Historic First Presbyterian Church set on fire in Sacaton

Crews put out the fire at the historic Presbyterian Church in Sacaton on March 25. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Several public safety agencies and GRIC departments assisted in the emergency, three suspects arrested by GRPD

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Presbyterian C.H. Cook Memorial Church, a historic landmark in Sacaton, was lost to a fire on March 25. At 8:52 a.m., Gila River Police Department and Gila River Fire Department, along with other local fire departments responded to the blaze, which—by the time crews arrived on the scene—had fully engulfed the structure.

The fire was so immense, that billows of smoke could be seen from Interstate 10 and Wild Horse Pass, as crews rushed to extinguish the flames. Social media users were active posting video and pictures of the events unfolding before them.

Much of the interior structure was consumed by flames, as it swept through the buildings windows and roof, which gave way under the enormity of the fire.

Firefighters rushed to put out the fire, and conduct mop-up operations to suppress any lingering flames underneath the charred rubble and to cordon the area. Members of public safety were on-hand to speak with parishioners of the nearby First Presbyterian Church, who provided updates on the fire and police investigation.

Church pastor Loretta Blackwater said the fire is a blow to the long history of families who attended services at the old church building.

“It’s like losing a parent, that’s why it’s so hard, because we knew this was a safe haven. You could come here and feel safe, everyone who knew each other, and others were welcome,” said Blackwater.

Gina Enos, a church elder, said it’s a sad reminder of the terrible things that have previously happened to the church. “Before, they would spray [paint] hurtful things on the walls, that’s why its painted over in front,” said Enos.

She recalls memories as a child attending services at the church with her parents and siblings, and how the church was a symbol to many Community members.

According to a Gila River Police Department press release, GRPD officers conducted a sweep of the area to gather information on individuals in the vicinity at the time of the fire.

After an investigation, GRPD officers located three suspects who were taken into custody for arson. On March 26, the Gila River Fire Department thanked the following parties on their Facebook page for assisting with the emergency: Gila River Health Care, Gila River Department of Public Works, Gila River Office of Emergency Management, Gila River District 3, Casa Grande Fire Department, Chandler Fire Department, AZ Fire Medical - Battalion 231, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Crews put out the fire at the historic Presbyterian Church in Sacaton on March 25. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Magician Lance Burton performs for children at the Boys & Girls Club

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Legendary performer and magician Lance Burton treated youth to a special magic show at the Boys & Girls Club in Sacaton on March 15.

Burton was in town to perform two shows at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino on March 16 and 17, and shared his love of magic with an eager audience of youth who sat in rows inside the gymnasium.

“I always try to tell people how I got started in magic when I was a kid,” said Burton, “When I was five-years-old at a magic show, I was pulled from the audience, went up on stage and a magician pulled a silver dollar out from behind my ear.”

Burton said it seemed real to him as a kid, but it was soon pointed out to him, the magician did not have magic powers and was merely a performer that has practiced the art over and over. Burton then went to the local library to find books to learn about the craft.

“I got some magic books and started reading and I got a magic set,” said Burton, “50 years later, I’m on stage and I’m getting kids out from the audience to perform magic with me.”

Magician Keith West also entertained the audience with gravity-defying illusions and other tricks.

Afterward, Burton invited a youth from the audience for the final act of the afternoon. Although it appeared to be a standard magic trick of pulling a silver dollar from behind an ear, Burton rocked the audience member back and forth, which led to a shower of silver coins to come from the child’s mouth into a jar.

By performing in front of the kids, Burton said, “I’m hoping just to pass that along, hoping that one day, there will be another terrific magician to come along and then they’ll say ‘oh yeah, I saw Lance Burton and he got me up on stage.'”

Part of his act is not just the tricks, but leaving an impression on the audience. “The lesson out of that is try to be kind to everyone, you meet along your journey,” he said, “You want to try, to in any performing art form, whether you are a singer or comic or magician, you want to demonstrate what you do, but also try to connect with audiences on a personal level.”

Lance Burton, performs in Sacaton prior to shows at Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Emma Hughes/GRIN

LENDERBURY D. GILAD R. COMBRINCK M. KAMN "The lesson out of that is try to be kind to everyone, you meet along your journey," he said, ‘You want to try, to in any performing art form, whether you are a singer or comic or magician, you want to demonstrate what you do, but also try to connect with audiences on a personal level.”
Introducing Dr. Roopa, Endocrinologist At Life Center

To briefly introduce myself, I come from a family of many people with diabetes, and I have seen them go through the everyday struggle of managing diabetes. It gave me an insight about how dealing with diabetes was easy for some people while very difficult for others. I was determined to become a doctor and specialize in Endocrinology to be able to help people as well as my family members.

I want to use my column to the fullest to write about the topic of diabetes. My goal is to reach out to more people to help them improve their health especially with regards to diabetes. Diabetes can be frustrating, annoying and frightening to people. But I want to completely ensure that it is treatable and people with diabetes can live long healthy and happy lives.

My goal is to provide information about diabetes and answer all your questions. Also to provide more information about the available tools and resources in our community, so that people feel more comfortable to openly discuss, ask questions, seek help or advise to improve their health.

I look forward to our conversation. That’s right, I would like for you to be my guests and send me your questions so that I can answer you in my column, on our social media platforms or website. From time to time, I may even ask you to join me for a live interview to share information that will help others!

Send your questions to: AskDrROOPA@GRHC.ORG

Look for my next column in the April 19th GRIN. I will talk about the history of diabetes and “Why me?” Until then, practice self-care; take Care of #1!

- Dr. Roopa

Introducing New Column! - Let’s Ask Dr. Roopa

Gila River Health Care is proud to introduce Dr. Roopa, an Endocrinologist or a doctor that specializes in managing diabetes. Dr. Roopa has been with GRHC’s Life Center for nearly three years, in addition to treating patients, she is devoting her time to patient awareness and education. In April, GRHC will launch its first column dedicated to increasing awareness and decreasing the stigma associated with diabetes. The “Let’s Ask Dr. Roopa” column will publish in GRHC’s full-page ads in the Gila River Indian News (GRIN) so readers can find the column once a month.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Join GRHC Behavioral Health Services to raise awareness and understanding. Help us to reduce stigma associated with alcohol, alcoholism and recovery.

April 17, 2019 • 9 am - 1 pm
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

April 24, 2019 • 9 am - 1 pm
Komatke Health Center

For any information on services open during the holiday, please call GRHC’s main line 520.562.3321. GRHC’s normal business hours will resume Monday, April 22, 2019. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

Gila River Health Care’s Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be CLOSED FRIDAY 4/19/19 AND SATURDAY 4/20/19

GRIL RIVER HEALTH CARE

April 17, 2019 • 9 am - 1 pm
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

April 24, 2019 • 9 am - 1 pm
Komatke Health Center

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449
The students and staff are honored to announce the
Sacaton Middle School
8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
May 22, 2019
Middle School Gym
6:00 p.m.

RAWHIDE WESTERN TOWN AND EVENT CENTER
(5700 W North Loop Rd. CHANDLER, AZ 85226)

GIVEAWAYS, INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS AND MORE...

For more information, please contact Tison G at 520-562-2234 or visit www.GRICDEQ.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2019
10:00AM - 1:00PM

Published letters or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community, and keeping everything, while learning about our communities, wear many hats, and carry various roles. Therefore, one of my biggest aspirations is to serve my people and champion my communities with integrity and fidelity. I had the opportunity to “go home” and work for my community on Hopi and I’m beyond proud to say that I’m now afforded the privilege to work with and for our Community in this capacity. I look forward to bringing my talents and experience, while learning about our Community, and keeping everyone well informed about matters that concern us most.

KYLE KNOX
Gila River Indian News

Greetings, I am Kyle Knox and I would like to introduce myself as the newest Community Newsperson to join the Gila River Indian News. I am an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community from District 7. I’m also part Hopi on my mother’s side, so I consider that home as well. I’m happy to join the Communications & Public Affairs Office where I will support the GRIN with my media skills.

Having graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts, concentration in Film and Media Production, I feel confident in developing stories while using my knowledge and experience behind a camera. Prior to joining the GRIN, I acquired numerous titles in various sectors including media, non-profit management, AmeriCorps and higher education. Some of my work includes the development and creation of an agricultural curriculum with videos for Hopi youth as a consultant. Later, I became a Program Manager for the Hopi Foundation’s Hopi Opportunity Youth Initiative where I oversaw the programs development and implementation of many of its initial goals. In 2017 I transitioned from Hopi and moved back to the Valley. Upon return, I began a volunteer term with AmeriCorps at Arizona State University and was eventually hired with Access ASU's SPARKS program where I served as an Educational Outreach Specialist.

Aside from my career, my passions are for volunteering, serving and supporting youth, and advocating for equity in communities of color. I also served as a volunteer soccer coach for my niece and nephew’s soccer teams with my sister. Additionally, I also served as a member of the National Council of Young Leaders as well as a member of Opportunity Youth United. With this work, I advocate for equity for 16-24-year-old populations that are neither in school or working. In this role, I am one of two Native American representatives helping to bring awareness and inclusion for rural and urban Native American communities.

It is because I was raised in Phoenix most my life, I represent many communities, wear many
Native American Fatherhood & Families Association will use GRIC grant to certify facilitators

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, as an organization that teaches fathers and mothers how to build healthy relationships and environments for their children, received a grant from the Gila River Indian Community through the state’s shared gaming agreement to enhance direct services.

The grant will go toward certifying 12 facilitators to teach the Fatherhood and Motherhood is Sacred curriculum to Mesa residents year-round. The grant will also cover registration fees for training and facilitation of classes when the trainers are teaching on their own.

“It’s a two-year grant to help us open the parent resource center and that’s right here in our own office,” Amy Fa’atoafe, NAFFA Executive Director said. Located in Mesa, NAFFA is led by a small team who educate over 240 tribal communities nationwide and in Canada. They host a series of workshops that are open to parents on a weekly basis.

According to a grant summary provided by the GRIC Office of Special Funding, “The grant will be used to expand capacity to provide direct service to parents working and living in the Mesa area.”

Fa’atoafe said NAFFA provides parenting workshops called Strengthening All Families Effectively (S.A.F.E.) a new program, that started in January. Concurrently, workshops are offered in the morning and evening to accommodate parent schedules on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with 13 workshops on effective parenting hosted at the NAFFA office.

Every week on Tuesday and Thursday NAFFA hosts curriculum groups, Fatherhood is Sacred, Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationship and Addressing Family Violence and Abuse. Additionally, there is a family law clinic and child support clinic, where professionals volunteer their time to meet with people for their needs.

Albert Poolcy, NAFFA Founder & President said, “Throughout the country, we have served over 20,000 men and women, and more.”

According to Poolcy, much of the program evolved from smaller initiatives to reach out to fathers, which now includes mothers as part of the expansion of services. NAFFA also works with parents that are requested to attend workshops by the City of Mesa Community Court system.

For more information about the workshops and train-the-trainer sessions, you can contact NAFFA at (480) 833-5007. NAFFA also hosts on-going drop-in groups every Tuesday and Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Complete guide at [www.grbc.tv/schedule](http://www.grbc.tv/schedule)**

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**THROWBACK THURSDAY**

**FLASHBACK FRIDAY**

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O: 520.796.8848 Like our page on Facebook/GilaRiverTV for even more local content! info@grbc.tv

Gila River Indian News

April 5, 2019

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, as an organization that teaches fathers and mothers how to build healthy relationships and environments for their children, received a grant from the Gila River Indian Community through the state’s shared gaming agreement to enhance direct services.

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For more information about the workshops and train-the-trainer sessions, you can contact NAFFA at (480) 833-5007. NAFFA also hosts on-going drop-in groups every Tuesday and Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Auto Theft - Suspect(s) stole the victim's vehicle, a gray four-door Jeep Grand Cherokee, while it was parked at Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino. The victim, upon discovering his vehicle was stolen, notified security. Security personnel contacted law enforcement and Gila River Police officers responded to investigate the incident.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Four: (Stittocation Area)
Auto Theft - Suspect(s) stole the victim's car keys, located her vehicle, a white two-door hatchback Fiat 500, in the car keys, located her vehicle.

Police officers but were unable to locate the vehicle, a gray four-door hatchback Fiat 500, in the car keys, located her vehicle.

Status: Under Investigation.

District One: No Incidents Regarding Part I Crime.

District Three: Robbery - The suspect and victim, a juvenile suspect, and the victim's girlfriend, were involved in a verbal domestic dispute when it escalated and became physical. The suspect was located in a chokehold restriction his airway and placing him in imminent fear for his life and well-being. Other residents present at the time of the incident ordered him to release the juvenile victim. Law enforcement was notified and Gila River Police officers responded to the residence. The suspect was later located at another residence and taken into custody. The victim was evaluated by Gila River Emergency Medical Services for treatment of his injuries and then released to his guardian.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

District Two: Auto Theft - Suspect(s) stole the victim's vehicle, a blue and gray 1977 Chevrolet pickup truck from a parking lot, and was treated for minor injuries.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Five: Aggravated Assault - The suspect stabbed the victim, his 14-year-old son, by punching him about her head and applying a bag of tools belonging to the victim while inside the victim's residence. The victim was transported to a local hospital for further medical treatment of his non-life-threatening injuries.

Status: Charges forwarded to the Prosecutor's office.

Aggravated Assault - The suspect and victim, a juvenile suspect and the victim's father, were involved in a verbal domestic dispute when it escalated and became physical. The suspect strangled the victim and was treated for minor injuries.

Status: Under Investigation.

Aggravated Assault - The suspect entered the Tommy Hilfiger department store located within the Phoenix Premium Outlets, concealed merchandise and was detected by security personnel. The suspect left the area prior to the victim realizing he no longer had the item in his possession. Casino security was notified of the missing cellular phone and Gila River Police officers were notified. Officers responded to investigate the incident.

District Three: Theft - The suspect took four bags through the front window of the victim's vehicle while it was parked at the casino. The victim witnessed the incident and contacted security.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Seven: No Incidents Regarding Part I Crime.

Incident Log March 17, 2019 - March 21, 2019

District Six: Aggravated Assault - The suspect produced a box cutter and proceeded to strangle the victim. Once the confrontation, the suspect took off with the vehicle.

Status: Charges forwarded to the Prosecutor's office.

District Five: Aggravated Assault - The suspect consecutively stabbed the victim while walking home in the area of East Seed Farm Road South Main Street. A passing motorist gave the victim a ride to a local trauma hospital for treatment of his injuries.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Four: (Stittocation Area)
Auto Theft - Suspect(s) stole the victim's vehicle, a white 2013 Chrysler 300 parked in front of the Wick Pass Hotel and Casino parking lot. The victim, upon noticing the vehicle was missing, notified law enforcement. Gila River Police officers responded to investigate.

Status: Under Investigation.

District One: Theft - The suspect took two cellular phones and a driver's license belonging to the victim while standing at the residence. When the victim could not locate her Arizona driver's license and two cell phones, her contact law enforcement. Gila River Police officers responded to investigate. At the time of reporting, the suspect was no longer staying at the residence.

Status: Under Investigation.

District Two: Robbery - the suspect committed the offense of aggravated burglary, aggravated assault, and unlawful flight while driving a bag of eagles feathers. A neighbor witnessed the incident and notified the Gila River Police Department that the suspect was located at the residence. Gila River Police officers responded to investigate the incident.

Status: Under Investigation.

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department

April 5, 2019

Gila River Indian News

Page 5
Vigil and public meeting held in wake of the C.H. Cook Memorial Church fire

An aerial view of the C.H. Cook Memorial Church shows the extent of the fire damage. Courtesy of Cultural Resources

The March 29 vigil included relatives of the late Charles Cook. Emma Hughes/GRIN

The informational meeting regarding the fire was held on March 30. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Casa Blanca Community School is currently seeking bids for custodial services. Bids will be accepted until April 18, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. (MST). For details, please review the complete RFP at:

https://www.cbschools.com/news#requestsforproposals

Honey bees are a critical link in agricultural production. Pollination by managed honey bee colonies adds at least $15 billion to the value of U.S. agriculture annually through increased yields and superior-quality harvests.

As an Arizona tribe with deep roots in agriculture, bees and pollinators in general play an integral part in the Gila River Indian Community’s economic and cultural welfare. To regulate managed beekeeping operations within the Community, the Community Council adopted the Apiary Registration Code, GR-01-19, on January 16, 2019.

Previous legislation regulating beekeeping activities was over 30 years old, and it was important to ensure that the new code remained applicable, culturally relevant, functional, and enforceable while meeting the needs of the Community.

The Pesticide Control Office is responsible for enforcing the Apiary Registration Code, and works closely with other Community agencies to ensure that the placement of the apiaries do not violate Tribal trespass regulations or pose a nuisance to the Community.

For more information regarding the Apiary Registration Code, please visit us on the web at www.GRICDEQ.org or contact the Pesticide Control Office at (520)562-2234

### NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Casa Blanca

Casa Blanca Community School is currently seeking bids for custodial services. Bids will be accepted until April 18, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. (MST). For details, please review the complete RFP at:

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Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

A vigil was held Friday evening, March 29, for the C.H. Cook Memorial Church that had been destroyed by a fire earlier in the week. The arson caused devastation among the Community and hundreds showed up to offer prayers and share memories of the historical church which many had compared the tragic event to the loss of a loved one.

The church was constructed in 1918, by the Presbyterian church led by Charles H. Cook, who arrived in Sacaton in 1870 intending to act as a missionary to the Community. Cook preached and organized the first church in 1889. While the congregation grew, there was a need to build a larger church and that once traveled from the Arizona State Parks. The C.H. Memorial Church was the oldest in the state.

“My heart fell. We brought families together under the right of marriage” said Rev. Stephen Roe Lewis who explained that he was on the scene and got the news of the church arson.

“He reminisced of growing up, going to bible school and having been baptized along with his siblings and notes that the funeral of Ira H. Hayes was held in the church as well.

Several Community members and visitors continued to share their heart-felt words, including Bie Jackson, Community member, who recalled a family that once traveled from the Netherlands to visit the historical church after finding out about it on the internet.

Among the attendees at the vigil, was Rev. Steve Marsh, the great-great grandson of Charles Cook. “When I heard the news of what happened here, I wept,” said Marsh. “I know my family’s love for the native population and for this place. It’s truly an honor to hear the stories and the impact that my grandfa- ther made but also how this Community impacted his life.”

Although the church is on Community land, it is owned by the Presbyterian church of the Grand Canyon and has been connected with the Community since its inception. With all the damage from the fire, there is a good possibility that it will be taken off the National Register according to Kyle Woodson, Cultural Resources Management Program Director, who presented the background of the church at a public meeting held on Saturday morning, March 30 at the District 3 Head Start.

The public meeting was held to give updates of the arson by Gila River Police Department and Gila River Fire Department and to hear from the Community as well.

Acting Chief Timothy Chavez of GRPD gave a timeline of the incident on March 25.

8:51 a.m. the time was reported of suspects entering the local gas station, Sacaton 76.

8:52 a.m. Fire dispatched to 31 Church Street for a structure fire. Once crews responded, officers began gathering information on suspects. Utilizing surveillance cameras in the surrounding areas, GRPD were able to get detailed descriptions of the suspects.

9:45 a.m. Chavez noticed three individuals matching the suspect’s description on Azert Street.

10:12 a.m. Officers detained the suspects: two juveniles and one adult.

10:21 a.m. Officers were en route to the local station to interview the suspects.

1:40 p.m. All three suspects were booked.

On March 27 around 3 p.m., the lighter matching the description as the one used by the suspects was located by the GRPD detectives on Azert Street and Cactus Street near the District 3 Elderly Complex. The lighter has been sent to the DPS Crime Lab with the request that it be expedited for processing of fingerprints. No further information was given as it is still an on-going investigation.

Many have speculated the arson to be a hate crime and expressed concerns of further threats or vandalism to any more churches. GRPD has made it clear that they believe this was an isolated incident with no specific targets to the church or any denomination and that there are no further targets towards any other church.

For more information regarding the Apiary Registration Code, please visit us on the web at www.GRICDEQ.org or contact the Pesticide Control Office at (520)562-2234
Gila River Indian News

By Billy Allen

In the not so distant past, the railroad seemed to border our reservation on all sides. Today, the steel rails and the wooden ties are all gone, but some elders remember the routes. As youngsters they saw the train chugging through the community. In Casa Blanca/Vaiki when we used to sleep outside at night, I have a memory hearing the train whistle but keep in mind; my memory and hearing aren’t what they used to be. For some tribes railroads were extremely destructive to their way of life. In an attempt to save their way of life tribes sabotaged construction, launched attacks against crew members and settlers along the rail route. But the O’otham and Piipaash farmers took the construction in stride, for the most part and saw the railroad as another opportunity to make life better and maybe make some money.

On the last day of September in 1877, while the calendar said it was fall but the temperature was stuck on summer, a construction train crossed the Colora-do River into Yuma, Arizona. Within a few years the railroad reached Gila Bend/Hila Ben. Following an old wagon road/volt which ran along the southern edge of Sierra Estrella, construction inched towards Maricopa Summit, then continued down to the new town site of Maricopa/Malikohba. Malikohba would serve as a hub with connections to Tempe and eventually to Phoenix and Prescott. The laying of the rails made enough of an impression upon the O’otham and Piipaash that the event was noted upon a calendar stick as the railroad inched towards Tucson in 1878-79. Railroad construction began in California and the workforce was primarily Chinese. The O’otham and Piipaash felt serving as scouts for the army was a better way of supplementing their income. When the railroad ran north towards Tempe, it skirted what was then the western edge of our community’s boundary. In an effort to maintain good relations, Southern Pacific allowed Natives to ride on freight trains. Many O’otham and Piipaash saw this as an opportunity to tap into other markets and boarded trains with the idea of getting a better price for their crops. In his annual report, the Indian Agent noted that the practice of “riding for free” was really a ploy to have the Natives serve as lookouts for wash-outs and damage along the rails. (Maybe you can ask an elderly relative if they know more about this.) In 1885, the Thirteenth Arizona Legislature, also known as the “thieving thirteenth” appropriated monies for a rail link from Phoenix to the Southern Pacific line in Malikohba. Construction began in Malikohba and when it reached the Gila/Akimel, the O’otham and Piipaash refused to grant permission to cross our reservation. Arizona’s delegation in Congress worked to get a “right-of-way” bill passed. The railroad decided to pay, in silver, for the route through the reservation. Twelve Natives whose Sacate/Sacati fields lay in the path were paid $707.90 for land and crops. (My research couldn’t make sure if individuals or the whole group received this amount, and I couldn’t find out the names of the O’otham and Piipaash landowners. Another opportunity to ask an elderly relative if they know more about this.) The Maricopa and Phoenix Railroad reached Phoenix on July 4, 1887.

In the mid-1920s, a Southern Pacific (Arizona Eastern) line was laid to connect the Santan and Olberg stops. Fourteen miles south of Chandler and below the Santan Mountains, a large coral and loading ramp was built. No surprise, it was entirely constructed of railroad ties. This facility was known as Dock or Dahk. “Dock” worked as a place for loading or unloading of cattle, and it was used for that from the late 1950’s until 1964. Initially it was O’odham and Piipaash cattlemen who utilized Dahk but during my lifetime off-reservation cattlemen shipped in herds to graze in our fields. Early spring and fall were the busy shipping in and out times. I remember upper and lower walkways to load cattle onto railroad cars with two decks. “Dahk,” is an O’otham word meaning nose, it worked because of the nose-shaped peak due east that some knew as Miligan Dahk. Another explanation was an American settled near the peak and built a house which gave rise to that name. It seems like O’otham have a habit of naming mountains for body parts. In addition to Dahk, the Santan range also has a Coyote/Navah Mo’o and north of Olberg, there is a lone peak some have envisioned resembles a female breast and is laughingly called an old woman’s … you’ll know it when you see it.

On May 19, 2010, the Indian Land Consolidation Act created the Ira Hayes Memorial Park, honoring a Native American soldier of the Second World War. The land was acquired for the landless veterans of the Ira Hayes Memorial Park, honoring a Native American soldier of the Second World War. The land was acquired for the landless veterans of the Ira Hayes Memorial Park, honoring a Native American soldier of the Second World War.

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One Simple Call to 811 Gets Underground Utility-Owned Lines Marked for Free.

Whether you’re a homeowner or professional excavator, every digging job requires a call — even small projects — so be sure to:

- Call 811 at least two working days before starting any digging project
- Wait for the site to be marked
- Respect the marks
- Dig with care

NOT CALLING CAN BE LIFE THREATENING AND COSTLY.

You can harm yourself or others, disrupt natural gas service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially be responsible for injuries, repair costs, and criminal penalties.

Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere. If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, call 911 and Southwest Gas at 877-860-6020 immediately, whether you’re our customer or not.

SOUTHWEST GAS

Call 811 before you dig!

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety
or call 877-860-6020

A’AGA

COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT EATING HEALTHY LUNCH AT NUTRITION HEALTH FAIR IN SACATON

Community members learn about healthy eating at nutrition health fair in Sacaton

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian News April 5, 2019

Ira Hayes Park

Date: Saturday April 27, 2019

Location: Ira Hayes Park

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Honorable Walk/5K Run 8am-9am**

(T-Shirts for Honor Walk/5K Run participants)

**Education Booths/Guest Speaker(s)**

**Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served.**

If you would like additional information on the Education Booths or to volunteer, please contact Ms. Victoria Allison at (520) 610-1062.
Gila River Indian News | April 5, 2019

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Arizona Department of Transportation is conducting an environmental study to identify a potential 280-mile corridor for I-11 between Nogales and Wickenburg. The Tier 1 environmental review process considers a wide range of Build Corridor Alternatives and the No-Build (do-nothing) Alternative.

DRAFT TIER 1 EIS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
On April 5, 2019, the Arizona Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, released the Draft Tier 1 EIS for the I-11 Corridor, Nogales to Wickenburg, for public review and comment.

ATTEND A PUBLIC HEARING
Public hearings on the Draft Tier 1 EIS will provide information on the Recommended Corridor Alternative and accept formal public comments via the comment form (hardcopy or online), verbally to a court reporter, and through three-minute verbal comments in front of a panel of study team members. The same information and opportunity for comment will be available at each public hearing.

The hearings will take place on the dates and locations listed below. Information will be continuously presented; attend any time during the hours listed:

1. **Monday, 4/29/19 | 5–8 p.m.**
   Palo Verde Energy Education Center 600 N. Airport Road, Buckeye
2. **Tuesday, 4/30/19 | 4–7 p.m.**
   Wickenburg Community Center 155 N. Tegner Street, Wickenburg
3. **Wednesday, 5/1/19 | 5–8 p.m.**
   Holiday Inn 777 N. Pinal Avenue, Casa Grande
4. **Tuesday, 5/7/19 | 4–7 p.m.**
   Quality Hotel Americana 639 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales
5. **Wednesday, 5/8/19 | 3–8 p.m.**
   Tucson Convention Center Ballrooms/Lobby 260 S. Church Avenue, Tucson
6. **Saturday 5/11/19 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**
   Marana High School Cafeteria 12000 W. Emigh Road, Marana

REVIEW THE DRAFT TIER 1 EIS DOCUMENT
The Draft Tier 1 EIS is available for review on the study website at i11study.com/Arizona. Hard copies of the Draft Tier 1 EIS are also available for review during business hours at the following repository locations:

- **Wickenburg** – Wickenburg Town Hall, 155 N. Tegner Street, Ste. A
- **Wickenburg** – Wickenburg Public Library, 164 E. Apache Street
- **Buckeye** – Buckeye Public Library/Coyote Branch, 21699 W. Yuma Road, Ste. 116
- **Buckeye** – Buckeye Public Library/Downtown Branch, 310 N. 6th Street
- **Buckeye** – Buckeye City Hall, 530 E. Monroe Avenue
- **Rainbow Valley** – Buckeye Fire District Station 326, 19937 W. Arlington Road
- **Surprise** – Northwest Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Avenue
- **Phoenix** – Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue
- **Goodyear** – Goodyear Library, 14455 W. Van Buren Street, C-101
- **Hidden Valley/Maricopa** – Thunderbird Fire Station, 12356 S. Balston Road
- **Maricopa** – Maricopa Public Library (Pinal County Library District), 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road, Bldg. 10
- **Casa Grande** – Main Library, 449 N. Drylake Street
- **Gilbert** – Gilbert Bldg. Library, 202 N. Euclid Avenue
- **Eloy** – Eloy Santa Cruz Library, 1000 N. Main Street
- **Marana** – Picture Rocks Fire District, Station 121, 7341 N. Sandario Road

Hard copy versions of the Draft Tier 1 EIS are available for purchase at:

- Wickenburg – Wickenburg Kiwiprint, 10 S. Kerkes Street, #3 | 928.684.7229
- Buckeye – To The Limit Printing Solutions, Inc., 108 N. 4th Street | 623.374.4303
- Phoenix – AlphaGraphics, 2120 E. Camelback Road | 602.263.0122
- Maricopa – Impressize Imaging, 44880 W. Honeycutt Road, Ste. 102 | 520.568.3098*
- Casa Grande – International Minute Press, 973 E. Cottonwood Lane, Ste. 100 | 520.208.2516*
- Marana – FedEx, 8510 N. Cortaro Road | 520.572.8345*
- Tucson – FedEx, 2607 E. Speedway Boulevard | 520.795.7796*
- Nogales – Unicom Grafix, Inc., 869 N. Grand Avenue | 520.283.9343

* Offers delivery to your location. Contact the vendor for details.

Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/i11study or call 1.844.544.8049 (bilingüe) for more information.

COMMENT ON THE DRAFT TIER 1 EIS
Submit your comments on the I-11 Draft Tier 1 EIS during the public review and comment period: **April 5, 2019 through May 31, 2019.** All comments received during the public comment period will be documented and responded to in the I-11 Final Tier 1 EIS. All comment methods are considered equal.

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, ADOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons who require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact Laura Douglas, ADOT Community Relations Project Manager, at 602.712.7683 or l douglas@adot.gov. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the State has an opportunity to address the accommodation. De acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Estandarizaciones con Discapacidades (ADA por sus siglas en inglés) y otras normas y leyes antidiscriminatorias, el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT) no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad. Las personas que requieran asistencia (dentro de lo razonable) y sea por el idioma o discapacidad deben ponerse en contacto con Laura Douglas al 602.712.7683 o l.douglas@adot.gov. Las solicitudes deben hacerse lo más antes posible para asegurar que el Estado tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.
Tribal Health Department hosts event under the theme, “honoring & uplifting women”

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The Tribal Health Department hosted “HerSpecTive” Women’s conference on Saturday, March 23. At the District 3 Head Start Center. Its themed as “honoring & uplifting women” to honor and acknowledge the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh women as well as celebrate the month of March as Women’s History Month.

The one-day event was well attended by many women in the Community and began with a question panel of three women; Celeste Jackson, an artisan from District 6, Renee Jackson and Suzanne Jones, both from District 5, who also shared their personal stories and struggles as Indigenous women while engaging with the audience who also shared personal stories of struggle and empowerment.

Following the panel lunch was served, which was a unique dish created by youth, Ericka Guzman and Dennis Martinez who incorporated a healthy and organic twist with a colorful wheat berry salad topped with a maple curry vinaigrette served alongside a white tepary, mushroom and kale soup. Many of the ingredients came from Ramona Farms.

Once lunch concluded a presentation by Community Member and keynote speaker, Ginger Sunbird Martin from Bapchule, who earned a Bachelor’s degree in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University in 2003 and has since pursued her interests in the Gila River Indian Community’s cultural history. Martin presented her work focusing on cultural diversity and inclusion training.

The conference ended with a “Youth and Elder Dialogue” with Precious Vicente, who currently serves on the Akimel O’odham/

HerSpecTive Women’s conference brings together women in GRIC

Page 9
Gov. Lewis speaks at Mayor Kate Gallego’s swearing in ceremony

Kate Gallego, 37, was sworn in as the new Mayor of Phoenix before a packed audience at the Orpheum Theater on March 21.

Chief Presiding Judge B. Don Taylor III administered the oath of office, as Gallego was joined by her son Michael and parents, Jim and Judy Widland.

“Like the city does for so many visitors it left an impression on me. So, 15 years ago, after I graduated college, Phoenix is where I wanted to go start my next chapter,” said Gallego.

Gallego said Phoenix offers opportunities for college graduates and professionals, looking to get their start in a city that is on the rise.

“I know I’m not alone in that experience so many people come here for the same reasons. Phoenix is a city where anyone can come and make a difference,” said Gallego.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was invited to speak at Gallego’s inauguration and shared his enthusiasm for the Community’s continued partnership with the City of Phoenix.

“Phoenix and the Gila River Indian Community have been partners for a long time as governments, as communities, our decisions impact each other,” said Lewis. “So I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my thoughts and interactions with your new mayor and to be a small part of this historic moment in your history.”

Lewis also highlighted Gallego’s leadership as a member of city council.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS
Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office—March 20, 2019

ACTION SHEET
Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

CALL TO ORDER
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council was held WEDnesday, March 20, 2019, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona, was called to order by Lt. Governor Robert Stone at 9:15 a.m.

INVOCATION
Present: Councilwoman Pamela Johnson
ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis (10:50)
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Rodney Jackson (10:20); D4-Monica Antone, Barney Elder, Jennifer Allison, Pamela Johnson; D5-Darwin Johnson, Thomas White; D6-Charles Gold-tooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D3-Carolyn Williams; D5-Janice Stewart, Lawrence White; Sr.; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr.

APPROVAL OF A GENDA
APPROVED AS AMENDED
PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

REPORTS
>1. November 2018 Head Start Monthly Report
Presenter: Isaac Salcido
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Isaac Salcido
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Tina Hart, Jeffery Thormburg
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Travel Report, 1st Quarter – Fiscal Year 2019
Presenters: Trina Hart, Jeffery Thornburg
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. GRIC – Urban Members Rpt 1st Q
Presenter: Anthony Newkirk
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Gila River Sand & Gravel Quarterly Report FY-18 Qtr
Presenter: Michael Morago, Bob Gazis
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. State Legislative Update and Recommendations (Executive Session)

Presenters: Public Policy Partners, Office of the General Counsel

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. March Financial Activity Report ending February 2019 (Executive Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS
>1. A Resolution Approving A Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity For The Purpose Of Any Mediation Or Other Legal Action To Enforce An Order, Award Or Relief Arising From Mediation Action Pursuant To The Terms Of The Investment Management Health Care Claims Audit Services Agreement To Be Entered Into Between The Employee Benefit Trust Of The Gila River Indian Community And BMI Audit Services, LLC. (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with corrections)
Presenter: Linda Bauer
APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Approving The Governor And The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer To Be Signatories To The Programmatic Agreement Among The U.S. Department Of Energy-Western Area Power Administration And The Gila River Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community-Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, And The U.S. Bureau Of Indian Affairs Regarding Maintenance And Minor Construction Activities On Existing Western Area Power Administration Transmission Lines And Facilities Located On The Gila River Indian Reservation, Maricopa And Pinal Counties, Arizona (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, NRSC and CRSR concur)
Presenter: Barnaby Lewis, Larry Benali
APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Ronald Rosier
APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 4 To Section II Of The Gila River Indian Community’s Employee Policies And Procedures Reference Guide “By Adding A Section Entitled “Department Directors” (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with changes to the spreadsheet)
Presenter: Thomas Murphy
APPROVED

>5. A Resolution Designating Nine Parcels Containing 171.4893 Acres More Or Less, Of Reservation Land In District 5 For The Purpose Of Establishing Temporary Construction Easements And Temporary Construction Access To The Gila River Indian Community Department Of Land Planning And Zoning For The Purpose Of Design And Construction Of Drainage Systems And Applicable Appurtenances (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with additional information and corrected date)
Presenter: Norman Brewer
APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Rescinding GR-142-11 And Approving The Revised Tribal Election Program’s Election Official’s Handbook For Election Officials (LSC motioned to forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Nadine Shele
APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Members For Council Number One For Monica McDeisy In The Gila River Indian Community (LSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Sheila A. Valenzuela
APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES
>8. Unfinished Business
NEW BUSINESS
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO enter Executive Session

1. Sun Valley Master Lease (Executive Session)
(EDSC forwards to Council in Executive Session)

Presenter: David White, WHPDA Board of Directors
ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

>9. An Ordinance To Establish A Banishment Process Of Public Safety Incident Command, Clean Up Coordination And Of Public Safety Incident Command, Clean Up Coordination And Assistance To The Community

Presenter: Lt. Governor Robert Stone
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTION

>10. An Ordinance To Establish A Banishment Process Of Public Safety Incident Command, Clean Up Coordination And Assistance To The Community

Presenter: Lt. Governor Robert Stone
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTION

>11. Council Concerns Regarding Violence Within This Community

Presenter: Lt. Governor Robert Stone
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ADD THIS ITEM TO THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED CRIME

[LT. GOVERNOR ROBERT STONE CALLED FOR A 1-HOUR BREAK. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS RECONVENSIONED THE MEETING AT 12:30 P.M. TO CERTAIN NEW BUSINESS ITEM #7] ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:41 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

With a Machete Over 8 Years for Robbery

For those of you who knew Leo, you knew he lived a fast, driven life. He was a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, argued with the victim at an Apache Community. He died from injuries to the victim.

On Dec. 5, 2017, two officers with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Police Department officers responded to a residence in the San Xavier District. Hastings, 29, of Supai Village, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James A. Soto to 27 months imprisonment to be followed by a term of three years supervised release. Ololade had previously pleaded guilty to aggravated assault by strangulation and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

On Aug. 28, 2016, Travis Lee Kisto, 40, of Sacaton, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge John J. Tuchi to over eight years in prison for felonies. During the investigation in this case, the victim was convicted of a violent crime.

To a residence in the San Xavier District. Hastings, 29, of Supai Village, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Steven B. Logan to prison for 20 years to life on two counts of murder. Hastings had previously pleaded guilty to asssault by strangulation and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

TUCSON, Ariz. – On March 11, 2019, Brian Xavier Oliver, 26, of Tucson, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Susan M. Brnovich to eight months of supervised release. Hastings, 49, of Tucson, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Alfred A. Gonzales to 120 months for felonies.

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Annual updates are required to ensure current data is updated for contact purposes per GRIC Homesite Ordinance 20.208A.

**ROBOTICS ACADEMY AND AVIATION CAMP**

The Tribal Education Department is happy to announce we will be accepting applications for the 2019 Robotics Academy and Aviation Camp held in Huntsville, Alabama, July 14-19, 2019. To participate, you must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community and attending school to participate in this ONCE IN A LIFE TIME camp experience.

We are searching for the following students to submit an application telling us why you would be the perfect candidate!

- 10 – Elementary/Junior High Students (Ages:12-14 only)
- 10 – High School Students (Ages: 15-18 only)

If selected, all finalist will be required to attend an in-person interview.

To apply, go to the online application:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRIC2019CAMP

Or you pick up an application at the Tribal Education Department at:
555 B. St. Sacaton, AZ 85147

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

**INTERVIEW DATES:** May 17-18, 2019 (Times will be scheduled appropriately)

Please contact the Tribal Education Department if you have any questions or concerns regarding the application process or camp experience at 520-562-3642 or email at Arlanna.Jackson.EDU@gric.nsn.us

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**ATTENTION**

2019 HOMESITE ASSIGNMENT ANNUAL UPDATES

Community Members who are assigned a Tribal Homesite Lot must complete an annual update. LUPZ Subdivision Administration Team will be in Districts 1-6 in March & April of 2019. Please call to set an appointment.

You may also complete an annual update by visiting the Department at the Executive Ki’ Bldg. #2 291 W. Casa Blanca Rd. Sacaton, AZ

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

**INTERVIEW DATES:** May 17-18, 2019 (Times will be scheduled appropriately)

Please contact the Tribal Education Department if you have any questions or concerns regarding the application process or camp experience at 520-562-3642 or email at Arlanna.Jackson.EDU@gric.nsn.us

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**IN LOVING MEMORY OF RODNEY BLAINE LEWIS**

“ROD”

NOVEMBER 15, 1940 - APRIL 10, 2018

WATER PROTECTOR AND DEFENDER OF HIS PEOPLE

“ I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.”

2 Timothy 4:7

Rod’s poem... The Law of the River

Death is not the end
it is reaching the river
and reclaiming it
it is becoming the river
I have reached my river now
and I have reclaimed it for all eternity

I am the river now
and the river is me
This is the law of the river.
But my journey to the river was always for you
and I reclaimed it just for you
and when you reach your river
you will find me there waiting for you

and together we will become the river
and the river will be all of us together
I have lived the law of the river
with the river as my guide
I am the river now
and the river is me
This is the law of the river
by willardene lewis
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CHECK OUT THESE WINNING DEALS

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$259/MO.

2015 Ford Mustang Fastback
$259/MO.

2016 Dodge Charger RT
$325/MO.

2018 Honda Civic
$289/MO.

2015 Honda Accord
$255/MO.

2017 Toyota Camry
$299/MO.

2016 Kia Soul
$199/MO.

2017 Ford Fusion
$199/MO.

2018 Chevy Cruze
$199/MO.

Getting a Great Price is a Slam Dunk!

2015 Ford F-150 4WD
$21,999 or $375/MO.

2015 Dodge Durango
$375/MO.

2012 Chevy Silverado
$375/MO.

2011 GMC Yukon Denali
$19,999

2017 Hyundai Accent
$150/MO.

2017 Jeep Patriot
$250/MO.

2016 Chrysler 200
$250/MO.

2018 Nissan Versa
$250/MO.

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Get all three, plus an exclusive, limited-edition Gila River design at Wild Horse Pass & Vee Quiva.

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