Backpacks to Blackwater

FoxGives donates 300 backpacks at Blackwater Community School

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Fox Sports Arizona donated over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to the students at Blackwater Community School on Aug. 14 as part of their FoxGives initiative.

“It’s our way of helping out in the community, we look forward to this event, specifically, every single year,” said Brett Hansen, director of communications and marketing. “This was a school we knew was in need and we loved to come out and help them give backpacks to kids and kick off their school year the right way.”

The FoxGives initiative allows Fox colleagues purpose-driven, impactful volunteer opportunities and philanthropic support of non-profit organizations.

The students were brought into the school library class by class to choose between red, blue and black backpacks. Inside the bags were binders, notebooks, pencils, erasers, rulers and other school supplies.

According to Hansen, this was the third year that Fox Sports Arizona has come out to the Community and second time donating backpacks filled with school supplies. Fox Sports Arizona has a partnership with the Gila River Hotels and Casinos.

The Fox Sports Arizona staff spent Friday afternoon loading the backpacks up with the supplies in preparation for the school distribution.

“It was awesome seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces,” said Hansen. “It makes it well worth it and hopefully we make a difference and that’s what FoxGives is all about.”

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A top official from the Indian Health Services agency visit the Gila River Indian Community after opening its latest health center.

Acting IHS Director Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee and departments heads within the agency took a tour of the Hau’pal Health Center on August 1.

Weahkee, a member of the Pueblo of Zuni tribe of New Mexico, has served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, and in the United States Air Force as a Public Health Specialist.

During a special meeting at the GRIC Governance Center, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and members of the Community’s Health & Social Standing Committee met with Weahkee about the interests of the Community to expand its healthcare and how that fits within overall mission of IHS to serve tribal nations.

Topics for discussion was funding for healthcare, initiating dialog on tribal consultation with Indian communities and funding for the treatment of veterans for health issues.

Gov. Lewis encouraged the acting IHS director to consider the opportunities that are available through collaborating with tribes on improving their health care systems.

Lewis said AIs have taken on more roles to provide their own healthcare, which opens the door to more effective collaborations with IHS over healthcare that is directed where it needs to be.

To follow up with the Community’s recommendations, Weahkee said based on feedback from other AI communities, IHS’s current tribal consultation policy should be reviewed and updated.

Continued on Page 4

Community members attend FY19 Budget meetings

Continued on Page 10
The Caring House Employees Lauded for Achieving Substantial CMS Compliance

Recently, the Board of Directors (BOD) and Executive Leadership Team (ELT) hosted a special event to recognize the employees of The Caring House (TCH) for going over and beyond to achieve compliance with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) standards.

Myron Schurz, Chairman of the GRHC Board of Directors, offered the following statement on behalf of the GRHC Board of Directors, “Recognition must be given to each of The Caring House employees whose hard work obtained this type of result.” Scott Gemberling, CEO, added, “The CMS surveyor was impressed with the accomplishments achieved in the short period of time, declaring The Caring House in substantial compliance.”

At the recognition event, TCH employees were celebrated for their accomplishments and responded with reaffirming their commitment to focus on maintaining compliance while further improving operations to ensure a high level of service. “We have to keep growing; we have to keep striving for better; we have to improve our delivery of care on any given day,” Ron Preston, TCH Administrator said. “I think the unrelenting support of the BOD and ELT encouraged TCH employees to persevere to reach the achievements and the enthusiasm to accomplish what we are expected to achieve in the future.”

With the support of Gila River Health Care’s leadership, The Caring House employees are eager for the future and look forward to giving the Community more reasons to be proud of the Caring House.

Upcoming GRHC Holiday Reminder:
All GRHC Outpatient Clinics and Administrative Offices will be CLOSED on Monday 9/3/2018 in observance of Labor Day.

An Amazing Special for the Gila River Community

$0 DOWN 0% FINANCING $0 PAYMENTS PLUS $1,000 OFF!
Most Insurance Accepted Financing Available
One coupon per person after usual and customary fees. New patients only. Must present coupon at initial consultation.

Call TODAY to schedule a FREE consultation!
wrightortho.com
Youth competes in soap box derby championship

Andrew Sakeagak poses with his soap box derby racer. Photo Courtesy of Takkak Sakeagak

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Strapped to his seat with hands tightly gripping the wheel, one boy rides his way to a top ten finish at international soap box derby.

On July 21 Andrew James Iqun Barehand Sakeagak took 7th place in the 81st Annual All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron Ohio, racing among a field of entrants from Japan and Europe.

The derby is known around the world for attracting competitors from the Derby Downs Track in Akron, a 989-foot-long track

The derby is known around the world for attracting competitors from Japan and Europe.

Sakeagak said, “My son, wife and I built his first derby car when he was seven and ever since then he is always willing to help maintain his cars.”

He said their family are descendants of the Cross and Lyons families from District 5 Casa Blanca, are an active family on the go involved in various activities.

About Andrew, he said, “It’s was a very exciting time for all of us. He has gone a couple of times before, but never made it out of the first round and same for his younger brother.”

At age 13, Andrew is an 8th grader at Parma Senior High is Cleveland Ohio and is one of four brothers are always involved with activities outside of driving soap box cars, participate in soap box car derbies, play hockey and are involved in Boys Scout and Cub Scouts.

Their oldest son, who is autistic, competes in the Super Kids soap box car category, who Andrews drives with in a dual car set-up with one steering wheel.

Sakeagak added that he plays in a special needs hockey league on a team called the Cleveland Rockin Wildcats and is part of program called Prada Pride, where the kids play various sports activities throughout the year.

“Recently they did baseball for the summer and this past fall/ winter they did raquet sports ie: badminton, raquet ball, and tennis,” said Sakeagak.

He said Andrew has been playing hockey since he was six years old as a goalie in which his team has won two championships and made it to the playoffs four times through his six seasons playing.

Sakeagak said Andrew will be participating in another race on the August 25, and throughout the fall season.

Recently, three of their children participated in a flag ceremony for the local arena football team.

September 7th, 2018 @5:45PM
Mul Ghu Tha Fairgrounds
Sacaton, Arizona

Must be 13+ to Participate
18 yrs and younger MUST HAVE PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT
T-Shirts to the first 250 participants 16 yrs+
Incentives for first 100 participants 13-15 yrs
Finisher Medals to the first 300 participants

Pre-Registration August 16th, 2018 @ 8:00AM
Deadline: August 31st, 2018 @ 5:00PM
Day of the Mud Dash
Check in: 5:45PM
Run Begins: 6:00PM

Complete forms must be dropped off at the Wellness Center only!
*No emailed Registration Forms will be accepted*
For more info contact Wellness Center at (520) 562-2026
Phoenix Indian Health Service Area Director Charles (TV) Reidhead, who attended the groundbreaking, was amazed to be back to see the health center completed.

“I’ve seen the facility at various stages, from when it was dirt to now being completed,” said Reidhead.

Afterwards, Glum gave the IHS officials a tour of the new facility, discussing the key services that will be available to patients.

In the main entrance of the health center, a public viewing for Community Elders to place allowing the chance to look at the various departments and talk with customer service staff, who guided them on tours giving them facts on the facility.

Now that the Hau’pal health center is open, it will serve as an alternative location for AIs to receive healthcare and reduce the time to being seen at PIMC, in which the new facility aims to alleviate the large influx of patients treated there.

### Community leadership meet with Acting IHS Director Michael Weahkee at the Governance Center to discuss funding priorities.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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**FROM THE FRONT PAGE**

to address their needs.

At the Hau’pal health center, Chief Operating Officer Derrick Glum and the Gila River Healthcare Board of Directors welcomed Weahkee to the new facility.

GRHC board member Wanda Manuel thanked Weahkee, because of the IHS funding used to build the facility, which will also serve as an alternative for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center for to patients seeking treatment for their health needs.

Weahkee said the Hau’pal health center is great addition to the Community and will benefit other AIs that will come through the facility for treatment.

“I know what a relief that will be for ambulatory care provision taking 15,000 or so patients that are currently receiving treatment downtown here,” he said.
SABRINO DISCUSS VETERANS BENEFITS, VITAL SERVICES

By Aaron J. Tohtsoni

The Veteran & Family Services Office held the 2nd annual Veteran & Family Services Conference on Aug. 11 at the Sheraton Grand Wild Horse Pass Resort providing workshops and support to Community veterans.

Two workshops in the morning were designed to help veterans learn and understand about benefits for American Indians who live on Indian reservations. After lunch, the conference continued with two more workshops that featured Community members.

Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

He also discussed how the VA can assist veterans that had been exposed to certain situations while serving which include exposure to agent orange, contaminated water at Camp Lejeune and toxins from burn pits during the Iraq War.

Aaron Sabrino shares personal insight during a veteran cultural practice panel.

Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

The paper work and process can be confusing and that is why the conference had a VA representative on hand to assist anyone prospective veterans and answer their questions in regards to receiving benefits.

He also discussed the VA loan program to purchase a house, which also has a specialized loan for American Indians who live on Indian reservations. After lunch, the conference continued with two more workshops that featured Community members.

Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

One was a panel discussion with three recipients of the Purple Heart Medal which included David Molina, Gary Rodriguez and Bruce Hutchinson. He also discussed how their injuries were sustained and what life was like post-combat.

Molina and Hutchins served in the Vietnam War and Rodriguez served post 9/11. They each battled an addition to their PTSD, he suffered from survivor’s guilt after he lost a close friend in a bomb explosion. He said that being a Purple Heart recipient there is a bond that cannot be broken.

Rodriguez, from District 1, served in the United States Marine Corp. said, in addition to his PTSD, he suffered from survivor’s guilt after he lost a close friend in a bomb explosion. He said that he still suffers from PTSD, he said that he still suffers from PTSD

He also discussed the VA offered compensation or counseling services for nearly 40 years. He said that he thought his battle with PTSD was normal for any serviceman that returns home, not fully understanding the gravity of the situation at that time. He also said living on the reservation makes it hard to understand the VA benefits, saying that American Indians didn’t understand stuff like that during that time period.

Because of that, now, he tries to help as many veterans that he can.

He cautioned the audience about PTSD, saying that although someone may seem alright, they could be suffering. He also said that families suffer from PTSD as well and that it is not limited just to the veteran.

The last workshop offered was Veteran Cultural Practices that discussed cultural ceremonies that families have done for their servicemen.

A mother of a Marine, Pam Thompson, along with Aaron Sabrino discussed how important ceremonies are to soldiers when they return, saying it brings a certain type of closure.

They also said that these ceremonies don’t have to be traditional, it can be church-related, etc. but if it’s done with good intentions of the heart, it will help ease a soldier’s return home.

After all of the workshops, the veterans and their families returned to the main ballroom for closing remarks. In just its second year of hosting the conference, the VFSO is hoping to continue growing the annual conference and might look at including nearby tribes in the future to make it more than just a one-day affair.
Wellness staff offered a fitness booth at this year’s Gila River Youth Conference at the Rawhide Event Center. Participants were encouraged to take on the max rep burpee challenge. These young gentlemen took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. We also had many participants spin the fitness wheel from as young as 6 years old. Everyone who visited our booth walked away with multiple goodies. The future is looking bright when you have such willing youth ready to tackle their future goals.

**DEADLIFT PARTY**
**JULY 27**

Wellness staff offered a fitness booth at this year’s Gila River Youth Conference at the Rawhide Event Center. Participants were encouraged to take on the max rep burpee challenge. These young gentlemen took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. We also had many participants spin the fitness wheel from as young as 6 years old. Everyone who visited our booth walked away with multiple goodies. The future is looking bright when you have such willing youth ready to tackle their future goals.

**GILA RIVER YOUTH CONFERENCE**
**JULY 13, 2018**

To end their season, little t-ball’s were treated to their own private awards ceremony at the Wellness Center on August 4th. Children enjoyed a meal with their fellow teammates, parents and coaches. They also played trivia games, received team awards and plenty of goodies. We thank these awesome youngsters for their teamwork and of course, the parents for their constant time and energy in supporting the youth to continue in sports activities. See you all next season.

**T-BALL AWARDS CEREMONY**
**AUGUST 4, 2018**

To mix things up, Fitness Instructors “Bee” and “Fabby” recently partook in Yoga training and are now offering their new found knowledge in basic yoga. Come join us every Friday 9:00am – 10:00am at the Wellness Center Gymnasium.

For a change of pace, these ladies set the mood with dimmed lights, aroma therapy and soothing tunes to help you relax and get a different type of workout. Our minds are just as important as our bodies! Come try it out!

**GOOD MORNING YOGA**
**FRIDAYS 9AM-10AM**
**WELLNESS CENTER**
This month’s featured plant is the Ihug, also known as the Devil’s Claw, or Martynia. There are two types of ihug O’otham basket weavers use, the Proboscidea parviflora, Altheaefolia (Perennial). O’otham women refer to the plant simply as “Ihug.” The former, ihug, is domesticated and known as “White-seeded Devil’s Claw.” This plant is listed in the Haichu E’es ‘plant- ed things’ plant category. O’otham weavers purpose- fully grow it along the edges of summer gardens and next to ditch banks where it receives enough water in the dry hot summer. This variety of ihug grows larger and longer spines which the weavers value. The later, Ban Ihug’ga known as the Proboscidea parviflora, Altheaefolia (Annual), and the Ban Ihug’ga known as the Proboscidea parviflora, Altheaefolia (Perennial). O’otham women refer to the plant simply as “Ihug.” The former, ihug, is do- mesticated and known as “White-seeded Devil’s Claw.” This plant is listed in the Haichu E’es ‘plant- ed things’ plant category. O’otham weavers purpose- fully grow it along the edges of summer gardens and next to ditch banks where it receives enough water in the dry hot summer. This variety of ihug grows larger and longer spines which the weavers value. The later, Ban Ihug’ga or black seed- ed variety is listed in the “Wild Annuals” plant cate- gory because it grows wild anywhere on the landscape. This ihug sprouts after peri- ods of heavy summer rains and adds a touch of green to the barren landscape. Yellow blossoms give way to pods that contain the two- pronged ‘claw’ that grow into maturity. In early fall the succulent skin dries and sheds off the black, short- stemmed claws. Later, as the claws completely dry, out the two-prongs separate, and hang on the dried stems of the dormant plant, or fall to the ground. Bas- ket weavers collect both types of ihug and store the pods away until needed for weaving throughout the year. O’otham and animals alike eat the seeds of both plants. Akiem O’otham Vow- els

Section Two: The Akiem O’otham written alphabet is borrowed from the English alphabet. We are using letters that is the closest sound to our lan- guage. The vowels below are to some extent tricky. We encourage you to ask a speaker to tell you the O’otham word that is writ- ten in English to get the right sound and practice the sounds. Figure 6 shows and explains the five Akiem O’otham vowels [a, e, i, o, u]. In this chart, the middle column shows the O’otham vowels with O’otham exam- ple teaching words using the vowel plus the English meaning. The last column has the English letter that has the sound closest to the O’otham vowel. The let- ter ‘e’ has its own Akiem O’otham unique sound. For the ‘e’ vowel it is best for a speaker to articulate the ‘e’ sound and teach this sound that way.

Vowels O’OTHAM SOUND English Sound
A, a ash – laugh all – baby ahilo – ring asuga – sugar upona – cottonwood Fish
E, e eesh – chun e’es – plants elchag – shadow elfitag – skin eliga – clothes
I, i ipad – dress Fiks shu:shk – tennis shoes Fikup – heart i'vak – spinach Fish
U, u uus – sticks uv – girl urk hi’himham – airplane u’a – bullet uraug

Excerpt from ‘AKIMEL O’OTHAM READING AND WRITING: A NEW BEGINNING’

Over 250 participate in the Elder Summer Bash in Sacaton

Christopher Lomahquahu

Gila River Indian News

District 3 Elderly Co-ordinator Reba Manuel said several departments came together, including the elders in putting on the event. Over 250 elders took part in the event and 16 chair volleyball teams bumped, served and spiked their way to victory. “The elders really got involved with coming up with the types of games and activities they wanted to do,” said Manuel. Assistance from the Communication & Public Affairs office and public safety contributed their time and resources to pro- vide the fun activities to the elders. It would not be possi- ble without the help of the elders themselves, who helped out with the reg- istration booth and table games. A series of games and an obstacle course, that re- quired careful navigation on an oversized tricycle awaited the elders inside the Boys & Girls Club gymnasium. Personnel from the Gila River Fire Department and Police Department also played a part in providing the games. Manuel said they have been coming out providing presentations and playing with the elders, and that it was good to see them out helping with the games. “We appreciate CPAO for supporting us these past couple of years and we con- tinue to work with them in the future to provide a fun activity for the elders,” she said, “We look forward to even bigger turnout next year.” With the increased popularity of chair vol- leyball, the possibility of hosting a large tournament in the Community is being talked about. When the last serve of the chair volleyball tourna- ment was made three teams took home a trophy made by Community elder Eric Manuel.

IST PLACE – S-To-
Ta A’Am (Tohono O’odham Nation)
2nd PLACE – Kau-
mart (Barona Band of Mis-
mic Indians – California)
3rd PLACE – Salt Riv-
er Steppers (Salt River Pi-
ma-Maricopa Indian Com-
munity)

Trophies were one of a kind and they were hand- made by a local elder which is also my father Eric Man-
uel.

Elders try their hand at the various game stations during the Elder Summer Bash at the District 3 Sacaton Boys & Girls Club. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

An elder rides a tricycle around an obstacle course at the Elder Summer Bash. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Since California came to Arizona and one

Sacaton Boys & Girls Club

Elder Summer Bash event

Community elders con-

Sacaton Boys & Girls Club.

over the games.

several departments came
came to the Community for some old-fashioned fun away from the heat.

Christopher Lomahquahu

Gila River Indian News

August 17, 2018

Page 7

Gila River Indian News

Elder Summer Bash

to the district for the activity for the Elder Summer Bash event on August 6.

To mark the events eleventh year, elders from other tribal communities across Arizona and one from California came to the Community for some old-fashioned fun away from the heat.

District 3 Elderly Co-ordinator Reba Manuel said several departments came together, including the elders in putting on the event. Over 250 elders took part in the event and 16 chair volleyball teams bumped, served and spiked their way to victory. “The elders really got involved with coming up with the types of games and activities they wanted to do,” said Manuel, Assistant from the Boys & Girls Club gymnasium. Personnel from the Gila River Fire Department and Police Department also played a part in providing the games. Manuel said they have been coming out providing presentations and playing with the elders, and that it was good to see them out helping with the games. “We appreciate CPAO for supporting us these past couple of years and we con- tinue to work with them in the future to provide a fun activity for the elders,” she said, “We look forward to even bigger turnout next year.” With the increased popularity of chair vol- leyball, the possibility of hosting a large tournament in the Community is being talked about. When the last serve of the chair volleyball tourna- ment was made three teams took home a trophy made by Community elder Eric Manuel.

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Elders try their hand at the various game stations during the Elder Summer Bash at the District 3 Sacaton Boys & Girls Club. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

An elder rides a tricycle around an obstacle course at the Elder Summer Bash. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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uel.
GRIC Educators gather for reservation-wide teach in-service

Early education teachers listen to a presenter during the 14th annual teacher in-service that was put on by the Tribal Education Department. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

Teachers brainstorm ideas during one of the workshops at TED's 14th annual reservation-wide teacher in-service. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Educators in all capacities from the Community met for the 14th annual reservation-wide teacher in-service on Aug. 10 at the Ak-Chin Ultratrust Multi-tainment Center for workshops and presentations aimed at assisting schoolteachers for the upcoming school year.

The in-service split participants into two groups: Early Education and Elementary Education. The early education group was aimed for educators working with students in pre-kindergarten through second grade while elementary focused on third through eighth grades.

“We wanted to place an emphasis on Gila River Indian Community culture and language,” said Tribal Education Director Isaac Salcido.

The in-service served as an introduction to the Gila River Indian Community. For the early education group, there was an emphasis on culture and language instruction for the youngest of students in the Community.

The early education group also held an elbow-panel after the welcoming address. The purpose of the elbow panel was to see how the early childhood education can integrate that into school and gives the teachers an idea of what the Community is looking for in culture and language learning.


They also had CIRCLES Training for preschool teachers that shared the foundation frameworks for CIRCLES core curriculum approach.

During their lunch banquet, Dr. Ofelia Zepeda from the University of Arizona provided the keynote speech. Dr. Zepeda is member of the Tohono O’odham Nation and teaches at the University of Arizona. She was a co-founder and now director of the nationally recognized American Indian Language Development Institute.

In addition to the keynote address for the early education group, Dr. Zepe-da also was the opening keynote address speaker for the elementary education group as well. The focus of the elementary education group was to learn about the many resources that are available from within the Community, as well as outside the Community.

Following, Dr. Zepe-da’s opening address, the educators watched a video that shared different resources that are available to the Community’s teacher. The video had interviews with resources on the Community such as Tribal Health Department, Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, Hubugam Heritage Center and Wellington Ranch.

Off the Community, resources included Audobon Arizona, Basish Art Gallery and the Casa Grande Ruins. Following the video, the group had an open discussion of how they plan to incorporate the resources into their curriculum and which they might use.

The most popular was the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery of Western American and American Indian Art features many special pieces including a vast collection of baskets.

The other popular choice was the Wellington Ranch in District 4, which seems to be the Community’s hidden gem, with not many educators knowing what it has to offer. In the open discussions teachers voiced how they plan to use the resources and integrate into their lesson plans.

All of the resources given to the teachers are able to be used as a field trip or have representatives come into the classroom and share lessons.

Workshops available to the elementary education group was safeTALK which teaches how to recognize and engage persons who might be having suicidal thoughts and how to connect them with Community resources.

Also offered was Childhood trauma and the classroom as well as a history of education on the Gila River.

With most of the Community’s teachers coming from off the Community, Salcido said the main goal of the in-service was to teach them a little about the Community and let them be aware of the many resources available to them as educators.

“I think it was very successful with over 350 educators from across the Community,” said Salcido. “The overwhelming feedback that we have gotten so far is that they really liked it and enjoyed the presentations and hearing about Gila River.”

LIHEAP Summer and Crisis Assistance Program

NOW OPEN!

Intake opens: July 02, 2018

LIHEAP program may be able to help ease the burden of your utility cost with a lump sum payment to the utility bill. Program is open until funds are exhausted.

LIHEAP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
• Must be residing within the Gila River Indian Reservation;
• Income test, income from all sources for household;
• Current utility bill

Crisis is a one time assistance per fiscal year

October 01, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

APPLY AT YOUR DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER

District One (520) 215-2110 District Four (520) 418-3661
District Two (520) 562-3430 District Five (520) 315-3441
District Three (520) 562-3556 District Six (520) 590-3805
District Seven (520) 430-4780

The District Service Center staff is responsible for the protection of your personal records and bound by confidentiality. We are here to serve you.

Any questions please call your District Service Center.
WIOA 2018 summer cadets introduced at Community Council meeting

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

At a Community Council meeting on Aug. 1, the Gila River Police Department Chief Kathleen Elliot introduced their 2018 summer cadets and gave a brief overview of their summer program that was sponsored through WIOA. Fourteen participated in the cadet program with two returning from previous years. This was the fourth year that the police department had cadets and was the largest group to date.

The police department also partnered with the EMS and fire department to get the cadets exposure to three different branches of public safety. The program allowed the cadets to understand and be in a work environment. They learned about the different job responsibilities of each department. They also worked on their leadership skills and worked out every day as part of health and wellness. They had a chance to experience dispatch, learned CPR while with the EMS crew. They went out to the shooting range and were able to do ride-a-longs. With school in session, only two new cadets were able to make it to the Community Council meeting along with three prior cadets.

After introducing themselves to the Community Council, they shared their favorite learning experience and answered questions from council. The cadets were under the director of Police Sergeant Joaquin Manuel and Officer Rachelle Rodriguez.
Gila River Indian Community applauds Federal Appeals Court dismissal of Goldwater Institute lawsuit attacking the Indian Child Welfare Act

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

In a victory for Arizona’s Indian tribes, the federal United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled today that the Arizona-based Goldwater Institute’s challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act must be dismissed because the lawsuit was determined to be moot.

The lawsuit, filed in Arizona federal court in 2015, challenged the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act, a federal law which requires state courts to apply certain standards to dependency and adoption cases involving Indian children. Although children from the Community and Navajo Nation were identified in the lawsuit, the Goldwater Institute attempted to block the participation of both tribes in the case. The tribes were eventually permitted to intervene in the lawsuit and join in arguments seeking dismissal of the case.

The federal court ruled against the Goldwater Institute and the lawsuit was dismissed by the federal court in March of 2017, after which Goldwater appealed to the Ninth Circuit. Today’s decision also dismisses the case.

Child welfare experts often refer to ICWA as the “gold standard” of child welfare laws. ICWA was enacted because Native American children were being removed from Indian homes at alarming rates and often without notice to immediate family members, close relatives or tribal authorities. Although ICWA was enacted in 1978, Native American children continue to be removed from their homes by state authorities at much higher rates than non-Native children.

Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis applauded the Ninth Circuit’s decision. “Not only does the Indian Child Welfare Act work to the benefit of Indian children, but in cases where ICWA applies, Indian tribes bring additional resources and a perspective that ultimately benefits the child” he said. “Under ICWA, tribal and state agencies work hand-in-hand in determining what is best for the children involved.”

Gov. Lewis continued, “The Ninth Circuit’s decision confirms that the Goldwater Institute manufactured a baseless lawsuit that had nothing to do with the needs of the children they claimed to represent. The Gila River Indian Community will continue with an unshakable resolve to protect its children and to defend ICWA from ideological attacks that use Indian children as pawns in attempts to sow division.”

TSS and DEQ employees win Governor’s Employee of the Month award for April and May

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

Two Community employees, Ryan Eberle and Boyd Chewing, were recognized by the Executive Office as the Governor Employee of the Month for April and May, respectivevly. The pair was presented with commemorative plaques by Lt. Gov. Robert Stone.

Eberle is the Department of Environmental Quality Air Program Manager. He was instrumental in helping the Community qualify for millions of dollars from a national Volkswagen Settlement, in which the German manufacturer deceived consumers of assessments for the Gila River Police Department.

TSS, Gov. Lewis said, “We want to put the resources where we can protect our children.” New positions will be introduced to decrease existing caseloads. Gov. Lewis said there will also be resources for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

Gov. Lewis said the COLA was important because, “We haven’t had a cost-of-living [adjustment] since 2008, and this is long overdue.”

Lt. Gov. Stone followed Gov. Lewis and then reviewed a budget overview with Treasurer Mente Johns. “This year, we’re expecting an increase in gaming revenue,” said Johns.

Johns also said there will not be an increase for employee benefits such as medical insurance as well as dental and vision. Johns also noted that the budget includes the annual Christmas gift, an increase in burial assistance, and an increase in kinship care. Along with the COLA, there is a proposed increase in pay for Community Council, and a competitive wage increase for Office of General Counsel and the Council Secretary’s Office.

A question and answer session followed the budget overview.

Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Stone also mentioned proposed budget modifications to address district needs as well as the results of assessments for the Gila River Police Department.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

CONFERENCE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SESSION

AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)

1. Introduction of 2018 Summer Public Safety Cadets

   Presenters: Kathleen Elliott, Joaquim Manuel, James Milano

CHIEF KATHLEEN ELLIOT INTRODUCED OFFICER WHO PROVIDED A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM. EACH CADET PROVIDED AN INTRODUCTION. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS AND LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

REPORTS

*1. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services 3rd Quarter Report

   Presenter: Diana Lopez-Jones

   REPORT HEARD

   2. The Caring House Tobacco Tax Reimbursement Methodology

   Presenters: Scott Gemberling, GRHC Representatives

   REPORT HEARD

   3. Office of the Prosecutor 3rd Quarter Written Report

   Presenter: M. Lando Voyles

   REPORT HEARD


   Presenter: Reylyne Williams

   REPORT HEARD

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Gaming Commission General Report to the Community Council For June 2018 (Executive Session)

   Presenters: Dale Enos, Courtney Mohay

   REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION


   Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

   REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

   7. FY 18 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report (Executive Session)

   Presenters: Suzanne Johns, Treasurer Robert Keller

   REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

   EXECUTIVE SESSION

   RESOLUTIONS

   1. A Resolution Approving The Capital Projects Budget For The Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. For The Period October 1, 2018 Through September 30, 2019 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

   Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Johns

   APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #3

   ORDINANCES

   UNFINISHED BUSINESS

   [ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

   1. Special Council Meeting Request

   Presenter: Shannon White

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018 1 PM

   NEW BUSINESS

   1. Educational Priorities For Tribal Education Department (ESC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval of the 3 goals that were established in the Governor’s Education Summit)

   Presenter: Issac Salcido

   TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   2. IOPC Request for Special Community Council Meeting to Present Recommendations Regarding the Restructure of GRGE (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business)

   Presenter: Ronald N. Rosier

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, AUGUST 13, 2018, 1PM

   3. Resignation Letter For District Seven Planning & Zoning Commission (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation to accept)

   Presenter: Sharon Lewis

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

   4. District One Letter of Appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation to accept with inclusion of the term dates)

   Presenter: Sharon Lewis

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT

   CHERYL COPPEDGE

   5. National Indian Gaming Association Mid-Year Conference & Expo September 25-27, 2018 – Temecula, CA (G&MSC forwards to Council for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegation)

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE COUNCIL TRAVEL

   6. Gila River Indian Community Chuckwalla Population Genetics (NRSC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval; CRSC concurs)

   Presenters: Russell Benford, Dale Ohrmeis

   TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   7. Gaming Commission Requesting A Council Orientation (G&MSC forwards to Council to have an orientation on August 31, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. with the location to be determined)

   Presenters: Dale Enos, Courtney Mohay

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ORIENTATION, AUGUST 31, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M.

   MINUTES

   1. July 18, 2018 (Regular)

   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO Approve

   ANNOUNCEMENTS

   > DISTRICT 1 WORK SESSION FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018

   ADJOURNMENT

   MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:10 P.M.
Groundbreaking for the new GRICUA Sacaton 2 Substation

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Community’s utility authority breaks ground on a new substation that will add to the robust infrastructure of providing electricity to its members.

As the sun steadily rose over the Santan Mountains and shovels dug into the ground, the Gila River Utility Authority broke ground on a new substation on August 15.

This is a really important project for all of the Community,” said GRI-CUA Operations Director Kathy Galloway. She said, “There’s been new sub-stations built for commercial development, but there has not been a new sub-station built for the heart of this Community for 40 years.”

The building of a new substation is indicative of GRICUA’s initiative to develop a robust infrastructure to deliver power to the Community.

The new substation is estimated to cost an estimated 5 million dollars, which will be built on San Carlos Irrigation Project dollars to complete the project.

Galloway said that in other districts, the substations there have been rehabilitated and are equipped with new transformers to supply electricity to customers.

Community Council Representatives and members from GRICUA break ground on the Sacaton Substation 2 on Aug. 15. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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

In Re Case: Alena Makil vs. Manuel Makil
Docket Number: FM-2018-0083-D V
This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in absentia and a warrant may be issued.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAVERNE WAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR STRANGLING GIRLFRIEND

PHOENIX — Today, Colín Lee Juan, 32, of Laveen, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Diane J. Humentawa to 30 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. Juan had previously pleaded guilty to assault by strangulation of an intimate partner.

Juan admitted to strangling the victim, his then-girlfriend, impeding her airflow. The incident occurred on the Gila River Indian Community, and both Juan and the victim are members of that Tribe.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Christine Ducat Keller, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

Hello,
My name is Gabriel Thomas and I am from District 1, Blackwater. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Gila River Indian Community for allowing my great-granddaughter Jessie Sundayman to fly the Gila River flag during her Coming of Age ceremony in Mescalero, N.M. from July 4-8. I also want to give a special thank you to the District 1 Elders for coming to Mes- calero to experience and celebrate this very special event with us. I also would like to thank Lt. Governor Rob- ert Stone for the use of the Gila River flag and Councilman Azle Hogg for his assistance.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Thomas
3rd Annual

2018

Family Foam Fest

Gila River Indian Community

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

Fun for the whole family!

Registration sign in times will be from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - ½ Mile Elder Walk,
6:00 p.m. – 5K non-competitive Run
6:30 p.m. - 1.5-mile Walk

Light meal and snacks provided for walk/run finishers

RAWHIDE EVENT CENTER
5700 W. North Loop Rd., Chandler, AZ

All pre-registered participants will receive a finisher medal & t-shirt Incentives.

THE FIRST 700 PARTICIPANTS WHO COMPLETE THE RUN/WALK WILL RECIEVE AN INCENTIVE!

Pre-registration will close Friday August 31, 2018

Pre-registration Forms can be downloaded at www.mygilariver.com or picked up in the CPAO Office located in the Governance Center

For more information email: Special.Events@gric.nsn.us or contact Allie Walking Badger (520) 562-9713 or Shannon Redbird at (520) 562-9859.
GET APPROVED TODAY!

FOR THE PEOPLE

APPROVAL CENTER

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MUSTERING IN DAY
CELEBRATION
FIRST NATIONAL GUARD
COMPANY B
Maricopa Chief
Juan Chavarria, with 94
COMPANY C
Pima Chief
Antonio Azalia, with 88

Saturday, September 8, 2018
Gila River Indian Community
District 7 Pee Posh Park
8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen AZ 85339
(83rd Avenue, South of Baseline)

For more information contact the District 7 Recreation @ 520-430-4780

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 Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community

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