Water Rights celebration recognizes ‘Water Warriors’

Corrine Escalante, center, carries a gourd of water to begin the 2018 Water Rights celebration. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

December 10 will always be a day to remember in the Gila River Indian Community. On that day, in 2004, President George W. Bush signed the Arizona Water Settlement Act after a decades-long battle to secure GRIC’s water rights. Every year on that date, the Community reflects on that historic achievement and looks ahead at the future of maintaining the hard-fought claim to the most vital of resources: Water.

Continued on Page 7

GRIC veterans and honor guards participate in Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Roland Enos, Jr. lays down the U.S. flag at the Huhugam Heritage Center.

A commemorative ceremony was held to remember the lives of sailors, Marines, and soldiers killed during the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 77 years ago, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt would call, “A date which will live in infamy.”

Despite the overcast skies and light drizzle through the air, the Huhugam Heritage Center staff, members of veterans groups across the Community and elsewhere gathered for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony on Dec. 6.

For the state of Arizona, the attacks on Pearl Harbor holds a special significance, in connection with the battleship USS Arizona, which was sunk after being bombed by Imperial Japanese Navy bombers, taking the lives of 1,777 sailors and Marines.

To commemorate the event a delivery of an American flag, that was flown over the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor was

Continued on Page 6

Annual River of Lights brightens Sacaton with Christmas in Toyland theme

Christmas themed floats rode down Casa Blanca for the River of Lights.

Santa Claus visits the with local children ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Gila River Indian News

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Year in Review
Photographs
Page 8-9
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Letter to readers: GRIN Newsperson says hello

Hello Readers! My name is Emma Hughes and I am very excited to introduce myself as the newest member of the Gila River Indian News as a Community Newsperson. I am a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, from the Dabhavvari District. My maternal grandparents are the late Luther & Lillian Hughes, my mother is Lucinda Hughes-Juan who is also a writer.

For the past few years I’ve been employed with the Tohono O’odham Nation radio station, O’odham Hewel N’ok also better known as “KOHN,” where I worked in their Multimedia department filming and producing videos, which is where my background and interest is primarily focused.

I attended Pima Community College for Digital Video Production and some of my professional experience includes working with the Tohono O’odham Nation Cultural Center and Museum, where I was an intern working closely with the curator of collections. These previous jobs have brought me out to visit the Gila River Indian Nation on few occasions but I am still getting familiar with the Community and culture.

I believe it is important for us as Native Americans to have a voice and I have chosen career interests and opportunities that have allowed me to develop mine. Serving as a newsperson for the GRIN is a great opportunity to further my experience in media and I look forward to being out in the Community learning as much as I can, meeting new people, and sharing stories to keep you all informed.

Emma Hughes is the newest GRIN staff member. Robert A. Jackson/GRIN

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

GRIN Secretary II
(520) 362-9715

Write to:
Editor, GRIN
P.O. Box 859
Sacaton, AZ 85147

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LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters should be limited to 200 words and be in good taste. Material that is libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer’s true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper. Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling and content.

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**Gila River Police Department Incident Logs**

**GILA RIVER**

**POLICE**

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**Theft – Suspect(s) entered a store located in the Gila River Premium Outlets and concealed several items on their person. When the suspect was caught by a security guard, several alarms began to sound and the suspect fled the area before being arrested.**

**Status:** Under investigation.

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**Aggravated Assault – The suspect had put pressure on the victim’s neck with the back of his hand as the victim was laying. The victim pushed the suspect away and the suspect took off running.**

**Status:** Under investigation.

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**Theft – Suspect(s) stole the victim’s vehicle while it was parked at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino parking garage. The victim discovered his vehicle was missing and notified the Gila River Police Department. Officers responded and searched the area for the vehicle, which was found parked in a vacant lot.**

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**Status:** Under investigation.
December 21, 2018
Gila River Indian News

Page 5

Incident Logs from Page 4

District Seven (Maricopa):
Theft – Officers were dispatched to the residence in reference to a theft. Upon arrival, the officers noted that the victim had several tools and valuables that were missing. The tools included a tool box, a Dremel tool, and a drill. The officers took statements from the victims and notified the Maricopa Sheriff’s Office of the incident. The case is being investigated by the Maricopa Sheriff’s Office.

District Two (Nogales/Butte/Atalaya/Show Low/White Mountain): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

District Five (Gila River Ind. Com.): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

District One (Komatipex): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

District Five (San Tan): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

District Four (St. Louis): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

District Three (Tonto Butte): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

District One (Central): Theft – The victim was reported as a theft from the residence. The victim stated that they were missing a large amount of tools and equipment from their residence. The loss is estimated at $10,000. The victim was also missing a large amount of money. The case is being investigated by the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.
At the Governance Center on Nov. 16, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said it was a true honor to recognize the many service men and women, who lost their life at Pearl Harbor.

“This flag means a whole lot to our veterans and those, who made the ultimate sacrifice. It means so many things to so many different people, it unites us and binds us as a nation and tribal community,” said Lewis. Lewis highlighted the large numbers of Native servicemen and women, that answered the call to serve in the military during WWII, up to current conflicts around the globe. “This is a hollowed grove here and I hope that each of us think about what connection they have to this flag, because it just shows that we never forget those sacrifices made by those service men and women 77 years ago.”

At the Remembrance Day event, American Legion Post 114 “Bushmasters” Commander Richard Dumas said the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association made one simple request, that the flag be flown and taken out and pointed in four directions for all the ones, who didn't make it. When the flag was brought back, there was a special ceremony to honor those who lie there today.

“We come from different battles, but we understand and don’t forget what happened that day so many years ago, it’s something we must honor,” said Dumas.

The flag was carried by veteran Roland Enos Jr., who led the military honors of unfolding and refolding the flag.

Shirley Jackson thanked the veterans for attending and participating in the morning ceremony. She said the flag is very significant and that they are thankful for the assistance of the Post 114 and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for allowing the Huhugam Heritage Center to honor.
The Water Rights Day celebration was held Dec. 10 at Rawhide Event Center and the hundreds in attendance heard remarks from current and past leaders, and were treated to a video presentation, lunch and musical entertainment.

Corrine Escalante, District 1 elder, carried a gourd filled with water collected the day before at the confluence of the Gila and Salt river and delivered to the celebration by a group of youth runners. A traditional song and dance presentation followed the delivery of the water.

The 2018 Water Rights Day convened under the theme, “Water Warriors: The Beginning, Now & the Future.” Each speaker emphasized the efforts of past leaders, the importance of upholding the settlement, and the need for future water protectors.

“You, future leaders, always protect our water and our land,” Ceci Antone, former lieutenant governor, told the crowd.

Donald Antone, former governor, echoed Cecil Antone’s sentiments and told the younger Community members in the audience that, “the future lies with your hands.”

Richard Narcia, former governor, recognized past legal and water experts and past leadership including the late Dana Norris, former governor. “[Norris] led us in the right direction and I think without him and his perseverance we would not be here today,” Narcia said.

Gov. Lewis mentioned Arizona’s severe drought conditions and the decisions that are looming should Lake Mead’s water level continue to drop. “We are going to continue fighting for our water, we are not going to give up. We are going to remain who we are as the Gila River Indian Community. We are going to be tenacious, we are going to protect our history as farmers and agriculturists, now and into the future,” said Gov. Lewis.

Gov. Lewis also presented gifts to past leaders and special guests. A large display at the opposite end of the venue contained artwork and exhibits made by GRIC school children about the importance of water to the Community.

Runners: Anthony Escalante Jr., Kayslyn Escalante, Antonios Escalante, Lee Nasewytewa, Henry Nasewytewa, Damian Walker, Daniel Lewis, Myrian Burnett, Sineca Jackson, Sayuri Jackson, Richard Narcia, for -

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COMMUNITY APPROVES WATER DEAL TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY’S LONGTERM WATER SUPPLY

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

SACATON, AZ. – The Community Council approved two agreements today that will provide up to 33,185 acre-feet of water to the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD) each year for 25 years beginning in 2020. These agreements are an important component of the proposed Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan, or DCP, and will be signed once the Arizona Legislature approves the DCP implementation plan that is supported by Governor Doug Ducey.

Because the DCP will impose cuts that will eliminate the water source that CAGRD has relied on in the past, certain CAGRD members, which include developers and homebuilders, have raised concerns regarding the DCP and its impact on the state’s economy.

Governor Stephen R. Lewis applauded the Council’s decision today, stating, “While these agreements are beneficial to the Community’s long term water interests, the Community had been concerned that DCP might not happen and was re-examining whether these agreements were the best use of our water supplies in times of shortage. As a result, we had been waiting to see whether DCP was a realistic possibility or whether we should wait and perhaps move in a different direction. Governor Ducey’s plan, including the funding he has provided, were a significant boost for the Community’s confidence in a final DCP being adopted and were the catalyst for today’s Council approvals. We believe our action today helps build momentum to have Arizona approve DCP and protect Lake Mead, but at the same time ensure that water supplies are available for an important sector of Arizona’s economy. We appreciate Governor Ducey’s strong support for an Arizona DCP that works and take this action today in order to further support his efforts and bring more certainty to the ultimate conclusion.”

The legislation clarifies a section of the Community Reservation boundary that will avoid a title dispute with the City of Phoenix. In exchange for the lands at issue in the disputed area along the Northwest boundary of the Reservation, the bill allows the Community to add approximately 3,400 acres of culturally significant lands to its Reservation. The Community is in the process of purchasing this culturally significant land from the Bureau of Land Management.

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis expressed his appreciation of the Senate action on this legislation in the remaining weeks of this Congress, stating “On behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, I want to thank the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the United States Senate for making this legislation a priority. This bill is of critical importance to the Community’s effort to build housing, manage our water resources, and acquire culturally significant lands. We look forward to the President’s signature on this bill so it can become law and we can begin the implementation process.”

Governor Lewis also extended his appreciation to Congressman Tom O’Halleran for sponsoring the legislation, along with co-sponsors Congressmen Biggs, Gallego, Gossar, and Schweikert. Governor Lewis also applauded the efforts of Congressman Grijalva, Ranking Member on the House Natural Resources Committee and Senator Kyl, member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs who were instrumental in helping move this bill through the Congress.

Congressman Tom O’Halleran, the bill’s sponsor in the House of Representatives, stated “I am pleased to see the Senate take up this important legislation and fulfill its obligation to the Gila River Indian Community. Once signed into law, this bipartisan measure will allow the Community to provide greater opportunities for their people and allow them to continue to grow and thrive. I look forward to working with Governor Lewis and state and federal officials to implement the provisions of this law.”

Congressman Biggs of Arizona, one of the original supporters of the bill in the House, offered his congratulations, saying, “I congratulate Governor Stephen Roe Lewis and the Tribal Council for championing this legislative victory. I was honored to join the Arizona Congressional delegation in support of this bill which is critical for the Gila River Indian Community. I look forward to continue working with Governor Lewis and the Gila River Indian Community on future endeavors.”

Congressman Gallego, also of Arizona, added, “I’m pleased to see my Senate colleagues have advanced this legislation to bring mutually-beneficial clarity to the Gila River Indian Community, City of Phoenix, and the federal government. Formalizing this agreement will allow the Community to make new progress on critical development efforts and continue stewardship for cultural lands.”

Congressman David Schweikert of Arizona had the following to say, “This legislation has brought members of the Arizona delegation together to support the Gila River Indian Community and to create more than a land settlement agreement. The legislation will ensure access to all federal rights-of-way, along with adding close to 3,400 acres of culturally significant federal land benefits the Community rightfully deserves. I am very pleased to see H.R. 4032 be passed, as it will directly support the tribal Community.”

The President is expected to sign this legislation within the next ten days at which point the legislation will become law.
UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

The Gila River Health Care (GRHC) Finance Department has been asked to publish official notice in the Gila River Indian Newspaper, on the official web site and the Gila River Indian Community’s official web site for the Gila River Indian Community & on the official web site for Gila River Health Care for a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of publication.

The following list contains the names of individuals with outstanding claims recorded as of December 5, 2018, as well as any other information of unclaimed property, please e-mail APENDEORCAFGHC@gric.gov for further information.

1. Golf Cart Inc.
2. Phoenix Health
4. Az Health
5. Advanced Care for Root
6. Accredited Cardiology Centers of Phoenix LLC
7. Accredited Caridology LLC
8. Adult Medicine Association
9. Advanced Care Internal Medicine PLLC
10. Audiological Diagnosis for Root
11. AVS Medical Group
12. Az Medical Group
13. Banner Bayside Community Medical Center
14. Banner Bard Medical Center
15. Banner Desert Medical Center
16. Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center
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Harold J Carey Do
Hansen Natasha
Gila River Indian News December 21, 2018
Jo-Ann Rose
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Pinal Partnership hosts breakfast and economic presentation at Rawhide

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

Pinal Partnership hosted Elliot Pollack’s 2019 Market Forecast on Dec. 7, at Rawhide Western Town. Civic and business leaders listened to Pollack’s comprehensive economic outlook for Arizona and Pinal County.

“The rate of growth is going to slow in 2019, but it’s still going to be a decent year,” said Pollack, who is CEO of Elliott D. Pollack and Company, an economic and real estate consulting firm in Scottsdale.

Pinal County will soon be home to two electric vehicle and real estate consulting firms in Scottsdale. According to materials provided by Pinal Partnership, “Mr. Pollack is widely sought after as a speaker for economic, policy, fiscal and economic impact, and real estate issues. He is also sought after by local, regional and national news media as an expert source for economic and real estate matters.”

Following his discussion, Pollack fielded questions regarding housing, the stock market and business opportunities. David White, General Manager, Wild Horse Pass Development Authority, said Rawhide has hosted several Pinal Partnership meetings. White, who is also a Pinal Partnership board member, sees opportunities for Pinal County and the Gila River Indian Community to “work together.”

Pollack and White both see millennials having a positive impact for Pinal County and the Community. “The outlook for millennials is quite excellent financially,” said Pollack.

White said there is potential for the Community in capturing the interest of millennials. “[Millennials] come to our events at Rawhide, and we’re seeing the impact and how they’re changing the market,” said White.

Among the attendees at the breakfast were Casa Grande’s mayor, Craig McFarland, and Coolidge’s mayor, Jon Thompson.

Wellness Center sees one more pick up game of basketball

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis calls together local ballers for one more game at the Wellness Center in Sacaton.

Pinal Partnership offers up one more pick up game of basketball at the Wellness Center in Sacaton. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis called together local ballers for a final season of friendly basketball.

Roe Lewis, “I grew up here, and it’s still going to be a decent year,” said Lewis. “The outlook for millennials is quite excellent financially.”

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Wellness Center sees one more pick up game of basketball

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis calls together local ballers for one more game at Rawhide.

Recent events played a pick-up game of basketball at Rawhide Western Town on Nov. 30. The Wellness Center’s swan song featured the on-court action, but in a friendly way as ballers old and new dribbled, passed and shot for a little bit of nostalgia.

The gymnasium has served more than its fair share of basketball games, schools plays and even a few scares during the annual Trail of Doom Halloween event.

“There’s a bit of history here,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, “I grew up here, I think of all of [us] did.”

Lewis said the game of basketball is indicative of the sought-after fun-filled atmosphere Community looked forward to both during school and in the evenings when for a time, it was the Community’s only indoor gymnasium.

Past school board member Willardene Pratt Lewis, said, “The Community got the funding to build this big building, so the school could have a gym and a space for the Community to use it in the evening.”

Willardene said during her tenure on the school board, she and her colleagues had the foresight to build a place for the Community.

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449

If you have questions, contact the Primary Care Department at Hau’pal Health Center at (520) 796-2968

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- Decreased wait times  
- More timely care  
- Improves clinic efficiencies, when a patient “no-shows” we can offer another patient a “same-day” appointment  
- Improved patient satisfaction by getting the care you need, right away!

The Good News!

Most all patients will have an appointment when they call our schedulers. Our priority is to ensure that people who have an urgent need are seen by a provider right away.

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