Stakeholders discuss direction of education at Summit

Remains of fallen Marine from Korean War returning to Arizona

The daughter of a Marine, who fell to enemy fire during one of the most grueling battles of the Korean War, plans to bring his remains home after 68 years.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

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MILITARY PARADE & FLYOVER BEGINS AT 8:30AM

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IWO JIMA EVENT IS A NO FLY ZONE. NO PERSONAL DRONES ALLOWED.
Crown brings lessons for Jr. Miss Gila River

Photo courtesy of Haili Gonzales

Jr. Miss Gila River Haili Gonzales was honored to represent the Gila River Indian Community over the past year. The 15-year-old said that holding the title has helped her understand respect more so than in the past.

"It took a lot of dedication and it was an honor to represent our Community," said Gonzales, reflecting on the lessons she learned. "Listening and really understanding what it means to be respectful and to be respected. I never held a position like this before where people look at me and look up to me, it’s just a good feeling to know I’m doing good."

An emphasis that Gonzales wanted to do during her reign was to attend as many events within the Community. Some of the events that she attended were each of the districts’ Fourth of July events, the Gila River Close Up, the Akimel O’odham Pee-Posh Youth Conference and the suicide prevention programs that took place in each of the districts.

The latter was her favorite because she wanted to be there as a support for those that had been affected by suicide. She was also extremely proud and surprised by the turnout of the Community’s youth that showed up to the events.

"I did most of my events in the Community because I really wanted to be home and see all of our Community members and my bahan," Gonzales said.

She also had the chance to represent Gila River outside of the Community. She attended various events with the sister O’otham tribes such as the 31st annual Red Mountain Eagle Pow Wow held in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. In addition to statewide events, Gonzales traveled to the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque, N.M. and the United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference in Denver, Colo.

She was even approached by a California tribal leader to speak at one of their events but, unfortunately, was unable to attend.

“I did get a lot of unique and nice comments from elders, youth and other dignitaries from other tribes,” said Gonzales. “I got comments that I was inspiring and that (people) liked that I was continuing on and teaching our language.”

Just a freshman at Chandler Hamilton High School, now that her reign is ending and she will have more free-time, Gonzales will begin taking college courses as she starts her path to her dream career as an obstetrician and is planning to attend the University of Arizona.

She learned time management and different communication skills during her time as Jr. Miss Gila River. Gonzales feels that these skills will benefit her as she starts a new journey in life. As royalty with many different obligations, coupled with high school, Gonzales said it was challenging but really it helped her with time management. Gonzales said that Lt. Gov. Robert Stone was a big supporter during her reign and that she is thankful to him for helping with the O’odham language and prayers.

Speaking from experience, Gonzales admitted she was hesitant to run in the beginning but said that the pageant committee was extremely welcoming and that if anyone is thinking of running for Jr. Miss or Miss Gila River that they should just give it a try and look forward to running and give it a shot.

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February 16, 2018
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Certain reports may not be available or are currently under investigation which GRPD holds the right to restrict public release. Calls for services this week: 577, Arrest made: 56

District One (Blackwater):

Aggravated Assault – The victim called dispatch regarding an assault which had taken place. The investigation revealed the victim was assaulted by approximately five suspects. The victim sustained injury to their eye and head area after being struck with a tire iron. The victim was transported to a family members residence for further medical treatment.

Status: On-going investigation

District Four (Sacaton Flat): No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Three (Sacaton):

Shoplifting – During the course of the investigation, Officers discovered that a female suspect walked into the Sacaton 7-11, took money from the register, and left the store without paying. Officers attempted to locate the suspect in the surrounding areas with negative results. Officers are following up on current leads.

Status: On-going investigation

District Four (Stotonic Area):

Theft – The victim called the Police to report a firearm being stolen. Contact was made with the victim who advised the weapon was a black single barrel shot gun with a custom pistol grip.

Status: On-going investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Auto Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting an officer to a residence in reference to a vehicle being burglarized. Contact was made with the victim who stated he left his vehicle at his sister’s residence and the suspect entered the residence, located the keys and took the vehicle without permission. The victim gave a name of the possible suspect who may have taken the vehicle. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as a stolen vehicle. The next day, the victim called dispatch stating he located the vehicle. There was damage to the steering column in front of the ignition. The vehicle was released to the victim and removed from NCIC as stolen.

Status: Vehicle recovered

Theft – The victim called dispatch in reference to a stolen license plate. Upon contact with the victim it was revealed that his license plate was taken off of the vehicle. The victim did not know if it occurred while at work (on the community) or at his residence (off property). The victim stated he had noticed it missing when he got off of work. A stolen affidavit form was going to be filled out and enter into NCIC as a stolen license plate.

Status: On-going investigation

Theft – The reporting party called dispatch to report a theft. Through the further investigation it was discovered the suspect took several items without permission. The suspect stated a verbal alteration occurred and that is when the suspect took the items and then left the residence. The suspect was later located and booked into DRS for the theft and drugs.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail

District Five (Casablanca):

Auto Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting an officer to a residence in reference to a vehicle being burglarized. Contact was made with the victim who stated he left his vehicle at his sister’s residence and the suspect entered the residence, located the keys and took the vehicle without permission. The victim gave a name of the possible suspect who may have taken the vehicle. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as a stolen vehicle. The next day, the victim called dispatch stating he located the vehicle. There was damage to the steering column in front of the ignition. The vehicle was released to the victim and removed from NCIC as stolen.

Status: Vehicle recovered

Theft – The victim called dispatch in reference to a stolen license plate. Upon contact with the victim it was revealed that his license plate was taken off of the vehicle. The victim did not know if it occurred while at work (on the community) or at his residence (off property). The victim stated he had noticed it missing when he got off of work. A stolen affidavit form was going to be filled out and enter into NCIC as a stolen license plate.

Status: On-going investigation

Theft – The reporting party called dispatch to report a theft. Through the further investigation it was discovered the suspect took several items without permission. The suspect stated a verbal alteration occurred and that is when the suspect took the items and then left the residence. The suspect was later located and booked into DRS for the theft and drugs.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail

District Six (Komatke):

Auto Theft – The victim reported that a vehicle had been taken by a friend and was not returned. The victim stated they met for drinks at the casino and the suspect drove the victim home. As the victim got out of the vehicle the suspect then drove off. The victim stated the suspect did not have permission to leave with the vehicle. The victim wished to report the vehicle as stolen and it was entered into NCIC as stolen. The next day the suspect was arrested and the victim was returned to good condition; no damages were done to the vehicle. The victim did not want to pursue charges against the victim any more. The vehicle was removed from NCIC as stolen.

Status: Closed

Shoplifting – Officers were dispatched to Komatke-Mar in reference to a shoplifting. Investigation revealed the suspect took two bags of chips and walked out of the store without paying. Video surveillance was reviewed, the suspect was identified and the store is willing to press charges.

Status: On-going investigation

District Seven (Maricopa):

Theft – Officers were dispatched in reference to a resident wishing to report the theft of a shot gun. A picture of the suspect’s vehicle was given to the officer that had the weapon in it.

Status: On-going investigation

Weapon – Officers were in the area another call when shots were heard. Upon arrival to the location a suspect was contacted. The firearm was located and the information was run through databases which indicated the suspect was a prohibited possessor.

Status: On-going investigation

Incident Log
January 14- 20, 2018

Calls for services this week:
604, Arrest made:
45

District One (Blackwater):

Aggravated Assault – The victim was stabbed by the suspect causing serious physical injury to include a punctured lung. The victim was transported to the hospital and air lifted to another facility for further medical treatment. The suspect was also transported to a medical facility in reference to consuming a large quantity of prescribed medication.

Status: Charges are being forwarded due to medical needs

Weapon – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a subject knocking on a window at a residence. Officers were able to make contact with two subjects who were in the desert at a family member’s memorial site. One of the subjects was observed to have hand gun on their hip while being under the influence of alcohol. Evidence of 9mm casings, an empty box of 9mm ammunition and a pack of beer was located near the two subjects. The subject was also found to have a prior felony in 2011. The suspect was booked into DRS.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail.

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

District Three (Sacaton):

Theft – The victim reported items were taken from their vehicle while it was parked at the HaHuKam Memorial Hospital. Officers will review video surveillance for a possible positive identification of the suspect.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Stotonic Area):

No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Theft (from a vehicle) – The victim reported they had set a bag on the ground for a possible break in. The suspect stated it was in his possession and left the bag on his son’s property. The victim also purchased a box of 9mm ammunition.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Cometke):

Theft – The victim reported the theft of a shotgun.

Status: Under Investigation

District Six (Komatke):

Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched in reference to the suspect forcefully grabbing the victim by her arm and push her towards the ground after a verbal altercation. The suspect later strangled the victim as she told him she was going to leave the house. The suspect was located and placed into custody and was booked into DRS.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked into jail.

Aggravated Assault – The victim received a call from their cell phone and refused to give it back. Contact was made with a witness who stated the suspect was observed under the carport and the victim reported the suspect was in her cell phone. The suspect refused to return the phone and walked off to an unknown location.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven (Maricopa):

Theft – The victim reported the suspect took her cell phone and refused to give it back. Contact was made with a witness who stated the suspect was observed under the carport and the victim reported the suspect was in her cell phone. The suspect refused to return the phone and walked off to an unknown location.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five- (Casablanca):

Theft – The victim reported that the suspect took her cell phone and refused to give it back. Contact was made with a witness who stated the suspect was observed under the carport and the victim reported the suspect was in her cell phone. The suspect refused to return the phone and walked off to an unknown location.

Status: Under Investigation

Certain reports may not be available or are currently under investigation which GRPD holds the right to restrict public release.

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Calls for services this week: 577, Arrest made: 56

District One (Blackwater): No incidents involving part 1 crime

District Three (Sacaton):

Shoplifting – Officers were dispatched to the Phoenix Premium Outlet in reference to a suspect taking merchandise from the store. The suspect’s photo was given to officers as well as video footage of the incident.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five- (Itauke):

Theft – The victim reported that the suspect took her cell phone and refused to give it back. Contact was made with a witness who stated the suspect was observed under the carport and the victim reported the suspect was in her cell phone. The suspect refused to return the phone and walked off to an unknown location.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five- (Casablanca):

Theft – The victim reported that the suspect took her cell phone and refused to give it back. Contact was made with a witness who stated the suspect was observed under the carport and the victim reported the suspect was in her cell phone. The suspect refused to return the phone and walked off to an unknown location.
McAfee

From page 1

of Nov. 28.

This battlefield tac- tic would prove common place as the Marines fought the bitter cold in blizzard conditions up to mid-Dec- ember, as U.S. forces and their UN allies made their way to safety from the advanc ing CPVF.

McAfee said the Ma- rines were in contact with her grandparents, who had been notified of his death and the field burial was given.

After tensions eased on both sides with the sign- ning of the Armistice Agree- ment in 1953, the following year negotiations were un- derway with UN officials, (primarily the U.S. gov- ernment) to recover the remains of servicemen that were missing or unaccounted for.

Through Operation Glory, which lasted from August to November of 1954, in accordance with the Armistice agreement signed in 1953, both sides exchanged the remains of servicemen that were buried/recovered from their last known location.

All but one of the 848 recovered remains were received from North Korea through Operation Glory were buried at the National Memorial Ceme- tery of the Pacific, with one interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ar- ling don National Cemetery in Virginia.

Although the efforts to recover the remains from the battlefield were accom- plished, for many decades the process of identifying the remains was a monu- mental effort in itself.

After Operation Glory other exchanges and recov- ery efforts for the remains of U.S. servicemen led to another 400 remains be- tween 1990 to 1994 and 220 remains from 1996 to 2005. Late last year the De- fense POW/MIA Account- ing Agency exhumed John- son’s remains and through a series of thorough foren- sic examination were able to identify him and others.

During a special meeting at the Wild Horse Pass Development Center, McAfee said a Hattie John- son from DPAA and other representatives provided further information about her father’s remains and compiled a book of materi- al documenting the identifica- tion process.

McAfee was present- ed with a set of medals that included his service in WWII and the Korean War, including a Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star for the 1st Marine Division’s ac- tions in Korea on two differ- ent occasions.

McAfee was at a loss for words when she re- ceived the information, and was also a bit skeptical. But now she realizes that it is truly her father’s remains and the mystery is now over.

“My father has been gone 68 years and that void has never been filled, be- cause of the memories that I have of him,” she said.

“I remember sometimes we would go to church and somebody would ask ‘who is she’ and my grandmother would say ‘oh that’s Johnson McAfee Jr.’s daughter,’” said McAfee.

She said her father had carried himself well and was respected by others for his service in Marines and was a very bright indi- vidual in his studies while attending school in Tucson.

“I never, I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be the one, to bring him home, because I thought he was lost forever,” said McAfee.

She is thankful for the support she received in identifying her father’s remains, and without it the whole process would be overwhelming.

“I’m 74-years-old and I feel very honored and I feel blessed that I will be able to have this experience…I loved my father very much,” said McAfee with a tinge of sadness and enthusiasm for what is to come.

She said, “I want my grandchildren to know the legacy that they have…I want my grandkids to look at this experience and see learn about what their grandfather sacrificed.”

McAfee said that when she brings his remains back to Arizona, that she would

like to have them buried at the National Military Cem- etery of Arizona, located in North Phoenix.

There, Johnson will be given full military honors, which will be carried out by a Marine honor guard to perform the ceremonies.

Looking back on all the other Community members that went off to serve in the armed forces, she said their patriotism has shown through the selfless sacri- fices that they have made to defend the Community and the nation.
One of the five drones donated to Blackwater Community School flies through the school's courtyard during a demonstration.

Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

The Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 donated five drones to the Blackwater Community School, which were presented to the students during an assembly on Jan. 31.

In a demonstration, second-grader Jeremiah Soke flew one of the drones around the courtyard and even had the drone do a few flips in the air to the awe of the other students, while it took pictures.

"Listen to your parents, listen to you teachers and learn," David Anderson of Post 51 said to the student body, reminding them to be good citizens.

The drones will be used by the Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) afterschool program before being available to all students. The teachers and administration is excited to see how the students learn and interact with the drones before incorporating it into the curriculum so that all students have a chance to learn and use them.

Sacaton Middle School will be hosting a robotic challenge in the upcoming months. Last year, BWCS went as spectators but with the new drones they are hoping to participate this year.

"I don’t think our students have done anything like this so it’s going to be a learning experience," said Angel Mankel, G.A.T.E. teacher aide. "This area of G.A.T.E. focuses on robotics and computers; we will talk about how it works and the computer and software side of it. If its customizable, we will let the students do that.

The partnership between the two neighbors has been very positive and BWCS principal, Jagdish Sharma, said that he is extremely thankful for everything that Post 51 does for their school. They have helped sponsor the school's color guard and taught them mechanics of marching.

Vice Principal Misty Lopez was also extremely grateful for the donation from Post 51. Having been with the school for seven years, Lopez said the partnership with Post 51 and Blackwater Community School has always been positive and was in full effect long before she started. The opportunity the students now have to learn new, innovative technology would not be possible without the generous donation.

She said that Post 51 is always willing to lend a hand to the school no matter what the event is. They have helped out with veteran and patriotic events. They come as guest speakers to the school and even have done a 21-gun salute at the school.

"This is an amazing experience and opportunity to learn and operate the drones while at school," said Lopez. "This unique technology opportunity is nice to start them young because with the technological movement, who knows what will be used for in the future?"

In a show of appreciation, the BWCS spirit line performed two cheers for the crowd and for the members of Post 51, thanking them for all that they do to support not just the school but the Community.

New Blackwater school update

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

The construction on the new Blackwater Community School has moved into the second phase of the building process. With the planning phase, complete efforts are shifting over to the design phase. As reported in February 2016, BWCS was selected as one of 10 schools for new construction by the Bureau of Indian Education.

The planning phase concluded that the new school will be 70,646 square-feet and will house early childhood through third grade. The fourth and fifth grades are funded through the state of Arizona as a charter school. Because of the split, the BIE authorized during the planning phase to accommodate common areas to fit all grades, regardless if funded by the BIE or State.

The common areas will include the library, kitchen and cafeteria, gymnasium, stage and other administration office space.

The school has received financial support from the Gila River Indian Community in regards to expanding the school plans to include the fourth and fifth grades. Once the design phase is complete, the next phase will be the construction phase.

Special Election candidates certified

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

The Community Council certified the qualifications for Associate Judge and District 5 Community Council representative candidates at the council meeting held on Feb. 7.

The candidates for associate judge are Marlo R. Schurz, La Quinta Allison, Anthony J. Hill, Melody Parsons, Garren Manuel and Joseph Manuel. Candidates for District 5 representative are Cheryl A. Jefferson, Brenda O. Kytian, Brian E. Davis, Sr., James De La Rosa, Lawrence White, Sr. and Anthony R. Stevens.

The special election will happen on March 1, 2018. Because of the short election timeline, absentee ballots will not be available.

For more information regarding voting dates/information call 520-562-9735 or 520-562-9758.
Sports News

The Basketball league for the youth 13-15yr. old started on Feb 5th- with a total of 8 teams entered. Come watch them play on Friday and Saturdays. The 9 - 12-year-old youth basketball league has ended and had their awards banquet. These are the pictures of the winners. With 120 in attendance enjoying the activities and sharing food with each other. We look forward to the next season.

Wellness Events- The Be GRIC fit tour in the districts has stopped in D2 this week and it was a great turn out. Thank you to the community for attending the classes.

D2 Be Gric Fit Tour

Join the club!.. "CLUB Z"

January to March
District Seven
Mondays & Wednesdays
5:30pm - 6:30pm

ZUMBA IN THE DARK

Taught by
Certified Zumba & Rio Instructor
"Fabby"

No spectators allowed!

Open to EVERYONE!

Receive a different incentive for every 3 classes you attend.

For more information call (520) 562-2025

Features Classes - A new style of fitness offered is Zumba in the dark. This class is done in low lights or black lights. So that everyone feels comfortable in this class. Everyone is welcome come by and try it.

Fitness Instructor Fabiola (Fabby) Perez-
Fabby is a Fitness Instructor for the Tribal Recreation & Wellness program and she teaches both adult and elder classes in the Community. She brings a 15 year background in dance. She has been dancing since she was 10-years-old. Her Zumba in the Dark and her chair Zumba to Cumbia music for elders have become very popular. She is an awesome certified Zumba & Rio instructor. Fabby brings her education in fitness, nutrition and health promotion along with physical therapy to the Gila River Indian Community. She teaches Tabata classes every Tuesday & Thursday for the lunch hour fitness at the Wellness Center. The Community expresses how they enjoy her great smile, positive attitude and that she is a great motivator. She is available for one-on-one fitness. She enjoys helping others reach their personal fitness goals. Stop by and try her classes she is an awesome asset to the wellness team.

Featured Classes- A new style of fitness offered is Zumba in the dark. This class is done in low lights or black lights. So that everyone feels comfortable in this class. Everyone is welcome come by and try it.

In March we will be having a call out to all Tribal Leadership co-ed teams for a Tribal Wellness tournament against our sister tribes.
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*PLUS TTL, $299 DOC FEE, $129 THEFT REGISTRATION, PAYMENTS BASED ON 750 ISAAC SCORE, 3.99% @ 72 MONTHS, $16 PER THOUSAND BORROWED, O.A.C. PHOTO OF CAR MAY NOT BE THE EXACT CAR.
GRIC grant gives home to wildlife in need of rehabilitation

A bald eagle that is receiving care from Liberty Wildlife sits perched and will be re-released back into the wild.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A local wildlife refuge is in full swing thanks in part to a little help from the Gila River Indian Community.

During a recent tour of the Liberty Wildlife facility, located minutes from downtown Phoenix, is treating birds and small mammals in need of care.

Liberty Wildlife’s mission is to rehabilitate wildlife, but also to educate others about the natural history and conservation efforts through a lead by example approach.

According to a summary of the grant provided by Office of Special Funding Program Manager Cheryl Pablo, the Community provided a grant over three years for $300,000 to their capital program to build the new facility.

These contributions helped build the new facility, such as a children’s education classroom, that is just feet away from large raptors like bald eagles, golden eagle and red tail hawks.

These are just some of the birds housed at the facility that are undergoing treatment or are used for education purposes.

The education room is used for a variety of purposes from lectures, public meetings to potentially serving as a viewing room for the avairy.

Some will be re-released back into wild after receiving treatment for an injury.

Casacollo Philanthropic Consulting founder Chris Sar, who assists Liberty Wildlife with capital campaigns, said with the generous contributions of local entities they are able to expand the facility to offer a variety of services to the local community and better serve the wildlife they care for.

“The idea being that helping out wildlife is one component, but that we really needed to take it to the next step of educating people why it is important to our mission,” said Sar.

He said the facility incorporates sustainable materials like wood paneling that spans the entire length of the building, which was re-purposed from an old barn.

Taking a step further the facility also uses two large silver cisterns that collect roof/rain water that is used for landscaping.

Additionally, the electricity is provided through a collection of rooftop solar panels that provide over 85 percent of the power to the building, which allowed them to achieve the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating possible.

“We are teaching people about the best practices in sustainability for living in the desert,” said Sar.

“We’re a LEED platinum certified facility, because we incorporated things like that to live with a light footprint.”

Sar said that close coordination with the architect helped them incorporate different environmentally conscious elements that follow a “Practice what we preach” philosophy.

“These are different aspects of what we do and then we do conservation programs where we work with developers and with ADOT, SRP and APS to do mitigation work about what they are doing when they encounter wildlife,” he said.

“This past year we took in almost 8,000 animals and re-released the majority of them,” said Liberty Wildlife Executive Director Megan Mosby.

On the premises, we now have 58 education animals that are here year-round that we take to schools or to do education programs here,” she said.

The facility is broken up into two wings, the east section dedicated to rehabilitation and medical care of birds, small mammals and reptiles.

On the west of the facility, there are rooms dedicated to educating the various groups of students from schools across the valley, which includes an area for large raptors that cannot be released back into the wild.

“We have a couple of bald eagles that are over there, we have a golden eagle that is there right now,” said Mosby about their feathered patients.

She said some of the biggest issues faced by birds, such as birds of prey are from the encroachment of urban development and other more serious injuries sustained by other treats.

What can be determined by some of the birds they receive have been orphaned, shot by someone or suffering from lead poisoning, while others require a thorough examination to find the root cause of their injuries/illness.

“You get them in and you don’t know what it was, because they are found by someone,” said Mosby, “We get them...certain species are susceptible to something called Aspergillosis, which is protozoa that gets into their air sacks.”

She said the other medical condition birds suffer from is a form of canker, which appears to be seasonal.

Mosby said, “Some years cankers are really, really bad and its in their water sources and they grow, it makes them grow this...it grows into their nasal cavities and into their brain...there’s nothing pretty about it.”

One of the unique services of Liberty Wildlife includes a Non-Eagle Feather Repository, which allows Native Americans to legally obtain non-eagle feathers from federally regulated migratory birds.

The program allows individuals to fill out an application before receiving feathers from Liberty Wildlife’s inventory.

In addition, each feather order is accompanied with a certificate of ownership documenting the legal transfer of feathers from NEFR.

Many of the feathers that are used could be for a variety of traditional purposes that are performed by tribal members.

Liberty Wildlife plans to expand their services even more as the new facility continues to move into the new year.

With the anticipation of a busy season when birds in need of care, the staff are there to bring their feathered friends back into the air or to see that their small furry patients are able to thrive in this harsh environment.

From L-R: Office of Special Funding Secretary III, Terri Enos, Program Manager Cheryl Pablo and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone stand outside of the education room that was named after the Community, which provided a grant to help build the facility.

From L-R: Office of Special Funding Secretary III, Terri Enos, Program Manager Cheryl Pablo and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone stand outside of the education room that was named after the Community, which provided a grant to help build the facility.
Summit
From page 1

“The peoples’ voices want to be heard.”

- Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

Education in an action plan.

Attendees also used this time to offer comments from their perspectives as educators, parents and students. Cecelia Mix, District 4, a junior at Casa Grande Union High School said she would like public schools outside the Community to include more Native Americans in lessons on U.S. history. “We learn about everything, but us,” she said.

A panel discussion included representatives from Salt River Schools and the Native American Community Academy from Albuquerque, N.M. who explained their unique educational models for Native students. Arizona State University Assistant Vice President, Tribal Relations, Jacob Moore, was also on hand to delve into economics and job growth as it relates to education.

To close the event, Gov. Lewis, along with Tribal Education director Isaac Salcido, brought council representatives Archie Hogg, District 1, Carol Schurr, District 2, and Barney Eno Jr., District 4 to offer remarks on the direction of education in GRIC.

Hogg, who is chairman of the Education Standing Committee, used the latest total GRIC membership to emphasize the large number of school-aged Community members.

There are 3,376 members aged 5-12, 2,089 aged 13-17 and 3,368 between the ages of 18 and 25. That’s nearly 40 percent (8,833) of GRIC’s total membership, which as of Dec. 31, 2017 was certified at 22,351.

“In order for us to progress to the future, we need to accept that change and move forward,” said Hogg.

Lt. Gov. Robert Stone was also among the final speakers before a raffle prize giveaway. Lt. Gov. Stone remarked on the positive movement in education in GRIC. “Let’s keep that energy going,” he said.

According to Tribal Education, 187 total attended the summit with 127 Community members in attendance.
Tribal leaders discuss history, land and voting on panel at ASU

Continued on Page 16

Executive Office Headlines

“Putting Our People First”

Conference explores E-commerce opportunities for tribal business

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A conference to bring together law and policy makers was held on the Gila River Indian Community to promote E-commerce among Indian communities nationwide.

“E-commerce is an emerging arena of business tribes everywhere are capitalizing on as their businesses make online transactions to keep the wheels of economic progress moving forward.”

Terry Rambler, Executive Director of the Gila River Indian Community.

A common issue the two tribal leaders discussed was land impacts that affect their respective communities. Gov. Lewis discussed how the Community is against the building of the Loop 202 freeway construction that would cause destruction to South Mountain, which the Community holds as sacred.

Chairman Rambler discussed the same issues that the San Carlos Apache Tribe is fighting in regards to the Oak Flat area near Superior, Ariz. A foreign mining company wants to mine the area, which would have negative impacts on the environment. Chairman Rambler said many Apaches hold the area as sacred, stating that his own paternal family has its roots in the area.

“It’s important to acknowledge whose land this all began on,” said Gov. Lewis referencing modern day civilizations at traditional Native homelands.

“It’s important that we continue to focus on the stream or those in power, administration, forget that moving forward. It’s important to not lose ourselves to institutions.”

The two leaders discussed how in this day and age, with the new Presidential administration, it is important for Native Communities to cooperate with one another and stand together. The leaders joked that had it been 200 years ago, the two would not have been sitting on a panel together because traditionally, the Apaches were enemies of the Akimel O’otham.

“This is a process of decolonization in and of itself that tribal leaders engage in every day because it’s a critical avenue to take. When we stop talking, as tribal leaders, it works against all of us. It works against tribal unity and tribal unity is where our true strength comes from,” said Gov. Lewis.

According to Gov. Lewis, in the 2018 federal budget the Trump Administration slashed out 12 percent, which is an estimated 400 million dollars, from Indian Country. Also, pointing out that some court cases are reaching the Supreme Court in regards to the Indian Child Welfare Act, which gives Tribes a strong voice when it comes to child custody of Native Americans face well in Supreme Court cases.

Native voting numbers in the Presidential election were low during the 2016 election. Although Native voting has been low, Chairmen Rambler said that even after voting takes place, tribal leaders have to take action on their end to speak with those in office.

“We all know that voting is important,” said Chairman Rambler. “Every few years change comes to the House of Representatives and you have to go and educate them, whether they are Democrats or Republicans. We have to go and educate them and over and over (about Native concerns).”

In both cases, Gov. Lewis and Chairman Rambler agreed that the continued education of their youth is going to be key moving forward as Native communities.

San Carlos has recently developed its own local college to “grow our own,” and educate tribal members in order to fill positions at the tribal employment, rather than hire from the outside. Hiring within your own community cuts down on unemployment but also has key officials with an understanding of local communities and challenges.

Gov. Lewis reference a cohort that is allowing
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
2018 Student Summer Internship

Apply now for an 8-week summer internship.
Spend your summer working with tribal organizations to address tribal environmental issues. The internships have a technical, educational or policy focus. We are offering 9 positions in air quality. The internship program provides each student intern with a stipend, and limited housing and travel allowances. Host sites are selected from tribal environmental organizations, government offices, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others. Descriptions of the host sites can be found on the website at nau.edu/itepinterns after February 1, 2018.

Eligible students must meet the following:
• US Citizen
• Full-time undergraduate or graduate college student during Spring 2018 (12 hours undergraduate, 9 hours graduate) at any tribal college, college or university
• Have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA
• Majoring in an environmental or related field like science, engineering, planning, policy, law, management, political science, anthropology, or health
• Interested in pursuing an environmental career after graduating
• Proficient verbal and written communication skills
• Strong interest in working with Native American tribes or topics

nau.edu/itepinterns

To apply, submit an online application plus additional materials that are described on the website. You can also provide your preferences for the host sites you find interesting.

Deadline: February 28, 2018

Questions? Contact Mansel Nelson at Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu or 928-523-1275

Tribal Employment Rights Office and Revegetation Services are hiring for the following positions;

Straw Baler/Labor
• Must be 18 yrs old
• No previous experience will be trained
• No education or background requirements
• Start working immediately

Please bring your Tribal Identification, Original Social Security card, to the TERO office

For additional information please call Mareea LuceroVega @ 520-562-3387/3388

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SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

• WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUTH AGES 14-24
• FIRST COME FIRST SERVE! SLOTS ARE LIMITED!
• ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST ACCOMPANY YOUTH AGES 14-17

FUTURE ORIENTATION DATES:
ALL ORIENTATIONS START AT 5:30PM

LOCATION #1: SACATON
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DEPT.
FEBRUARY 20TH
MARCH 5TH
MARCH 12TH
MARCH 19TH

LOCATION #2: LAVEEN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
FEBRUARY 28TH
MARCH 7TH
MARCH 14TH
MARCH 21ST

TO SIGN UP FOR AN ORIENTATION PLEASE CONTACT E&T 520-562-3387/88
WHAT’S NEW AT GRICUA

SCCP Customer Transfer Update
A second notification was sent in January to those customers that have not transferred to GRICUA. Customers who transfer to GRICUA before the transfer implementation date will be entered into a monthly raffle to win 1 of 5 $25 VISA gift cards. To date, 25 gift cards have been awarded. If you know someone who has not transferred, please have them call GRICUA at (520) 796-0600 and we will be happy to help them with the transfer process.

Gila River Indian News February 16, 2018

Motion Made and Second to Approve Travel March 1-2, 2018, Tucson, Arizona

6. 20th Anniversary Conference, Law of the Colorado River

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Dena Thomas

Motion Made and Second to Approve TRAVEL March 1-2, 2018, Tucson, Arizona

Motion Made and Second to Accept

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

Gila River Indian News February 16, 2018

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

8. FY18 1st Quarter Report – Gaming Internal Audit (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Dena Thomas

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**Patient Highlight**

**Life Center**

“How have these classes helped you?" "I dropped my A1C measurements, lost weight, and continued to exercise." *(The A1C measurement estimates a person’s average blood sugar levels over a 2 to 3-month span.)*

He continues to attend MOVE (Motivating Others to Value Exercise) classes to this day. He does not have a vehicle, so his attendance is made possible through the assistance of Life Center transportation.

What have you learned by attending classes at the Life Center? "I have learned that carbs have a place in a meal. We get the daily fiber needed from fruits and vegetables."

What has been the most helpful to your success? "Healthy choices help me balance my food. The Life Center classes help me and others around me going through the same trial and errors. In class, we celebrate each other’s successes and support through life challenges."

What do you like best about the Life Center? "I appreciate the support from the dietitians! The materials we cover concerning fat and portion comparison are tangible references of what food content looks like, and the food models are very graphic. They challenge our taste buds and prepare food samples for the class, which was surprising that healthy ingredients tasted so good!"

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**Introducing**

**Emory Webb**

In 2016, Emory began attending diabetes self-management training and weight management classes. Here is a brief highlight of his experiences and accomplishments.

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**NO REFERRAL NEEDED**

We are ready to serve you. Walk in or call (520) 562-7940.
Spring Break:
7:30 am - 6pm (youth)
7:30 am - 9pm (Teen)
Permission slips for field trips are handed out on Monday of each week.
Club alerts for field trips are available at front desk.

The Club is located on the Gila River Indian Community. It is open to all Landing youth. Non-Traditional pay $5 per day or $50 a day at $33 a week.
Financial assistance available for those who qualify.

Our Club is located at 5047 W. Pecos Rd. Laveen Az. 85339

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520.250.1113

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MARCH 19TH - 23RD

YOUTH WEEK
MAR. 19th – Disney Day
MAR. 20th – Safari Day
MAR. 21st – Heroes vs Villains
MAR. 22nd – Local Heroes
MAR. 23rd – Wacky Tacky Day

FIELD TRIPS
MAR. 19th – Game Day
MAR. 20th – Art & Craft
MAR. 21st – Water Day
MAR. 22nd – Culinary Day
MAR. 23rd – Celebrate Spring / Gardening

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TEEN WEEK
MAR. 19th – Game Day
MAR. 20th – Art & Craft
MAR. 21st – Water Day
MAR. 22nd – Culinary Day
MAR. 23rd – Celebrate Spring / Gardening
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Low miles

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February 16, 2018

Page 19

Gila River Indian News
56th Annual Fair and Rodeo

Mul-Chu-Tha

March 9 - 11, 2018
Sacaton Fair Grounds - Sacaton, AZ

“Honoring Our History and Everyday Heroes”

Events:
Live Entertainment * Arts & Crafts Vendors * Thoka * Half Marathon & 2 Mile Walk * Songivu’l Skate Competition * Frybread Contest * Gila River Royalty Pageant * All Indian Rodeo * Parade Jr. All Indian Rodeo * Masters All Indian Rodeo * Carnival Rides * Car Show * Sporting Events Food * Competition Pow Wow * Chicken Scratch Battle of the Bands * Cultural Performances

For more information contact: (520) 562-9713 or visit, www.mul-chu-tha.com

Gila River Indian Community shall not be held responsible for bodily injury, theft, or damages incurred during the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo.