Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. Stone, Chief Judge and Associate Judges take oath of office


Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Just ten hours after the world rang in the new year with celebrations and fireworks, the Gila River Indian Community swore in several of its highest elected officials during the 2018 Oath of Office Ceremony held inside the Council Chambers on the morning of Jan. 1. The Council Chambers was packed with around 200 Community members who witnessed the swearing in of re-elected Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, newly elected Lt. Gov. Robert Stone, and newly elected Chief Judge Donna Kisto-Jones. The following four Associate Judges were also sworn into their positions during the ceremony: Janice F. Breckenridge, Sherri Cassa, Dallas De Lowe, and Lucille Antone-Morago.

Chief Azul Day event in Sacaton

Swearing-In Photos of elected officials

Flu activity in Arizona

Theme selected for 56th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha

Local runner joins Wings of America

Miss Gila River profile

The Komkjid of South Mountain

Youth Council roundtable meeting

Indigenous Japanese people presentation

Community Council Action Sheets: Dec. 20, 2017
On behalf of this year’s Toy Drive Committee we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who wrapped presents, sponsored or donated gifts and made this year’s Toy Drive a success! We would like to acknowledge the following departments/entities who contributed time and resources for the toy drive.

- Gila River Fire Department
- Gila River Gaming Enterprise
- Gila River Health Care
- Red Mountain Behavioral Health
- USMCR Toys for Tots (Pinal County)
- Gila River EMS
- Sheraton Grand Resort
- Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Huhugam Heritage Center

Thank you to the following entities that helped make this year’s Toy Drive Christmas Party memorable for the youth and their families.

- Akimel Enterprises, LLC
- Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority
- Gila River Sand and Gravel
- Gila River Telecommunications Inc.
- Wild Horse Pass Development Authority
- Gila River Executive Office

A very special thank you to Santa and Mrs. Clause for spreading holiday cheer throughout Gila River!
Chief Azul Day honors accomplishments of late chief

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Community Council Representatives
District 1 Arizte Hegg
District 2 Carol Schwarze
District 3 Carolyn Williams
District 4 Jennifer Allison
District 5 Francisco Pino, Sr.
District 6 Anthony Villareal, Sr.

Community Council Secretary
Pamela Johnson
Barney Enos, Jr.
Nada Celaya

Associate Community Council Secretary
Roberto A. Jackson

Community Newsperson
Thomas R. Throssell

Managing Editor
Christopher Lomahquahu

Chief Azul Scholar Award

For the many individuals that travel through the intersection of Sacaton and Casa Blanca roads, the empty dirt lot across from the Matthew B. Juan and Joa H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park may seem of little importance, but once a year it is the start of a historical journey that tells the story of Chief Antonio Azul’s many accomplishments.

Braving the cold morning weather several Community members came together to honor the Gila River Indian Community’s last traditional chief on Dec. 16.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, GRIC Basket Dancers, Haskell Osteo-Antone Post 51, and a contingent of Community members on horseback made the half-mile walk from the West Cemetery where Chief Azul’s grave is located, just west of Cholla Avenue across from District 3’s Head Start building.

As the procession entered the cemetery, the group formed a circle north of Chief Azul’s grave site, where military and traditional honors were offered.

Master of ceremonies, Pacer Reina said Azul was a warrior, who served in the U.S. Arizona Volunteer Infantry Guard.

To recognize Azul’s service in the military, he was honored with a flag raising and singing of the national anthem.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said Azul was, “A warrior, a statesman and ambassador and a person of moral authority.”

He said bringing Community members together on a day set aside to recognize Azul is a way of remembering the legacy he left behind.

One of those lasting influences was Azul’s ability to lead his people during times of hardship and the turbulent history of relations with the government.

Lewis said Azul was an advocate for education, encouraging many GRIC members to go and learn from schools outside of the Community.

Today, his influence on education has given way to the creation of the Chief Azul Scholar award, which recognizes students for their academic achievements.

Award, which recognizes students for their academic achievements.

Taken the Akimel O’otham from their ancestral homeland.

Lewis said as a military leader, “Chief Azul united the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh people. It is a history that is commemorated with the annual Mustering In day celebration, when both people came together to protect our neighbors and community.”

Lewis said Azul was a diplomat as well and one of our first water protectors, he protected our water at the very earliest critical points as we see in our O’otham history.

While honoring Chief Azul was the main theme of the celebration, educating Community members about their last traditional chief was a key element of the day.

“It’s important what Chief Azul left for us his teaching, his example of traditional O’otham leadership that sometimes we don’t see very often. We commit ourselves to not forget about those teachings,” said Lewis.

A wreath is placed at the gravesite of Chief Antonio Azul during a special ceremony on Dec. 16 in District 3, Sacaton.

Graceland by AZ Park It Sheila Havrish (602) 596-9777
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Chief Azul Place honors accomplishments of late chief

The battle was one of the largest in Arizona’s history and would be a victory for the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh, who were successful in repelling the Yuma and Mohave tribes from the area.

Taking from his experience as a military leader, Azul also wielded his political skill in preventing his tribe from relocating to Oklahoma, which would have
Swearing In

From page 1

After the musical performance, Jay Pedro, GRIC Children’s Court Judge, swore in Donna Kisto-Jones as the Community’s Chief Judge. Kisto-Jones then donned her black judge’s robe and administered the oath of office for the remaining elected officials.

After the ceremony concluded, Lt. Gov. Stone thanked former Lt. Gov. Monica Antone for her time in office, and her leadership.

“Her was not just a leader, but a Council member, and an employee to the Community, and I commend her for the time she

has dedicated to the Community,” he said.

Lt. Gov. Stone thanked his family, including his daughter and granddaughter, who stood by his side while taking the oath of office. He added that he was very humbled by the ceremony.

Gov. Lewis took to the podium, saying a second term should not be taken for granted.

“I will put my full time and energy into the position,” he said. “When we celebrate important transitions, it feels new and there is a feeling of great possibilities and we have a dedicated leadership here, from the Judiciary to the Council,” he said.

Speaking on newly elected L.t. Gov. Stone, Lewis said, “I look forward to serving with him. I have so much respect for him and his knowledge of O’otham culture.”

Lewis closed his speech by saying he will continue to fight for the Community’s water rights. He said the Council and GRIC courts will need to work together in the future to combat important issues in the Community like fighting drug addiction, crime, family abuse, and elder abuse and child abuse.

The ceremony concluded with a rousing dance performed by the Achem A’al Basket Dancers followed by lunch held in the Governance Center’s lobby.
By Billy Allen

Borrowing from "A Pima Past" book, Santha Klaus has come and gone. Reindeer tatmal or tamals were delicious, and coffee or kawhi with the gingerbread vacto or ramada held up by candy canes was better than sugar. Strong kawhi is a good start on a cold day, but some days are just too cold to go outside. Today most of us stay inside and watch TV but what did our ancestors do on such days? They probably stayed inside also, but entertained each other by telling stories. O'otham and Piipaash winter stories tell of cataclysmic world changes, supernatural beings and animals doing heroic and unheroic deeds, all geared to explain us and the cosmos. Most Native tribes are making an effort to rekindle this practice. As Gila Crossing native Anna Moore Shaw wrote in the early 1970's, she saw the old beliefs of our people slipping away for as each elder passed on, so did the songs and festivals. But thanks to her efforts coupled with other O'otham and Piipaash that we're lucky to have enriched our community, all has not slipped away.

Heki huh or long ago, each village had a storyteller, but as villages shifted and people moved, different versions of our stories emerged. A story that holds strong today is about Ho'ok, the ugly, old enchantress. Anna Moore Shaw provides a general overview: Ho'ok was born from a situation involving our kickball game called wuichutha and lived an unusual life. When she was born she had claws for fingers and developed a taste for babies or young children. She targeted young mothers who she would put into a trance, then steal the baby and run away. (A version has a resting place for her near the Santan Mountains.) The O'otham turned to Elder Brother or Se'ehe for help and he told the people to make preparations for a social dance. For four anxious days the people gathered wood or ku'ag and prepared food. As the sun went down on the fourth day, the Circle Dance was begun. When Ho'ok heard the singing, she came running just like Se'ehe knew she would. The people welcomed her to the dance and kept her going and going on a marathon dance until she fell from exhaustion. Se'ehe then pulled her into a hillside cave and told everyone to pile the ku'ag inside the cave. The wood was lit but when the fire was roaring away, a thunder-like clap was heard. Ho'ok had cracked the top of the cave in an attempt to escape. Se'ehe ran to the top of the cave and stepped on the crack to seal it. Our people rejoiced by singing a Ho'ok Mehitha or Witch Burning song. Listening to the story as a little girl or cehia, Anna Moore Shaw was told by her grandmother not to go looking for Se'ehe's footprint in the rock for she would just get lost in the desert.

As an eight year old boy or ceoj growing up in Ya'aki, I remember hearing about Ho'ok or Ho'ok Oks (old lady). I took the story to be an old story from the past with no connection to my modern 1960's world. (After all-- the Beatles and Stones!) But once, when spending a winter's night at my Uncle's house or ki, I felt the terror of Ho'ok Oks. That "sandwich" house was probably built in the 1930's and had a wood burning stove along with kerosene lamps. When the sun went down, we got ready for bed but we kids kept being noisy and rowdy; soon uncle came in. He sat down on the bed and told us to be quiet or Ho'ok would come for us. He told us about what she did with children, especially noisy ones who would not go to sleep. The family dogs wouldn't be any help because Ho'ok ran with wild horses (she had hooves) that fooled dogs. (This house was at the southwest corner of Va'aki, the last house on the road with desert all around it.) On cue as if uncle planned it, we heard horses running in the distance—we dove under the covers! No more fun, just snores.

It's beginning to cool down, time for a cup of hot kawhi but no TV tonight. I'll just close my eyes and listen to another of uncle's stories.

Information was taken from A Pima Past by Anna Moore Shaw and the author's recollections.
Widespread Flu Activity in Arizona

Submitted by Tribal Health Department
Gila River Indian Community

Influenza, more commonly called flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Flu virus can spread when infected individuals cough, sneeze, or talk near others or by touching a surface that the virus landed on and then touching your face. Flu symptoms include:

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Muscle or body aches

In some cases flu illness can lead to hospitalization or death. Currently in Arizona there have been over 5,000 cases of flu and over 21,000 cases nationally. As a comparison, last year at this time there were only 552 cases of flu that had been reported in Arizona. The majority of the country is also seeing widespread flu activity. Typically the flu season peaks around the end of January or beginning of February. The CDC recommends the flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone of the age of 6 months but is especially important for people at high risk of flu complications which include children under the age of 5, adults over the age of 65, pregnant women, and people who suffer from certain health conditions such as Asthma, Diabetes, or weakened immune systems. It will take approximately 2 weeks after the vaccine is given to build full immunity, it is not too late to get your flu shot by presenting to Walk-in Clinic at Gila River Health Care 520-562-3321, Konatke Health Center 520-550-6000 or Ak Chin Health Center 520-568-3881.

In addition to getting the vaccine other steps that can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus include:
- Avoid contact with sick people, covering your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and washing your hands regularly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you are ill avoid contact with others to avoid spreading the virus. If you have a fever, you should stay away from others for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medications.

Barbara Jaquay kicks off Casa Grande Ruins Annual Speaker Series January 10, 2018

Dave Carney
Casa Grande Ruins
National Monument

COOLIDGE, AZ – Beginning January 10, 2018 through February 28, 2018, Casa Grande Ruins will host its annual speaker series. The speaker series will kick off on January 10 at noon featuring Barbara Jaquay who will present a lecture titled “Father Kino: Journey to Discovery”. The speaker series will continue every Wednesday at noon through February 28.

Barbara Jaquay will present about how Father Kino bridged the gap between the Anglo world and the Native American through his charismatic and caring heart. He was a cartographer, explorer, geographer, scientist, and a man with a mission. Through his knowledge of agriculture, he introduced new livestock breeds and taught animal husbandry to the native to increase the stock. The new plants and fruit trees he brought to the New World gave the native a variety of foods to eat and increased their ability to withstand seasonal changes. Father Kino brought a new religion to the native in a nonthreatening manner. His scientific knowledge allowed him to make new discoveries.

Dr. Barbara Jaquay, a historical geographer, recently published Where Have All the Sheep Gone? Shepherders and Ranchers in Arizona: A Disappearing Industry, a history of the sheep industry in Arizona. She has her Ph.D. from Texas A&M where she wrote on the Caribbe-an Cotton Industry. She has traveled extensively on all seven continents and visited over 40 countries. She has followed many of Father Kino’s journeys of discovery as she visited his missions in Arizona and Mexico. She has published on Cuba and Costa Rica as well as Arizona Native Americans. Dr. Jaquay continues to pursue the geographical and mysterious wonders across the globe. She is working on a second book on the sheep industry and finishing her children’s book.

Testing for the Native Language Teacher Certification

The Tribal Education Department will be administering a test for Community Members seeking certification from the Arizona Department of Education to teach the Akimel O’totham language.

Thursday March 1, 2018
9:00am

Requirements:
- At least 18 years of age
- Completed TED Application
- Copy of Tribal ID or Certificate of Indian Blood
- Valid Identity Verified Prints (IVP) Card
- Must be employed or have recently applied for employment with the Gila River Indian Community or an educational institute which services Gila River Indian Community members
- $60 Fee to be paid to the Arizona Department of Education

Deadline for TED application is Friday February 16th, 2018

Christmas Caroling at Community Council

The program begins at 12:00 pm in the Casa Grande Ruins visitor center theater at 1100 W Ruins Drive, Coolidge AZ, 85128. There is no fee for the program, but normal entrance fees apply.

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument protects the multi-story Great House (Casa Grande) and the remnants of other ancient structures built by the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People over 800 years ago. Established as the nation’s first federal archeological reserve in 1892, the Ruins sparked the beginning of the archeological preservation movement in America. The Monument is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., May through September, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., October through April, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Independence Day holidays. Directions and additional information are available on the Monument’s website, http://www.nps.gov/cagr. You may call (520) 723-3172, or follow us on Facebook by searching for Casa Grande Ruins National Monument.

Santa’s elves from Early Education Child Care Center descended upon the Gila River Indian Community Government Center during a Community Council meeting on Dec. 20. The children, donning their festive head-wear, sang Christmas carols to the many individuals in attendance at the meeting.
The 56th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo
Theme: “Honoring History and Everyday Heroes”

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

(Sacaton, Arizona) The theme selection for the upcoming 56th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo is: “Honoring Our History and Everyday Heroes.”

From humble beginnings to modern day resources, our People have always been very quick to adapt to many things over the years: introduction of religion, introduction of new crops, cattle, horses, and new technologies.

Most recently, we have built casinos, shopping malls, hotels and even a western town and steakhouse. Through time, we have risen with strength and resilience despite some of the challenges and hardships we have encountered/ endured. In honoring our “History” and where we have come from, our “Everyday Heroes” continuously fight to keep our Community moving forward for the prosperity of all.

The theme was submitted by Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, Executive Sous Chef, Lee Hillson. Mr. Hillson will receive a Family Fair Fun Pack, a reserved table at the Community BBQ, and a gift card as prize for providing the winning selection.

Thank you to all who had submitted an entry in the contest! Let’s all look forward to the 56th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo!

Wellness Highlights of 2017

Submitted by The Wellness Center
Gila River Indian Community

The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Recreation and Wellness Program is a unique program in that it is not a district specific program but services the entire Community through their programs and activities.

As the 2017 year ends the Tribal Recreation and Wellness Program would like to thank the Gila River Indian Community, Tribal Departments, Districts and the GRHC in helping make all the classes, events and programming a success. This past year the Tribal Recreation & Wellness program broke records in attendance, targeting the youth, adults and elders in a variety of fitness classes. This program is here to spread the word that fitness does not have to be hard and you can still have fun while working out. These classes and events are provided in all seven districts.

I am very proud of my staff who all work hard to provide these services for you. They are dedicated to help this community work together to what we call here as: “Be GRIC Fit” and fight against diabetes.

The mission of The Tribal Recreation & Wellness department is to provide recreation, fitness, and wellness opportunities to the Gila River Indian Community. We strive to enhance a healthy lifestyle and well-being in a safe and welcoming environment to meet the physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual needs of our residents and all those who serve the community. Some highlights and pictures of the past years events include:

• TRW was able to provide a variety of different fitness classes to all districts, which had increased the participation from 24 Elder classes to 455 elders in 2017.

• The 1st annual Community Mud Dash Run with a total of 300+ participants. The top 5 teams who won this challenge lost a total of 301 lbs.

• The 1st certified GRIC only Referee & Scorekeeper training for all GRIC leagues and tournaments held in the community which provided some income for GRIC members.

• Introduced new elder focused programs such as Matter of Balance, Chair Zumba and more.

• Introduced new adult group fitness classes such as Zumba in the dark and Incycle Spin.

• The Road to Trail of Doom which included a new and different event each week: Zombie Zumba (40+), Day of the Dead Lift (82+), 5K Run (100), Madhouse Workout (41+) and the final main event Trail of Doom which introduced a new Trick or Treat Walk, Fitness Games and more. This year’s main Trail of Doom event totaled a record number of 1,150 participants including 19 departments and 73 volunteers.

• Established positive collaborative relationships with numerous departments such as Genesis, CPAO, District Recreation departments, Fine Feather, GRBC, Tribal Health Department, Boys and Girls Club, Life Center, locally owned businesses and more.
Desert Vista High School junior and community member Lee Nasewytewa competed at the Nike Cross Southwest Regionals this past November in the large school open division race. He finished eighth with a time of 16:00, his finish opened up an unexpected door to the Wings of America National Team.

“I feel good and feel like I am going to have a lot of fun,” said Nasewytewa of the opportunity. “It is pretty cool that I made it. It’s good to see your training pay off. The results when you do good is worth it.”

After his regional finish, Nasewytewa headed to Portland, Oregon in early December to compete in the Nike Cross Nationals with his Ahwatukee team. His team was the first Arizona team to ever qualify for nationals. The team finished eighth out of 22 teams.

He finished 134 out of 200 runners with a time of 16:40 just seconds behind two of his teammates who finished 125th (16:37) and 128th (16:39), respectively.

“It was really cool being at nationals because I’ve seen it on TV. Being there was really cool and competing, it was good competition,” said Nasewytewa.

During his regional race, the director of the Wings of America watched as Nasewytewa led the race and stayed competitive in the leading pack. The director left a flyer with one of Nasewytewa’s teammates with information on the organization. According to their website, Wings of America has a vision to build healthy Native communities with youth running initiatives, inspired by the cultural, spiritual and competitive legacy of Native runners. Wings empowers Native youth and their families. With Wings of America, Nasewytewa will train for the junior race at the 2018 USA Track and Field Cross Country championships held in Tallahassee, Fla., in February. In high school, the cross-country races are 5,000 kilometers but in the junior race the distance increases to an 8,000 kilometer race. Nasewytewa has adjusted his training to help his strength and endurance to make the adjustment of an added 3,000 kilometers.

He will be representing the Gila River Indian Community. He is joined by six other Native American runners representing the Colville Confederated Tribes, Navajo Indian Tribe, Hopi and Sistswton Wahpeton Oyate.

Nasewytewa has been running competitively for the last six years, starting his career as a sprinter. He switched over to distance running when he was 12 years old. His path to running came from his father, Steven Nasewytewa, an All-American runner in both cross country and track as a high schooler at Casa Grande Union High School. He went on to run at Central Arizona College and competed in the cross-country nationals both seasons he was at CAC. At Casa Grande Union High School, Steven was coached by Billy Allen.

“Every time he goes to the line I get scared like I am the one racing,” said Steven. “I try not to feel that way so he doesn’t get nervous. It’s exciting and to tell you the truth, he is a little bit faster than I was at his age.”

Steven hopes that Lee is able to take in the lessons from his coaches as he makes the jump to a further distance and his training changes. From a father’s standpoint, Steven wants to make sure Lee doesn’t over train because his son is young and has such a bright future ahead of him.

His son first amazed him when he won the sprinting races with Native Exhilaration, winning the 100-meter, 200-meter and 400-meter dashes. Little by little, Steven tested his son with harder workouts and each time, Lee responded to the challenge.

In addition to being a runner for Desert Vista High School’s cross country and track and field teams, Lee is an honor student who takes rigorous honors classes but maintains his high grade point average.
Miss Gila River Anissa Garcia embraced role as GRIC ambassador

With her reign coming to an end in just a few months, Miss Gila River 2017 Anissa Garcia feels that she has made herself more visible to the community and has acted as a role model to the youth while wearing the sash and crown but remains humble. “Overall, it’s been a humbling experience to be able to go out to different communities and my own community to represent where I come from and allow people to know who we are and who I am and the community I am from,” said Garcia when asked about her reign.

Getting to the end of her reign, Garcia said it has been smooth sailing and that her favorite part thus far has been getting to know community members as well as residents of other communities. “I greeted people wherever I was,” said Garcia. “A lot of my friends would see me at events and other community members would introduce themselves to me but they would already know me. It was surprising to see how many people knew me. People would come up to me and say ‘hey how is it going?’ It’s been a humbling experience representing myself and my family.”

In addition to local community events, Garcia has been to Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the United National Indian Tribal Youth conference in Denver, Colorado.

Garcia was assisted by her mother, who acted as her publicist, since she is not allowed to access social media. Community events that Garcia attended included Suicide Awareness: Yes to Life event, Native American Day at Skyline High School, Sacaton Middle School and Blackwater Community School, Water Rights Day celebration, Tribal Social Services event and the Five Tribes Peace Treaty Celebration.

The events at the school allowed Garcia to interact with the youth and have discussions on what they felt was important to them. With no set agenda, she had the students ask their own questions and get to know the youth on a more intimate level. She provided feedback on issues and questions that were asked.

Outside of the community, Garcia represented the Gila River Indian Community at the Native American Connections parade, White Mountain Apache Fair and Rodeo parade, Orme Dam Victory Days parade, Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, Red Mountain Eagle Pow Wow, Orme Dam Days Pow Wow. She also introduced herself at the Pueblo Indian Museum.

While at the Pueblo Indian Museum, she shared songs and dances with her dance group, the Gila River Basket dancers. “I know that I attended a lot of events and I go out speaking and being an emcee but it still doesn’t feel real to me,” said Garcia. “I don’t think it will until the crowning of the next Miss Gila River, but all-in-all it’s been a blessing for myself.”

Garcia is proud to have been a role model to the community’s youth and little girls who aspire to be Miss Gila River in the future. In the capacity of Miss Gila River, Garcia has been an honorary member of the Akimel O’odham Pee Posh Youth Council. In the past, Garcia was a staple serving the AOPPYC and returning to the council in a new capacity has been a learning experience, observing the next generation of future leaders.

She offered some words of advice for anyone interested in competing in the upcoming pageant. “If you’re thinking about it, just go ahead with the process and fill out the paperwork,” said Garcia. “You won’t know the outcome until you just try. I think communication is the number one thing to have when running.”

With such a big support system, Garcia has been thankful for the assistance and support that she has received from her mother, step-father, siblings and the youth from the District 5 and her family for pushing her to be the best that she could for the community.
The Komkjid of South Mountain

Just north of Gila River Indian Community’s sprawling desert landscape, among the peaks and valleys of South Mountain’s native desert vegetation, a lone Sonoran Desert Tortoise slowly but steadily walks its way towards home, a small earthen burrow dug into the bank of a dry wash.

Her name is Mary Lou, which is what Daniel Leavitt, Herpetologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), has been calling the hard-shelled reptile for the past three years, which is when he first began tracking the tortoise.

Mary Lou, who is one of six Sonoran Desert Tortoises monitored by AZGFD in South Mountain Park, is around 30 to 40 years old and about the size of a bowling ball that has been cut in half. Her domed shell is the color of the surrounding desert, a mix of gray and brown, which has been adorned with several mounds of gray epoxy to which a radio transmitter is attached. Peeking out from a protective shell is her small angular head dotted with two large eyes, a pair of pinhole sized nostrils, and a formidable beaked jaw.

Tracking Mary Lou and the five other tortoises is part of a research project conducted by AZGFD to monitor the animals and their behavior in the large mountain preserve, which is inhabited by just 30 to 40 of the animals.

“It is a monitoring effort dedicated to learning as much as possible,” said Leavitt. “We knew that tortoises were here, we didn’t know their distribution along the mountain. In fact, in previous efforts, we had only found them up on top where the radio towers were. We didn’t know where they were tortoises all along the ridgeline, we assumed they were there, but we have records now that go beyond into the Gila River Indian Community,” he said.

One of several reasons the AZGFD is monitoring the tortoises is due to the recent development of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway. Leavitt said the highway will go around the western and southern boundaries of South Mountain, with certain areas of ridgeline planned to be blasted with explosives.

Monitoring the tortoises allows AZGFD to see where the animals are traveling, foraging, mating, and burrowing.

For one tortoise in particular, which has created a burrow in the path of the highway’s development, the rumble of construction will eventually come too close for comfort. Luckily for the sheltered reptile, AZGFD is keeping track of its location and will relocate the animal before construction begins.

“There is a tortoise that right now and for the last year, has been regularly burrowing within the right-of-way,” said Leavitt. “The expectation is that because we have a radio transmitter on it, we know where it is, and it should be fairly easy to keep out of harm’s way.”

The Sonoran Desert Tortoise

Two varieties of desert tortoise are found in North America: the Mojave Desert Tortoise and Sonoran Desert Tortoise.

While there is a large variety of tortoises living in North America, there are only two varieties of desert tortoise living north of the Mexican border. The Sonoran Desert Tortoise, which is found south and east of the Colorado River, and the Mojave Desert Tortoise, which is found north and west of the Colorado River.

“Sonoran Desert Tortoises tend to be more of an upland tortoise and Mojave Desert Tortoises tend to be a lowland tortoise,” said Leavitt. “Really, what it comes down to is the type of habitat you would find them in: Mojave Desert Tortoises tend to burrow in the soil, and Sonoran Desert Tortoises tend to burrow underneath rocks, in washes, in areas where there is a layer of caliche or hardpan.”

According to a study published in 2011 in ZooKeys, a zoological peer-reviewed journal, the desert tortoise, which for the past 150 years was thought to have been just one species, was found to be two separate and distinct species based on DNA evidence as well as biological and geographical differences.

While both tortoises are physically similar, their environment and habitat is what really defines their species, and in the desert of southern Arizona, the Sonoran Desert Tortoise reigns supreme.

The arid climate of Arizona is a harsh environment, which the Sonoran Desert Tortoise has become uniquely adapted. The desert tortoise has evolved to thrive in such a habitat by eating foods containing moisture like grasses, herbs, flowers, fruit, and even cacti.

“(Tortoises eat) everything from fruits, which are available occasionally like prickly pear fruits, to many of the desert forbs (herbaceous flowering plants).”

Leavitt said predicting a tortoise’s behavior can be difficult, because just as personalities vary from person to person, so does tortoise behavior. There can be a tortoise that doesn’t...
Tortoises
From page 10

Gila River Indian News January 5, 2018

is a lot of social interac-
tion for the animals. If it rains, they are
likely to move about. This is why the Sonoran Desert Tortoises are most
formidable tough to crack open and rip
as the mountain lion can handle the large shells of the tortoises.

Pima Indian Legends—Anna Moore Shaw

Tortoise Feeds His Children: Turtle could not bear to hear his children crying for food. I must find food for the children,” said Turtle. He went to the hills to hunt for antelope. The sun passed quickly overhead, and still Tortoise had not found any food.

coming over a large area of rough country, he stopped under a pine tree to rest. Suddenly he noticed all around him the tracks of antelopes. He was resting on the antelope trail, and hadn’t realized it. ‘I’ll lie here on their trail and wait for them,” said the happy Turtle.

Before long Turtle heard the soft steps of antelopes coming down the trail. ‘I’ve had an idea. I’ll make something to get food for the children;” said Turtle. He sang and got up. The children shouted. ‘Turtle, Turtle, why are you so happy, my brother Turtle?” said Turtle. “I have killed two antelope in my name. I have a plan and decided to use it—anything to get food for the children. Before long Turtle heard the soft steps of antelopes coming down the trail. ‘I’ve had an idea. I’ll make something to get food for the children;” said Turtle.

He had a plan and decided to use it—anything to get food for the children. Before long Turtle heard the soft steps of antelopes coming down the trail. ‘I’ve had an idea. I’ll make something to get food for the children;” said Turtle.

“Turtle spends his days in the Sonoran Desert. Yearly, we get handfuls of tortoises reported or photographed, or even brought to the department that have been run over, and that is not their fault. This is what they have been doing for very, they are just moving the way that they do,” he
said.

Legend, said Alvarez, has it that people living in the vicinity discovered a large turtle wedged between two rocks, unable to escape. They freed the trapped reptile.

Alvarez said that they have attached any symbolic or religious significance to the event.

“Here the villages got the names” written by Paul L. Allen:

“Tortoise,” said Leavitt, “is a natural environment for tortoises because (they) are unique, but there are different reasons, with some animals
inhabiting the Sonoran Desert.

According to Russell Benford, GRIC Department of Environmental Quality Senior Wildlife Biologist, one of the most important things motorists can do for tortoises spotted on the road is to move slowly and safely through the crossing.

It is changing the tortoise’s natural environment that is harming them, said Leavitt. And because they are able to move large distances in a short period of time, they often come across roadways filled with traffic.

That is one of the biggest concerns for conservation in my eyes, is the amount of fragmentation across the landscape just by roads,” said Leavitt. It is changing the tortoise’s natural environment that is harming them, said Leavitt. And because they are able to move large distances in a short period of time, they often come across roadways filled with traffic.

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Christopher Kumkwa

Daniel Leavitt, AZGFD Herpetologist, shows the burr
earthed home of Mary Leavitt, a Sonoran Desert Tortoise who lives within South Mountain Park. “If you are caught collecting a Sonoran Desert Tortoise outside of its natural habitat, it is illegal to do so. If you find a tortoise on the road outside of the Gila River Indian Community or are interested in learning more about tortoise conservation, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department (502) 762-4687 or visit azgfd.gov/turtle for additional information. If you find a tortoise on the road outside of the Gila River Indian Community, contact either the GRPD Rangers or GRIC DEQ. He said people should be careful if they attempt to move turtles themselves, not just because of passing traffic, but due to the tortoise’s defensive response which can include biting or spitting. “It is very likely it will unnerve on whoever picks it up,” said Benford. (The urine) is a deterrent from predators like coyotes and foxes because it will make the turtle crawl out of the brook and return to the place where he had been wounded. The tortoise happily took the rest of the meat and fed his hungry children.

Pima Indian Legends—Anna Moore Shaw

Tortoise Feeds His Children: Turtle could not bear to hear his children crying for food. "I must find food for the children," said Turtle. He went to the hills to hunt for antelope. The sun passed quickly overhead, and still Turtle had not found any food.

From glowing over a large area of rough country, he stopped under a pine tree to rest. Suddenly he noticed all around him the tracks of antelopes. He was resting on the antelope trail, and hadn’t realized it. "I’ll lie here on their trail and wait for them," said the happy Turtle.

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"I am not letting anyone say that common as Turtle poke fun at us," said the mountain lion. "The first antelope. Let’s crush him to death!" said the second antelope.

"I am not letting anyone as low and common as Turtle poke fun at us," said the mountain lion. "The first antelope. Let’s crush him to death!" said the second antelope.

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Youth Council hosts two-day roundtable discussion with tribal leaders in District 7

Gila River Indian Community youth present a proposal to tribal council.

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

The Akimel O’odham Pee Posh Youth Council hosted a roundtable discussion Dec. 27-28, 2017 at the District 7 Multipurpose Building. The two-day event culminated in the youth coming up with proposals that they pitched to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and members of Community Council.

“It was very successful in it got the young people thinking about the future,” said youth coordinator, Michael Preston. “I know they got caught up in everyday life, this was something for them to realize the future of the community is in their hands, they have to come up with the ideas and solutions and to participate in the process.”

The 42 youth in attendance narrowed down their proposals to main topics of education, social, civics, infrastructure, health and technology. Within those topics, they came up with ways they could improve and benefit the community.

They looked at where they spend their time in a positive manner and then looked at formulating proposals. They also looked at obstacles and barriers that could lay in their way. They also reflected on what they should be accounted for and what the tribal government should be accounted for.

Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. elect Robert Stone and District 7 Councilman Devin Redbird were in attendance to hear the youth proposals and offer feedback.

Within education, they discussed bringing a high school to the community as well as offering a tutoring center, curriculum reform, adding traditional classes, home economic classes and career trade schools.

In the social topic, the biggest idea was bringing a multi-tainment building to the community, having more cultural events, boxing events, youth-oriented events, neighborhood events and having community members receive discounts to events held at Rawhide.

In the area of civics, the youth wanted to be innovative and bring online voting to the community, something that has been achieved in foreign countries. They also thought about bringing recycling to the community as well as having parent support and community involvement.

There was a proposal of a community-wide email system to keep everyone informed of events and news. They also lobbied for a laundromat and street signs to be added in the community.

Gov. Stephen R. Lewis responds to the youth proposals at a round table discussion.

Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov.-elect Robert Stone and District 7 councilman Devin Redbird, speak with the GRIC youth.

“Way to go young people,” said Preston. “You really start thinking about their involvement in the community and looking at the bigger picture and being a part of the process,” said Preston of the event. “As well as networking with other young people and getting to know each other from different communities and schools. I also wanted them to learn some life skills.”

A multi-tainment building at Wild Horse Pass is in the works, much to the delight of the youth. There was also a proposed cultural center at the MARS site that could be developed. Council also took in the ideas of a community high school, whether public or charter, online voting, laundromats and other ideas that were presented. The youth learned that there are other economic opportunities available outside of the gaming enterprises for the community.

“I will provide a report on this and it will go the tribal council for them to review,” said Preston. “We found out today that they are already working on several of these things. I think it comes down to communication. How do we get young people to know what council is working on and maybe that’s a gap we can close as a youth council department?”

The Phoenix-based field school provides career development and hands-on work experience in natural resource and conservation management through a variety of field-based conservation projects, trainings, and certifications.

The Bureau of Land Management’s 16-week Conservation and Resource Management Field Certification Program is accepting application for the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters. The Phoenix-based field school provides career development and hands-on work experience in natural resource and conservation management through a variety of field-based conservation projects, trainings, and certifications.

In addition to the field work and trainings, participants in Field School earn up to 16 college credits through Phoenix College by taking classes in areas related to conservation and career development, all of which are eligible towards the Phoenix College Environmental and Natural Resource Stewardship Academic Certificate.

Throughout the 16 weeks, crew members gain the necessary skills and experience to become employed in natural resource careers, while making a substantial contribution to Arizona’s natural and cultural treasures.

To apply, please contact:
Lawrence Harper
BLM Natural Resource Youth Coordinator
Phone: (623) 580-3355
Email: harperr@blm.gov

Requirements:
- Age 18-24
- High school Diploma or GED
- Able to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident

The Phoenix Police Foundation is accepting applications for the Phoenix Police Foundation’s Youth Leadership Academy. The Academy is a year-long program that provides youth with hands-on experience in the field of law enforcement, including training in police work and police communications. The Academy is open to high school students who reside in the city of Phoenix.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the 2018 Arizona Agriculture Internship Program. The program provides high school students with hands-on work experience in the field of agriculture, including training in agriculture-related fields such as farming, animal sciences, and horticulture. The program is open to high school students who reside in the state of Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2018 Arizona Transportation Internship Program. The program provides high school students with hands-on work experience in the field of transportation, including training in transportation-related fields such as civil engineering, transportation planning, and traffic engineering. The program is open to high school students who reside in the state of Arizona.

The Arizona State University is accepting applications for the 2018 Arizona State University Internship Program. The program provides high school students with hands-on work experience in the field of higher education, including training in higher education-related fields such as academic affairs, enrollment management, and student affairs. The program is open to high school students who reside in the state of Arizona.

The University of Arizona is accepting applications for the 2018 University of Arizona Internship Program. The program provides high school students with hands-on work experience in the field of higher education, including training in higher education-related fields such as academic affairs, enrollment management, and student affairs. The program is open to high school students who reside in the state of Arizona.

The Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind is accepting applications for the 2018 Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind Internship Program. The program provides high school students with hands-on work experience in the field of education, including training in education-related fields such as special education, rehabilitation counseling, and vocational rehabilitation. The program is open to high school students who reside in the state of Arizona.

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Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

For several years the indigenous people of Japan have been very much unknown to the western world. Like many indigenous groups across the world, culture and language are vital to their survival.

A visitor from Hokkaido University in Japan visited the Gila River Indian Community’s cultural educators to talk about the indigenous Ainu people of Japan at the Casa Blanca Community School on Nov. 17. Doctoral student and Inter-Cultural Instructor Nanako Iwasa, who is attending the Graduate School of Education at Hokkaido University, spoke about the Ainu people she has worked with.

She said they have shared a similar hardship as Native Americans and have gone through a period of tribulation by being disencouraged from practicing their native language and culture.

“For over 120 years they couldn’t study the Ainu language and culture in public,” said Iwasa. “They have a generation gap, which the young and older Ainu people have hopes of closing by revitalizing the culture.”

According to the Ainu Museum they are one of the earliest inhabitants on the island of Hokkaido, which is the northernmost prefecture of Japan. The prefecture of Hokkaido’s capital, Sapporo “Sari-Poro-Pet,” is an Ainu based name that translates into “Large reed bed” or “Large dried-up river.”

She said her work with the Ainu people is an effort to help them develop and incorporate indigenous knowledge into their education.

“I'm 1997 they revitalized their language and culture, they could have their own sense of pride,” said Iwasa.

Prior to 1997 the Ainu were always in a state of conflict over how to properly identify themselves as either Japanese or Ainu, but now with the support of local educational institutions and individuals like Iwasa, they are literally making a name for themselves.

Iwasa said the Ainu have many beautiful works of art that are expressed through their clothing and the objects they made that serve many uses within their culture.

“Many of their designs come from nature. There are made up of animals, trees and other natural occurrences,” she said, “Some of the designs are meant to protect the people from evil things.”

She said historically the Ainu have been hunter and gatherer people, that went after wild game, some of the people who lived along the coastal areas of Hokkaido became fishermen.

What is more intriguing, are the kimonos the Ainu have made from various materials like cotton and bark strings.

Iwasa showed slides of various Ainu clothing and items that are made from wood and natural fibers, some of which have been made to trade with their Japanese neighbors.

One intricate contemporary handmade item Iwasa presented to the group, was a large wood carved butterfly.

The carving, she explained is representative of the fine craft work that has been produced for decades by the Ainu people.

Iwasa said many of the items that come from the Ainu people can also have many beautiful works of art that are expressed through their clothing and the objects they made that serve many uses within their culture.

The Ainu people have a living system of culture that is carried out each day,” said Iwasa. “The Japanese have recently introduced the idea to create tourism in the area using the original local culture.”

She said that young Ainu people have a better opportunity to learn their traditional language, but the difficulties in wanting to speak it fluently are limited, because the majority of Ainu’s do not speak their indigenous language.

Although there are some hurdles to get through, Iwasa said the cultural programs that she has worked on will help the Ainu people gain a sense of cultural pride, after years of being forbidden from their cultural practices.
Workshop fosters computer skills with math and science

Imagine trying to make sense of a row of numbers on a computer screen that seem incomprehensible to the eye. For a group of Community students, they are learning how to create and make those computer commands perform different functions behind the digital curtain.

At the Anthony B. Sheleid Building at Wild Horse Pass, several GRIC students eagerly awaited the day-long CompuGirls boot camp workshop on Dec. 18.

The workshop was put on for female high school students from the Community.

It was hosted in coordination with the Arizona State University Center for Gender Equality in Science and Technology and American Indian Policy Institute, Gila River Telecommunications Inc., and the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority.

The workshop teaches them skills that go beyond the physical realm and into the realm of numbers and letters that form computer commands.

The workshop offers participants basic concepts of coding, entrepreneurship and social justice.

The students worked closely with a mentor to help them through sections of the workshop that covered coding 101, business model development and app 101.

At the end of the workshop, each group of students got together to work on a project that covered team roles, ideas and concepts.

After laying down a work plan the groups had to design a solution using the Marvel app developer, which allows users to create prototype mockups of app layouts for a variety of mobile devices.

When the students finished they were tasked with creating a sales pitch to get the group off the ground.

The morning started off with a brain warm up activity to help with pattern recognition that is complimentary to computer coding.

Assistant Research Professor Sabrina Weiss, said the workshops and ice breakers were developed to help the students connect with their innovative side and how to work as a team.

She said the activity is about showing them how many ways they can look at a sequence of patterns and to not get stumped if they hit a roadblock.

“The most important thing is that you tried it and you tried it again, that’s the most important thing you can do. If you talk to computer programmers, they will tell you they write it again and again and then they overcome the problem.”

Weiss said, “The goal of the activity is not to show how fast you can complete a pattern, but how you determine how to go about solving the problem, because in subjects like engineering and math, there are many ways to go about it.”

About the computer coding workshop, Weiss said, “The point of it is to be an introduction of thinking like a programmer, which is what the card game emphasizes.”

She said it’s not a typical ice breaker, but that it does get the students thinking in a way that identifies patterns and parallel processing (the ability to do many things at once.)

“My hope is that when students participate in these programs, they find they get to try new things out and get excited about the things they really enjoy and are not afraid to take that leap,” said Weiss, “We give them space to figure things out for themselves and help to be able to approach these things, and not to be afraid of asking questions is an accomplishment unto itself.”

One of the key elements about the workshop is promoting learning routines around STEM based subjects in a systematic way.

Weiss said, “It teaches you things within that field, but teaches you about the bigger picture of things as well.”

API Director Traci Norris said everything is built on math and science from mobile phones to rockets that send people into space.

“When I was a kid, Space travel was just happening, we just went to the moon. I can remember those fuzzy images from the moon,” said Morris.

Norris talked about the disparity of Native people in specialty fields and the younger generation can look towards a career in a STEM based field of work.

She said, “When you think about what STEM is and what it means to our tribal communities, do you know of any scientist or engineers in Indian Country?”

ASU CGENT Assistant Professor Sabrina Weiss talks about thinking like a computer programmer during an ice breaker activity at the CompuGirls boot camp on Dec. 18.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • December 20, 2017

ACTION SHEET
Community Council; PO Box 2138, Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9709

CALL TO ORDER
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council was held Wednesday, December 20, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona. It was called to order by Vice-Chairman Stephen R. Lewis at 1:09 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Janice Stewart

ROLL CALL
Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1- Joely Whitman, Ariez Hogg; D2- Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4- Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison, Barney Enos, Jr., Pamela Johnson; D5- Janice Stewart, Martin Dixon, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr., D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D7- Charles Goldtooth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)
1. Christmas Caroling by Early Education Child Care Center

MS. AURORA INTRODUCED THE CLASS ROOMS FROM THE EARLY EDUCATION CHILD CARE CENTER. EACH CLASSROOM PERFORMED A CHRISTMAS CAROL. GOVERNOR LEWIS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND THANKED THE CHILDREN FOR THE PERFORMANCES.

REPORTS
*1. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 4th Quarter Report
   Presenter: Chesley Juan Jr.
   REPORT HEARD

2. FY2017 Annual Performance Report
   Presenter: Kelly Gomez
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

   Presenter: Kelly Gomez
   REPORT HEARD

4. FY2017 Annual Performance Report
   Presenter: Alan Sinclair
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND

5. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Ira H. Hayes Library
   Presenter: Joanne Miles-Long
   REPORT HEARD

6. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Land Use Planning & Zoning (LUPZ)
   Presenter: Kimberly Antone
   REPORT HEARD

7. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Tribal Education Department
   Presenter: Isaac Salcido
   REPORT HEARD

8. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Tribal Health
   Presenter: Lana Chanda
   REPORT HEARD

9. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Employment & Training / TERO
   Presenter: Ronald Allison
   REPORT HEARD

10. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Tribal Police
    Presenter: Thomas Knapp
    REPORT HEARD

11. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Community Radio
    Presenter: Ron Lopez
    REPORT HEARD

12. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Department of Rehabilitation & Supervision
    Presenter: Kelly Gomez
    REPORT HEARD

13. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Department of Transportation
    Presenter: Alan Sinclair
    REPORT HEARD

14. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Tribal Natural Resources
    Presenter: Joyce McAfee
    REPORT HEARD

15. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Department of Environmental Quality
    Presenter: Ronald Allison
    REPORT HEARD

16. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Health & Social Services
    Presenter: Isaac Salcido
    REPORT HEARD

17. FY2017 Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017) - Land Use Planning & Zoning (LUPZ)
    Presenter: Kimberly Antone
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Lana Chanda
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Tom Cianciarlo
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Robert Stone
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Isaac Salcido
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Alan Sinclair
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Lana Chanda
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Isaac Salcido
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Alan Sinclair
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Tom Cianciarlo
    REPORT HEARD

27. Tribal Annual Report (2016 - 2017) - Tribal Health Department
    Presenter: Lana Chanda
    REPORT HEARD

    Presenter: Isaac Salcido
    REPORT HEARD

APPROVED
4. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement For The Gila River Police Department’s Participation In The Arizona Child Abduction Response Team (AZ CART) (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with amendments and additional information)
   Presenter: Chief Kathleen Elliott
   APPROVED

ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Multi Year Funding Agreement With Indian Health Services (IHS) Fiscal Year 2018-2022 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council, H&SSC concurs)
   Presenter: Linus Everling, Robert Yoder
   ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE; PASSAGE OF THIS AGREEMENT SHALL DIRECT THE LITIGATION TEAM TO SEEK IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION ON ACA/ISDEAA WITH IHS
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE GRHC BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FOR AK-CHIN PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE HEALTH & SOCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS
1. Gila River Gaming Commission Declaration of Vacancies Two (2) (Advertise for 60 days, subject to the Code of Conduct)
   Presenters: Reviewing Committee
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS, SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT
   [GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENCED AT 6:49 P.M.]
   2. Boarding School Visits (ESC forwards to Council for any interested member to attend utilizing dues & delegations)
   Presenters: Education Standing Committee
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ATTEND
   [ADDENDUM TO AGENDAS]
   3. Memorandum of Release
   Presenter: Lt. Governor Monica Antone
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISPENSE
   4. FY2017 Annual Performance Report
   Presenter: Kelly Gomez
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

MINUTES
1. November 15, 2017 (Regular)
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
   2. December 6, 2017 (Regular)
   MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
   > FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE AT GILA RIVER FARMS
   > CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE
   > UPC MEETING DECEMBER 21, 2017, 1 P.M.
   > SEDIMENTS AND WELL WISHES EXPRESSED TO LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTOINE
   > UPDATE HOUSING MEETING, DECEMBER 28, 2017

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:31 P.M.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
Eleven new members of AmeriCorps took an oath of service on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017 at the Gila River Indian Community’s Family Service Office.

The HR Consultant will provide input on written work issues ranging from low to high complexity as well as to assist GRICUA SMT with assessment of staff performance needs and development of action plans. The HR Consultant will anticipate GRICUA SMT’s needs and become a “trusted advisor” to GRICUA staff.

The complete RFP can be found at: Tempe/Arizona Administrative Assistant, at lnarey@gricua.net or by fax at 520-786-6872.

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Total release foggers, also known as “bug bombs,” are pesticides that release as a fog into a room. Foggers are designed to control a wide range of insect pests.

However, foggers can cause people and pets to feel ill if not used correctly. Inhaling the fog can result in irritation of the nose and throat, difficulty breathing, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, dizziness, or allergic reactions. Eye damage can occur if a fogger is inhaled into a person’s eyes. Most exposure happens when people do not follow the pesticide label’s instructions, if they do not leave their home immediately after activating the fogger, or if they return home too soon.

People who have respiratory conditions, such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), are at risk of serious illness from foggers. They can trigger asthma attacks or other severe respiratory reactions, which require emergency treatment.

Ingredients contained in foggers are also highly flammable. The fumes from the fog can be ignited by a spark from an electrical appliance that cycles on and off, such as a refrigerator or air conditioner; or by a flame, such as a pilot light.

Generally, foggers are not effective when trying to control bed bugs and other insects that shelter in cracks and crevices. Foggers only kill insects that are in exposed areas. Pests sheltering under furniture or in cracks, may avoid exposure to the pesticide. Pests can also build up resistance to the active ingredient in foggers, making the pesticide ineffective. The best way to control pests is to use Integrated Pest Management practices that focus on pest prevention.
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**SAVE THE DATE**

**March 30, 2018**

**Good Friday**

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**We need to see your INSURANCE CARD each time you visit GRHC especially the Pharmacy.**

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**Follow GRHC on social media:**

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**Gila River Indian Community Crisis Line**

1-800-259-3449

Call 24 hours a day for immediate help.

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INauguration

“Putting Our People First”

Saturday, January 20, 2018
All Community Members Invited

Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor
Robert Stone, Lt. Governor

Honorable Donna Kisto-Jones
Honorable Janice F. Breckenridge
Honorable Dallas Delowe
Honorable Lucille Antone-Morago
Honorable Sheri Cassa

2:00 PM
Rawhide Event Center

5700 West North Loop Road
Chandler, Arizona 85226

For more information please call (520) 562-9841 or email inauguration2018@gric.nsn.us