Elders gather to recognize historical O’otham Revolt of 1751

Continued on Page 10

Running with a purpose

Runners gather to recognize historical O’otham Revolt of 1751

Continued on Page 10
Congratulations!
Life Center Patients & Staff

- Nurse Practitioner visits have steadily increased by 40-50% since January 2019-present
- 42.2% patients have achieved an A1C result of 8% or lower. (Life Center target % is 36.2%) A1C test result reflects your average blood sugar level for the past two to three months.

Congratulations to our patients and providers, good outcomes are results of great patient-provider partnerships.

LIFE CENTER
DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS
Let’s Ask Dr. Roopa

How To Read And Understand Food Labels
Food labels are very important to understand. They are especially useful to plan meals for people with Diabetes as they have to restrict their carbohydrates intake in meals and snacks.

Where do I start?
Start by looking at the serving size. All of the information on the label is based on the serving size listed. If you eat more, that means you’ll be getting more calories, carbohydrates, etc. than what is listed.

Let’s Take A Closer Look
Amount Per Serving
The information on the left side of the label represents the totals of the different nutrients in one serving. Use these numbers to compare labels of similar food items.

Calories
To lose weight, you need to eat fewer calories than your body burns.

Total Carbohydrate
Total carbohydrate on the label includes all types of carbohydrate - sugar, starch and fiber. It’s important to use the total grams when counting carbs or choosing which foods to include.

Nutrition Facts
Serving size 20 cup (50g)
Amount per serving
Calories 230

% Daily Value
Total Fat 12g
17%
Saturated fat 2g
13%
Cholesterol 0mg
0%
Sodium 480mg
20%
Total Carbohydrate 8g
2%
Dietary Fiber 2g
8%
Total Sugars 1g
1%
Protein 20g

Vitamin D 12%
Calcium 43%
Phosphorus 4%

What about Percent Daily Values (%DV)?
These tell you what percent of each nutrient the food provides if you were on a 2000 calorie per day diet. However, you should focus on the total amounts per serving when comparing labels and counting carbohydrates.

Fiber
Fiber is part of plant foods that is not digested - or for some types, only partially digested. Dried beans such as kidney or pinto beans, fruits, vegetables, and grains are all good sources of fiber.

Sugar
Just because a package says “sugar-free” on the outside, does not mean that it is calorie or carbohydrate-free. Always check the label for the grams of total carbohydrate and calories.

Total Fat, Saturated Fat, Trans Fat, And Cholesterol
Too much of the “unhealthy fats” (saturated fats) can increase your risk for heart disease and stroke.

Net Carbs And Other Similar Claims
Always look at the “Total Carbohydrate” on the Nutrition Facts label first. Checking your blood sugar can also help you figure out how specific carbs affect you.

Reminder! Gila River Health Care’s Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY 12/25/2019
CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY WEDNESDAY 1/1/2020
For any information on services open during the holidays, please call GRHC’s main line 520.562.3321. GRHC’s normal business hours will resume the Thursday after each holiday. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449
Honors for California GRIC member continue in Downtown LA

Emma Hughes  
Gila River Indian News

Community member, Omerlene Thompson from District 6, has been selected as a 2019 American Indian Heritage Month Honoree by the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). She has been recognized for her continued work with the United American Indian Involvement (UAII) in Los Angeles, Calif.

Working tirelessly in helping the Native American Indian community in the field of social services, according to the commission. The panel cited her greatest accomplishment as serving multiple generations of families by helping them succeed in school or work. Thompson was recognized on four different occasions for being named an honoree and celebrating her continued dedication to her work with the UAII for the past 36 years.

“It was a total surprise because I’m not the type of person to be presented with anything,” said Thompson when asked how she felt about being named an honoree for Native American Heritage Month, “it’s my job, it’s just what I do”. She also helped to bring out GRIC’s enrollment office to share any of their resources to Community members in the Los Angeles area, such as updates and elections since 2014.

Throughout the years she has worked with many Native programs, “I just want to make sure people have what they need,” said Thompson. Some of the works the UAII program has provided are a small clinic, mental health program, and more. Thompson makes regular visits back home to Gila River, where she plans to retire in the future.

Omerlene Thompson during the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission’s 4th Annual Pow Wow on Nov. 16. Photo courtesy of UAII.

The Achem A’al Indigenous Traditional Pima Basket Dancers attended the LANAIC Pow wow to honor GRIC member, Omerlene Thompson (center). Photo courtesy of UAII.

We Want To Hear From You:  
Are you a Former:

- Miss Gila River  
- Jr. Miss Gila River

The Communications & Public Affairs Office is currently compiling a list of former Miss and Jr Miss Gila River title holders, please email your name, title, year and contact information to missgilariver@gric.nsn.us

Gila River Indian News  
P.O. Box 842  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Published letters or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community.

LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters should be limited to 200 words and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable.

Gila River Indian News does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community. Letters or columns should be signed with the writer’s true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper. Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling and content.

Gila River Indian Community  
P.O. Box 842  
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(520)562-9715

www.gricnews.org

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SAULT – Officers were dispatched to a theft from the centers financial office for review. Status: Open Investigation.

District Three – (Sacaton Flats)

AGGRAVATED AS-SAULT – Officers were dispatched regarding a domestic disturbance. Investigation revealed that the victim and suspect were in a verbal altercation throughout the day. While having friends over and drinking alcoholic beverages the argument continued when the suspect physically assaulted the victim and began to “choke” the victim. The victim sustained injuries and informed officers the suspect would be at the residence where the incident occurred. Officers went to the residence where there was no answer. Charges have been forwarded to law office for review.

Status: Charges Forwarded.

District Two – (Sacaton Area)

AGGRAVATED AS-SAULT – Officers were dispatched via telephonic traffic in reference to a possible theft of vehicles. Calls for services this week. NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING PART 1 CRIME.

District Seven – (Maricopa)

NO INCIDENTS.

District Six – (Komatke)

AUTO THEFT – Officers were dispatched to a theft from the area in reference to theft of a vehicle. Investigation revealed a truck and trailer were stolen from a lot where the vehicles were stored. The vehicle was located; placed under arrest; the suspect was still running with the keys in the ignition. No damages were observed and was stuck in soft dirt. The trailer was not located and entered into NCIC as stolen. Another vehicle in the lot was damaged by having a left rear window broken out. Video surveillance was observed; photos were taken of the scene and the vehicles and later uploaded into evidence.com.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification.

AUTO THEFT – The reporting party reported that an unknown subject took a 2004 GMC truck registered to another family member that lived up north and requested to have the vehicle reported as stolen. The registered owner was contacted and signed the stolen affidavit; the vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. There were no suspects at the time of incidence.

Status: Closed pending further information.

THETF – Officers were dispatched to the District Six Service Center in reference to a theft. Contact was made with the suspect and the victim had to cancel debit cards due to someone possibly taking his wallet while at the casino. The victim’s wallet contained cash, debit cards and a driver’s license. Video surveillance was reviewed regarding the incident.

Status: Closed pending suspect identification.

District Five – (Casa Blanca)

AUTO THEFT - Officers were dispatched via telephonic traffic in reference to a possible theft of a vehicle. The reporting party/victim reported that a family member had requested to borrow the victim’s vehicle due to their being inoperable. The family member’s boyfriend took the vehicle and never returned; phone calls and text messages were unanswered by the suspect. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen after attempting to locate the vehicle. The vehicle was later recovered after the suspect left the vehicle at victim’s family members residence with the keys left inside the vehicle. The vehicle was removed from NCIC after being located. The suspect was not contacted at the time of incident.

Status: Charges Forwarded.
GRPD officers and K9s certified

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Four officers and K9s with the Gila River Police Department received their certifications for narcotics and patrol school on Friday, Nov. 15, after completing certifications training and patrol school for suspect apprehension and bite work. Training included security patrol and tracking, which trains the dogs to guard and protect along with basic obedience. Dogs are trained to bite legs, search buildings and different areas and for suspects. Dogs can locate a hidden person and attack. The certification was held at the Casa Grande Police Department for a four-hour process. Officers and their dogs underwent a series of drills to demonstrate basic commands and obedience, search tactics and bite work.

“What you saw today is played out ten hours a day, forty hours a week, basically over the last three months,” said Sandy Brown, GRPD K9 Unit trainer and handler, who re-certified along with his dog, Karma. Yearly certifications are done for both narcotic and patrol dogs to show that they still meet the standards for both dog and handler must certify together as a team. “It’s a good class. It’s a lot of hard work,” said Officer Wheel- er, who earned certification along with his dog Max. “Being able to really serve the Community as a unit, it is really something that we’re looking forward to,” said Officer Brown. Officers and K9’s: Sandy Brown and Karma, Chris Wheeler and Max, Alex Johnson and Narcos, Andrew Rodriguez and Rusty.
DCH employee retires after 37 years of service with GRIC

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Department of Community Housing honored the recently retired Abigail Thomas with a lunch reception at the Department of Community Housing warehouse in District 5 Sacate on Nov. 21 for her nearly four decades of service.

“It’s been 37 years, almost 38, I started with the Department of Education and worked with Tribal Social Services, Alcohol and Drug and Addiction Program, Gaming Office and then Housing,” said Thomas who said she remembers the days of typewriters and Xerox machines.

DCH presented Thomas with a plaque and Pendleton blanket. “It’s going to be a big loss, she’s been through so many changes and developments, declaration work orders, she’s the longest employee for building maintenance,” said DCH Director Laurie Thomas.

Inscribed on the crystal plaque was, “Abigail Thomas Secretary III Department of Community Housing, retired with distinction, a time to look back with admiration and look forward with anticipation, happy retirement.”

“I think working with members trying to serve them in any way I could to help them out,” said Thomas. She said, she’s seen a lot of the people grow up throughout her career, starting families of their own.

As for retirement, Thomas said she wants to relax, possibly go back to school, get back to sewing, but most importantly spend time with her grandchildren and husband.

She said that her work may have seemed monotonous but it was an important part of the whole process of serving the Gila River Indian Community.

Thomas thanked everyone who made each day enjoyable and for the support and appreciation for putting together the luncheon and award for her years of service.

An Amazing Special for the Gila River Community

$0 DOWN 0% FINANCING PLUS 20% OFF!

Most Insurance Accepted Financing Available
One coupon per person after usual and customary fees. New patients only. Must present coupon at initial consultation.

WRIGHT Orthodontics

Jack G. Wright DDS CAGS • Specialist in Orthodontics for adults and children.

EAST MESA
1118 N. Va Vista Rd. • Mesa, AZ 85213
480-969-1514

MESA
453 W. 5th St. • Mesa, AZ 85201
480-835-0567

CHANDLER/TEMPE
4055 W. Chandler Blvd. • Mesa, AZ 85201
480-753-6300

SAN TAN VALLEY
36413 N. Gantzel Rd. • San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
480-284-8824
Community Artisans will be selling holiday arts and crafts! Come support local artisans and cross items off your Christmas list!

Grab a bite to eat from food vendors on site!

December 13, 2019
Governance Center, Sacaton
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Vendor applications can be picked up at the CPAO Office located in the Governance Center or email: Special.Events@gric.nsn.us

For more information, please contact Alie Walking Badger at (520) 562-9713 or Shannon Redbird at (520) 562-9859.
St. Peter Indian Mission School students present ‘from the heart’ at annual Native American Heritage month event

By Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, which is observed in November, Gila River Indian Community’s Human Resources Department hosted about 60 St. Peter Indian Mission School students at the Governance Center in Sacaton on Nov. 15.

The presentation was called “Honoring Native Americans through Song and Dance.” The students presented in the lobby before GRIC staff and visitors with traditional songs and dances led by the St. Peter cultural teachers.

“We’re doing it from our heart,” said St. Peter Cultural Teacher Corinna Harrison.

Cultural Teacher Martin Luna offered a prayer to begin the program, and also introduced each portion of the presentation with the significance of each song and dance performed by the students, which consisted of third grade students and Jr. High boys and girls.

The students and staff shook the hands of everyone in attendance before they were transported back to St. Peter Indian Mission School in District 5.

District 7 youth makes record-breaking catch at Tempe Town Lake with 50 lb. catfish

By Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

District 7 Community member Christopher Mercado, age 17, made a record-breaking catch while fishing, when he reeled in a 50 lb., 37-inch flathead catfish from Tempe Town Lake on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Mercado is an avid fisherman and his catch is the talk of the town. In November, he was even featured on the Arizona Game and Fish website with his record-breaking fish in hand.

Christopher recounted catching the fish stating, “It was a big moment, I was shaking trying to hold it up and bleeding from its teeth, but we were excited and yelling.” At the time, Mercado knew it was a noteworthy catch but didn’t immediately realize it was the record for Tempe Town Lake.

Immediately after Christopher and his friend snapped a few pictures, then released it back into the lake. Before Christopher’s catch, the previous Tempe Town Lake record holding flathead catfish was only 15 inches long.

Christopher’s parents are James and Jodi Mercado. Jodi Mercado was very proud of Christopher’s accomplishment and was the one to notify Arizona Game and Fish three days after the catch. It was at that point Christopher was informed that he now holds the record for the biggest fish caught at Tempe Town Lake. Mrs. Mercado stated, “It’s very inspiring for me because I know there’s a lot of negative things he could be doing, so I’m proud that he’s out there doing positive things.”

Mrs. Mercado is confident in Christopher’s talents and hopes that he maintains his interest and achieves his goal to become a professional fisherman. Christopher’s interest in fishing started at Cesar Chavez Lake in Laveen, and after his first few catches became “addicted” to the sport. Today, Christopher takes online classes, and after completing his daily school work from home, he walks to a local area in District 7 for fishing to maintain and brush up on his skills. He acknowledges his family and peers that support him by sharing tips and fishing gear with him to continue his goals to go pro.

Moving forward, Christopher has his goals set on becoming a member of a professional fishing association at some point. He also wants to work towards purchasing a boat to help further his skills. You can follow his fishing journey on his Instagram fishing page by searching the Instagram handle, “Chrisbasin102702.”
WATER RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION 2019

“Reflecting on the Past and Protecting our Future”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2019
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass
5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85226

Guest speakers, entertainment, and more!
Lunch and gifts for the first 400 attendees
For more information, please contact (520) 562-9859
Governor’s Employees of the Month announced for August and September 2019

It was a special occasion for two Gila River Indian Community employees who were recognized as the August and September Governor’s Employee of the Month winners. Thomas White (left), Management Information Systems Manager, received the August GEM, while Michael Schrimsher (right), Gila River Fire Department Firefighter, was awarded the September GEM.

College Leaders cont’d from Page 1

He said the honor isn’t based on one person, but shows how transformative education can be and serves as a model for Community members who are interested in higher education. “I think [this] is what our elders want, what our parents want, it’s what veterans have fought for, for a better life for our Community,” said Lewis.

Spicer said the plaque reflects the trend of role models for successful leadership, that is indicative of the core teachings student receive at the college.

Four individuals were also inducted into the College Leader’s alumni during an induction and recognition program inside the Marston Exploration Theater at ASU. They were Clinton Ang, Reyna Montoya, Cheryl Najafi, and Michael Convey. Each of them either represented a vast field of careers as entrepreneurs, CEO’s, authors, and judges for major municipalities.

College Leaders and special guests gather during the reception hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Elders applaud during the festivities which included a raffle and entertainment. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN


Elders were treated to entertainment, raffle prizes and other activities throughout the day, which included a DJ and live music.

“We want to also recognize, those elders that are 80-years-old and older, we know you’ve seen so much, you are the bedrock of the Community,” said Lewis. The Gila River Royalty also spoke in honor of GRIC elders.

“I cherish spending my time with you, hearing your stories and where you come from,” said 2019-2020 Miss Gila River Tyler Owens. “I want to thank you all for allowing us to be here, to catch up with you on how you all are doing, we appreciate this time to sit down and learn about the Community’s history,” said Jr. Miss Gila River Susanna Osife.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS
Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • November 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 Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:21 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman

ROLL CALL

Sign-in Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Monica Antone, Delmar Jones, Pamela Johnson; D5-Janice Stewart, Martin Dixon, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Thomas White; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:23), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird Council Members Absent:
D4-Jennifer Allison; D5-Franklin Pablo, Sr. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE AGENDA

REPORT HEARD

Presenter: Christopher Mendoza

6. Community Services Department – Elderly Nutrition Services Program

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Christopher Mendoza

1. Community Services Department – Elderly Nutrition Services Program

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: David DeJong


TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Ronald Allison

3. GRIIDD FY2019 Annual Report

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Candalerian Preston

1. 3rd, 4th, & Final FY 2019 Pee-Posh Veterans Reports

REPORT HEARD

Presenter: Christopher Mendoza

562-9729

REPORT HEARD

Presenter: Christopher Mendoza

8. Quarterly Treasurer’s Report – FY 19 4th Quarter ending September 30, 2019 (Executive Session) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 1157) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Warren Wiltshire, Eugene Blackwater

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 1359) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Warren Wiltshire, Eugene Blackwater

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community, Certain Allottees, The U.S. Department Of Interior, Bureau Of Indian Affairs And Arizona Public Service Company, To Grant An Easement To Arizona Public Service Company For A Maximum 25 Year Term (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; EDSC forwards under the consent agenda)

Presenters: Ronald Rosier, Denten Robinson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

>1. Tribal Healing To Wellness Court Planning Initiative (LSC motioned to nominate Councilman Terrance B. Evans to the Wellness Court Planning Initiative)

Presenter: Kami Hart

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan 2019-2020 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval; additional material)

Presenter: Lillian Kim Franklin

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Maricopa Village Christian School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan 2019-2020 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval with additional information)

Presenter: Al Chapman

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan 2019-2020 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval with additional information)

Presenter: Sister Martha Carpenter

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board - Board of Directors Declaration of One (1) Vacancy (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presenters: Community Council

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Request to the Community Council to Direct WHPDA to Provide a Quarterly Report to EDSC Regarding All Entities Under WHPDA’s Control (EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Councilman Terrance Evans

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. Gaming Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2019 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert Keller

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2019 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Dena Thomas, Treasurer Robert Keller

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MINUTES

1. October 2, 2019 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE MINUTES

2. October 16, 2019 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS

3. November 4, 2019 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

– SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 9AM AND 1PM
– SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019 AT 9AM

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:34 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

~SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 9AM AND 1PM

~ SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019 AT 9AM

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Former member of Post 84 will have a monument in his honor at Memorial Park

Christopher Lomahquahu  
Gila River Indian News

Work began on a monument to recognize a close friend to the Gila River Indian Community. Members from Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84, broke ground on a monument that will be dedicated to the legacy of Masaji Inoshita on Nov. 19. The monument will be built on the grounds of the Ira H. Hayes/Matthew B. Juan Memorial Park in District 3 Sacaton.

Referred to many as “Mas,” he was an influential part of the Post 84’s efforts to educate the public about the Gila River War Relocation Center (Japanese Internment Camp) located in District 5.

Mas, the Japanese American Coalition League, along with the help of the Community, maintained a monument, that serves as reminder of the history of the Japanese Americans, who lived, where the camp once stood between 1942 to 1945. Post 84 Adjutant Tony McDaniel said the monument will be a plaque and picture of Mas, that will be dedicated in December.

Marilyn Inoshita Tang said “My father would be so honored, I didn’t envision something of this magnitude. He loved this community, he identified with the core values of the people and that’s what drew him to this place.”

She said Mas would make regular trips to the Community, even at his elder age, he would make an effort to keep in contact with the Post 84 and participated in the annual Iwo Jima flag raising parade held every February.

Miss Gila River greets Pony Express riders as they promote Gilbert Rodeo Days

Kyle Knox  
Gila River Indian News

Arizona’s historical Pony Express made its way through the Gila River Indian Community Friday, Nov. 15, stopping at the United States Post Office location in Sacaton. The event kicks off the annual Gilbert Rodeo Days festivities that culminate with the Rodeo Nov 22-24. The annual Pony Express ride is made possible by the Gilbert Promotional Corporation’s Gilbert Day’s Rodeo Committee.

The Pony Express Ride is an authentic recreation with riders relaying saddlebags full of mail on horseback from Gilbert to Florence, Ariz. The letters were from students at various elementary schools that outline the Gilbert area. They delivered to neighboring towns between Gilbert and Florence. This recreation has taken place since 1978, and the United States Postal Service also sanctions its mail carrier duties.

The route started on Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway before its first mail stop in Sacaton. It featured Gilbert Rodeo Queen Tatum Lance and Gilbert Rodeo Teen Queen Anna Butler, along with numerous members of the Gilbert Rodeo Day’s Committee.

This year was the first year riding the trail for Anna Butler, Gilbert Rodeo Teen Queen. Butler said, “I’m super excited to be a part of the tradition since it’s something we don’t always have a chance to do every day.”

And for Gilbert Rodeo Queen Tatum Lance, this was her third year participating on the Pony Express Ride. Lance said, “The Pony Express is super exciting because you get to see how mail used to travel, by horseback, instead of today where it’s all by trucks.” Butler has grown up participating during the Gilbert Rodeo Days and was happy to continue the Pony Express tradition.

Grow Readers & Developing Leaders program is looking for families with young children 0-5 years to attend our fun free story time workshops.

For questions or more information contact: Charlotte Forte', Literacy Coordinator
Charlote.Forte.Edu@gric.nsn.us
(520) 562-3662

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