point and can accommodate more vehicles in line.

"I’m excited that we finally have the new lobby open after so many years to provide a beautiful entrance to the Community," said Scott Gemblering, Chief Executive Officer. "We learned a great deal about how the new facility would be utilized.

O’Brien said that having the nurses’ station up front along with the new open floorplan, eyes are always able to see on patients as they wait.

Dr. Viji Murugavel said that having the nursing station in the lobby provides better monitoring from a clinical standpoint. Patient conditions can change rapidly, especially in pediatric care, having the nurses able to see that a patient’s condition changes gives staff the ability to address the patient’s needs.

She also likes the roomy feel of the new lobby, which is much more open and easy to maneuver around wheelchairs.

Convenience was an integral part in design efforts. As soon as you enter the hospital, the customer service desk is available to provide information and direction. The new design makes it a lot easier for elderly patients to move around the hospital, shortening walks down long hallways, which was the case with the temporary lobby.

The convenience for the elderly is something that longtime customer service employee Soto appreciates.

"We had been waiting for years," said Soto. "All of the patients were excited and wondering where the front was going to open.

The elderly are so excited because transportation is closer. I am so glad for them because some of them can barely walk. You can look outside and see the beautiful mountains, the atmosphere is so wonderful."
Crews continue to remove salt cedar and reduce fire risk in District 6

A fuels crew removed with chainsaws invasive plant species out of fire risk area of the Community.

With the dry heat of summer just around the corner, the Bureau of Indian Affairs/Department of Environmental Quality Fuels and Restoration Crew was hard at work creating a firebreak in the middle of a mesquite thicket in the Santa Cruz area of District 6.

The project is a unique combination of vegetation restoration and reduces the risk of a wildfire. DEQ Senior Wildlife Biologist Russell Benford says the project serves two purposes and is a win-win situation for the Community and residents of District 6.

In 2008, the Ethan Fire demonstrated how fast the flames can travel when given enough fuel to feed the flames.

Ten years after the fire, efforts are underway to reduce the risk of a fire spreading further and faster in short time.

“ Their fundamental mission is to remove invasive plants that create risk to ecological/cultural human assets,” said Benford. “They are also associated with a local fire risk, so they are removing the bad stuff and putting the good stuff in.”

In January, when the most opportune time of the year to plant cottonwood and willow has ended, the clearing of invasive vegetation continues on in the Community.

The problem lies with the overgrowth of salt cedar that competes for resources like water and sunlight, which native vegetation like cottonwood and willow need to survive.

Benford said the removal of invasive species will continue to be a year-round project, due to the maintenance and overgrowth of salt cedar in areas of the Community, have the fuels crew working into the summer time.

Benford sees the planting of cottonwood and willow project continuing along for the foreseeable future to sustain the growth of native vegetation.

“ The crew is there facilitating that process, the native vegetation is stronger and better adapted for those conditions,” said Benford.

With the restoration underway the cottonwood and willow have a chance to fight back against the invasive species, said Benford.

Clearing the way Pointing to a map mounted to the wall of the District 6 area, Benford said the river bottom and areas surrounding it have grown even more dense with salt cedar since the Ethan Fire.

“ There’s a mix of salt cedar and mesquite that could carry a fire quite well, if a fire were to start there,” said Benford.

Called the Wildland Urban Interface, Benford said several homes within the Santa Cruz and St. Johns area, are in close proximity to the dense overgrowth and require the use of the fuels crew to cut fire breaks to protect the villages.

He said, "We want to do all we can do protect them, so we need to clear out breaks around them...we have two lines of defense where we would get some equipment in there to stop the fires."

Not only do the fire breaks reduce the risk to life and home of Community members, but also of the firefighters that may have to respond to fight the fire.

Fuels crew supervisor Steven Poolheco, said clearing of invasive and potentially hazardous vegetation allows the fire personnel to have a better chance of extinguishing a blaze.

As part of the BIA Pima Agency side of firefighting, Poolheco’s experience in fighting fires as a Sawyer/Squad Boss trainer, has taken him to some of the biggest infernos along the west coast.

“ If worst came to worst, there’s a line there, which could be used as a line of defense by fire crews,” said Poolheco. “With those lines in, [we] don’t have to be playing catch up...especially given the conditions you might find out [there].”
by Billy Allen

Earth Day is celebrated to raise plenty of food and returning to the jeved. Big flour containers were hardly ever thrown away. Big flour containers were introduced, but complete recycling program was also introduced, but complete buy-in from the community has been a challenge. The Waste Management Program is working to improve recycling opportunities throughout the Gila River Indian Community. GRIC departments hold events throughout the year where GRIC citizens can grab a t-shirt or a water bottle. Plastic pollution is a growing worry for our environment. Some GRIC events such as the Earth Day and Winter Bird Count Events – there may be others – strive for a zero waste standard by providing recycling and composting bins, but the response from participants seems hit and miss. All tribal departments should make their events zero waste. They can contact the Department of Environmental Quality for assistance. I have to get in a Sun Devil comment. For Earth Day last year the ASU community held a restoration event at Oidbaḍ Do’ag, Dead or Abandoned Fields Mountain. Most people call it “A Mountain,” but the official name is Hayden Butte Preserve. It is the only nature preserve in Tempe, and it has Hohokam water petroglyphs created when the river ran during their time. The restoration was done to make the preserve clean, safe, and respectable. Here in our community, it would be great if we became better caretakers of our jeved. Visible trash along our roads and against chain link fences surround our “public areas” and shouldn’t be acceptable, and shouldn’t be the new normal. It is a form of pollution – it hurts our eyes and hearts. We need a fourth “R”: Respect.

Information was taken from the following sites: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day; http://panthe- onchemical.com/reduce-reuse-recycle/; https://asunow.asu.edu/20170421-sun-devil-life-mountains-re- stored-earth-day and from the author’s memory.
EVENTS

MCT- The Elder’s companion walk, 2mi walk, 5k run, relay, ½ marathon. Was a successful event with a total of 284 participants in this year’s 2018 MCT run.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Be GRIC FIT Tour in D6- On April 10th.

CLASSES

• Next quarter class begin on April 2nd – New calendars are out

SPORTS

• Leadership Tournament – winners: 1st place CCSO. 2nd place Sapo! Sapo!, 3rd Extreme Team, 4th place Tadai from T.O
Three Precious Miracles brings Easter celebration to Sacaton

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Three Precious Miracles held an Easter Celebration for Community families on March 24 at the Sacaton Ballpark. The Easter Celebration was in collaboration with Arizona Department of Child Safety’s efforts to prevent child abuse and bring awareness to the Community.

“We wanted to have a family engagement with grandparents that are raising grandchildren,” said Three Precious Miracles founder, Elisia Manuel. “We wanted to have a celebration but in a family setting because it’s to bring awareness.”

There were many activities that took place for the children including arts and crafts, egg coloring, an egg toss, a bunny hop contest and an Easter egg hunt to end the event. The Easter Bunny also made an appearance and took pictures with the children. A lunch was also provided to the families.

A photo booth with the Easter Bunny was something Manuel was happy to provide for free because a lot of those families in attendance don’t have the resources to travel to popular Easter Bunny photo booths in places like shopping malls.

Over 80 Easter baskets were given out to Community youth that came out to the event, which were full of candy goodies as well as books and other fun activities.

The goal of Three Precious Miracles is to provide support and services to Native American foster families and to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

“I’m a grandparent and have custody of my grandchildren and I think we need more resources like this,” said Marilyn Nanez, who was present at the family outing. “I was worried (about Easter) because I am retired on a fixed income. My grandkids are excited and enjoying their baskets. This is something they didn’t expect, maybe just a little bit of candy but nothing like a little gathering where they can enjoy themselves for the day.”

Volunteers from Voyager and Compass Churches were on hand at the event. Local businesses like Sacaton Supermart, Coolidge Glass and Mirror, Garrett Motors, Dreamline Motors, Brown’s Cooler, Furniture and Appliance, Lee’s Foodland Market, Shope’s IGA and Kia Air Conditioning were just a few of those that donated to the event. Another thank you to the Ortega Family.

Manuel said the event was a success and hopes to continue to bring child abuse awareness to the Community through family functions, especially because some children are vulnerable in certain circumstances. She also thanked those volunteers that made the event possible as well as the many donors.

Contact GRTI at 520-796-3333 for more info! Promotion ends May 14, 2018.

$25 bill credit after 3 months of service!

*You may be eligible if you are a returning customer after 12 months of no service.

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*You may be eligible if you are a returning customer after 12 months of no service.

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Starting April 11, 2018!
Gov. Lewis provides keynote address at the ‘Business of Water’ Conference

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was present to give the keynote address about how the Community is using its water settlement for a variety of uses and how it falls in line with the conference’s theme “The Business of Water.”

The U of A President Dr. Robert C. Robbins introduced Gov. Lewis, who was on the search committee that helped select Robbins as the new U of A president.

Robbins said it is part of the universities responsibility to work with surrounding governments and businesses on developing a strategic plan on how to manage water resources from an academic perspective.

“Water is a major opportunity and major necessity for all of us to be thinking of...those are going to be some of the themes and pillars of our strategic plan,” said Robbins on the management of water resources.

The conference invites individuals from local governments, communities, agencies and universities to talk about the common idea of water management during drought and in wet years.

It covers the topic of how water conservation and business can go hand-in-hand to satisfy the needs of customers and local municipalities and the environment.

The understanding is, the Southwest is an intersecting point of tribal, state and local governments, that requires coming together to find solutions around a common interest related to water.

From the Community’s perspective, Gov. Lewis said, “Water and agriculture have been the center of GRIC’s history from the time of the Hubugam, who are the ancestor of the Akinel O’otham.”

He talked about the building of infrastructure to build canals that will take water from one end of the Community to the other.

“For Indian tribes and the Community, it is so critical for those tribes to be a part of [this], a part of this important era that we find ourselves,” said Gov. Lewis on the importance of tribes in water discussions.

The conference encourages attendees to be engaged and offer ideas on how water can be used to benefit everyone, while not letting to tap run dry. “In the current state of drought and climate change, the Community considers ourselves as a Moral Compass to the protection and stewardship of Water,” said Lewis.

Robbins talked about the universities strategic plan, that will call upon the school’s many academic disciplines to lead the academic part of adapting to the current state of water resources.

“This is not a futuristic discussion. It’s simply the convergence of biological, digital and physical sciences and [you] to be a world expert around water,” said Robbins.

Lewis said for tribes there’s another side of the coin that must be understood around water, marketing, long-term storage credits, and how tribes like the Community look to using their water rights on their traditional lands.

Through the use of water credits and banking, it enables the Community to use its water rights claims, allows them to sustain their water infrastructure and agricultural heritage.

One development Gov. Lewis touched on was the opening of a newly built lined Casa Blanca canal, which he said is one example of how water is brought to the heart of the Community.

Senate approves Ashlynn Mike Amber Alert in Indian Country Act


Ashlynn Mike who fought so hard and advocated for the passage of this legislation. Mike’s parents were also in attendance and spoke during the conference.

“It’s always hard advocating, this is not easy, I still can’t get over the loss,” said Foster. “I still have nights I can’t sleep...I just want to say ‘thank you’ to Sen. McCain, to Congressman Biggs, to Sen. Udall (D-N.M.) and to Congressman Frank Hultkamp (D-N.D.) for all the work they have done to make this happen. This is monumental.”

Foster was also joined by leaders from the Pascua Yaqui, Navajo Indian Tribe and Ak-Chin Indian Community.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • March 21, 2018

ACTION SHEET
Community Council, PO Box 2136, Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

CALL TO ORDER
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:12 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Pamela Johnson

ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Absent: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Council Members Present:
D1-Charlene Johnson, Arzie Hogg (9:57); D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson (9:57); D4-Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison, Barney Enos, Jr., Pamela Johnson; D5-Janice Stewart, Marlin Dixon, Lawrence White, Sr. (9:57); Franklin Pako, Sr.; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:16)
Council Members Absent:
D6-Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED
SWARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE JUDGE
District 5 – Lawrence White, Sr.
Presenter: Chief Judge Donna Kisto-Jones
CHIEF JUDGE DONNA KISTO-JONES PROVIDED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO MR. LAWRENCE WHITE, SR.
Associate Judge – Anthony J. Hill
Presenter: Associate Judge Janice Brekenridge
ASSOCIATE JUDGE JANICE BREKENRIDGE PROVIDED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO MR. ANTHONY J. HILL (15-minute reception to follow)


PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)

REPORTS
1. * Tribal Allocation Quarter 1 Report: Gila Crossing Community School
   Presenter: Jim Mosely
   REPORT HEARD
2. * Tribal Allocation Quarter 1 Report: Maricopa Village Community School
   Presenter: Larissa Quijano
   REPORT HEARD
3. Tribal Allocation Quarter 1 Report: Skyline Gila River School
   Presenter: Vaughn Flannigan
   REPORT HEARD
4. Pee-Posh Veteran's Association
   Presenter: Arnie Bread
   REPORT HEARD
5. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51
   Presenter: Allison Anderson
   REPORT HEARD
6. 2017 Annual Report Gila River Voter Registration Board
   Presenter: Zuzzette Kisto
   REPORT HEARD
7. Sustainable and Low Emission Feasibility Study
   Presenters: Mark Boyle, Leonard Gold, John Lewis
   REPORT HEARD
8. GRCUA’s FY17 Financial Audit Report
   Presenters: Adam Cavin, Leonard Gold, John Lewis
   REPORT HEARD
9. GRCUA’s FY18 1st Quarter Report Presenters: Leonard Gold, John Lewis
   REPORT HEARD
10. Monthly Financial Activity Report Ending February (Executive Session)
    Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Suzanne Johns
    MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS
    * A Resolution Granting a Transportation And Utility Corridor Right Of Way Easement To The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority For The Purposes Of Constructing, Operating, And Maintaining Roadway Access And Utility Services For The Sacaton 2 Electric Substation Located On Gila River Indian Community Trust Land In District Three And Designated As Drawing No. 40316-0891-EA (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)
    Presenter: Kathy Galloway
    APPROVED
2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The October 1, 2017 Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Keller-Blesener Engineering, LLC (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
   Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy
   APPROVED
3. A Resolution Approving The Mutual Termination Of Business Lease No.8-GR-48-2 Between The Gila River Farms And The Lone Butte Development, LLC. (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)
   Presenters: Gila River Farms, Javier G. Ramos
   APPROVED
4. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila Crossing School Construction Owners Team To Seek Financing For A New Gila Crossing School And For Other Purposes (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
   Presenter: Michael Carter
   APPROVED
5. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Interests Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotments 2333, 2334, 2135, 2136) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)
   Presenter: Ronald Rosier
   APPROVED
6. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Interests Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 2100) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)
   Presenter: Ronald Rosier
   APPROVED
7. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Interests Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 2136) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)
    Presenter: Ronald Rosier
    APPROVED
8. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Interests Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotments 2333, 2334, 2135, 2136) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)
    Presenter: Ronald Rosier
    APPROVED
9. A Resolution Approving A Ground Lease Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority For The Construction, Operation, And Maintenance Of Sacaton 2 Substation Site (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; EDSC forward to Council with a recommendation for approval)
    Presenters: Casandra Wallace, Kathy Galloway
    TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
10. A Resolution Approving The Removal Of Terri Hayfield/Pee Posh Wetlands nest site, and with Governor’s 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 site, and with Barnaby Lewis of THPO assisting in the application process;
    Presenters: Russell Benford, Dale O’Hmeiss
    TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
11. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Interests Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 2100) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)
   Presenter: Ronald Rosier
   APPROVED
12. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Interests Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotments 2333, 2334, 2135, 2136) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)
   Presenter: Ronald Rosier
   APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS
1. Notification of Upcoming Court of Appeals Vacancy (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to declare the vacancy as per the Code of Conduct)
   Presenter: Yolanda Johnson
   TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
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 site, and with Barnaby Lewis of THPO assisting in the application process;
   Presenters: Russell Benford, Dale O’Hmeiss
   TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. Seeking Guidance on Bald Eagle Mortality (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation to declare (1) vacancy and advertise for 60 days subject to the Code of Conduct)
   Presenter: Myron Schurz
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS
4. FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business to request a nomination for a task force member and approval)
   Presenters: GRTI Board of Directors
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO NOMINATE COUNCILMAN JOEY WHITMAN
5. NAFOA 36th Annual Conference April 23-24, 2018, New Orleans, Louisiana (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business to request a nomination for a task force member and approval)
   Presenters: GRTI Board of Directors
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD GRCUA’S FY17 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT UNDER NEW BUSINESS
6. GRCUA’s FY17 Financial Audit Report
   Presenters: Adam Cavin, Leonard Gold, John Lewis
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND TO INCLUDE COMMUNITY’S OVERALL ANNUAL AUDIT
7. motion to add GRICUA’S FY17 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT UNDER NEW BUSINESS
   [ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]
8. GRCUA’s FY17 Financial Audit Report
   Presenters: Adam Cavin, Leonard Gold, John Lewis
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND TO INCLUDE COMMUNITY’S OVERALL ANNUAL AUDIT

MINUTES
1. January 3, 2018 (Regular)
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS
2. March 7, 2018 (Regular)
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
3. March 8, 2018 (Special)
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
   > ESC ON TRAVEL FOR RIVERSIDE INDIAN SCHOOL VISIT; MARCH 22-24, 2018
   > GRCUA/EDSC JOINT MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018
   > NICK HARRISON, COOLEDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SELECTED TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN INVITATIONAL FUNDRAISER
   > PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE UNITY RUNNERS
   > ADJOURNMENT
   MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:39am
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
COURT NOTICE 
IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT of the STATE OF ARIZONA 
CASE NO. 2017-034-114D 
CIVIL SUMMONS 
PINAL COUNTY CREDIT UNION, Petitioner/Plaintiff, vs. 
ALBERT RAYMOND CRUZ ET AL., Respondent/Defendant 
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/DEFENSE hearing.

The following list contains the names of individuals and other parties with outstanding checks recorded as of September 2, 2017, in accordance with Ordinance GR-10-09. The Community will publish a bimonthly schedule of such claims or as deemed necessary by the Community Treasurer, for the check date. Public notice of unclaimed checks will be published in the Gila River Indian News.

ALSO, the Community treasurer reserves the right to dispose of unclaimed money, payroll checks, re-processed checks, and other checks.

The following list contains the names of individuals and other parties with outstanding checks recorded as of September 2, 2017, in accordance with Ordinance GR-10-09. The Community will publish a bimonthly schedule of such claims or as deemed necessary by the Community Treasurer, for the check date. Public notice of unclaimed checks will be published in the Gila River Indian News.

Public notice of unclaimed checks shall also post notice at a moment's notice, thank you very much.

The Community reserves the right to dispose of unclaimed money, payroll checks, re-processed checks, and other checks.

Or the other parties with outstanding checks recorded as of September 2, 2017, in accordance with Ordinance GR-10-09. The Community will publish a bimonthly schedule of such claims or as deemed necessary by the Community Treasurer, for the check date. Public notice of unclaimed checks will be published in the Gila River Indian News.

Additional information about the check date and procedures for recovering unclaimed funds can be found at the Community Treasurer's office.
**An example provided to the Huhugam Heritage Center by the manufacture Digiscura, based out of California**

An excerpt from the Huhugam Heritage Center's April 6, 2018 newsletter. This issue includes an article about Gila River Hotels & Casinos and a personal story about Tavaris Wright.

**Gila River Indian News**

**April 6, 2018**

**Gila River Indian Community veterans will be on display in a new Huhugam Heritage Center exhibit of their pictures and biographies, which will be a tap and swipe away.**

The Heritage Records Centers Specialists/Exhibits Project Manager, Leland Thomas, said new things are in the works at the center.

He said a unique method of display for the veteran’s exhibit is one of the planned additions to the centers expansion projects.

“By recognizing our veterans and knowing some of them have a story to tell, and doing it in a unique way” said Thomas.

Thomas said the incorporation of a display table with a large touch screen surface will allow visitors to bring up information on veterans.

In a previous overview with HMC Museum Director Shirley Jackson, vet seren’s meetings were held to help guide the direction of what to include with the veterans exhibit.

The veterans’ recommendations to the HHC, asked to expand the amount of display cases.

**LETTER TO OUR SONS - MACKY DWAYNE ORTEGA**

“Vee Quiva is an incredible property, we are excited to announce that one person who makes you really proud. We are confident this is the right decision for you and we will miss you immensely.

There is no greater gift that a parent could give the world than that of an ambitious child. Your passion for learning, art, theatre, music and video games has always been very, very proud of how your thought processes are developing and, of course, as we mentioned earlier, you are truly talented that you choose to study medicine. You can do anything. Advancing technology is the engine of our world now and it is going to change every aspect of human life in ways we cannot yet imagine. We live in an increasingly exciting time and you will, in some way, be a part of the dramatic change we need in this world.

So soon you will be in Northern Chicago adapting to the chill against your face as you endure eight weeks of rigorous physical training and limited written communication from loved ones. For us, it will be extremely difficult in this day of instant communication, I have been in constant contact with you every day of your life. We will all be saddened to let you go. I know you are ready, I am not, we have encouraged your decision and we will support you as we have always done. We commend you for your bravery, support and also for your parents.

Happy Birthday

We are proud of you, Tavaris. So proud of you. You’ll be faced with many challenges in life but do your very best and never give up. I love you dear,

Mom, Darla Hoover

**Gila River Indian News**

**April 6, 2018**

**Gila River Hotels & Casinos wins four regional awards for 2018 Best of Dining & Nightlife**

from Casino Player magazine

**CHARLESTON, A.D. (April 2, 2018) – Gila River Hotels & Casinos at Vee Quiva was named Best of Dining & Nightlife Awards in the southwest region from Casino Player magazine. Every year, Casino Player magazine asks its readers to vote online for their favorite properties in the country in a variety of categories, and Vee Quiva was a player favorite in multiple instances.**

The “2018 Best of Dining & Nightlife Awards” were a snapshot of the country’s top restaurants, bars, and casinos.

Top-performing casinos in categories including steakhouses, bars, nightclubs, shows, lounges, and more.

Vee Quiva secured first place in the following categories:

- **Best Service**
- **Best Place to Eat When: Square Bar**
- **Best Late Night Dining: Vee Quiva**
- **Best Coffee Shop: Coffee Shop 24/7**

“Vee Quiva is an incredible property, with premier gaming, dining and entertainment options,” said Carolyn Thompson, General Manager of Vee Quiva. “We are excited for the recognition from Casino Player magazine.”

Open 24/7, Vee Quiva is home to more than 550 slot machines, poker, and blackjack. The property is also an AA Five Diamond-awarded hotel with 90 boutique rooms, fitness center, and pool. Vee Quiva offers a wide variety of dining options, including Dishes, Restaurant, Coffee Shop 24/7, and a food court.

Photo courtesy of Huhugam Heritage Center
**CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER**

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### COOL CARS

- **2017 Ford Mustang Convertible**
  - $16,999
  - $189/mo.
- **2014 Toyota Camry**
  - $19,999
  - $229/mo.
- **2015 Chevy Malibu**
  - $189/mo.
- **2016 Ford Fusion**
  - $189/mo.
- **2013 Buick Verano**
  - $189/mo.
- **2013 Hyundai Accent**
  - $149/mo.
- **2013 Hyundai Elantra**
  - $149/mo.
- **2015 Kia Optima**
  - $269/mo.
- **2015 Dodge Dart**
  - $259/mo.
- **2015 Chevy Camaro**
  - $43,999
- **2015 Dodge Challenger**
  - $259/mo.

### TOUGH TRUCKS

- **2009 Chevy Avalanche 4WD low miles**
  - $16,999
- **2015 Jeep Renegade**
  - $279/mo.
- **2015 Dodge Grand Caravan**
  - $279/mo.
- **2015 Buick Enclave Fully loaded**
  - $359/mo.
- **2016 Nissan Pathfinder 9,000 miles**
  - $359/mo.
- **2010 Chevy Silverado 42,000 Miles**
  - $299/mo.
- **2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee**
  - $19,999
- **2011 Ram 1500 32,000 miles**
  - $379/mo.

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### LOWER PAYMENTS

- **2015 Chevy Sonic**
  - $159/mo.
- **2013 Chevy Malibu**
  - $189/mo.
- **2013 Ford Fusion**
  - $189/mo.
- **2016 Hyundai Accent**
  - $159/mo.
- **2015 Mitsubishi Lancer**
  - $189/mo.
- **2015 Nissan Sentra**
  - $299/mo.
- **2013 Buick Verano**
  - $189/mo.
- **2016 Chevy Cruze**
  - $189/mo.

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