Five young ladies from throughout the Community vied for the title of Miss Gila River and Jr. Miss Gila River on Saturday, March 3, at the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley—Sacaton Branch at the 55th Annual Gila River Royalty Pageant. The theme for this year was 55 Years of Cultivating Community and Culture.

Autumn Cooper, Ashley Pasqual and Shantell Terrazas competed for the crown of Miss Gila River. Samaira Juan and Gabrielle Garcia competed for Jr. Miss Gila River.

At the end of the night, Cooper was crowned as the 2018 Miss Gila River.

“I just want to thank my family and especially my parents,” Cooper said to the crowd. “This is a huge honor; I just want to thank the rest of my supporters and friends for continuing to support me every day. I also want to thank these two ladies behind me, within the past week we’ve become really good friends along with the contestants for Jr. Miss. I can’t wait for the rest of the year and my reign. I can’t wait for what is in store.”

Juan was crowned as the 2018 Jr. Miss Gila River.

“I just want to thank you all and especially my family who supported me all the way,” said an emotional Juan, after being crowned. “I know we had some hard times but we got through together. I want to thank my friends for supporting me too, I couldn’t have done it without you. Thank you, Sister Martha and Sister sister.

Continued on Page 7
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GOOD FRIDAY CLOSURES

ALL CLINICS CLOSED • HHKMH • KHC • AK-CHIN
March 30th & March 31st

HHKMH PHARMACY HOURS:
March 30th ... CLOSED
March 31st ... 10am - 8pm
April 1st ....... 10am - 8pm

GRHC Providers Out In the Community during Mul-Chu-Tha

• Dr. Monica Lumpkin
• Dr. Wes Yamada
• Dr. Wes Taxier
• Dr. Martin Smith
• Jesus Ortiz, Pedorthist
• Dr. Ki Choe
• Darcee Bishop, RN
• Heather Jones, RN
• Candy Braby, RN
• Mary Friedle, Infection Prevention

NEW Patient SPECIAL $88.00*
INCLUDES CLEANING, EXAM & ALL NECESSARY XRAYS.
Tribal Education collaborates with artist to promote reading

Miniature library gets artistic makeover in Maricopa Colony, D7

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

A local artist has recently used his brush and colorful imagination towards a Community reading project.

Out in the Westend of the Gila River Indian Community a new addition was recently installed at the District 7 Multipurpose Building on March 8.

Paul Molina, Pee Posh, was on-hand to talk about his collaboration with the Tribal Education Department on a small library.

TED Literacy Coordinator DeAnna Ringlero said the small libraries, which look similar to a miniature house are meant to promote reading throughout the Community.

The mini library project is part of the Growing Readers, Developing Leaders initiative to get families reading together of all ages.

The libraries will be stocked with books and will operate using the honor system, in that readers can borrow and return a book.

“The premise of the little library is to take a book, leave a book, so when families come and get a book, and bring it back, they can exchange it for another friendly book without the check-out system,” said Ringlero.

She said that if a book isn’t returned, it is fine, because there will be more books to stock up the libraries, because the idea is that families are reading them.

Paul Molina said when he was approached about the idea of creating the design of the library he wanted to incorporate imagery that are familiar with the Pee Posh community.

“I wanted to incorporate a lot of imagery from the Pee Posh/ Maricopa tribe depicting butterflies,” he said.

In his signature style of organic shapes and lines to create subject matter, Molina illustrated the agricultural land that surrounds the District 7 Multipurpose building.

He also included the Estrella mountains, which are a notable landmark of the area and the native vegetation and wildlife like the saguaro cactus and tortoise.

“When the Spanish came to this area they saw the Maricopa woman and they had their faces painted like butterflies and that’s where the name Maricopa (Mar-i-posa) comes from, that’s where I’m depicting the butterflies on top of the little library,” said Molina.

Note that the mini library project has started, Ringlero said they are looking for more artist to paint the other mini libraries that will go out to the districts.

The libraries will be stocked with books, and to contact them about their interest.

For those who want to paint a mini library, Ringlero said they encourage the artist to design it reflecting their district and to incorporate imagery around literacy and to contact them about their interest.
Initial work to start in center stretch of South Mountain Freeway corridor

Part of 3-mile segment will pass through edge of South Mountain Park

ADOT Public Information Office
Arizona Department of Transportation

PHOENIX — Crews are set to begin initial work on the 3-mile stretch at the center of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway that will provide a direct link between the West Valley and East Valley.

Construction in the Center segment, which is located between 51st Avenue and 22nd Lane and includes a section passing through the southwestern edge of the South Mountain Park, also will create five multi-use crossings and multiple drainage structures.

Crews have already started creating right-of-way fencing and surveying to identify and tag trees and cactuses in the path of construction that are good candidates for salvage. Over the next few months, hundreds of plants that eventually will be replanted along the freeway will be removed and placed in a temporary nursery.

Beginning this week, crews with heavy equipment will start assessing the condition of soil and rock as well as the depth of groundwater along the freeway alignment. These geotechnical investigations, which occur on every few inches of expansion project, allow engineers to plan for pavement, bridges, walls and drainage structures.

This work, which will require building temporary access roads, is scheduled to continue for several months.

Starting as early as May, controlled rock blasting will begin along two ridges on the southwestern edge of the South Mountain Park to break large rock into smaller, more manageable pieces as crews create a path for the freeway.

Periodic traffic restrictions are anticipated on 51st Avenue, Dusty Lane and Ivanhoe Street during Center segment construction.

The largest single highway project in Arizona history, the South Mountain Freeway has been divided into four construction segments:

- Center: from 51st Avenue to 22nd Lane
- Pecos: between 32nd Lane to the I-10/Loop 202 Santan Freeway interchange along Pecos Road.

The South Mountain Freeway will provide a long-planned direct link between the East Valley and West Valley and a much-needed alternative to I-10 through downtown Phoenix. Approved by Maricopa County voters in 1985 and again in 2004 as part of a comprehensive regional transportation plan, the South Mountain Freeway will complete the Loop 202 and Loop 101 freeway system in the Valley.

You can learn more about the South Mountain Freeway project and sign up for updates and weekly traffic alerts by visiting SouthMountainFreeway.com.

U.S. EPA Awards Funding to the Community to Reduce Diesel Emissions

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In June 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Pacific Southwest Region awarded $154,000 in Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funds to the Gila River Indian Community to replace two pre-2007 school buses with similar models with 2015 or newer engines. The school buses are owned by the Sacaton Elementary School District.

The U.S. EPA’s DERA program reduces harmful emissions by funding engine replacements, idle reduction and retrofit technologies to clean up a variety of older diesel engines.

“Clean diesel technologies not only improve air quality, but also advance innovation and support jobs,” said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt. “These projects will significantly reduce harmful emissions and directly benefit the health of residents.”

DERA grants are administered by EPA’s West Coast Collaborative, a clean air public-private partnership comprised of EPA’s Pacific Southwest and Pacific Northwest Regions. Since 2008, the EPA DERA program has awarded nearly 690 grants across the U.S. in 600 communities.

Many of these projects fund cleaner diesel engines that operate in economically disadvantaged communities where residents suffer from higher-than-average instances of asthma, heart and lung disease. Projects funded to date have reduced emissions from more than 60,000 engines.

To learn more about all of this year’s West Coast Collaborative DERA projects, visit: http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org.

For more information about EPA’s National Clean Diesel campaign and the awarded Tribal DERA projects nationally, visit: http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

You may also submit a request for an application by calling or writing to:

Brenda Katen
Pinal County School Superintendent’s Office
P. O. Box 769
San Tan Valley, AZ 85142
Email: bkaten@pinalcsdo.org
(520) 866-6565
The suspect was last seen entering the merchandise. The suspect then walked towards the bus and a student informed the bus monitor. No one was threatened with the weapon.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven (Maricopa): No Incidents involving part 1 crime

Incident Log February 18 – 24, 2018

District Four (Lone Butte Flats): Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a residence in reference to a theft of a wallet. The suspect was made with the victim who stated he called 911 due to his arm being in pain from a previous fight. The victim was observed to be cradling his left arm which appeared swollen around the elbow. The victim advised he was in a lot of pain and believed his arm to be broken. The victim was taken to an area of the residence they noticed a wallet on a table. The victim stated an unknown person had taken the wallet and was observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca): Aggravated Assault – A suspect was observed taking the wallet from a residence and they were observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Flats): Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched in reference to a assault. Contact was made with the victim who stated he called 911 due to his arm being in pain from a previous fight. The victim was observed to be cradling his left arm which appeared swollen around the elbow. The victim advised he was in a lot of pain and believed his arm to be broken. The victim was taken to an area of the residence they noticed a wallet on a table. The victim stated an unknown person had taken the wallet and was observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Two (Sacaton Flats): Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched in reference to a assault. Contact was made with the victim who stated he called 911 due to his arm being in pain from a previous fight. The victim was observed to be cradling his left arm which appeared swollen around the elbow. The victim advised he was in a lot of pain and believed his arm to be broken. The victim was taken to an area of the residence they noticed a wallet on a table. The victim stated an unknown person had taken the wallet and was observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Flats): Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a theft of a wallet. Contact was made with the victim who stated the wallet was taken from the second level of the residence. Contact was made with the victim who did have the items and returned them to the officer.

Status: Charges Forwarded

Theft – The victim called dispatch requesting officers to the residence in reference to a burglary which had occurred. Contact was made with the victim who stated her window was broken and electronics were removed from the residence. During the course of the investigation leads were developed and being followed up on.

Status: Under Investigation

District Three (Sacaton): Burglary – The victim called dispatch requesting officers to the residence in reference to a burglary which had occurred. Contact was made with the victim who stated her window was broken and electronics were removed from the residence. During the course of the investigation leads were developed and being followed up on.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca): No Incidents involving part 1 crimes

District Six (Komatke): Theft – The victim called officers to report a theft of her cell phone. Officers proceeded to the residence where the victim stated her cell phone was taken from the kitchen. While officers were at the residence the victim stated her cell phone was missing and was located in a neighbor’s residence. The victim stated the cell phone had a tracking device and was located. The victim stated the cell phone was replaced.

Status: Charges Pending

District Four (Lone Butte Flats): Assault – A suspect was observed taking the wallet from a residence and they were observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Flats): Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a residence in reference to a theft of a wallet. The suspect was made with the victim who stated he called 911 due to his arm being in pain from a previous fight. The victim was observed to be cradling his left arm which appeared swollen around the elbow. The victim advised he was in a lot of pain and believed his arm to be broken. The victim was taken to an area of the residence they noticed a wallet on a table. The victim stated an unknown person had taken the wallet and was observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Two (Sacaton Flats): Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a report of an assault. Contact was made with the victim who stated he called 911 due to his arm being in pain from a previous fight. The victim was observed to be cradling his left arm which appeared swollen around the elbow. The victim advised he was in a lot of pain and believed his arm to be broken. The victim was taken to an area of the residence they noticed a wallet on a table. The victim stated an unknown person had taken the wallet and was observed on video surveillance taking a trash can from the third level of the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

District Three (Sacaton): Theft – A male suspect entered the residence and took a forty dollar bill from the residence without paying. The suspect then left the store and took a forty dollar bill from the residence without paying.

Status: Under Investigation

District One (Blackwater): Theft – A 2007 Black Ford was taken from the residence. Contact was made with the victim who stated the vehicle was taken while they were watching the Super Bowl.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Lone Butte Flats): Auto Theft – A 2007 Black Ford was taken from the residence. Contact was made with the victim who stated the vehicle was taken while they were watching the Super Bowl.

Status: Under Investigation

District One (Blackwater): Theft – The victim reported a cell phone being taken from the vehicle. The victim stated he was using the phone to communicate with family members and left the store without paying for the merchandise. The victim stated the cell phone would be registered to the person that purchased it.

Status: Under Investigation

District One (Blackwater): Theft – The victim ran onto the parking lot and threatened to use their cell phone. The victim stated a male subject was standing in front of the hotel with a cell phone and other personal items. Attempts were made to contact the suspect but were met with negative results.

Status: Under Investigation

District Three (Sacaton): Theft – Officers responded to a residence in reference to a theft of a bottle. A suspect was found attempting to use the bottle in her pocket. The suspect was arrested and released.

Status: Charges Pending

District Six (Komatke): Aggravated Assault – Officers were dispatched in reference to a juvenile being assaulted. Contact was made with the reporting party who stated the victim was a juvenile female that had been punched in the face by a male juvenile male that was associated with the female and she stated that the suspect was playing tetherball when the suspect punched him in the face one time and pulled out a knife and started threatening contact.

Status: Charges pending

Theft – Officers responded to District Six Services Center for the report of a theft. Further investigation revealed a male suspect was in possession of the victim’s back pack after it was left on a hockey table in the residence. The victim said the back pack was left on the table and stated the unknown male subject was associated with the female victim.
Aaron J. Tohtsoni
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community’s Fire Department held their 2018 Promotional Ceremony at the Anthony B. Shelde Building on Feb. 28. The ceremony was held in honor of Landon Scates, Adrian Hernandez, Phillip Lewis and Gabriel Rubalcaba.

Acting as master of ceremony was Deputy Chief Glenn Brown. The Gila River Fire Department’s Honor Guard posted the colors for the evening.

Fire Chief Thomas C. Knapp gave the welcoming address and the introductions of the many dignitaries in attendance, before welcoming the Keynote Speaker, GRIC’s Intergovernmental Liaison Manuel J. Johnson.

“Tonight’s promotion ceremony is a rite of passage for those who stepped up to enter the arena of leadership,” said Johnson. “I want to extend special recognition to the families that are here today. To those being promoted we say ‘congratulations and thank you’ for answering the call. We know that you have made many sacrifices... time away from your family and extra time studying and preparing for your leadership positions. You are a team who rely on one another to answer the call, day or night.”

Following Johnson was remarks made from Executive Office with both Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone addressing the individuals.

“Whenever I come to a promotion or a swearing in for our first responders, I like to thank their families across Arizona. Senator Jamescia Peshlakai introduced Senate Bill 1235, at a legislative session on Jan. 18 in an effort to have a day set aside as ‘Native American Day.’

The bill gained enough traction in the senate to receive its first amendment, changing the original date of July 15 to June 2. If passed, the bill sets statewide, they have adopted Columbus Day in October to serve that purpose.

According to the bill’s description it said, “In light of the injustices and genocide, Native American inhabitants have persevered and continue to make great contributions to this state and the United States.”

If adopted, the state will join the City of Phoenix, in recognizing its Native American population.

In 2016, the Phoenix City Council voted to observe Indigenous Peoples’ Day in place of Columbus Day, which is held every October.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

State legislation takes one more step towards making a day in June set aside to recognize the contributions of Native Americans.

Gov. Lewis also acknowledged the dedication and other sacrifices that the firefighters have made on their journeys to get where they are. Lt. Gov. Stone followed with words of encouragement. After the addresses, a brief history of the GRFD was given as well as an explanation and meaning of the fire service symbols.

Followed by the presentation of the badges. Scates and Hernandez were promoted to Fire Captains while Lewis and Rubalcaba were promoted to Fire Engineers. Chief Judge Donna Kisto-Jones swore in the individuals to their new ranks, while their wives pinned their new badges on.

Tim Terry gave a traditional blessing to the firefighters and sang a traditional song as well.

Deputy Chief Brown concluded the ceremony with a few closing remarks.

June date eyed for annual Native American Day in the state of Arizona

Natural Gas Safety

Natural Gas Safety

Wherever you live, work, or play.

NATURAL GAS LINES

can be buried anywhere, even in areas where homes don’t use natural gas. So it’s important that EVERYONE knows how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak, wherever they are.

A LEAK MAY BE PRESENT IF YOU:

SMELL:

a distinct sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, even if it’s faint or momentary.

HEAR:

a hissing or roaring sound coming from the ground, above-ground pipeline, or natural gas appliance.

SEE:

dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or plants, or standing water continuously bubbling.

IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK

• Exit the area or building immediately. Tell others to evacuate and leave doors open.

• From a safe place, call 911 and Southwest Gas at 877-860-6020, day or night, whether you’re a customer or not. A Southwest Gas representative will be there as soon as possible.

• Don’t smoke or use matches or lighters.

• Don’t turn on or off electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls; or do anything that could cause a spark.

• Don’t start or stop an engine, or use automated (garage) doors.
The name for this month references the kwi (Mesquite tree) "leafing out" and its nature's way of letting us know that spring has begun. Many wildflowers are making an appearance throughout our community. Wildflower seeds can lay dormant for many years waiting for just the right amount of rainfall to germinate and grow. Our Hekiu O'otham named everything in our present natural environment including wildflowers. In the Akimel O'otham plant classification system wild annuals have their own category and are descriptive of their appearance, or a characteristic of their behavior. A few common wildflowers on the landscape are: thash ma:hag – White Brittlebush, the O'otham root word thoha means "to become white". This plant is mentioned in the O'otham Creation Epic as being a bed for the infant Ihan (Coyote). This is one of the first desert-plants to bloom in early spring, most notable along the I-10 corridor. Chucv thadab, chucv thadop – Owl-clover, the O'otham name for this plant translates to "jackrabbit's foot and jackrabbit's foot-hair. It can be found growing along road sides or in shallows where rainwater collects. Chi:no hi:thpa – Desert Larkspur, the name for this plant translates to 'Chinese queue' due to the shape of this plant's blue flowers resembling the oriental hairstyle. This wildflower is usually found along the tho:othok (foothills) Hichi e'es – Mexican Gold Poppy, the name for this wild annual is appropriate as 'Mourning Dove's plants or flowers' since the hichi and many animals eat the seeds after the seed pods mature and burst open. Thash macagh – Desert Lupine, the name for this plant translates macagh literally to 'sun hands' or 'hands toward the sun' and references the heliotropic [to follow the sun] qualities of this plant. The O'otham observed how the leaves of this plant resemble an open hand and how they follow the sun throughout the solar day. S-oam e'es – Desert Marigold, this plant's name translates to "yellow plants/flowers," and are evident along most major roadways. Hevel hiosig – Parry's Penstemons, the name of this plant translates to "Wind’s Flower," and can be found along the foothills and sandy washes. Their stalks and showy flowers can be often observed blowing in the wind. The wildflower seeds can be collected after the flowers mature and dry out. Some plants develop seed pods which can be collected before they burst and for other wildflowers the whole seed head can be collected. This month’s word match focuses on wildflowers, we encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives. This is also a good time to observe wildflowers in our natural environment before they go dormant.

Kwi I'ivakithak Mashath

 MATCH THE O’OTHAM WILDFLOWER NAME WITH ITS PICTURE!
Results: Mul-Chu-Tha sporting events

Songivu'l Tournament  Thoka Tournament  Elder Chair Volley Tournament

First Place Buendia, Tohono O’odham Nation.

First Place Ju: Sibanik, Hickiwan Village.

First Place, Tribal Roots.

Second Place, Skomamgi Thathad.
Basketball Tournament

Second Place, S-keg Komchud, Sells.
Tee-ball Tournament

Second Place, Thadai.
Tee-ball Tournament

First Place Komatke Kingz.

First Place, Little Rangers.

Second Place, Diablos.

Annual Sacaton Middle School
Indigenous
STEM Robotic Competition

April 6th-7th, 2018
Sacaton Middle School
Sacaton, Arizona
1st - 8th Grade

Contact:
JoEllen Kinnamon
Email: jkinnamon@sacatonschools.org
Phone: (520) 562-8600 ext. 2048
Teresita Valdez (520) 562 - 8600 ext. 3007
Prior EVENTS
Iwo Jima - 8K Winners were privileged to take a picture with Ira Hayes’s medal and hear a story given by Wayne Allison a relative of Ira Hayes.

MCT ½ Marathon-Water stations competition WINNERS-
Runner’s Choice Award - WIC Department, Most Energetic - Office of the Prosecutor. A shout out to all departments and groups that participated in this year’s water stations the Runners were truly grateful and appreciated your motivation. These were all the water stations including the winners above. Thank you All, Early Education Child Care, DRS, Dialysis, Fire Department, Team Almost- Marietta Family, OGC

ALL Winners for the MCT ½ Marathon runners and times will be posted in the next issue. Picture below of the MCT 2 mile walkers.

Kelly Whitman is one of the Recreation Coordinator’s working with the Tribal Recreation & Wellness program. Ms. Whitman has been with the program including this year 13 years. Her experience and planning skills are a great asset to the program. Ms. Whitman loves working with her community. Many of you know her and can say she always has a smile on her face. This year you will see many changes in the sports leagues and programming for the Youth, Adults and Elders of the Community.

Sports Highlights:
16-17-year-old basketball league Registration Begins March 12, 2018
• Registration Ends Thursday, March 29, 2018
• League Begins Friday, April 13, 2018
• All Coaches must adhere to the new background procedures before participating

GRIC Administration Co-Ed chair volleyball Tournament
• March 24, 2018 at the Wellness Center
• Registration closes March 16, 2016
• 18 team limit.

Sac City Jam High School Basketball Tournament
• Held at the Wellness center and the Boys & Girls Club
• Registration Deadline March 26, 2018
• BOYS: 14 TEAM LIMIT
• GIRLS: 10 TEAM LIMIT

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT
Kelly Whitman
Country, hip hop, and 70s music highlight Mul-Chu-Tha festivities

Aaron J. Tohtsoni/GRIN

Elders, veterans, and youth honored at Community Day

Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Stone along with royalty, pose with Alfred Reams.

Yvonene Stovall, Vice President of the Mul-Chu-Tha, from the Gila River Community.

Lilliana Lopez, fourth grade, reads her award-winning essay.

Rick Trevino, right, and Flaco Jimenez, left, headline Saturday’s entertainment.

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

Country music artist Rick Trevino headlined the Mul-Chu-Tha concert on Saturday night, along with Flaco Jimenez on the concert stage at the fairgrounds.

Jimenez is a seven-time Grammy award winning Tejano music artist, Trevino has also won a Grammy from a collaboration with Jimenez and others. Both are Texas natives.

Trevino has had 14 singles on the Billboard Hot Country Song charts and has recorded seven albums in his career. His single, “Running out of reasons to run,” was his first single to reach the top of the charts.

“I thought it was great,” said Trevino after the concert. “We left Austin (Texas) this afternoon, flew straight to Phoenix, from Phoenix drove straight here, from here got to Arizona and no it’s been kind of a whirlwind. The dressed and straight on stage, so I don’t care what day of the week it is, you can go into a town of 200 and there are 800 people at the show. The size of the city doesn’t matter but that is one of the fun things about being in the music business and getting to tour. You get to see all of these interesting towns and cities and get to play for the fans.”

Trevino and Jimenez met in 1995 in El Paso. Trevino said that Jimenez has a paternal influence over the him referencing how professional Jimenez has been and still performing at the age of 79. Trevino said that Jimenez is a good example to any music artists.

Jimenez has enjoyed a career that has spanned over six decades. He has been influential in having conjunto and Tejano music crossover into mainsteam country music.

In the essay competition, Lilliana Lopez (4th grade), Mattias Benally (8th grade) and Thomas (12th grade) finished in first place in their respective grade divisions.

Ndyia Barajas (4th), Nathan Thompson (4th), Melissa Castro (7th), Adaline Santis (9th) and Gabriella Ordonez (10th) all finished in the top three for their grade divisions. Each of the top three were awarded various gifts for their accomplishments.

Following the art essay contest, the winner of the Mul-Chu-Tha’s Elder of the Year and Veteran of the Year were announced.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Governor Robert Stone, Miss Gila River Autumn Cooper and Jr. Miss Gila River Samaire Juan went on hand to present a Pendleton blanket to the Veteran of the Year and Elder of the Year.

Adolph Reams was Veteran of the Year. He enlisted in the Army paratroopers in 1950 after the Korean Conflict. He was assigned to the 187th airborne infantry regimental combat team. He worked as a police officer and has worked within the Community in various positions.

“We have a living hero here,” said Gov. Lewis, presenting Reams with a Pendleton blanket called Grateful Nation. “He’s dedicated his life to his family, his country and to his community, all of his life. We are a grateful Community to have him here and be able to recognize a Korean War veteran who served with distinction.”

Yvonene Stovall was the Elder of the Year.

Stovall, 90, served 20-years as an x-ray technician in Ohio as well as being a veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. She currently serves the Gila River Indian Community Council of Elders. She is a leader and advocate for elder issues within the Community.

She is a navy veteran and has fought in the Korean Conflict. She is also a police officer and has worked within the Community in various positions.

“Without you, I will get somebody to do it for you. Thank you for being here and I love all of you.”

Adolph Reams, Elder of the Year.

“Thank you for everything great about our elders.”

“Trevino and Jimenez told me today ‘I’m glad to be here today and glad the good Lord has given me all of this time to be with my family and other people’,” said Stovall. “I have a sign on my refrigerator that says ‘get up and move.’ If you need something, let me know and if I can’t get it for you, I will get somebody to do it for you. Thank you for being here and I love all of you.”

To end the evening, a coronation dance was held in honor of the newly crowned GRIC royalty court with O’odham Tradition Waila Band performing.
rides pierced the night air and music from both ends of the fairgrounds brought joy to families looking to get in that last bit of entertainment.

Across the fairgrounds, a battle was going on, but it wasn’t fist to cuff, but a battle of the bands competition and dance contest. Bands like Pickup Kings, O’otham Tradition and Native Creed played on as audience members got their feet moving and their hips swinging.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone greeted the audience, hoping they had a fun time at the fair and sending blessings of safety as they return home.

Where there’s smoke, there’s fire and that is what Smokestack Lightning was doing when they hit the main stage with their string of blue tunes.

Shining Star took everyone back in time with the funky EWF hit, such as “Sing a Song,” “Got to Get You into My Life,” and “After the Love Has Gone,” which at the time of their release made the top 10 hit list.

Arrested Development played some chart toppers, like “Tennessee,” “Everyday” and “Mr. Wendel” to get crowd signing along and their hands reaching for the sky.

Annual parade brings fanfare to Community

Many of the floats were decorated with Akimel O’odham themed designs from baskets to Vaphio that displayed the history of the people. Among the parade float designs, was the theme “Honoring Our History and Everyday Heroes.”

The parade paid tribute to the Community’s history, servicemen and women and public safety personnel, who protect and serve the people of GRIC.

Leading the parade was Grand Marshal and Veteran of the Year Alfred “Freddy” Reams and Elder of the Year Yoovme Stovall.

Trailing the grand marshals was Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Robert Stone, who greeted the parade attendees.

Gov. Lewis thanked all of the parade attendees and participants and said there is plenty of entertainment for families and visiting tribes at the MCT.

Tribal departments and schools, also represented how important the Community is committed to educating the future generations of members and how some of that is being taught today through math and science activities through the demonstration of drones.

The Arizona Diamondbacks, Arizona Cardinals and Arizona Coyotes also entered the parade.

Their floats would not be complete without a little help from each of the teams’ mascots like Baxter the Bobcat, Big Red and Howler the Coyote.

After the parade finished, parade goers made their way to the fairgrounds to watch the rodeo and listen to chicken scratch bands jam out under the big tent.

Elsewhere the smell of corn dogs and kettle corn filled the air ringing in another exciting MCT weekend.
Children learn about physical activity at Cardinals Kid Camp in D6

The Arizona Cardinals and Gila River Casinos partnered to provide a Cardinals Kid Camp in District 6 at the Boys and Girls Club on March 13. The initiative of the camp was “Play 60,” geared at having children play and exercise for at least 60 minutes a day.

On hand for the camp was former Arizona Cardinals player, Michael Bankston, along with mascot, Big Red, and a few cheerleaders.

The 80 children of all ages that attended participated in physical activities at five different stations during the morning. The stations were similar to regular football functions, with a lot of running and offensive/defensive skills, the stations are non-contact and feature skills like catching and throwing.

Emiliano Morondos, branch manager, said the event was well-organized and successful. The event was able to get the kids active for 60 minutes while having fun.

Following the physical activity, the children sat and listened to Bankston give a motivational speech about the importance of staying active each day, not bullying and education. A graduate of Sam Houston State University, Bankston said it was because of his education that he is still successful after his playing career ended. Following the talk, Bankston opened up the floor for a Q&A session.

He stated that football was a good platform for him to be in a position where he can speak to and encourage youth. He spent six seasons with the Cardinals during the 90s but finished his career with the Cincinnati Bengals in 2000.

After the Q&A session, each participant received a lunch box that was autographed by Bankston and Big Red. They also received a signed poster of the Arizona Cardinals cheerleaders.

“This is part of Gila River Casinos’ partnership with the Cardinals,” said Manny Hernandez, public relations coordinator. “We have the opportunity to bring Cardinals’ kids camp to Community members. We will have a couple more during the season and we will do them in the districts and try to get all of the kids out to these events.”

INFO ON APPLICATION PROCESS
MEET W/ STUDENT ADVISORS
LOCAL COLLEGES ATTENDING
RAFFLES THRU OUT EVENT
FOOD/DRACTS WILL BE SERVED

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(602) 596-9777
5036 E Van Buren St
Phoenix, AZ 85008
parksheds@gmail.com

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2 FREE windows!!

Cabins, Barns, Sheds and Garages too.
Rent To Own No Credit Check
GRIC and ASU Partner in Building Sustainable Housing Projects

GRIC master builder Aaron Sabori (master builders are community members who have built in the traditional architecture style). The intent of the build is to provide interaction and comments from Community members at the annual fair. The Tribal Recreation/Wellness Program provided the site in which these structures can be displayed. The Gila River Indian Community/ASU collaboration is consistent with two of ASU’s eight design aspirations, Leverage our Place and Transform Society, which guide the university’s work toward achieving excellence, access, and impact. “These sustainable housing concepts align with the cultural and natural environment in tribal communities honoring the special connection to place and space,” said ASU President Michael M. Crow. “ASU is committed to assisting the Gila River Indian Community in designing an innovative future that is reflective of their core values.”

Subcommittee holds legislative hearing on tribal lands bill

A bill that would put lands back into the hands of the Gila River Indian Community was presented before the House Committee on House Resolution 4032 to legitimize rights-of-way claims to lands on the northwest boundary of the Community. Dating back to 2006, the Community presented a lawsuit against the United States before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia regarding trust assets and land. In 2016 the Community entered into negotiations in lieu of their previous lawsuit with the federal government, through a Joint Stipulation Settlement. The settlement is an agreement between the Community and the federal government, that resolves any claims trust asset. Furthermore, H.R. 4932 will legally establish right-of-way claims on Community lands and prevents future disputes around such issues.

Most importantly, this will outline the northwest Community boundary, and place Bureau of Land Management lands into trust for GRIC. In the legislation, it claims that the U.S. government failed to document federal rights-of-way across the Community over 3,600 acres. It includes claims about illegal patenting of lands to non-natives and failed to accurately survey the Community’s northwestern boundary. H.R. 4032, also states that the federal government must maintain adequate systems and controls to guard against error or dishonesty on Community trust property. In summary, the resolution aims to place more responsibility on the federal government over how Community land into trust is managed.

Some of the other reasons for resolution, provided on the issue, was a failure to collect rent and document of rights-of-way for the Community’s trust assets. Information on the issue cited the long-standing history of errors made in establishing the northern boundary of the Community. Within the summary, it states the Community’s boundary near the Salt River and Gila River, where the two rivers intersect does not reflect the actual boundary of the tribe. When the piece of legislation is passed, the Community hopes that it will settle where the northwest boundary and dissolve the long-standing issues with the rights-of-way claims with outside entities.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis testsifies on H.R. 4032 in Washington D.C.

It will hold the federal government responsible for its obligations under the act’s stipulations, if passed.
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Close Up Program participants play role as bailiff and witness during a mock trial session.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRICA

Close Up participants act as the jury during the mock trial session on March 7.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRICA

Youth learn about government and tribal issues in Close Up

Close Up Program participants play role as bailiff and witness during a mock trial session.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Each year in March Community youth take part in the Gila River Close Up program that culminates in a presentation before Community Council.

Adrian Thomas reflected on the three-day program, saying he learned a lot about tribal government and sovereignty during a Community meeting on Mar. 7.

Thomas, a senior at Casa Grande Union High School, said he encourages other Community youth to get involved with the Close Up program.

A three-day crash course covers topics like the judicial branch and court proceedings, GRIC history and culture, water rights, and students take a closer look at the tribal budget and how it is constructed each year.

On the last day of the program, the students participated in a mock trial where an individual was on trial for stealing a handbag from a luxury retailer.

McClintock, High School student Andrew Clark said, “What I’ve learned is about my culture, because we don’t learn about it outside of the Community.”

Clark, who was part of the prosecution during the mock trial said there are so many things to consider when determining whether the defendant is guilty or innocent, based on what led them to make those decisions.

About the program, he said, “It taught me that Council has many decisions to make whether they are good or bad, they are under pressure to do what is best for the people.”

Another student David Romero said he was elected as Treasurer for the mock tribal government.

He said during the course of the tribal government portion of the program the issues of balancing a budget and having enough money to use for the people is one that requires us to think about our past, our tribal government and what we are going through now,” said Hernandez.

He was also a participant on the mock trial and said it was a very nervous moment being called as a witness to testify, but understood the value of why it is important to make good decisions.

Hernandez said in the future, he would like to run for Community Council and help make some positive changes for his people.

Among other topics discussed at the program was, language and culture, team building and networking and public speaking activities.

WHAT'S NEW AT GRICUA?

SOA-Customer Service Update

A final notice was sent in March to those customers who have not transferred to GRICUA by March 15. Keep this for your cooperation during this transition period.

GRICUA's Summer High School and College Internship Program

GRICUA now accepting applications for its High School and College Summer Internship Program. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 27, 2018 by 4:00 PM. Please stop by our office or visit our website at www.gricua.net for more information and to download the application. Interviews will be held the week of May 7th and start dates will depend on the student’s last day of school.

GRICUA's Budget Billing Program

GRICUA's Budget Billing Program is a no cost program that averages out your seasonal high and low based on a rolling twelvemonth average of your bill. Customer bills will vary from month to month, however they should stay at a consistent average based on your billing usage. Budget billing amounts will be able to be submitted to your District Service Center for Community assistance based on your eligibility. Please call (520) 796-0900 or stop by our office for more information. Registration forms can be obtained on our website (www.gricua.net), at your District office, at District Service Centers on the following days:

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GRICUA’s Budget Billing Program requires a 90 day approval.

Our GRICUA’s Budget Billing Program go to our website at www.gricua.net.

GRICUA is a member of Arizona Blue Cross Blue Shield. Please call 1-800-782-8348 to request an underground line located of both GRICUA and SOA on reservation facilities.

GRICUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to gricua@gricua.net. You can also go to our website at www.gricua.net.

GRICUA Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM Payments are accepted in-person and by phone both during our normal operating hours as well as afterhours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment options please call during normal business hours.

2nd Annual GRICUA STEA3M Program June 18-22, 2018

Exciting Science and STEA3M Summer Enrichment Program

Visit www.gricua.net for more info and registration.

Must be an enrolled Community Member

Field Trips & Hands on Activities

Must be entering 5th-8th grade and lunch provided

Deadline to apply is Friday, May 4, 2018

6636 W. Sundust Rd., Chandler, Az 85226
602-796-0600 fax: 602-796-0671
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Continued on Page 16
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

** VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT **

Public Notice

Appointments of Community Council Secretary

One - Year Term

Deadline

May 7, 2018
5:00PM

Pursuant of the Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, Section 4; The Secretary must submit a copy of your letter of resignation to the Community Council Secretary's Office by the deadline date, (include your address and your resignation on your résumé). A copy of the position description outlining the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary's Office or on the Gila River Indian Community's website. Community members interested in serving as the Community Council Secretary, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest, a Résumé, an Application/Affidavit, and Financial Disclosure Statement to the Community Council Secretary's Office by the deadline date, (include your address and your resignation on your résumé). A copy of the position description outlining the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary's Office or on the Gila River Indian Community's website. Community members interested in serving as the Community Council Secretary, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest, a Résumé, an Application/Affidavit, and Financial Disclosure Statement to the Community Council Secretary's Office by the deadline date, (include your address and your resignation on your résumé).

community.com

John Lewis

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Board of Di-
rectors Declaration of One (1) Vacancy (G&M motioned to
forward the notice of vacancy to Council following the
Code of Conduct)

Presents: Jason Grooten, WHPDA Board Of Directors

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE AND AD-
VERSE THE VACANCY FOR 60 DAYS

2. Health Care Audit Care Positions (G&M motioned to
forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presents: Tom Grant, Director of Human Resources

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacancy
(Advertises for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presents: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DELCARE AND AD-
VERSE THE VACANCY FOR 60 DAYS

4. 2018 Tribal Self Government Conference April 22-26,
2018 Albuquerque, New Mexico (H&SS forwards to
Council to open to any appointed Council member to at-
tend the conference)

Presents: Health & Social Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE COUNCIL TRAVEL

5. Notification of upcoming Court of Appeals Vacancy (LSC
forwarded to Council with a recommendation to declare
the vacancy as per the Code of Conduct)

Presents: Yolanda Johnson

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Citizens Advisory Board District Four Representative
(90 days referred to Council with a recommendation to
approve to remove the District Four CAB Representative
contingent upon receiving the District motion sheet by
Thursdays)

Presents: Galvin Brown

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE AND RE-
MOVE THE DISTRICT FOUR CAB REPRESENTATIVE

7. District 4 Elder Report (CRSC forwards to Council)

Presents: Malcom Eschief, Councilwoman Alli Johns

HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF AGENDA

8. WHPDA 2018 Annual Plan (EDSC forwards to Council
with recommendation for a Special Council Meeting on
Friday, March 16, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass)

Presents: Kevin Heald, WHPDA Board of Directors

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD A SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018, 12:00 P.M.

9. Attorney Contract (Executive Session) (G&M motioned
forward to Council for Executive Session)

Presents: Thomas Murphy

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

[LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE CALLED FOR A
10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVGED AT 2:21 P.M.]

[ADJOURN TO AGENDA]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE
SESSION

10. Executive Office Communication (Executive Session)

Presents: [NAME]

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO NOTIFY AND DIRECT
THE GOVERNOR STEPHEN ROE LEWIS TO RETURN TO
THE COMMUNITY AND HOLD A SPECIAL COUNCIL
MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

[ADJOURN TO AGENDA]

11. 5th Annual Tribal Water in the Southwest Conference
Presents: [NAME]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE COUNCIL
TRAVEL

[LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE CALLED FOR A
10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVGED AT
2:21 P.M.]

MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> LSC SPECIAL MEETING MOVED TO CCSO, THURS-
DAY, MARCH 7, 2018, 8:30 A.M.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND THE
RULES TO ADD THE 5TH ANNUAL TRIBAL WATER IN
THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNDER NEW
BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:15 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
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TO GET TRIPLE YOUR TAX RETURN
TOWARD A NICER, NEWER CAR!
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Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley
Gila River Branch – Sacaton
118 South 14th Street
Sacaton, AZ 85142
https://www.clubzona.org

Youth Hours: 7am-7pm
Teen Hours: 12pm-8pm

* ALL MEMBERS MUST BRING A LUNCH MON-FRI

If you have any questions please contact:
Soyet Antone @ 520.562.3890/
soyet.antone@clubzona.org

Spring Break 2018
March 19th - 23rd

Youth Week

Mar. 19th — Disney Day

Mar. 20th — Safari Day

Mar. 21st — Heroes vs Villains

Mar. 22nd — Local Heroes

Mar. 23rd — Wacky Tacky Day

Field Trips

Mar. 19th — Visit to Phoenix Zoo

Mar. 20th — Hiking South Mountain

Mar. 21st — Hiking North Mountain

Mar. 22nd — Visit to Phoenix Zoo

Mar. 23rd — Visit to Phoenix Zoo

Teen Week

Mar. 19th — Game Day

Mar. 20th — Art & Craft

Mar. 21st — Water Day

Mar. 22nd — Culinary Day

Mar. 23rd — Celebrate Spring / Gardening
EVENING MUST
GO!

ALL INVENTORY MARKED DOWN

2014 Buick Verano  $199/mo.
2015 Buick Encore  $13,999
2015 Dodge Caravan  $275/mo.

2015 Chevrolet Camaro  $255/mo.
2013 Ford Mustang  $275/mo.
2014 Hyundai Elantra GT  $205/mo.

2015 Chevrolet Sonic  $159/mo.
2015 Jeep Renegade  $279/mo.
2015 Jeep Patriot  $9,999

2016 Toyota Corolla  $199/mo.
2015 Nissan Titan  $22,999
2013 Honda Civic  $8,999

2015 Mazda 3  $199/mo.
2009 Chevrolet Avalanche  $299/mo.
2015 Hyundai Tucson  $260/mo.

2016 RAM 1500  $350/mo.
2015 Ford Escape  $245/mo.
2009 Chevy Silverado  $289/mo.

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*Payment based on 720 credit score, 3.89% APR @ 75 mos. with TT&L down. Not all customers qualify based on approved credit.
SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018
DISTRICT 7 - MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING & PARK

Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration

8035 S. 83rd Avenue
Laveen AZ 85339
(83rd Avenue, South of Baseline Rd.)

General Information please call
District 7 Recreation at 520.430.4780