Huhugam Heritage Center unveils newly renovated museum building

Community members and guests attend ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of improvements

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Mark Kelly, a retired astronaut and the identical twin brother of Scott Kelly (also a retired astronaut from NASA), is on the campaign trail running for the U.S. Senate. Kelly visited with Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and tribal leadership at the Governance Center and toured the Managed Aquifer Recharge 5 Interpretive trail on Jan. 22.

“I’m spending a lot of time trying to learn all [these] issues,” said Kelly. Kelly a year ago, officially announced his bid to run for the 2020 United State Special Election in Arizona. From his time visiting communities across the state, Kelly said there are different issues within different communities on what Washington D.C. needs to hear.

Kelly had questions about the population of the Community, culture, education and how GRIC is managing its water rights. Among Kelly’s questions, was the issue of crimes committed on tribal lands by non-members, which Lewis said is taken very seriously through a coordinated system of law enforcement and judicial system.

“We’re very rural, but we appreciate what we are very close to the land, a humble people, even though we’ve been successful with gaming, we cannot forget our duty as stewards over the land,” said Lewis. He said GRIC has been very innovative in water conservation and preservation.

Lewis said, “We plan for the future, that’s where our mind set is at working together as seven districts, with a 17-member council.”

Kelly was also interested in education in the Community and Gov. Lewis highlighted the new Gila Crossing Community School in District 6 as well as the teacher cohort program through Arizona State University.

Continued on Page 10

Senate candidate Mark Kelly visits Community, tours MAR5

Mark Kelly during his visit to the MAR5 Interpretive trail with DEQ Director Willard Antone (foreground), Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

“..."My father [Rod Lewis] saw the opportunity to build a repository, not in Phoenix, not in Flagstaff, but here on the Gila River Indian Community and bring our sacred artifacts home." - Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

Breaking ground on the original site in 1999, the Huhugam Heritage Center served initially as a repository for artifacts and items that were returned to the Community over time.

Plans for the Center include the addition of a museum gift shop along with developing the surrounding grounds outside the Center.

Jackson shared that starting in March, the museum will open full time with regular hours for the general public. Until then, the Center will continue its First Friday events every month, elders day event, and veterans activities.

Opening ceremonies at the grand opening included the posting of colors and other activities. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis cuts the ribbon for the Huhugam Heritage Center’s tenant improvement project. From left, Leland Thomas, Miss Gila River Tyler Owens, Gov. Lewis, Jr., Miss Gila River Susanna Osife, former governor Richard Narcia and former governor Donald Antone. Edi Knox Photo

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and a Cherone accompanied by Huhugam Heritage Center director, said, “It’s been a long time coming, and I’m very grateful for it’s completion, to the Community, and it’s past leadership.”

Former governor Donald Antone recalled the repatriation of remains and other cultural objects during his speech and also said how proud he was to see the renovations on the museum, which was closed for construction on May of 2018.

The museum building now has an open concept, and two levels for patrons to experience the rich history of the Community. Tools, weapons, clothing, musical instruments are displayed, including O’otham baskets and Pee Posh pottery.

The renovations also include modern and interactive exhibits for digital learning. Video footage of the community waterways is showcased on a 20-foot display, and a touchscreen “game” provides lessons on the O’otham gender roles, and a video provided a brief history of the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.

Huhugam Heritage Center served initially as a repository for artifacts and items that were returned to the Community over time.

Plans for the Center include the addition of a museum gift shop along with developing the surrounding grounds outside the Center.

Jackson shared that starting in March, the museum will open full time with regular hours for the general public. Until then, the Center will continue its First Friday events every month, elders day event, and veterans activities.

Opening ceremonies at the grand opening included the posting of colors and other activities. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis cuts the ribbon for the Huhugam Heritage Center’s tenant improvement project. From left, Leland Thomas, Miss Gila River Tyler Owens, Gov. Lewis, Jr., Miss Gila River Susanna Osife, former governor Richard Narcia and former governor Donald Antone. Edi Knox Photo

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and a Cherone accompanied by Huhugam Heritage Center director, said, “It’s been a long time coming, and I’m very grateful for it’s completion, to the Community, and it’s past leadership.”

Former governor Donald Antone recalled the repatriation of remains and other cultural objects during his speech and also said how proud he was to see the renovations on the museum, which was closed for construction on May of 2018.

The museum building now has an open concept, and two levels for patrons to experience the rich history of the Community. Tools, weapons, clothing, musical instruments are displayed, including O’otham baskets and Pee Posh pottery.

The renovations also include modern and interactive exhibits for digital learning. Video footage of the community waterways is showcased on a 20-foot display, and a touchscreen “game” provides lessons on the O’otham gender roles, and a video provided a brief history of the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.

Breaking ground on the original site in 1999, the Huhugam Heritage Center served initially as a repository for artifacts and items that were returned to the Community over time.

Plans for the Center include the addition of a museum gift shop along with developing the surrounding grounds outside the Center.

Jackson shared that starting in March, the museum will open full time with regular hours for the general public. Until then, the Center will continue its First Friday events every month, elders day event, and veterans activities.

Opening ceremonies at the grand opening included the posting of colors and other activities. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis cuts the ribbon for the Huhugam Heritage Center’s tenant improvement project. From left, Leland Thomas, Miss Gila River Tyler Owens, Gov. Lewis, Jr., Miss Gila River Susanna Osife, former governor Richard Narcia and former governor Donald Antone. Edi Knox Photo

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and a Cherone accompanied by Huhugam Heritage Center director, said, “It’s been a long time coming, and I’m very grateful for it’s completion, to the Community, and it’s past leadership.”

Former governor Donald Antone recalled the repatriation of remains and other cultural objects during his speech and also said how proud he was to see the renovations on the museum, which was closed for construction on May of 2018.

The museum building now has an open concept, and two levels for patrons to experience the rich history of the Community. Tools, weapons, clothing, musical instruments are displayed, including O’otham baskets and Pee Posh pottery.

The renovations also include modern and interactive exhibits for digital learning. Video footage of the community waterways is showcased on a 20-foot display, and a touchscreen “game” provides lessons on the O’otham gender roles, and a video provided a brief history of the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.

Breaking ground on the original site in 1999, the Huhugam Heritage Center served initially as a repository for artifacts and items that were returned to the Community over time.

Plans for the Center include the addition of a museum gift shop along with developing the surrounding grounds outside the Center.

Jackson shared that starting in March, the museum will open full time with regular hours for the general public. Until then, the Center will continue its First Friday events every month, elders day event, and veterans activities.

Opening ceremonies at the grand opening included the posting of colors and other activities. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis cuts the ribbon for the Huhugam Heritage Center’s tenant improvement project. From left, Leland Thomas, Miss Gila River Tyler Owens, Gov. Lewis, Jr., Miss Gila River Susanna Osife, former governor Richard Narcia and former governor Donald Antone. Edi Knox Photo

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and a Cherone accompanied by Huhugam Heritage Center director, said, “It’s been a long time coming, and I’m very grateful for it’s completion, to the Community, and it’s past leadership.”

Former governor Donald Antone recalled the repatriation of remains and other cultural objects during his speech and also said how proud he was to see the renovations on the museum, which was closed for construction on May of 2018.

The museum building now has an open concept, and two levels for patrons to experience the rich history of the Community. Tools, weapons, clothing, musical instruments are displayed, including O’otham baskets and Pee Posh pottery.

The renovations also include modern and interactive exhibits for digital learning. Video footage of the community waterways is showcased on a 20-foot display, and a touchscreen “game” provides lessons on the O’otham gender roles, and a video provided a brief history of the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh.

Breaking ground on the original site in 1999, the Huhugam Heritage Center served initially as a repository for artifacts and items that were returned to the Community over time.

Plans for the Center include the addition of a museum gift shop along with developing the surrounding grounds outside the Center.

Jackson shared that starting in March, the museum will open full time with regular hours for the general public. Until then, the Center will continue its First Friday events every month, elders day event, and veterans activities.
MARCH 6th-8th, 2020
Mul-Chu-Tha Fairgrounds | Sacaton, Az

“Celebrating the legacy of sports & honoring our O’otham & Pee Posh Champions”

Carnival Rides · Entertainment · Cultural Performances and Demonstrations · Bird Singing & Dancing · Pow-Wow · Parade · Chicken Scratch · Battle of the Bands · Thoka and Songivul' Tournaments · Men’s & Women’s Basketball Tournament · Horseshoe Tournament · Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament · Skate Competition · Half Marathon Footrace · Youth Basketball Tournament · Frybread Contest · Gila River Royalty Pageant · All Indian Rodeo · All Indian Jr. Rodeo · All Indian Masters Rodeo · Car Show · Food Vendors · Arts & Crafts Vendors · Essay and School Art Contests
Youth inspired at Nike N7 Jr. Golf Experience at the Whirlwind Golf Club

The golf event featured golfer Gabby Rauben Ringhofer.

Christopher Lamahquahu
Gila River Indian News
Native youth teed off at a golf clinic at the Nike N7 Jr. Golf Experience, which was held at the Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass on Jan. 25. The event was organized in partnership with the Gila River Indian Community, Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation, Nike N7 and the First Tee of Phoenix for an interactive day of golf and education for 197 youth, ranging from seven to 18 years-old. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis welcomed the group of Native youth, who also participated in the clinic. “The Notah Begay III Foundation is a great organization that encourages the youth to be active in the game of golf,” said Gov. Lewis. Lewis thanked the NB3 Foundation and Nike N7 for providing the event to Native youth, which promotes physical activity, healthy nutrition and teaches important life skills on top of teaching golf.

“Not a day goes by that I don’t talk about this event to the kids,” said Gov. Lewis, adding that the Waste Management Phoenix Open is coming up and [we] have Native communities around the Valley, we partnered with several organizations to host [this] event,” said Clint Begay, Director of NB3 Fit, brother of Notah.

“Gov. Lewis is a great partner and advocate for youth development and it allowed us to do what we set out to accomplish understanding about how to play golf.”

He said their organization works with Native owned golfing facilities to get Native youth interested in golf. Begay said the clinic included workshops on life lessons, leadership games and health nutrition.

Gabby Lemieux, Nike N7 ambassador, professional golfer on the Symetra Tour and a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe was present to share her passion for the game of golf with the youth participants. Sam McCracken, N7 General Manager, said, it’s their second year hosting the Jr. Golf Tournament in the state of Arizona. “We’d really like to thank our sponsors and recognize the Gila River Indian Community and the land, we are hosting this event on today.”

Parade and activities all set for 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima flag raising

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News
75th Anniversary of the Iwo Jima flag raising will be set for Saturday, Feb. 22 in Sacaton. Many veteran groups throughout the country participate in the Community’s parade which starts from Skill Center Road down to the Matthew B. Juan - Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park. As in previous years, a fly-over is set to kick off the parade.

This year the Wellness Center will be hosting an Iwo Jima Memorial 10k/2mile run at the Sacaton Fairgrounds. Registration is now open until Feb. 19. The run begins at 6 a.m. with on-site registration open until 7:15 a.m. on the day of the parade. The event is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by ceremonies at Matthew B. Juan - Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park.

For more information about the event sponsored by American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post No. 84 & Auxiliary Unit No. 84 phone: (520) 562-8484 or email: hpost84@glirinews.net website: irahayespost84.org.
---

**Gila River Police Department Incident Logs**

**Cont'd on Page 5**

---

**Gila River Indian News**

February 7, 2020

---

---
As the year begins and we start our new year’s resolutions, having a healthier diet is at the top of almost everyone’s list. Today’s my plate recommendations suggest consuming fruits and vegetables that resemble the colors of the rainbow. The more color our meals are, the more nutrients, vitamins, and minerals they contain. Although some of the vitamins and minerals are clear and have no color, fruits and vegetables of a certain color still have multiple nutrients that provide us with “disease reducing” results. A good rule of thumb to go by when looking at the color is the darker the color the higher the concentration of the nutrients they contain. Below, test your knowledge by drawing a line from the fruit and vegetable to the nutrients they contain.

1. Blue/Purple (Plums, prunes, black berries, etc.) (a) Vitamin A, Retinol, Beta carotenes
2. Blue/Purple (Avocado, spinach, kiwi, etc.) (b) Vitamin K, folic acid, potassium
3. Green/Yellow (Broccoli, cabbage, dark leafy lettuces, etc.) (c) Vitamin C, Lycopene, Flavonoids
4. Red (Cranberries, tomatoes, pink grapefruit, etc.) (d) Vitamin K, folic acid, potassium
5. Yellow/Orange (Carrots, pumpkins, squash, apricots, Peaches, etc.) (e) Vitamin A, Retinol, Beta carotenes

Answers are: 1. (b), 2. (a), 3. (e), 4. (d), 5. (c).
LEAH PRITCHETT
MOPAR / DODGE
TOP FUEL DRAGSTER

KIDS
12 AND UNDER FREE

WILD HORSE PASS
MOTORSPORTS PARK

800.884.NHRA • NHRA.COM/TICKETS
I’ve got my Medicare card, so now I am officially an elder. My days of running fast are long gone. I was gone from the GRIN for a while—maybe some of you noticed.

Well, “long-story-short” I had to take care of my health. In early December 2018, I got a Saturday morning call from my primary doctor saying he suspected I had a cancer. A bone marrow biopsy and PET scan confirmed it. I have an incurable—but treatable—blood cancer called multiple myeloma. Multiple myeloma affects plasma cells in the bone marrow, making them grow out of control. This growth damages bones, the immune system, kidneys, and red blood cell count. Treatments can slow down the effects, and relieve some of the symptoms. After getting over the initial shock, with help of Alliance Cancer Care Arizona and Gila River Health Care, I followed a regimen of pill chemotherapy, stem cell transplant, and the next step was a stem cell transplant. I’m still recovering from that.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Natives according to a 2019 bulletin by the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention. The Indian Health Service listed heart disease as the number one cause of death in a 2019 report.) Numbers show roughly 160 GRIC members dealing with cancer in 2019. The largest group has kidney or liver cancer. Over thirty women are dealing with various cancers. For blood cancers, eight GRIC members have lymphoma and five have multiple myeloma. We are not alone, nor does it mean “end of the trail” scenario. Tom Brokaw was the long-time anchor of “NBC Nightly News” and author of “The Greatest Generation,” about the American experience in World War II. When he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2011, he followed through with chemotherapy and treatment. He is now in remission.

By Billy Allen

Something to be told or talked about

Teresa Choyguha is an O’odham who’s given us a lot of great laughs, and is also recuperating from a stem cell transplant for multiple myeloma. Teresa told me that the MM diagnosis was a shock to her too, but she followed through with the medications, injections, stem cell transplant, and long drives to see her doctor. She hasn’t lost her sense of humor, and remains upbeat. It won’t be long before Teresa is back in the spotlight. Another survivor.

Getting old – we do our best not to ignore symptoms and be proactive. However at times, some wait too long and that lowers the chances of getting better. Strong, silent types think they can “tough it out.” Caregivers may ignore their own symptoms to continue providing care for others.

Why? is a common reaction with cancer patients. What we were exposed to growing up may have affected our future health. We used to swim in unlined irrigation canals, worked in fields sprayed with weed killer and defoliant, and our cars burned benzene. We are dealing with various cancers. For blood cancers, eight GRIC members have lymphoma and five have multiple myeloma. We are not alone, nor does it mean “end of the trail” scenario. Tom Brokaw was the long-time anchor of “NBC Nightly News” and author of “The Greatest Generation,” about the American experience in World War II. When he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2011, he followed through with chemotherapy and treatment. He is now in remission.

For more information contact Tribal Recreation & Wellness Center
(520) 562 - 2026 or Email: wellness.center@gric.nsn.us
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

School students with underwater robots

Gila River Indian News
Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Mentors assist St. Peter Indian Mission

Page 8
Gila River Indian News February 7, 2020

Students and staff pose with their underwater robots with assistance from Honeywell and the
Si Se Puede Foundation. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

“Right now, they’re learning how to fabricate, put together the motors and work as a team. It’s great, because they’re picking it up so quickly,” said Esparza.

A part of his interest is to promote STEM-based activities outside of the confines of his normal workplace. After completing parts of the building their ROV’s, the twin brothers placed a fully constructed vehicle in a pool, where they demonstrated how the finished ROV’s will perform, once they are completed. The students also, had a chance to control the ROV, which could be submerged to lower depth of water and move like a submarine.

“Today I’m a mentor, we have them cutting PVC pipe and putting them together," said David Bluestein.

---

**Memorial Run**

**TWO JIMA MEMORIAL RUN**

**SACATON FAIRGROUNDS**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2020**

**10K/2 MILE**

Registration Opens: January 29, 2020
Registration Closes: February 19, 2020

2 Mile Walk/Run is onsite
Onsite Registration Starts: 6:30am
Route Closes at 7:15am

To be considered for medals you must be pre-registered. Walkers are welcome but do not qualify for competitive medals.

Run Starts at 7:00am

---

**MISS GILA RIVER**

- Young woman 18-24 years of age on or before Saturday, February 29, 2020
- Enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Have never before held the title of Miss Gila River
- Full-time high school or college student with a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. or employed full-time and in good standing with employer
- Single, never married, and have no children
- Willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Miss Gila River throughout the twelve-month reign

Applications are available at mygilariver.com or at any district service center.
For more information, email missgilariver32@gmail.com or call (520) 562-9715.
The year 2020 is the start of a new decade, which also means it’s time for a new Census Counting for the United States Census Bureau. Every ten years, the U.S. population is counted, which includes the Gila River Indian Community. This year the Community launched the “We All Count” campaign to encourage participation in the Census.

To assist with the 2020 Census Count, the U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting people to be census takers in their local communities. It allows the federal government to understand the needs of the varied regions of the country based on demographic make-up. Those needs include planning for schools, funding for community initiatives, legislative districts/mapping, and federal programs based on population sizes, to name a few.

Joshua Manning, Media Specialist for the United States Census Bureau, offered some insights as to why the Census is important and how to assist the Census by serving as Census workers in the Gila River Indian Community. “The Census determines funding for the next ten years and whether the areas should have additional (or less) representation in Congress. So, whether a school gets tax dollars back into the Community for the next decade depends on how everyone there responds to the Census,” said Manning.

That means that an accurate accounting of residents in any given area is essential to understand what's needed. Many efforts promoting the Census have already begun. Another initiative includes the hiring of Census workers throughout the country to support the collection of residential data.

To acquire a position as a census worker, Manning said, “applicants must Be 18. Answer a short assessment or two. Be able to pass a simple background investigation for a criminal record. Have a car or have access to a car.” In Arizona alone, he reported that they receive “just over 40,000 applicants,” though only a quarter of that acquire a position.

Pay rates vary based on the county, but locally for Pinal and Maricopa Counties, one could earn anywhere between $16-19.50/hr. Though there are several positions to apply for, the majority of the positions are for census takers or enumerators. Enumerators go door-to-door in areas to make sure people have accurately filled out their census forms. If selected as an enumerator, you have an option to pick the times you work and can work as much as 40 hours/week or half of that based on your availability. And mileage is reimbursed for the use of your vehicle.

Manning expressed how crucial it is for communities to hire locally because “People from Gila River will be less trusting of someone from [Washington] D.C., in a suit and tie than they would be toward someone three houses away.” Whether serving as a census worker or participating this year, it is vital to join, because the Census only occurs every ten years, the accounting of this year will determine a lot of the decisions that will affect the Community in the future.

The US Census officially starts April 1, 2020, with many enumerators going door-to-door beginning their work from May through July.

If you are interested in a job with the Census Bureau, you can get more information at 2020census.gov/jobs, calling 1-855-562-2020, or e-mailing Pattie King at pattie.m.king@2020census.gov.

---

**Student wins Citizenship award**

**Kyle Knox**

Gila River Indian News

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, Azumi Murphy received the Gilbert Town Council Citizenship Award. The award was presented to Azumi at the Gilbert Council Chambers by Gilbert Mayor Jenn Daniels. Azumi is from District 7 and resides in Gilbert, and her parents are Tyrone, and Vik Murphy. Azumi currently attends Greenfield Middle School and was nominated by three of her teachers for consideration of the award. Ms. Morris, Ms. Banuelos, and Ms. Krick nominated her for the award. At school, Azumi actively participates in several clubs and extracurricular activities, including H.E.R. (Heartfelt Equally Respected) Story Club and S.H.O. (Students Helping Others) Club, where students plan fun activities with children with special needs.

Outside of school, Azumi also volunteers with the Caring House, Feed My Starving Children, and St. Mary’s Food Bank. She is planning to attend Arizona State University and pursuing a career in the future.
Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Law and policy makers visited the Gila River Indian Community for a conference on e-commerce in Indian Country. The ASU Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law hosted the 6th Annual “Wiring the Rez” conference at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino on Jan 30.

Lt. Gov. Robert Stone opened the conference with a traditional prayer and welcome address for the attendees. “It’s really good to host this conference in our community, we know e-commerce is important for communities here and elsewhere in the modern world,” said Lt. Gov. Stone. The conference focused on economic opportunities for tribal communities and businesses particular for tribes in rural areas. It also explored the challenges of regulation, jurisdiction and compliance, cybersecurity, data privacy and creating private sector economies in Native communities.

“Connectivity is important to our community, as it is throughout Indian Country,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. He said within Indian Country, access to internet service for members of tribal communities lags behind the rest of the nation.

“Throughout Indian Country, the digital divide, as we all know is very real. The latest data shows, that 35 percent of Indian Country lacks access to broadband,” said Gov. Lewis. Robert Miller, ASU Professor of Law at Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, said that economic development will help tribes for generations.

“Why focus on economic development? Creating economies in Indian Country, to build communities to stay together, help people who want to live on the rez, have adequate paying jobs, housing and schools for their kids,” said Miller. Lewis later added, “When we host conferences like [this], we are looking at the technological solutions, that are going to present new opportunities for solving problems, in our community and across Indian Country.”

Volunteer Positions:
- INFORMATIONAL BOOTH (HAND OUT PROGRAMS AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS)
- CLEAN UP CREW
- FRONT GATE GREETERS
- CART DRIVERS (ELDER TRANSPORT)
- COMMUNITY DAY
- EVENT ROVERS

VOLUNTEER HOURS CAN NOT BE COMPENSATED BY GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING PLEASE EMAIL: MULCHUTHA@GRIC.NSN.US
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS
Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • January 15, 2020

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 Com-
munity Council held Wednesday, January 15, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Gov-
ernance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to
order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:16 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Pamela Johnson

ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated
Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Executive Officers Absent:
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz;
D3-Avery White; D4-Monica Antone, Jennifer Allison,
Delmar Jones, Pamela Johnson; D5- Janice Stew-
art, Martin Dixon, Thomas White; D6-Anthony Valla-
real, Sr., Terrance Evans; D7-Devon Redbird (10:09)
Council Members Absent:
D3-Rodney Jackson; D5-Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6-
Charles Goldtooth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE RE-
PORT #4 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT RE-
PORTS #2, #3, #5 THROUGH #9 AND #11
THROUGH #14; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RES-
OLUTION #1 AND NEW BUSINESS #4 ON THE
CONSENT AGENDAS
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISPENSE
REPORT #1 AND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR
AGENDA AS
AMENDED
PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
REPORTS
*1. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services FY 19 Year-
End Summary 4th Quarter Report
Presenter: Diana Lopez-Jones
DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
*2. THPO FY2019 Annual Report (October 1, 2018 –
September 30, 2019)
Presenter: Barnaby Lewis
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
*3. Facility Maintenance Department – FY 2019 An-
nual Report (October 1, 2018–September 30, 2019)
Presenter: Steve Mendoza
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
*4. St. Anthony’s Church 3rd and 4th Quarter Report
Presenters: Donald Antone, Sr., Regina An-
tone-Smith
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
*5. K-12 Education Program Quarter 1 Manager’s Report
Presenter: Trina Hart
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
*6. Nativa Youth Community Project Growing
Readers And Developing Leader’s Annual Report
Presenter: Sienna Whittington
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Presenter: Carolina Kelly
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Presenter: Carolina Kelly
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Presenter: Carolina Kelly

NEW BUSINESS
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECU-
TIVE SESSION
1. The Arizona Medical Marijuana Act On The Gila
River Indian Reservation (H&SSC forwards to Coun-
icil under New Business; LSC and CRSC concur)
Presenter: Casandra Wallace
ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECU-
TIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO PROCEED
WITH THE SURVEY AND A PLANNED COMMUNI-
TY EDUCATION OUTREACH
[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A
10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECON-
VENED AT 12:03 P.M.]
2. Proposed Special Election (LSC forwards to Council
to declare the vacancy)
Presenter: Nadine Shelde
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE
VACANCY AND TO HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION
ON MARCH 14, 2020
3. Request For Support To Host A TOCC Class In
Hashan Kehk (ESC motioned to forward to Council
a recommended a motion to support the TOCC
American Indian Studies class being held in District
2, in coordination with Administration and Communi-
ty Services Department; CRSC concurs)
Presenter: Jivik Sikki
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUPPORT THE
TOCC AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES CLASS
New Template (ESC motioned to forward to Council
under New Business and placement on the
consent agenda)
Presenters: Carolina Kelly
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority’s
Board of Director’s Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies
(EDSC forwards to Council to declare the vacancies
and advertise for 60 days subject to the code of
conduct)
Presenter: Shannon White
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE
VACANCIES AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS
6. RES Economic Summit – March 2-5, 2020 Las
Vegas, Nevada (EDSC forwards to Council to allow
any interested Council to attend under Dues & Delega-
tions)
Presenters: Economic Development Standing Com-
mittee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE FOR
ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL TO ATTEND
7. Solar Project Announcement (Motion to forward
the revised Community’s Clenera Solar Project
Announcement to the Community Council with a
recommendation for approval)
Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
MINUTES
1. November 21, 2019 (Special)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
2. December 19, 2019 (Special)
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS
– Prayers requested for Xavier Robi’s family
–Prayers requested for Cecil Allison, Jr.’s family
ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:34 p.m.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM
> Denotes AMENDED from previous meeting(s)
~Prayers requested for Cecil Allison, Jr.’s family

{Gila River Indian News}
Groups venture into GRIC for 21st Annual Winter Bird Count

Participants in the bird count at one of the sites including DEQ, public safety and Audubon Arizona. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

The Department of Environmental Quality is asking the public to help with an inventory of bird species found in GRIC.


Groups meet at three locations at 7 a.m. and were assigned to different areas to document the birds. Bird-watchers met in District 5, 6, and 7 then proceeded to outlying areas frequented by hawks, ducks, eagles, woodpeckers and the diverse multitude of bird species found in GRIC.

Cynthia Brown, was among the Community members to attend at the District 6 site, and said that she would encourage others to take advantage of next year’s birdcount, especially for families.

“They let you know what’s here in the environment,” said Prager.

The presence of a certain species will let you know if you’ll need to focus your area based on the dietary and environmental needs of the birds.

Woodrow Crumbo, DEQ, served as the group leader, guiding everyone through the Poe-Posh Wildlife Area in the District 7. Crumbo said, “the goal is not only to count the birds we find there but also monitor any new species that are present in the region.”

Once all the groups convened at MAR5, they heard from Gov. Stephen Rose Lewis, Lt. Gov. Stone, Miss Gila River Tyler Owens and DEQ Director Williard Anthony.

Gov. Lewis remarked on the significance of hosting the activities following the bird count at MAR5. “This is a special place,” said Gov. Lewis.

Gov. Lewis used the opportunity for artifacts! Please bring photos/examples of your work to share with us. We will not be purchasing anything at the open house.

For more information, and to request an application form, please call Laurie Past at 623-243-4300, email Laurie Past at Upstate@TohonoTaint or call Ginger Martin at 570-WildNorthPass.

Nicole Villagrasa, 7, observes ducks and water fowl in District 6. Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

BHS Family Night features storytelling

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

During January and February, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is hosting “Family Nights” throughout the Community, which feature traditional O’otham and Pee Posh storyline.

On Jan. 23, BHS staff took a group to District 2 Hashen Kehl Service Center, where families were treated to stories, songs and crafts.

These events bring families together throughout the Community to learn about O’otham and Pee Posh history.

The stories provide context to songs as well as land marks and their significance.

Anthony Gray, from District 4 San Tan and is the Tribal Educations Cultural Coordinator, served as the cultural expert for the evening. Gray has been providing storytelling throughout the Community for the last two years, and this is the second year partnering with BHS.

Gray said that his goal is to help youth understand of one’s O’otham identity through the stories shared. “In every story you find some knowledge and teaching there for us all. I want the people to walk away having learned why we look at things the way we do,” said Gray of his story sharing.

Examples of these stories can concern the Red Sky’s Arizona is famous for and why it isn’t just pretty to view but serves as a gift and “good sign” to the O’otham.

Gray shared the story about the departure of the Pronghorn Antelope from the O’otham areas beyond the West. According to the story, the antelope once roamed through the region, today they are less common due to the result of a race near the Arizona/Mexico border.

The story offers lessons of humility as well as the teachings about the burden that arrogance can bring.

Then in another story, Gray shared the origins of the “Rock People” we see today on the Superstition Mountains in the eastern part of Arizona. Through out the story, Gray sang the songs associated with the events that led to the creation of the “Rock People.”

These are just some of the stories that will be shared that provide meaning to landmarks, place names, songs, and their significance.

Gray used the O’otham names for places and animals, which helps understand their place in the new environmental work the Community is doing especially with the bird population; 121 birds have been recorded at the MAR5 site alone.

Representatives from each group also shared their results and what they saw in the field including mounting doves, ravens, cactus wrens, hawks and black phoebes, among other things.

Anthony Gray during a cultural presentation for Family Night. Anthony Gray/GRIN

Understanding the uniqueness of the Community BHS will also feature a Pee Posh Community member to share stories during the District 7 event on Feb. 7.
Were you treated with kindness & respect?

At Gila River Health Care, our Patient Advocates welcome your questions, concerns, and compliments regarding your care.

We’d love to hear about your experience! Call to speak with a Patient Advocate.

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
(520) 562-3321

Komatke Health Center
(520) 550-6000

Hau’pal Health Center
(520) 796-2661

Let’s Ask Dr. Roopa

What is the kidney’s role in our body?

The kidney’s main job is to filter waste and excess fluids from the blood into the urine to be passed out of the body. The kidneys also play a key role in maintaining blood pressure.

How to detect kidney disease?

It can be detected early and easily by simple lab tests like a Urine test for proteins and blood tests for creatinine and Glomerular filtration rate (eGFR). These are checked at least once a year in people with Diabetes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevent or slow the progression of diabetic kidney disease by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taking medications to control high blood pressure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managing changes in eating, diet, and nutrition</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managing blood glucose levels</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Losing weight if you are overweight or obese</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Getting regular physical activity</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check with your doctor for a simple urine protein and blood test.
GET UP TO TRIPLE* YOUR TAX REFUND TOWARD A NICER, NEWER CAR!

OR PAY JUST $7 DOWN!
TOWARD A NICER, NEWER CAR!

1648 N. PINAL AVE.
IN CASA GRANDE, AZ

THE PREMIER PROMISE
WE ARE A DEALER FOR THE PEOPLE®

THAT MEANS WE PUT OUR CUSTOMERS FIRST. BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE, WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE DESERVES TO DRIVE A NICER, NEWER CAR TODAY. OUR BUSINESS IS NOT SELLING CARS. OUR BUSINESS IS FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE EVERYDAY PROBLEMS THAT KEEP MOST PEOPLE STUCK IN A CAR THEY HATE. WE'RE ON A MISSION TO CHANGE THE WORLD BY HELPING PEOPLE GET THE CAR THEY WANT AND DESERVE. MY GOAL IS TO BE A TRUSTED ADVISOR IN THE PROCESS.

OUR RIDES COME PACKED WITH BONUSES!
LIFETIME MAINTENANCE
3 MONTH, 3000 MILE WARRANTY
3 DAY VEHICLE EXCHANGE

190 W. PIMA ST., SUITE 2
SACATON, AZ 85147
HOURS: MON., WED., FRI. 12-5PM

520-423-8181
SCOTTSAYSYES.COM

*See dealer for details. Plus tax, title, license and dealers adds.
New Year Resolutions

SAVE MONEY

Improve My Credit

Get Reliable Transportation

CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER
1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE
520-836-2112
INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL • www.crossroadsauto.org

2013 GMC Sierra Z-71
$375/mo.*
Low Miles

2014 Dodge Avenger
$195/mo.*

2017 Jeep Compass
$269/mo.*

No Tax Money Needed

No Payments till April

SAVE MONEY

Improve My Credit

Get Reliable Transportation

2018 Ford Edge Titanium
$305/mo.*

2018 Ram Big Horn
$450/mo.*
Low Miles

2016 Nissan Titan XD
$425/mo.*

2016 Mazda 3
$225/mo.*

2018 Chevy Equinox
$299/mo.*

2016 Dodge Challenger
$295/mo.*

Bankruptcy Divorce Foreclosure We Can Get You Financed

SALE ENDS SOON

2019 Hyundai Kona
$350/mo.*

2018 Nissan Frontier
$350/mo.*

2018 Nissan Rogue
$18,999

2019 Ford Fusion
$15,999
9,000 Miles

2018 Kia Sportage
$15,999

2017 Chevy Trax
$10,999

2016 Hyundai Accent
$150/mo.*
GET HIRED ON THE SPOT TODAY!

See a Food & Beverage Manager for an interview at Gila River Hotels & Casinos.

Explore other career opportunities at PlayAtGila.com.