Community members dance one final song as the sun starts to rise during the O’otham New Year Celebration on June 24. Aaron J. Tohtson/GRIN

O’OTHAM NEW YEAR
Social Gathering recognizes summer solstice

ONGTHAM NEW YEAR
Social Gathering recognizes summer solstice

Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

A large number of Community members came together for an all-night celebration of dancing and singing starting the evening of Saturday, June 23, and continuing until sunrise on Sunday. The celebration marks the changing of seasons and the social gathering is now celebrated as “O’otham New Year.”

“O’otham New Year is not a holiday in the western sense of the word but rather a time when the O’otham recognize the summer solstice; monsoon storms on the horizon and the ripening and harvesting of baithaj.

“It’s the time when monsoons would be coming, the rain was coming and people would be socializing,” said Barnaby V. Lewis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). “People dance and singers come to sing. This year we had a lot of people and a lot of people stayed until sunrise and that was good.”

Lewis is a regular singer at the annual event and said he was very pleased with the increased participation from previous years.

“I tell people that when they come and participate in cultural events they grow with in their hearts and their minds, with their himdag,” said Lewis.

“We are all related, one family of O’otham.”
- Barnaby V. Lewis, THPO

“We are all related, one family of O’otham,” said Lewis. “We may not be identical but very similar. The singers were always honored to come and participate, to offer their songs as part of the social gathering.” Just before the sun rose over the San Tan Mountains a giveaway dance took place and the event ended one song later.

“Baithaj harvest is it connects them with their ancestral ways, their ancestral teachings and generates pride in being O’otham.”

Before the chudt began, a thoka tournament featuring 12 teams took place just outside of the cultural circle near the fairgrounds. The first few songs of the evening showcased the many different basket dancing groups from the Community coming together.

Throughout the course of the night, the singers sang over 150 songs from the morning star song, macaw song, black-bird song, swallow song and many more. Lewis said that while the songs don’t have an official name, the names come from stories that the songs tell.

This year, Lewis was surprised to be joined by a group of singers led by Michael Enos from the Tohono O’odham Nation. Additionally, joining the celebration was royalty from the Salt River Pimicikamak Indian Community.

“We are all related, one family of O’otham,” said Lewis. “We may not be identical but very similar. The singers were always honored to come and participate, to offer their songs as part of the social gathering.” Just before the sun rose over the San Tan Mountains a giveaway dance took place and the event ended one song later when everyone in attendance danced in a spiral formation around the singers just as the sun was rising.

Following the dancing, participants were invited near the dying fire for a traditional blessing before embarking on their journey into the new year.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

To usher in the O’otham New Year, a Baithaj harvest took place on a hillside just west of Sacaton on June 15.

With the glow of the morning sun just over the horizon, youth from the Gila River Indian Community and sister O’otham tribes went to work to harvest the delicious cactus fruit.

Each year the baithaj harvest is done around the time of the O’otham New Year during the summer solstice. A ripe cactus fruit, the baithaj, is plucked from the towering desert giants, the Saguaro cactus.

This year, Antonio Davis led a group of youth out to a patch of desert filled with saguaro cactus and the highly sought-after fruit. There are few things to know about the baithaj. In its fixed form while on the cactus, it is referred to as baithaj.

It is referred to as Baithaj after the fruit has been brought down from the saguaro cactus. The harvest isn’t done out of personal gain, but for all of the O’otham, and to welcome the rain and other nourishment to the land.

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Baithaj harvest
Ku’ipad is used to take down a baithaj fruit. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Ku’ipad is used to take down a baithaj fruit. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Continued on Page 7
30TH ANNUAL

Gila River Youth Conference

KAI DISH

Rawhide Event Center
5700 W. NORTH LOOP RD.
CHANDLER, ARIZONA

JULY 13
JULY 14
2018

Greetings from the Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council!

Come join us for two days of inspiration and fun. Enjoy motivational speakers and inspirational workshops. Learn how to shape your life into what you envision. Meet new people and learn about yourself and your community.

Visit our website to download registration: www.gricyouthcouncil.org
You can also email us at: youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us
Student intern joins GRIN for summer employment

Aeneas Antoine Gila River Indian News

Hi my name is Aeneas Antoine and I am interning at the Gila River Indian News. I am 14-years-old. I attend Hamilton High School in Chandler, Arizona. I’ll be a sophomore. My parents are William Antoine III and Natasha Antoine. My father is well known around the Community and most people know him by his nickname, “Hop.”

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis took part in an Arizona State University college readiness program for Native high school students. On June 19, Gov. Lewis was joined by Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Vice President Martin Harvier and Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona Executive Marka Dadger for a tribal leadership panel during the INSPIRE Summer bridge program. The discussion focused on the responsibility of being a tribal leader and Dadger’s role as an administrator for a major Native health agency that serves 21 tribes across Arizona.

Gov. Lewis said as a tribal leader, you don’t always think of the “now,” but of the future generations and the decisions that will impact them after your term in office.

He encouraged the high school students to seek out mentors if they need guidance when making decisions that will determine their future.

“Mentors play a very important role, whether it’s a teacher, a traditional leader of your tribe, or church member, or family member, they are important figures in your life,” said Lewis.

He said, “It’s also important to maintain those ties to your community, just like with the Community we would like [those] members to come back to your life,” said Lewis.

“I always try to use these three words as my keywords, which is my framework for getting things done, focus, planning and outcomes,” said Dadger.

Part of ITCA’s role, Dadger said, is to advocate for important services, working with tribal leaders and health directors as a community partner.

As an advocate Dadger educates and communicates important education. He said it is an important step towards giving back to your community, because it prepares you for a potential role in a leadership position and to develop an identity that you can stand behind.

“I encourage you to get all the education that you can,” said Harvier. “I encourage every one of you to strive towards being the person you want to be.”

A member of the Piscataway Indian Nation, Dadger said being responsible for running a major policy center like ITCA, requires being open to ideas and contributing to as a whole to combat some of the most pressing issues Arizo na tribes face today.

“I always try to use these three words as my keywords, which is my framework for getting things done, focus, planning and outcomes,” said Dadger.

Part of ITCA’s role, Dadger said, is to advocate for important services, working with tribal leaders and health directors as a community partner.

As an advocate Dadger educates and communicates important

A characteristic of mine is that I love all animals. I have one dog and two fish at home. My dog’s name is Missy and my two fish are named Abu and Swim Shadyl. My hobbies include playing games, hanging out with friends, making art through Adobe Illustra tor, and spending time with my family.

I have met so many great friends through a program I am in called Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID. It is a college prep program that will help me get into college and help me get scholarships for college. I haven’t decided completely on the career path that I want to go down; however, I do have some ideas in mind. Depending on my decision in a career, I would either like to go to the University of Wisconsin or Arizona State University. I am deciding between a veterinarian, a writer, or a sales man as a career.

My goals are to graduate high school and get into college. Afterwards, I want to graduate from college to jump straight into my job. Some might say my goals are too big; however, I will try to achieve my goals with the support from everyone around me. I’m surrounded with people that push me to do my best and encourage me to keep trying even if I fail. After all, what’s a good life without family and friends to make you happy? Thank you for reading my biography.
Tribal Education holds Graduation Recognition Banquet for GRIC grads

Students from Gila Crossing Community School toured a facility from one the world’s largest online retailers on June 20. Over 40 students took part in the first ever Camp Amazon, which is based on Science Technology Engineering and Math.

The camp activity was held at the west Phoenix Amazon Fulfillment Center, and was made possible through a collaboration with the GRIC and the Science Foundation Arizona. Science Foundation Arizona Director of Education Linda Coyle said the collaboration between her organization and the Community is part of the Native American Code Writers program. The collaboration focuses on STEM education and computer science, which is meant to provide students with opportunities to learn about the two fields and possibly think of it as a career later on.

Amazon Fulfillment Center General Manager Matthew High said the Camp Amazon it is about giving back to the local community. “At Amazon, we try to do as many things as possible with the local community, so with Gila Crossing Community School we see a lot of them go through Cesar Chavez High School.” Amazon uses the camp to build relations with the Community by introducing students to the technology used at the fulfillment center.

“This is the first time we’ve done it in Arizona, so this is our go at it to see how we can continue to inspire students, especially local students in the STEM field,” said High. “The cool part about it, we think of the fulfillment center as kind of that behind-the-curtain where the magic happens.”

Walking through the facility, the students made their way through the cavernous isles of shelves and conveyor belts that move items purchased online towards their destination as they shipped off from the facility.

After touring the facility, the students had a mini robotics demonstration exercise, where they were able to remotely operate a robotic arm similar to the one used at the fulfillment center to move plastic tubs used to sort merchandise. During the exercise, students from the Cesar Chavez High School Robotics Club assisted the Gila Crossing students in operating the mini robotic arms.

High said, “I think robotics is definitely an area that is kind of new and exciting, but as an engineer or scientist you use a lot of critical thinking and problem solving.”

Gov. Lewis also discussed how the educational needs in the Community are being addressed with updates about the new Gila Crossing Community School campus. “For the first time in years, in decades, the Community is building a new school,” he said. The school breaks ground this July.

The banquet began with a processional of all the graduates in attendance followed by a blessing from the GRIC Culture and Language Teacher cohort.

Following the meal, Pete Sabori, a recent graduate from the University of Arizona College of Law, gave the keynote address. He talked about his experiences in law school and the things he learned outside the classroom. “I couldn’t have done this without the Community and Student Services,” said Sabori.

Sienna Whittington, Project Manager for the Native Youth Community Project, then read a list of names of individuals to receive their certificates. Tribal Education Department Director Isaac Salcido, along with Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone congratulated the students. Stone closed out the evening with a final address. Stone said he was impressed by all the students. “When we have a whole house of graduates…we are doing something right.”

Skyline Gila River Schools CLASS OF 2018

1. Jered Lewis
2. Mary Antone
3. Sarah Antone
4. Aubriana Lewis
5. Mary Mark
6. Mariano Martinez
7. Antonio Solarez
8. Micheal Brown
9. Sayla Marrietta
10. Armondo Jose
11. Desiree Apkuw
12. Drayton Enos
13. Malachi Case
14. Dylan Jose
Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

No Incidents involving Part I Crime

District Three – (Sacaton:

Theft – The victim reported her son’s bicycle was stolen from the front area of their home. The victim stated there were no identifying markings, and did not have the serial numbers to the bike. The bike has not been seen since it was last thought to be stolen. Officers are currently following up while on patrol.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were dispatched to an office in Sacaton in reference to a theft. The victim reported the suspect took money that had been placed on a desktop computer and was contacted by the victim with the group who gave the officers the name of who they believed was the suspect. Officers have spoken to the suspect and charges are being pursued forwarded for review.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were dispatched in reference to two bicycles being stolen. The victim reported the theft occurred off Seed Farm Rd from Cholla Rd. One of the male juvenile suspects was located and the other did not stop when officers directed them to stop. Both suspects were arrested and charged for the theft. The bicycles were returned to the victim and the victim wished to press charges. Both male suspects were booked into JDRS.

Status: Juvenile’s were arrested

District Four – (Sto: Tonic Area):

Burglary - Officers were dispatched for a call involving a burglary. The reporting party/victim stated that the suspect entered the house through an unlocked door and took the victim’s purse. The suspect stated they were there for another person, whom the victim stated was money owed to the person. The male suspect then left the residence with the victim’s purse running into the desert. The victim was found a short time later down the road. The suspect was not located.

Status: On-going investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Aggravated Assault - Officers were dispatched to a location where a male had discovered his wallet stolen. Upon further investigation it was discover the wallet was stolen from Wild Horse Pass Casino.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – The victim stated that they were approached by a male in the area. It is believed that the suspect vehicle was a black Honda Pilot. The suspect vehicle was contacted but did not see any suspicious persons carrying suspicious items. The reporting party was advised to check the area for any evidence.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – The suspect vehicle was a black Ford Focus. Officers contacted the suspect and charges were being forwarded for review.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were dispatched to report her vehicle stolen. Upon further investigation it was discover the vehicle was stolen from Wild Horse Pass Casino.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were dispatched to a location in reference to a stolen wallet. Contact was made with the victim, who stated after leaving the male lock- er room he realized he left his wallet behind. When he returned to the locker room he discovered his wallet was now gone.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were dispatched to the Phoenix Premium Outlet in reference to a theft. Investigation revealed the reporting party was unloading boxes for a store when a male subject began to talk to the reporting party. When the male subject left the reporting party a box was now missing which had been set by the door. The suspect was unable to provide a sufficient value of clothing for the store. Security was contacted but did not see any suspicious persons carrying the stolen items.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca):

No Incidents involving Part I Crime

District Six (Komatke):

Theft – 18-02328 The victim reported her mail was taken which included a check. It was reported to the police a family member/suspect forced their way through the door and took the mail.

Status: Under investigation

Theft – While at the District Six Service Center, the victim left her lunch box and walked away. A male suspect was then observed taking the lunch box and leaving the area.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – Officers were responding to an auto theft when information was received of a vehicle matching the description was located in a canal. Upon arrival to the vehicles, location the vehicle was

Status: Under Investigation

Region Seven (Maricopa):

No Incidents Involving Part I Crime

Incident Log June 16-23, 2018

Calls for services this week: 652

Arrest made: 70

District One – (Blackwater):

Aggravated Assault – Two subjects arrived at a residence and pointed a shotgun at one of the vic- tims and demanded to speak to the second victim. When the second victim ran from the residence, the two suspects ran after him and fired the shotgun. The second victim hid in the desert and was later located unharmed by police. Two shell casings were located and entered into evidence.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – Officers were responding to an auto theft when information was received of a vehicle matching the description was located in a canal. Upon arrival to the vehicles, location the vehicle was

Status: Under Investigation

Gila River Indian News July 6, 2018

GMG TV Guide

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*Please note - Data rates may apply.

Gila River Indian News July 6, 2018

GMG TV Guide

Thursday 7/5

8:00PM GMG NEWS WANDA & ERIC BIRDSEYE Native Voice TV

8:30PMGMG NEWS WANDA & ERIC BIRDSEYE Native Voice TV

9:00PMGMG NEWS WANDA & ERIC BIRDSEYE Native Voice TV

10:00PMGMG NEWS WANDA & ERIC BIRDSEYE Native Voice TV

GMG TV Guide

Wednesday 7/4

2:00PM徭瑶的行歌

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11:30PM徭瑶的行歌

GMG TV Guide

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE: NAGPRA APPOINTEE

ganizations, and traditional Native American religious leaders.

Lewis will serve a four-year term.

After the nomination was announced, the Four Southern Tribes Cultural Resource Working Group, which consists of GRIC, the Tohono O’odham Na-
ton, Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, met in August of 2016 and agreed to submit formal letters in support of Lewis’ nomination.

The letters cited Lewis’ experience in NAGPRA compliance and his qualifications as a traditional religious leader.

Lewis is a GRIC member and started as a Cultural Resource Specialist with the Cultural Resource Management Program in 1998. The THPO oversees all NAGPRA related activities and repatriations on behalf of the Community and co-

ordination of repatriation.

Lewis, a Cultural Resource Spec-
cialist, said that the four southern tribes have wanted representation on the com-

mittee for several years. Lewis was previously nom-
inated in 2008. Williams said it is important to have someone from this area “who can speak to our con-

cerns and who can address concerns relating to NAG-

PRA.”

Those concerns deal with the return of ancestral remains or cultural objects belong-

ing to the tribes nation-

wide.

Lewis said the Community has been, “success-

ful in bringing ancestors home from Idaho, Califor-

nia, North Carolina, Rhode Island, New York and even Maine.”

Lewis said it is their number one priority to bring every body home. “It’s with great respect that we attend to these matters on behalf of the people. It’s an honorable responsibility that we have and we still continue to pursue every legal action possible to bring all the ancestors home.”

The Community is currently seeking remains from the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnol-
gy at Harvard University that were removed over one hundred years ago.

Williams said there have not been any recent NAGPRA Review Com-

mittee meetings and that the tribes and groups who work under NAGPRA are eager to reconvene and address many of the unre-
solved issues.

Gila River Indian News July 6, 2018

ADOT presents info at Public Open House

The Arizona Department of Transportation hosted a public open house on June 23 at the Boys and Girls Club of the East

Valley – Komatke Branch as part of the environmental study process of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway. At the meet-

ing, ADOT had renderings of the proposed Ivanhoe Street traffic interchange as well as opportunities to speak with project staff. The proposed renderings show how the freeway exit would be connected to Komatke Lane, near Vee Quiva Hotel and Casino. Jason J. Totschnig/GRIN

Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting an officer to the Vee Quiva Hotel entrance in reference to a theft. The victim stated that he was under al-

teration between the two subjects and the other party hit him in the head with a hosed and would not stop. The subject then sat he only defended himself and took out his knife and threw it at the other subject.

Status: Under Investig-
tion

Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting an officer to the Vee Quiva Hotel entrance in reference to a theft. The victim stated that he was under al-

There were found to still be in possession of the stolen property. The purse was re-

turned to the victim and the suspect was arrested and booked into jail.

Status: Suspect was booked into jail

Theft – Officer's were disp-atc hed to a residence in reference to a theft. The victim stated that they arrived at the mall and went into the store for approxi-
mately 45 minutes. Once they returned to their vehi-
cle they noticed a toolbox had been stolen from the back of their vehicle.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched to the Lone Butte Casino in reference to a theft of a wallet. Con-
tact was made with the vic-

tims phone and walked out of the residence.

Status: Under Investi-
gation

District Four (Stotonic Area):

Aggravated Assault – A dispute occurred while in the vehicle between the victim and the suspect, who are siblings. During the dispute, the suspect drove away from the residence at which point they struck the victim with the vehicle. The suspect was gone prior to officer but was later loc-

ated.

Status: Suspect was booked into jail

District Three – (Sacaton -)

Theft – Victim stated that they were playing at a slot ma-

chine. The victim then got up from the machine and walked off with his wife leaving behind his ticket. When he went back to get his ticket it was gone. The suspect is observed walk-

king to a kiosk where he was able to cash the ticketed and redeem it for cash.

Status: Under Investig-
tion
Something to be told or talked about

By Billy Allen

Hopefully, July will live up to its O’odham name, Jukabiz Masad or Rainy Month. Still, rain or no rain, the fireworks show will go on. Celebrate! “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness…” The colonists’ Declaration of Independence statement of July 4, 1776 was one of defiance. In order for this young country to be taken seriously, a strong military was necessary. At the time, some Native Americans willingly took up arms to help this young nation. Some sided with the British. All in all, the American victory was a loss for Native Americans because it paved the way for further losses of tribal homelands, loss of lives, loss of liberty. Liberty – ironic that Crispus Attucks, the first person killed in the American Revolution, was Black and Native. What about the Gila River Indian Community, did we help the military or “shodual”? Ha’ o -- yes! When the Constitution was created, Indians were not regarded as “We the people.” Native Americans were not regarded as citizens. As such, when WWI broke out and a military draft was begun, Native Americans could not be drafted. Still, like during the American Revolution, many Native Americans signed up. To recognize and honor that call to duty, in 1924 Congress passed the American Indian Citizenship Act, granting citizenship to the nation’s tribal members. Back to the “Declaration” and the Constitution: a hallmark of citizenship is having the right to vote, but many states, including Arizona, refused to allow Native Americans to vote in state elections. (In 1928 Peter Porter and Rudolph Johnson, both Akimel O’otham from Gila River, filed suit to gain the right to vote in state elections, but were denied by the Arizona Supreme Court.) Not until 1948 did the Arizona Supreme Court reverse itself, allowing Arizona Natives to vote in state elections. Today, Native American veterans are honored for their service. As such, when WWI was declared an enemy camp, they attacked an enemy camp, they attacked an enemy camp, they attacked an enemy camp, they attacked an enemy camp. Some Native Americans fought each other, now followed the tradition of taking up arms for the red, white and blue. Gila River honored men such as Matthew B. Juan, the first person from Arizona killed in World War I. World War II Alamo Scouts, the precursor of Special Forces, had tribal members David Mil-da, Theodore T. Largo and Joshua Sunn. Rod Lewis served as an Army Ranger in the 1960s and upon being honorably discharged continued the fight for Native rights within the judicial system. To symbolize that tradition, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian select-ed a design for a National American Veterans Memorial to be titled “Warriors’ Circle of Honor.” The design was created by Henry Pratt, a Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal member. Around 1988, a two year old Cheyenne Arapah-o moved to Bapchule and was raised within our community. His life was short but full. Billy Farris was killed in December of 2006 when on patrol in Iraq. Another warrior who joined the circle on the other side.

From the Front Page

Before venturing out a special blessing is performed to with a good heart and thoughts of those, who are not able to participate in the harvest. Davis said when you bless yourself, it is done with the pulp of the baithag and is spread across the chest or just below the neck. In getting the fruit down, a little bit of O’otham ingenuity is incorpo-rated into the making of a ku’ipad, which is made from the vap’pai of the cactus (or ha’as:han) to create a long pole. Each individual picked out a ku’ipad and made their way out into the desert with buckets in hand to collect their bittersweet reward. How can you tell when the baithag is ripe while on the cactus? Well, when the baithag is ripe, it has a distinct red hue and will look ready to burst open and when the saguaro flower (ha’as:han biosio) is in full bloom. After it is brought down, the soft inside of the fruit called the jun is scooped out and placed into a bucket. When all of the baithag is hauled away, the skins or eldag (fruit’s inside portion) are left with the inside facing up. This is done as a prayer to ask the creator for rain to once again nourish the land from the creator. Since the harvest season is well underway, Community members and our Hajun from other O’otham tribes will be making their way out to the desert to pick the luscious cactus fruit.
Four Tribes Zumbathon

Tribal Recreation & Wellness hosted the first 4 Tribes Zumbathon on Thursday June 28th at the Wellness Center. The Zumba instructors from the sister tribes were invited to share the stage in this fun event. Vans full of participants were in attendance. The Wellness Center was transformed into a neon dance club where participants were welcome to deck themselves out with glow body paint, glow necklaces and bracelets, glow hats and hair accessories. Over 100 participants attended including the staff. Instructors: Salt River: Michelle Tenerio, Ak Chin: Donna Aguilar Tohonono O’dham: Deirdra Edaakie, and Gila River: Fabiola Perez

Come out and enjoy the Zumba classes held on Monday & Wednesday at D5 from 5:45-6:45pm. We have men, children even babies attending the classes and working out. Thank you to the large following of participants moving with the classes and the instructor “Fabby”.

GRIC FIT NEWS
GRICUA hosts STEA3M Summer Program for fifth through eighth grade students

Aeneas Antone/GRIN

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority had nine students take part in a week-long STEA3M Program in an effort to encourage young children to think about career paths in science, technology, art, architecture, agriculture and math.

“We are trying to get young people interested so in five or six years when they go to college maybe they’ll take degrees in math and science and bring that back to the Community and work for GRICUA,” said John Lewis, board of director’s president.

Over the course of the week, the students visited the Arizona Science Center, the Pee Posh Wetlands, Arizona State University, Pinna Maricopa Irrigation Project, Ramona Farms and Wellington Ranch.

In addition, to the tours they were also given presentations by Intel and Boeing.

While touring Arizona State University, the students visited the architecture and construction schools as well as getting a tour with the engineering school. With the construction school, they were hands on and built model buildings that had to meet certain weight-bearing specifics.

With the engineering tour, they got up and close with the Mars Rover and saw Arizona State University School of Life Sciences’ rattlesnake collection.

“It was fun and interesting because I like to learn new things,” said Azumi Murphy from District 7. “I liked the engineering center and seeing the snakes was very cool.”

A tour of Ramona Farms and Wellington Ranch in District 4 gave the students an in-depth look at farming on a large scale and small scale model. A lot of the students were interested to learn the history of Ramona Farms and helped harvest corn and tepary beans. Others enjoyed the peacefulness of Wellington Ranch.

The students also got a lesson in water rights from P-MIP and learned about the canal systems that run through the Community as well as the Managed Aquifer Recharge-5 site.

At the end of the week, they had a roundtable discussion with GRICUA’s members. This was just the second year of the program but GRICUA has many youth initiatives that they provide to help Community members open their eyes to the many different career options available.

“Technology is the future,” said John Lewis.

“We need to get our kids involved in that to preserve what we think is important like our water, land and even our culture.”

Over 200 get active for annual Summer Youth Fitness Fun Day

Aeneas Antone/GRIN

Children from across the Gila River Indian Community gathered to participate in the Summer Youth Fitness Fun Day on June 21 at Jumpstreet in order to encourage kids to be active and exercise.

“It was very successful,” said Alishahvhoon-gam Walking Badger, Special Events Coordinator. “We had over 200 kids from Districts one through seven. This has been an annual [event]. This is probably the third year we’ve did it and it’s for the district’s summer youth programs.”

Jumpstreet was chosen as the place to hold the event because with the triple-digit weather, an indoor venue was best suited for the occasion.

The Summer Fitness Fun Day’s main purpose is to get kids out of the house and to be active while still having a lot of fun. Jumpstreet is an indoor trampoline park for kids of all ages with many activities including a dodgeball arena, two basketball hoops, a jumping air cushion, an obstacle course, a mechanized ball and an area for free jumping. Many kids stay at home and are on their technology devices for several hours of the day so this was an opportunity for them to enjoy time with their friends and exercise.

A dodgeball tournament was held with each district participating in the competition. The tournament was divided into two leagues based on age. District 4 took first place for the older league and District 3 landed on top for the younger league.

The Summer Youth Fitness Fun Day was sponsored by the Gila River Health Initiative. In addition to all the activities the children did, the children were provided a free pizza lunch.
Gov. Lewis gives keynote address at the Annual State Bar of Arizona Convention

Robert A. Jackson  
Gila River Indian News

A recent networking luncheon hosted by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Arizona featured Lt. Gov. Robert Stone and representatives from Gila River Health Care to discuss the new Hau’pal Red Tail Hawk Health Center and other medical services. The luncheon was held at the Casino Arizona Eagles Buffet Banquet Room on June 15 and included local business leaders to network, dine and exchange information.


He also elaborated on the red tail hawk’s cultural significance and the other features of the facility and logos associated with GRIC’s traditional heritage.

Derrick Glum, Chief Operations Officer, GRHC, followed Lt. Gov. Stone with further details on the new facility as well as GRHC’s operations. “We are a fully integrated health care system,” said Glum.

Glum’s summary of the Hau’pal Health Center included an invitation to the members of the chamber to visit the new facility, which is set to open in August. “It’s an absolute stunning, state of the art facility,” said Glum.

Glum closed his presentation with a question and answer session wherein he described GRHC’s staffing, and other elements of their inclusive and broad health care system.

James Wooton, Director of Materials Management followed Glum and each representative was presented with a gift by Loren Tapahe, President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Arizona.

The theme of the convention was “Explore the Possibilities” and Gov. Lewis highlighted that effort in a story about his father speaking with one of his students. The pair were in the vicinity of Wild Horse Pass before there was any developments built and told this student about the plans to develop the area. Few could have envisioned the resort, casino, raceway, and mall in what appeared as a desolate area nonetheless, the Community transformed those ideas into a reality.

Following the keynote speech, the Board of Governors presented Gov. Lewis with a special proclamation highlighting his father’s life’s achievements that was passed in their last meeting.

After the reading of the proclamation to a standing ovation, the Keli Akinmel O’otham traditional basket dancers performed social dances for their crowd.
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Phenix Indian Center
Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona

Funded by Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community youth take flight at a running camp held at Sacaton Middle School on June 26.

Over a dozen youth took to the school’s outdoor track for a quick jog, maintaining their pace together as a group.

After warming up they went into the school gymnasium for a couple of fun activities, like a relay activity and dodge ball game.

The focus of the camp is to be always moving, but to have fun while doing it and take away some important information on self-care.

Wings of America running camp head facilitator Julian Catha said there’s more to just running, because it introduces them to physical activities with a Native twist.

Catha, a member from the Santa Clara Pueblo tribe in New Mexico, has been with WOA for three years and said every opportunity to interact with different tribes is a learning experience.

“We do two day running camps all over the Pueblo region and Navajo region,” said Catha, “We hope to encourage them to get out more and teach these games to their friends.”

He said it was his first time facilitating a camp on the Community, but that it was a fun experience getting to know the people and culture of the people.

WOA Program Coordinator Alicia Littlebear said the activities are meant to teach the kids to connect back with their culture and what running means to them.

“We are teaching them about health, so this year our focus is on kidney health,” said Littlebear. “It’s about teaching the kids how the kidneys function and what it does for them.”

She said the emphasis is taking care of their bodies and preventing health complications.

“Of course, there are health care systems, but it’s very, very difficult when they are at the level to get a replacement organ like a kidney, so you have to be aware and take care of yourself,” said Little bear.

In the Court of the Gila River Indian Community

In the Matter of the Estate of

Ruben Glen Rovie

TO:

Amber Kayla Rovie

19162 Bik haah

Laveen, A283339

DOCKET # PB-2018-0018-DE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

CIVIL

WHEREAS in the above matter, you were to appear for the Order to Show Cause scheduled on June 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM.

IT HAS COME to the attention of the Court that you failed to appear as ordered for the above matter.

THEREFORE:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you appear for a hearing on 16th day of July 16, 2018 at 10 a.m. in Courtroom before the Honorable Westen Judicial Center, 4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ 85339

And there and then show cause, if any you have, why this Court should not find you in contempt and impose a $150.00 fine.

FAILURE TO APPEAR without good cause may subject you to prosecution or other penalties.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

COURT NOTICE

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

GRIC Youth learn about health and wellness at Wings for America camp

Kids participate in a hula hoop activity during the camp. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Instructors work with youth on fitness drills at Sacaton Middle School. Aeneas Antone/GRIN

GRIC Youth learn about health and wellness at Wings for America camp

Since 1988 GRTI has worked to provide reliable service to residents and businesses throughout the community.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the years!
KJZZ shows appreciation to GRIC public safety with 'We Serve' campaign

Commander Ronald Blass and Lt. Robert Tinney enjoy a cup of coffee. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

Radio station 91.5 KJZZ stopped by the Gila River Police Department on June 13 and provided free coffee and donuts in appreciation of public service as part of their “We Serve” campaign.

From 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m., many members from the Gila River Fire Department, emergency medical services, detention staff and dispatchers joined the police department to indulge in the pastries in front of the police department building. According to Shannon Smith, KJZZ/KBAQ has been doing a lot of community outreach with many different police departments throughout the Phoenix area.

“We are doing a campaign throughout the community, not only here in Sacaton, but throughout the greater Phoenix area,” said Smith. “We are thanking police departments and fire departments for their service. We just want to recognize and thank those that serve us in our communities. It’s that simple, it’s something we wanted to do as a station.”

Smith said that there is a listener-base in the area and that prompted them to target GRPD. KJZZ used their mobile studio, Soundbite, to interview different commanders and was broadcast on their website. In addition to providing refreshments, the radio station presented certificates of appreciation to both the police and fire departments. Police Commander Ronald Blass and Deputy Chief-Fire Marshall Kathy Garcia accepted the certificates on behalf of the departments, respectively.

The gesture was greatly appreciated by the many public safety employees that stopped by.

“It’s great and we are very honored,” said Sergeant Timothy Chavez. Sergeant Chavez also appreciated that KJZZ took the time to not only recognize the departments but took the time to come out to the community.

“They go to a lot of the larger cities in the valley but they came out here and chose us to show appreciation,” he said.

Before their stop in Sacaton, the radio station visited police and fire departments in Scottsdale, Chandler, Goodyear and Peoria. They also made a visit to the National Guard. Next they will be making stops in Mesa, Gilbert, Paradise Valley, Tempe and Avondale.

Refreshments were provided by Press Coffee and Short-lease hotdogs + Rollover Donuts.

GRP and District 3 elders meet again on the chair volleyball court

An elder spikes the ball at District 3 Service Center on June 21. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

The Gila River Police Department continued to build its relationship with the community by visiting the District 3 service center on June 21 for a chair volleyball match with district elders.

After conflicts arose on an original plan, the District 3 coordinators informed the police department that on Thursdays the elders practice chair volleyball and a match was set.

“This is the whole police department interacting with the community,” said officer Laura Payne, of events like this. “We want to get to know the community and who we are dealing with not only when we have police contact with them but on positive sides.”

It was an opportunity to meet and interact with the District 3 elders, something the police department wanted to do. This is not the first time the police department has done a type of community outreach.

In the past they have been active in all the districts for small events like “Coffee with a Cop,” or “Pizza with Police” and teaming up with other community organizations like the youth council and Boys and Girls club.

Before the match went underway, the officers had a chance to speak with the elders and an informal Q&A session took place. On the court, the elders protected their home turf and sent the police team back with a loss.

“We had a great time,” said officer Payne.

“We were looking forward to a rematch,” said Payne. "They went to a lot of the larger cities in the valley but they came out here and chose us to show appreciation," he said.

Before their stop in Sacaton, the radio station visited police and fire departments in Scottsdale, Chandler, Goodyear and Peoria. They also made a visit to the National Guard. Next they will be making stops in Mesa, Gilbert, Paradise Valley, Tempe and Avondale. Refreshments were provided by Press Coffee and Short-lease hotdogs + Rollover Donuts.

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Skateboarders celebrate Go Skateboarding Day in Sacaton with contests and prizes

Skateboarders compete in trick contests on Go Skateboarding Day. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

Go. Stephen Roe Lewis tosses prizes to skaters on June 21 in Sacaton. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

The parking lot outside the Sacaton post office was home to an international holiday celebration on June 21 with over 30 Community skateboarders coming out to the third annual Go Skateboarding Day hosted by Seven Layer Army. "I thought our third year was a big success," said Reuben Ringlero, Seven Layer Army co-founder. "I feel like it gets bigger every year. It was a good turn-out of kids hanging out and having a good time." The skateboarding event started at the District 3 skate park before moving to the parking lot across the Sacaton ’76 gas station. The move to the parking lot was to give the skating a "street feel" since skateboarding evolved from the streets before the popularization of skate parks.

The international holiday was envisioned in 2004 on the longest day of the year to promote skateboarding and make it more accessible across the world. The holiday is celebrated in 32 countries with over 350 events held all across the globe.

Sticking to the holiday theme of promoting skateboarding, Seven Layer Army didn’t really have a competition but was more of a “skate jam,” a more relaxed setting where participants were skating for fun with friends. There were smaller contests for highest elevation and seeing who could land certain tricks first.

Following the skating, there were raffle prizes given out and a product toss took place at the end of the event. Between the raffle and product toss 15 complete skateboards were given out as well as 20 exclusive Seven Layer Army Decks and 14 donated Cowtown and Element decks. Also, during the product toss handfuls of stickers, clothing, helmets, pads and skate board accessories were thrown to the large crowd of skaters waiting anxiously around Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

The skaters and spectators were also able to indulge in a local favorite, pickle slushy, for free.

Helping Seven Layer Army sponsor the event was the Gila River Health Initiative, Tribal Health Services and Elemental Awareness. Also, representing Seven Layer Army was co-founder Paul Molina and Darin Mendoza.

“Every time we do a skating event my ultimate goal is to give back to the kids and motivate them to keep skating,” said Ringler. “Go Skateboarding Day is a global event celebrated all around the world. What better way to get all of the skaters together to have fun and give away some prizes?”

DEQ gets input from members about natural resources and the environment

DEQ staff interact with Community members in District 7. Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

The Department of Environmental Quality held a public meeting in the Maricopa Colony on June 14 to get input from Community members on how to better manage the Community’s natural resources.

“We want to make sure that the work we do is driven by your values, what your vision is for us as a department,” said Althea Walker, Environmental Education Outreach Specialist. "We want to know what you want us to do, what you want us to protect, what you want us to restore and what you want us to preserve. Please be open and share with us so we can take it back into our work that we do and make sure it’s the work that you want us to do.”

After an opening talk from Walker and the introduction of the DEQ staff facilitators, groups were formed to start the open discussion regarding cultural values and environment issues and ways that DEQ can address these issues when they work on various projects in the Community. Some of the issues that concerned Community members was the lack of respect for the environment in the form of illegal dumping across the Community. They also stated that stemming from the illegal dumping is pollution in the air that leads to asthma and bronchitis issues.

Another topic that was discussed by many groups was the topic of natural resources. Community members feel that the Pee Posh wetlands should be open for spiritual healing, a quiet place to walk and a learning place for young children. Community members applauded DEQ for restoring the wetlands and described them as “amazing” but wishes it was more accessible.

They also talked about needing natural resources to keep cultural values alive. There was mention of needing materials for basket weaving and cradleboards. Also, the lack of mesquite and tamarack wood for traditional burials was a concern that was voiced.

It was brought up that in certain districts, Community members are not allowed to cut certain plants that are needed for these traditional uses.

Another major issue that was expressed had to do with water. Community members wanted to see water quality standards increase and have notifications entailing water contamination as soon as possible. The Community also discussed the need to have flood controlling in certain areas of the river.

A major narrative that was elders reminiscing about how the area and land used to be in your past’s and the hope that DEQ can bring back that environment to safely raise the next generation of Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.

DEQ will be holding a second public meeting on July 14 at the Huhugam Heritage Center starting at 8 a.m. for breakfast and the public discussion starting at 9 a.m.

The Department of Environmental Quality invites the Community to join us for a meal and discussion to gather ideas on how we can better manage our natural resources in alignment with our cultural values.

To let us know you’re able to attend, please contact Althea Walker at (502) 633-5204 or althea.walker@grin.az.gov.

Your input will guide how we manage our environment.
DEQ leads visitors on tour of Gila River Indian Community wetlands

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Members from the Department of Environmental Quality led representatives from various federal departments through two of the Gila River Indian Community’s wetlands preserves.

DEQ Senior Wildlife Biologist Russell Benford said representatives from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership toured to the wetlands on June 7.

They were given insight into their efforts by DEQ Aquatic Scientist Charles Enos and Pi-ma-Maricopa Irrigation Project Assistant Public Involvement Specialist Henrietta Lopez.

Enos talked about the transformation of the wetlands into a thriving environment that is home to native plants and animals. Benford said Lopez talked about the Community’s cultural ties to the wetlands, which provides many materials used by the Akimel O’otham for several traditional uses.

About the Urban Waters Federal Partnership

According to the UWFP website, the program assists communities in the revitalization of waterways by providing sources of funding and increased collaboration with the partner community.

Its mission is to partner with and engage with community stakeholders by strengthening those ties and in the process, assist with community-organized initiatives, to achieve long-term goals.

Benford said the UWFP group was impressed by the amount of restoration and how it has been achieved through minimal funding.

The wetlands are an integral part of the neighboring cities and agencies that view the wetlands as a vital natural habitat to native plants and animals.

Akin Gump Policy Consultant Steven Heeley said the visit is part of a larger project that involves several municipalities, who have a stake in revitalizing the Rio Salado river system, including the Community.

A conglomeration of various entities, the project led to the establishment of a UWFP for the Rio Salado river system.

“Both Senator John McCain’s office and Arizona State University reached out to various departments,” said Heeley, “The outcome of previous discussions was, that there was interest in coming out and doing a site tour for various representatives of all of those agencies.

The project to revitalize the Rio Salado river system called “Rio Reimagined” includes Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Good year, Buckeye, Salt River Pi-ma-Maricopa Indian Community and the Community.

The project’s proposal includes the development of parks, bike paths, bridges, habitat restoration, flood management and associated river enhancements that will be developed along a 45-mile stretch of the Salt River corridor.

A success story in the wetlands

Heeley said several state and federal agencies are interested in learning about how the Community has been able to revitalize their wetlands.

Their success story has garnered interest from Arizona Fish & Game and the U.S. Forest Service on the possibility of bringing in the Community to assist with projects of a similar nature.

Along the banks of the Salt River, when development is underway, Heeley said, DEQ’s knowledge on wetland restoration could be an invaluable resource for the Rio Salado project.

“There’s an opportunity to provide an exchange of ideas and methodologies and exchange best practices with some of the neighboring parties,” said Heeley. “From the tour, people were very interested in what the Community has done in terms of developing these wetlands.”

Benford said the tour is a promising sign of the cooperation that is ahead between the Community and the UWFP, because it will help with many of the DEQ’s initiatives to revitalize the area.

Benford said the wetlands are unique because they have a strong cultural connection with the people of the Community.

Benford said, “It is evident the Community has an emotional and spiritual connection to the area.”

Federal representatives toured the wetland area of the Community. Bobbie Riggs Photo

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

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Crews help cottonwood

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

At the base of Nui Kush (Aji Mountain) the landscape is taking a step forward, thanks to a little help from the DEQ Fuels Crew on June 12.

A grove of cottonwoods that has existed along the northern banks of the Gila River near Aji Mountain for many years was under a common threat to all native vegetation across the Community. A familiar threat, the salt cedar, once dominated the land, but the towering cottonwood has resisted the invasive species presence in the area.

To give a little help in numbers, the fuels crew removed the salt cedar and installed cottonwood poles in their place.

A small stream of water runs through the grove but before more cottonwood poles can be put in, small dams are created to collect water to moisten the soil.

The artificial beaver dams help facilitate the growth of cottonwood and willow trees, allowing nature to get down to the roots.

A DEQ Fuels Crew members prepares posts for an artificial beaver dam under construction.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Responsibilities may include interviewing and training employees, planning, assigning and directing work, appraising performance, addressing complaints and resolving problems.

• Support the development and implementation of a vision of learning shared by all stakeholders which includes shared beliefs, high expectations for all and clear goals.
• Work to help students gain an understanding of the importance of a safe, respectful, and productive educational setting.
• Participate in the analysis of a variety of data sources to determine annual focus and establish concrete goals for the diverse needs and interests of the community.
• Demonstrates flexibility in responding to the diverse needs and interests of the community.
• Demonstrates integrity by communication and operating from strong ideals and beliefs about teaching and learning.
• Advocates for the school, ensuring compliance with district and state mandates, to all stakeholders.

MARGINAL DUTIES:

• Must be able to work independently.
• Must be able to follow written procedures.
• Must have excellent memory and ability to keep abreast of information pertinent to the job.

COMMENTS:

This job description is intended to be representative of the work performed by employees in this position and is not all-inclusive. This omission of a specific duty or responsibility will not preclude it from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical extension of position responsibilities as defined by the supervisor.
There will be activities including child immunizations (required for school entry), sports physicals, diabetes education, well child exams, and more!

For more information, contact Robin Henry, FNP at 520-610-2379.

GRHC’s newest GRIC employees began working in the following departments: Primary Care, Women’s Health, Physical Therapy, BHS, Podiatry, Patient Registration, EVS, Revenue Cycle, ER, Pharmacy, Customer Service, Dialysis, Optometry, Transportation, and The Caring House - Nursing, and Housekeeping.

- Christlyn D.
- Danika N.
- Shawaron H.
- Armando C.
- Karie N.
- Shayne M.
- Kanta G.
- Joy J.
- Morgan E.
- Armando C.
- Briana P.
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HUHUKAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CAMPUS
Inpatient Department

To make an appointment at either campus, call (602) 528-1219.

Rudy, a resident at The Caring House, is proud of the work he has accomplished in the gardens with assistance from The Caring House staff. Rudy loves to be outside and is grateful for the “great care he has received while at The Caring House.”

The garden practices square foot gardening, in which small areas are created in the garden plot and intensively planted, adding more plants than usual in a garden plot. The garden currently produces chile, squash, grapes, eggplant, corn, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, radishes, watermelon, and cantaloupes. Another special area of the garden features a rose garden with sunflowers and three kinds of corn (blue, white and sweet).

If you have any questions about The Caring House, please contact Ron Preston, Administrator at (520) 562-4790 ext. 7489.
ARIZONA NATIVE
RIGHT TO VOTE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY | JULY 14, 2018
8:30AM – 1:00PM
District 3 Service Center | 31 N Church St, Sacaton, AZ 85147

HISTORY

This event is a celebration for Arizona Supreme Court ruling in favor of American Indians to vote in Arizona. We celebrate our own GRIC members, Peter H. Porter and Rudolph Johnson, initially filing a lawsuit to gain the right to vote in 1928.

After the first was denied, a second lawsuit was filed in 1948, by two Ft. McDowell members Frank Harrison and Harry Austin, resulting in the Arizona Supreme Court’s decision on July 15, 1948 recognizing American Indians in Arizona the right to vote!

In 2011, the Gila River Indian Community’s Voter Registration Board worked with the former and late Governor William R. Rhodes to proclaim each July 15th as the Gila River Indian Community Native American Right to Vote Day.

Continental breakfast and lunch to be served
Event sponsored by Gila River Indian Community Voter Registration Board