The Gila River Indian Community and the Department of the Interior entered into a lease for the existing Casa Blanca Community School.

Congresswoman Deb Haaland provided a video message for the Census & Get Out the Vote Rally on Sept. 19. GRBC Screenshot

The rally's synergy provided viewers the full scope of the history of voting for Native Americans and the civic duty everyone has to fill out the census and exercise their right to vote.

Chief Judge Joseph Manuel Sr., grandson of Rudolph Johnson stated, "Voting means so much because we count in everything and we're able to say that we've done our civic responsibility to our tribal nations, to the county, to the state of Arizona. So be sure to get out and vote because it means everything."

Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson introduced Abrams who launched the non-profit group "Fair Count" to ensure that hard to count populations are represented in the 2020 Census. "I know when the Gila River Indian Community succeeds, I succeed," said Abrams.

The rally also called on elders and youth to offer insight into this important time of the year. Youth representatives included Thalia Ayala and Monique Makil and Miss Gila River Alyse Marrietta moderated a panel with elders Bonnie Lyons and Joe Biakeddy.

The rally has been replayed several times in its entirety on GRBC and will air again on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 6:30 p.m. You can also re-watch the stream on Facebook by searching Gila River Broadcasting Corporation.
HEALTH ALERT
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UPCOMING DISTRICT TESTING DATES:
In an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, GRHC is following the CDC’s recommendation for conducting COVID-19 testing on a recurring basis.
All GRIC members, and those residing within the GRIC boundaries, who have previously tested negative and who have no symptoms – should get retested.
Note: If you have not been tested and have no symptoms, you should be tested at a district service center.

Dist. 7 ..... Oct. 6 - 8
Dist. 1 ....... Oct. 13 - 15
Dist. 2 ....... Oct. 20 - 22
Dist. 3 .... Nov. 3 - 5

Testing Times: 9 am- 1 pm & 5 pm - 7 pm

For test result information, please call: (602) 528-3378. For general info about the Coronavirus, go to GRHC.org/Coronavirus • GRHC Coronavirus Hotline (520) 550-6079

PATIENT REMINDER NOTICE:
The Primary Care Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital is open on Saturdays for walk-in visits from 8 am to 6 pm. Last check-in time is 5 pm.
If you have questions, please call (520) 562-3321

Halloween
During the Pandemic
Avoid high risk activities:
traditional trick or treating/trunk-or-treat/attending crowded indoor costume parties/ indoor haunted houses.
Opt for low risk alternatives:
pumpkin carving with family/ decorate your home/virtual costume contests/family scavenger hunt for treats/ having a spooky movie night!

Stay Safe this Halloween

Dr. Peter Wagner.
Osteopathic physician Dr. Peter Wagner. Dr. Wagner has been with us for 17 years and will retire from his position at GRHC on September 30th.
We are incredibly grateful for his service and dedication to GRHC and the Gila River Indian Community and wish him well in his retirement. Join us in giving a fond farewell to Dr. Peter Wagner!

Thank you for your service.

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449
Non-profit service group donates essential items for GRIC elders

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

SEWA International, a Hindu based non-profit organization, made a donation of essential items at the Gila River Health Care Viola L. Johnson building on Sept. 17.

The items, ranging from personal protective equipment, cleaning products to hygienic supplies will be distributed to GRIC elders. The donation by SEWA, is one of many projects by the humanitarian organization to assist underserved populations across the U.S. and across the globe.

“This just shows the generosity that is out there, especially during COVID, but it also shows how much you can do with a positive mindset and motivated individuals, like SEWA,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

He said the items are important for the upcoming flu season to prevent the spread of germs.

Gov. Lewis provided an overview of the Community to the group of SEWA volunteers, who were interested in the culture, land and history of the Akimel O’otham.

“It is great to be here to get to know about [your] community, there is much we can learn about the people and how we can help,” said Prasad Koranne, SEWA Phoenix Chapter Coordinator.

“We have 50 chapters across the U.S.A., we work with underserved populations and local organizations, especially in Native American populations, this is just a small part of the ongoing activities that [we do],” said Koranne.

“In a short period of time, that I have been connected with SEWA, no matter who, where and when the help is needed, [they] are there to help,” said Dr. Sirisha Puppala, MD GRHC Primary Care Department.

She said SEWA had extended their assistance, which she had connected with the appropriate channels to make the donation possible.

“I have seen them in action, providing masks, hand sanitizers, food and water to tribes they have helped, even with other reservations around water quality issues, such as on the Navajo Nation,” said Puppala.

“With these donated items, we can move forward and get these important items out to the elder populations. We will identify how they will be disseminated out to the districts, those who are in need,” said Laurie Thomas, Director of Community Services Department.

She said the donation of essential items and PPE will be combined with items from a previous donation drive organized by GRHC and will be distributed by CSD to the elders.
Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis joined a panel of legal experts on the Native American right to vote in Arizona.
Something to be told or talked about

By Billy Allen

In early September, I was surprised to see a couple of television news and radio programs reporting about Saguaros falling down in the Phoenix area. Radio station KIZZ aired a listener who counted 17 fallen Saguaros, others with lost arms, and many just looking unhealthy within the Ahwatukee area. Channel 12 showed a house/garage that was destroyed by a falling saguaro. “They are supposed to be adapted to the desert environment. But this year has been very extreme with this summer,” said Raul Puente, the Desert Botanical Garden’s research botanist. He added Saguaros are falling, losing arms, or becoming discolored for many reasons including dehydration and too much sun exposure. Another key factor is metro Phoenix is a heat island meaning high temperatures last throughout the night. There aren’t enough cool night hours for plants to handle the heat build-up of the day.

I won’t bore you with the facts and figures of this summer. You made it through this record-breaking hot summer. I will bore you with this; these temperature extremes were not part of growing up in Va:tki. Area farmers were usually irrigating so the evenings cooled down dramatically, but mosquitoes were plentiful for we still slept outside. Trees provided cool shade during the day, slowed the wind of the jejos (dust storm), and in the evening, their rustling seemed to sing us to sleep.

Like us, the hashan (Saguaro) can be quite different from each other. Some are tall while others are short, some have a thin build while others are thick. Besides height, which is based on age, some have long arms, others short; some have many arms, others may have one or two. Some hashan grow close to each other in groups, some stand alone. Some share their fruit with us early, some may make us wait a month longer. Talk about “O’odham time!”

Saguaros at the O’Reilly Auto store across from Peart Park with buds on it! Maybe some readers saw it too and doubted their eyes. Our O’odham himdag tells us that Saguaros deserve respect. Traditionally, they are part of our life cycle. The fruit provides a sweet summer treat, and syrup stored for the winter rewards our summer work. Once a Saguaro died, it continued to help our ancestors. It was used in building homes, ramadas (va:to) or fences, walking sticks, and calendar sticks. Some of us still make use of the hashan in various ways. But never as a fuel.

Besides Saguaros falling from the desert heat, desert fires have also killed or will kill many Saguaros. This June, the Bighorn fire near Tucson killed about 2,000. In 2005, closer to home, many Saguaros died from the Vekol Fire. The effects of that fire are still noticeable along the freeway near Stanfield. In both cases, invasive non-native plants helped fuel the fires. Buffelgrass and wild mustards that have colonized the desert floor add greenery to the desert in the spring, but when temperatures climb, the plants dry up and become fuel. They provide a fiery bridge for flames to spread across the desert, burn up creosote bushes and palo verde trees, and scorch Saguaros. Experts say Saguaros don’t actually burn up, but if the root system or skin is damaged, a slow death is almost certain.

Past and present, the Saguaro has provided for us. Hopefully it will continue to do so. It could be time for an SOS—Save Our Saguaros. When you’re out among the Saguaros and you see glass bottles, pick them up and dispose of them properly. They can act like a magnifying glass increasing the heat on the desert floor. A tenet of O’odham life is respect for all living things. Trashing the desert, our homes and roads does not seem very Native.
Flu shots are available, get one now says Gila River Health Care

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The Influenza (flu) virus is a respiratory illness that can range from mild to severe symptoms and may even lead to hospitalization or death. The flu can circulate year ‘round, but most flu activity usually occurs from October through March with peaks in December-January and the flu share similar signs and symptoms. Both spread from person-to-person when there is close contact and may spread before symptoms appear.

Symptoms include fever, chills, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches that can last up to two weeks. On average, the flu affects 5-20% of the state’s population, more than 4,000 people are hospitalized due to flu-related complications and 700 people die from the virus, according the Arizona Department of Health Services. Elderly, young children, and those with certain health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease are at higher risk for the flu.

Dr. Wesley Yamada has been working with the Community for 33 years and currently serves as Interim Chief Medical Officer for Gila River Health Care. He highlighted the importance of vaccinations during the current pandemic. The flu vaccine is available each year to protect you from up to four different flu viruses that scientists anticipate will circulate. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, although developers, researchers and manufacturers are working on the development.

The flu vaccine protects you for up to six months and takes about two weeks to build up your immune system. You could still be at risk for the flu or flu like viruses, but studies have shown that the vaccine reduces the severity. “Illnesses and diseases that are very similar or mimic the same symptoms as flu, you can catch,” says Dr. Yamada, such as the common cold, which the flu vaccine does not prevent. Washing your hands, covering your cough or sneeze, physical distance and wearing a mask if you are out in public help protect you and others from the spread of the flu and COVID-19.

When a surge of COVID-19 cases hit the state in July of this year, many health care centers were severely impacted and left with fewer services for other patients. Dr. Yamada discussed the possibility of flu and COVID-19 cases to spike in the coming months due to the return to school, holidays and travel. Last flu season, GRHC saw an increase of flu cases in December. The state reported nearly 37,000 flu cases, its highest numbers in ten years.

Last flu season, Gila River Health Care administered over 10,000 flu vaccinations but this year amidst the pandemic, GRHC has a goal to vaccinate at least 15,000 people in the Community by the end of October. Flu clinics in the Community began in September and are available along with the Community’s routine COVID-19 testing. It is possible to contract the two viruses, Influenza and COVID-19, at the same time. It is highly recommended to continue to protect yourself and others, get tested for COVID-19 and get a flu shot. For more information on the flu clinics in the Community, visit GRHC.ORG/FLU.

Gila River Police Department announces text-to-911 service

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community Police Department will begin utilizing “text-to-9-1-1,” a new service that will allow you to send a text message to 911 from a mobile device in case you are unable to make a phone call in an emergency. The text message service is part of Pinal County Sheriff’s Office county-wide text-to-9-1-1, available Oct. 1. Dispatchers have been trained and are ready to utilize this new service.

You can now text the number “911” with a message of your emergency and accurate location, if possible. Avoid using abbreviations and group, video, or photo messages cannot be sent.

It is necessary to have your device’s location services turned on in order to better assist in providing your location to dispatch. Once a message is sent, questions and instructions will follow.

There is no guarantee your message will be sent or received. Voice calls are still preferred but is available for those who cannot or cannot make a phone call and can be an alternative for individuals with speech/hearing impairments or other disabilities, domestic violence victims, anyone unable to speak due to medical or other conditions.

Enrollment Now

**NO GUARANTEE**

- Support you as your child’s first teacher.
- Connect family, school, & Community.
- Increase parent involvement in school.
- Celebrate and support culture & community.
- Promote lifelong learning.

**GCS BAC}
Register to vote by October 5, 2020 for the State, and National Elections!
This is your opportunity to participate in the November 3rd General Election.

Important Dates - General Election

October 5th
Voter Registration Deadline

October 23rd
Last day to request a ballot-by-mail or sign up for PEVL

October 27th
Recommended deadline to mail back your ballot

November 3rd
General Election Voting Polls Open
6am - 7pm

“YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE”

Get Out The Vote

Not Registered to Vote Yet? Visit: bit.ly/nativevotetervr or servicearizona.com
**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
**GENERAL ELECTION**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

Polling Sites Are Open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Election Day!

All Districts will provide a polling site. However, we strongly recommend you vote by absentee to combat the spreading of the COVID-19 virus as part of our efforts to assist you in the most safest way of voting. **PLEASE** make sure you sign the envelope.

*Tribal Elections Office - (520) 562-9735 or (520) 562-9758*

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**GRIC POLLING SITE LOCATIONS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District #1 Multipurpose Building</th>
<th>15747 Shegoi Road</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District #2 Event Center</td>
<td>9257 W. Sacaton Flats Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #3 Service Center</td>
<td>31 N. Church Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #4 Service Center</td>
<td>1510 W. Santan Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #5 Multipurpose Building</td>
<td>3558 W. Casa Blanca Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #6 Learning Center</td>
<td>5230 W. St. Johns Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #7 Multipurpose Facility</td>
<td>8035 S. 83rd Avenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIAL ELECTION 2020
Amendments to the Constitution

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP
Deleting the 20-year residency requirement for members: Currently, Article 3, Section 3 of the Constitution states that a Community member who remains away from the Reservation continuously for 20 years shall automatically forfeit his or her tribal membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>A YES vote will remove this language from the Constitution and allow member to keep their membership if they remain away for 20 years.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>A NO vote will keep the current language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARTICLE XI: DISTRICTS
Currently, Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution states that the area known as Co-op shall be within District 6; however, the legal boundaries stated in Article 11 place Co-op within District 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>A YES vote will change the legal boundaries of District 7 and District 6 to move the area known as Co-op from District 7 to District 6.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>A NO vote will keep the current language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARTICLE XV: POWERS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Currently Articles 3 and 15 of the Constitution state that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to review certain kinds of ordinances and resolutions enacted by the Community Council, including civil and criminal codes, and ordinances regulating tribal membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>A YES vote will remove the Secretary of the Interior from the Ordinance and Resolution approval process.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>A NO vote will keep the current language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IN ORDER TO CHANGE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XVII STATES -
“Proposed amendments will be approved by a majority vote of the registered voters of the Community voting in an election called for the purpose by the Election Board, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of the registered voters vote in such election.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIAL ELECTION, PLEASE VISIT: MYGILARIVER.COM/INDEX.PHP/SPECIAL-ELECTION-2020

IT’S YOUR CONSTITUTION
MEMBERSHIP • DISTRICTS • POWER
Gila River Indian Community

**did you hear?**

**VOTER REGISTRATION is CLOSING**: October 6, 2020

*make sure you are registered or updated your registration for the:*

**GENERAL ELECTION, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020**
- Office of Governor
- Office of Lt. Governor
- Chief Judge
- Associate Judges
- Constitutional Amendments

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**Tribal Elections will register community members alongside**
- Pinal County’s Mobile Registration vehicle

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**Saturday, September 26, 7 am - 10 pm**
- @ Casa Blanca Chevron Station, District 5

**Tuesday, September 29, 8 am - 10 am**
- @ Komatke Chevron Station, District 6

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**OR contact your District Judge/Elections office today:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yolanda Duran</td>
<td>(520) 582-2710 or (520) 215-1163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bertha Thomas</td>
<td>(520) 610-8350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Zuzette Kisto</td>
<td>(520) 610-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sharon Miguel</td>
<td>(520) 610-0670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Verna Sunna</td>
<td>(480) 737-1584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lorina Allison</td>
<td>(480) 404-5184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leola Lynch</td>
<td>(602) 803-2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRIBAL ELECTIONS OFFICE: (520) 562-9735, Call before you arrive.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS
Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • September 16, 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 Community Council held Wednesday, September 16, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:08 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilman Terrance Evans

ROLL CALL
Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll
Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Robert Stone
Council Members Present:
D1-Joey Whitman (9:19), Azrie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-James De La Rosa, Martin Dixon, Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D5-Vacant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORTS #4 & #5 AND RESOLUTION #1 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE REPORTS #3 & #6 AND RESOLUTIONS #2 THROUGH #13 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
*1. COVID 19 Update
Presenters: Bruce Harvey, Candalerian Preston, Laurie Thomas, June Shorthair

REPORT HEARD
2. COVID – 19 Update
Presenters: Bruce Harvey, Candalerian Preston, Laurie Thomas, June Shorthair

REPORT HEARD
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 AND #2
3. Cold Case Office
Presenters: Sunshine Whitehair, Chief Timothy Chavez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED OF AGENDA
4. Casa Blanca Community School Qtr 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY19-20
Presenters: Lillian Kim Franklin

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. St. Peter Indian Mission School Qtr 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY19-20
Presenters: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. GRICUA Report - FY 20 3rd Quarter (April 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020)
Presenters: Leonard Gold, Pamela Thomas

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS
*1. A Resolution Approving and Authorizing an Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community and BOKF, NA For Fiscal Year 2020 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for consideration to add to the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sharon Hanvier

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*2. A Resolution Authorizing and Approving The Gila River Indian Community’s Participation And Data Sharing Agreement With The Study Committee On Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women And Girls (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Valaura Imus-Naashohiy, Katie Haverty

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*3. A Resolution Authorizing A Second General Assistance Payment Out Of The Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund (G&MSC forward to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And DCI Group AZ, LLC For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*5. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Center For Applied Research, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*7. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*8. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Dorsey & Whitney, LLP For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*9. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Osborn Maledon, P.A. For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*10. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Rothstein Law Firm For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*11. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Lipses Mathias Wester & Friedman, LLP For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*12. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And DAP Law PLLC For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*13. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Yo-der & Langford, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
MINUTES
1. August 19, 2020 (Regular) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE CORRECTION
2. September 2, 2020 (Regular) MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
~ VIRTUAL CENSUS AND GET OUT THE VOTE RALLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 ADJOURNMENT MEETING ADJOINED AT 11:09 A.M.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

COURT DATE NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE OLDER INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA COURT DATE NOTICE In the Matter of the Estate of Sylvia Faith Flores (Moob) Docket Number 221721-CZ-

ZAA

IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA KI, A. 19th day of October, 2020 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Annelie Caudill

Call for Antiochists/Artists Wanted (Sacaton, Arizona) Dr. Cheryl Paul, The Gila River Indian Community is excited to announce the new Casa Blanca School opening next summer. This beautifully designed space will need art from First (Akimel O’otham) and Maricopa (Pee-Posh) artisans. We are looking for artists from the Gila River Indian Community working in all styles and media, including painting, photography, mosaics, murals, drawings, photography, sculpture, basketry, pottery, carvings, and weavings. Our design team is looking for artwork that will reflect the cultural themes that will be incorporated into the facility. We will host an open house for artists on October 24 from 11am to 5pm, at the District five Service Center (5498 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Akimel-O’otham). Come take a look at the project and opportunities for you. Please bring photographs/samples of your work to share with us. We will not be purchasing anything at the open house. We will have two sessions to comply with Covid-19 regulations, 11am-2pm and 2pm to 5pm. We will also be doing zoom sessions upon request.

For more information, and to request a time slot, please call Laurie Post at 602-243-4300, or email Laurie at LPost@TelaArt.com.
Outreach intensifies to increase voter registration with deadline coming up

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

With Election Day, Nov. 3, approaching, the Gila River Indian Community continues to register as many voters as possible before the National and GRIC tribal elections deadline.

Starting Sept. 24, GRIC Tribal Elections and Pinal County have partnered to register new voters in person while adhering to all COVID-19 safety protocols. Pinal County Elections Office provided their mobile registration vehicle for use on Thursday, Sept. 24 in District 1, Saturday, Sept. 26 in District 5, and again on Thursday, Oct. 1 in District 3.

“We’ve had a huge turnout of new voters registering along with many people coming to update their voter information during our outreach,” said District 3 Judge for Tribal Elections Office, Suzette Kisto.

Tribal Elections also set up in District 6 on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

“In District 6 we had a lot of urban members come register to vote because they’re concerned about the constitutional amendment to Article III: Membership and how it could affect them,” Kisto said.

Nationally this next election will determine the outcome of numerous seats in congress, and the next president of the United States. On the state level, two propositions are up for a vote in addition to numerous senate and house seats.

“The gathering ended with a virtual play about a coyote and buzzard,” said Anthony Grey, Culture Department.

The 2020 Virtual Culture Teacher Gathering featured hands-on demonstrations for streaming online. ZOOM Screenshot

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

O’otham cultural and language teachers recently regrouped for their annual gathering, which was previously scheduled for March, to share their traditional teachings and how to incorporate their unique curriculum in the schools.

The 2020 Virtual Culture Teacher Gathering was held on Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, and 18. The Culture Teacher Gathering began for teachers from the Gila River Indian Community and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to support each other and discuss ways to implement cultural learning in the classroom.

Ak-Chin Indian Community and Tohono O’odham Nation joined as well and each year the gathering is hosted by one of the O’odham tribes. GRIC hosted the previous gathering at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass.

The Tohono O’odham Nation Education Department and Culture Teacher Gathering Planning Committee hosted the event virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which took place at the original venue at the Himdag Ki: Tohono O’odham Nation Cultural Center.

“This was needed as there was not as much support for teachers in the lower languages revitalization,” said Anthony Grey, Culture Coordinator for the Tribal Education Department.

Participants joined through web-based video conferencing for lessons and demonstrations from culture teachers and presenters, which included O’odham introductions, traditional calendar, pottery, songs, games and the cultural significance of clothing and seashells.

“The presentations were interactive and was taught to where we understood within our Himdag. The activities are very useful and can be taught with any grade level,” said Ms. Hymer and Mrs. Hall, Culture Instructors for the Sacaton Elementary School District.

Participants were invited to join online and interact with presenters and engage during a Q & A session. Hands-on demonstrations were given for use at home with materials to be used along with each workshop, which were mailed out to participants who registered early.

“This year’s gathering was designed based on feedback we received when we hosted the event in 2016. The evaluation forms demonstrated that participants wanted more hands-on activities, which inspired this year’s pinch pot, shell necklace and puppet making activities,” said Frances Benavidez, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Tohono O’odham Nation Education Department.

The event ended with a virtual play of a story about a coyote and buzzard’s adventure at a dance. The virtual play demonstrated a fun way to bring traditional stories and language to life, in person or online. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will host the gathering next year. “I’ll be honest it wasn’t the same of course as last year’s but it was hard for some of us that we wish we could hug each other or have that one-on-one talk. Regardless of the social distancing we all still did our best to make moments and to hear everyone out,” said Lorena Hendriks-Clashin, Cultural Specialist, Gila River Indian Community Head Start. Next issue will feature more on this story, the history of the gathering and GRIC’s participation.

Culture and language teachers gather virtually for presentations and workshops

The 2020 Virtual Culture Teacher Gathering featured hands-on demonstrations for streaming online. ZOOM Screenshot

The gathering ended with a virtual play about a coyote and buzzard. ZOOM Screenshot

Lt. Gov. Robert Stone, left, at the voter registration outreach in District 6 on Sept. 29. Kyle Knox
GRIC elections is Monday, Oct. 5, for Maricopa and Pinal counties. You can register online at servicearizona.com and check your voter status at recorder.maricopa.gov or pinalcountyz.gov. The deadline to register for GRIC tribal election is Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 5 p.m. For more information to register, please call the Tribal Elections Office at (520) 562-9735. Or you can also register by calling your district judge to coordinate an in-person registration within your district.

The 2020 Virtual Culture Teacher Gathering featured hands-on demonstrations for streaming online. ZOOM Screenshot

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

O’otham cultural and language teachers recently regrouped for their annual gathering, which was previously scheduled for March, to share their traditional teachings and how to incorporate their unique curriculum in the schools.

The 2020 Virtual Culture Teacher Gathering was held on Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, and 18. The Culture Teacher Gathering began for teachers from the Gila River Indian Community and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to support each other and discuss ways to implement cultural learning in the classroom.

Ak-Chin Indian Community and Tohono O’odham Nation joined as well and each year the gathering is hosted by one of the O’odham tribes. GRIC hosted the previous gathering at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass.

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Genesis program addresses childhood obesity with a jump rope marathon

With September recognized as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, the Genesis Program hosted, for the first time, a Virtual Jump Rope Marathon for children in the Community Monday, Sept. 28 and Wednesday, Sept. 30. The event was held over the WebEx virtual meeting platform and challenged children to perform as many individual jumps to encourage healthy movement and activity.

Program Manager Kyrie Dukepoo said, “Normally, the kids learn how to jump rope in PE class, but with no access to PE teachers, they don’t have that at the moment.” This event will help fill a significant gap for home school children that have little to no physical activities. Many students will now have the equipment necessary to promote physical activity safely at home by providing jump ropes.

On Monday and Wednesday evening, parents and children logged on to their devices, observed a quick demonstration, and began the competition performing as many jumps as possible. Eventually, time and fatigue set in, leaving few remaining and winners declared. Monday night’s marathon ended in a tie between Zachary Antone and Josiah Antone jumping for 10 minutes, and Wednesday night’s marathon ended with Mark Sanchez III & Breiah Miguel declared the winner jumping for a total of 10 minutes.

Genesis also achieved another goal for the event. Dukepoo stated, “We want to connect the kids so they can see each other and have an event, just for them, so they feel like someone’s reaching out to them and providing healthy activity and community connection.”

Why jump rope?
Jumping rope is considered one of the best means of building stamina, agility, and can improve your cardiovascular health. It utilizes numerous body parts and muscles to complete one revolution. Another great value of jumping rope is it can enhance coordination skills. The health benefits of jumping rope are an effective activity in combating childhood obesity.

With three months left in the year, Genesis will continue to host virtual events.

For more information on Genesis, call (520) 562-3369.
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