Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

On Jan. 1, a swearing-in ceremony was held to administer the Oath of Office to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Chief Judge Joseph Manuel Sr., and Associate Judges Sherri Cassa, Charles Aragon, Janice Breckenridge, and Anthony Hill.

The swearing-in marks the beginning of Governor Stephen Roe Lewis’ third term as Governor of the Community, and Lt. Governor Monica Antone’s return as Lt. Governor, a position she previously held from 2015 to 2017.

Judge Jay Pedro administered the Oath of Office to Chief Judge Joseph Manuel Sr., who then administered the oath to Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. Antone, and the Associate Judges.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Gov. Lewis remarked, “I am humbled by the confidence the Community has shown in re-electing me to be Governor of the Community, especially during this time of unprecedented crisis. I look forward to working with Lt. Gov. Antone and the Community Council as we see our way through the pandemic while continuing our work on the long-term goals of the Community.”

Lt. Gov. Antone stated, “I am pleased to be able to again serve the Community as Lt. Governor and look forward to carrying out the priorities and goals of the Community during my tenure.”

A virtual Inauguration will be broadcast by GRBC at 12:00 pm on Saturday, Jan. 16 and rebroadcast at 6:00 p.m.

Community Members Showcase Creativity for Christmas Lights Contest

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The annual River of Lights parade was canceled this year due to the pandemic. The annual parade, much like many of the events in the Community, would bring hundreds of people together during the holiday season to witness a festive parade along Casa Blanca road following-up with entertainment and a tree lighting at the Ira H. Hayes/Matthew B. Juan Memorial park in Sacaton.

The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has forced those festivities to be canceled and have been replaced with a house decorating contest for homes in the Community. Judging was held Dec. 18-19. Judges included Miss Gila River Alyse Marrietta, Jr. Miss Gila River Sinea Jackson, Miss Indian Arizona Amy Spotted Wolf, and the Ms/Mr. Indigenous ASU Committee court, including Miss Indigenous ASU Loudues Pereira, Miss Indigenous ASU 1st Attendant Jolene Fernandez and Mr. Indigenous ASU Carlos Miramontes.

This year, 27 houses competed for cash prizes as judges traveled in a caravan style through the Community to view the entries. Beginning Friday evening, Dec. 18 royalty traveled to Districts 1-4. “It brings joy to my heart to see how many people participated,” said Jr. Miss Gila River Sinea Jackson during the viewing, looking for creativity and plenty of Christmas lights. “They put so much work and effort into their houses. They look so amazing and I’m so proud of everyone who participated,” said Jackson. “It’s been really fun. One of my favorite things to do during Christmas is to just look around at the lights and this is the perfect event for me to do that.”

Other joining royalty shared that it was their first time visiting the Community.

“We’re here to bring the spirit of Christmas, something that’s very much needed during this time” said Miss Gila River Alyse Marrietta who shared remarks at the end of the two-night judging, wishing everyone happy holidays. Video of the contest entries and the royalty’s tour through the Community is featured on GRIC’s Facebook page. River of Lights House Decorating Contest winners are:

1st Place: Carmen Baldwin-Ortega - District 3
2nd Place: Gerald Smith - District 7
3rd Place: Gina Enos - District 3

Continued on Page 6
COVID-19 TESTING DATES

District 2 Service Center
January 5th, 6th & 7th
9 am - 1 pm
5 pm - 7 pm

District 3 Service Center
January 12th, 13th & 14th
9 am - 1 pm
5 pm - 7 pm

District 4 Service Center
January 19th, 20th & 21st
9 am - 1 pm
5 pm - 7 pm

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Patient vaccinations for Phase 1a Priority Patients will begin 1/6/2021

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

When will the vaccines be made available to patients?
In accordance with the GRIC COVID-19 Vaccine plan, the first phase of patient vaccinations (Phase 1a) will begin the week of January 6, 2021. Additional distribution phases will begin in the coming weeks when more vaccine is available. Patients included in Phase 1a are:

- Residents of The Caring House
- Dialysis patients
- Elders 55+ with serious health concerns

Vaccinations for healthcare workers involved in direct patient care are in progress.

Has GRHC received the vaccine?
Yes, GRHC has received both Moderna and Pfizer vaccine and we'll start immunizing patients in Phase 1a as detailed above. Right now we don't have enough vaccine to vaccinate everyone, that's why we are prioritizing who will receive the vaccine as outlined by GRIC vaccination plan. Priority group patients will be contacted directly by a provider to discuss the vaccine and answer any questions you may have.

What can I do to protect myself until a vaccine becomes available?
You should stay home as much as possible. If you must go out for essentials, remember to wear a mask, avoid close contact with others, do not gather, and wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer. Get more information about these and other steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 at GRHC.ORG/HUB.
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. All 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.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy! Executive Order No. 9 requires individuals to stay home except to conduct essential activities.

Sign up today to receive text alerts from the Gila River Indian Community and receive notices & announcements including important information regarding COVID-19 Coronavirus.

To sign up text GILARIVER to 797979 and start receiving updates. If you have any questions, please contact the CPAO Office at (520) 562-9715

#gilariverstrong
Youth Council brings Christmas cheer to Caring House Residents and Staff

By Kyle Knox

A gathering is a planned or spontaneous event indoors or out, and includes attendance at events such as community gatherings, in person church services, dances, conferences, weddings, birthday parties or sporting events. Please refer to Executive Order #9 for additional examples.

THE MORE PEOPLE an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.

THE HIGHER the level of community transmission in the area the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during the gathering.

On Dec. 23, the Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council delivered gifts and tokens of appreciation to the Caring House residents and staff. AOPPYC members and Advisory Board members donated gift bags, which consisted of lip balm, lotions, face masks, Epson salt, coffee, cookies, desserts, and other treats.

AOPPYC At-Large Member Jovanni Molina from District 3 spearheaded the effort. Molina worked as a physical therapy tech at the Caring House and grew to admire the staff’s tireless efforts with the residents.

“I saw first-hand how every staff member goes above and beyond to provide respect, love, and care for every resident’s well-being,” said Molina.

Alicia Gonzales, Activities Director at the Caring House, received the gifts.

“I feel like this is a blessing to The Caring House staff and residents that we have a Community that loves them so much to give to them,” said Gonzales.

Molina wanted to share a gift of love and respect for the staff. She said, “Many staff may not even be from the Community, and that takes a big person to give to the residents.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Molina understands the lack of family interaction and hopes the gesture will uplift everyone’s spirits during the holiday while affirming that the Community’s youth care about their elders.

This year is Molina’s first term on the AOPPYC, and she felt that it was the perfect chance for her to plan and execute projects that would benefit the Community. After pitching the idea to the AOPPYC, everyone was excited and supported, and she also credits her family’s support with motivating her to see it through.

Gonzales was touched when the AOPPYC reached out for the donation effort saying, “It brought tears to my eyes when they reached out to us because I know this is going to make a difference for the lives of the staff and residents knowing that people out there are really thinking about them,” said Gonzales.

Gonzales said the residents and staff will appreciate and put the items to use this season, especially with COVID-19 restrictions still in place.

AOPPYC reached out to the health department for the donation effort stating, “It brought tears to my eyes when they reached out to us because I know this is going to make a difference for the lives of the staff and residents knowing that people out there are really thinking about them,” said Gonzales.
By Billy Allen

Hopefully in 2021 things will get back to "normal" again — whether that is a good or bad thing is up for debate. This past year (or four) has taught us that we are not "in charge." We need each other, socially distanced though it may be. Pipaash and O’odham have made this land our home for a long time. We’ve reacted and adjusted. Here are some historical events that affected our people.

Jan. 30, 1875—Steamboat captains refused to land at La Paz because the town was hit with a smallpox epidemic. (The ghost town of La Paz is located six miles north of I-10 along the Colorado River.) Notches on a Gila Crossing calendar stick, put into words, told that in 1875-76, a sickness returned to Rarák/Nūwil' Wetcamp which caused shooting pains throughout the body. The need each other, socially distanced though it may be. Pipaash and O’odham have made this land our home for a long time. We’ve reacted and adjusted. Here are some historical events that affected our people.

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NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT
NON-MEMBER RESIDENT REGISTRATION

• The Community’s Residency Ordinance requires all adults (18 years of age and older) who are not enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community, but who reside within the boundaries of the Community to register their residency.

• All adult non-member residents must register their residency with the Enrollment Department and must update their registration by January 31st each year.

• Previously enrolled non-member registrants will receive a renewal form by mail. All other non-member residents should contact the Enrollment Department to request a registration form. Physical Address: Governance Center 525 W Gu U Ki Sacaton, AZ 85147 Phone number: (520) 562-9790

• The Registration Form maybe submitted in person at the Enrollment Office. A valid Photo ID is required.

• Registration Forms submitted to the Enrollment Department by mail, fax or third party must be notarized.

Mailing address: GRIC Enrollment Department P.O. Box 97 Sacaton, AZ 85147

Fax number: (520) 562-8103
Governor Stephen Roe Lewis Addresses Community Heading into the New Year

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community leader urges Community members to be vigilant going into the new year against COVID-19. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis reminded Community members to stay safe against COVID-19 during a video message on Jan 1.

“The start of 2021 does not automatically mean the impacts of the pandemic are behind us and things will go back to the way they were before the Coronavirus,” said Lewis. He said members still need to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Lewis said, in addition to what GRIC members can do to prevent the spread of the disease, the Community must also prepare for surges in the pandemic in the coming months. He stressed for Community members to not “ease-up” on the preventive measures, as health experts predict spikes in COVID-19.

“In anticipation of the rising numbers, I’ve asked the COVID-19 taskforce to provide an assessment of [our] capacity to address this surge, from our healthcare facilities, to our frontline workers to our equipment and policies,” said Lewis.

He said the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, will help the Community combat the virus, which has taken the lives of many GRIC members. “The vaccination is ultimately what will help the entire Community get to the other side of the pandemic, but that it will take months until consistent supplies are available and we can implement each phase of the vaccination plan,” said Lewis.

Lewis said that he will continue to work with Community Council to develop a vaccination plan, but that there are other on-going efforts, that need attention. He said the Community will continue worked towards its goals such as, investing and protecting its water resources, the building of Casa Blanca Community School and exploring economic opportunities. Lewis said, despite the pandemic, it has shown the true character of our community in that it is resilient through difficult times. “Although we have suffered heartbreak, we have also seen it within our hearts to be of service, however we can for our families, our neighbors, our villages and our community,” said Lewis.

January 2021
Commodity Foods Distribution Program
P.O. Box 1559 Sacaton, AZ 85147
Office: (520) 562-9293
Fax: (520) 562-3273

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Warehouse Hours are shown in blue
Warehouse Is Closed During Lunch Hour: 12pm - 1pm

Warehouse Will Be Closed: Jan 6, 18, 28 & Fridays

Last Issuance Date: 1/27/2021

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. TTY, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additional information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-Free). To request a copy of the compliant form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • December 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, December 16, 2020, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Carol Schurz

ROLL CALL
Sign-in Sheet Circulated

EXECUTIVE SESSION
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, Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr.; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrence Evans; D7-Devin Redbird
Council Members Absent:
D5-Thomas White

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE #1 THROUGH #2, #3, #18, #21 AND RESOLUTION #1 AND #3 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #4 THROUGH #12, #14 THROUGH #17, #19 AND #20; ACCEPT AND APPROVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS #2
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS
Presenter: Ronald Allison
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*2. FY2020 Annual Report (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) – Huuhugam Heritage Center
Presenter: Shirley Jackson
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Isaac Salcido
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*4. FY2020 Annual Report (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) Tribal Health Department
Presenter: Candalerian Preston
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Mary Dixon
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Mary Dixon
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Joanne Brewer
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Angel Orquez
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: David DeJong
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Trina M. Hart, Kelly Vickrey, Faron Humeyumptewa
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*11. GRHC Tobacco Tax Grant FY20 Annual Report (October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020)
Presenters: Judith Roth, Dr. Anthony Santiago, Dr. Wes Yamada, Susan Kelley, Priscilla Foote, Joseph Jicha, Deborah Tinsley, Max Haake, GRHC Board of Directors
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: GRTI Board of Directors, Jim Meyers, Mike Shibley
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*13. COVID – 19 Update
Presenters: Bruce Harvey, Candalerian Preston, Laurie Thomas, June Shorthair, Timothy Chavez, Dr. Anthony Santiago
REPORT HEARD

Presenter: Javier Ramos
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Kathy J. Garcia
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Claude Jackson
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*17. Enrollment / Census Department FY2020 Annual Report (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)
Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Ramona Tecumseh
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*19. GRTI 3Q 2020 Update
Presenters: GRTI Board, Jim Meyers, Jennifer Burkhalter
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenter: Kyle Woodson
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

21. GRIC – Housing Owner’s Team (HOT) (Executive Session)
Presenters: Housing Owner’s Team
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Approving The Title VI Implementation Plan For Gila River Transit, A Program Of The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)
Presenter: Dawn Coomer
ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Construction Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Core Construction, Inc. To Construct The Casa Blanca School (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Casandra Wallace
APPROVED

>3. A Resolution Approving The Office Of Emergency Management To Apply For And Receive Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant Funding Under The Arizona State Department Of Health Services For A Period Of 5-Years, July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Bruce Harvey
ITEM TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

>1. Amendment To The Constitution Implementation Plan Of Health Services For A Period Of 5-Years, Funding Under The Arizona State Department Of Health Services For A Period Of 5-Years, July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Michael Lando Voyles, Carleton Giff, David Williams, Chief Timothy Chavez, Asst. Chief William Morago, Det. Fredrick Powell
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Submittal of Findings Regarding the Collection Assessment The Digital Record Repository Containing the Official Records Of The Gila River Indian Community (ESC forwards to Council under New Business for approval and discussion)
Presenter: Tammie Morago

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE COLLECTION ASSESSMENT MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>Services for Malcolm Eschief Friday & Saturday
>~Special Council meeting Friday, December 18, 2020 at Lone Butte Event Center
>~Special Joint meeting with Health & Social, Cultural Resource, and Legislative on Monday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM
On December 17, President-elect Biden announced he will nominate Rep. Deb Haaland (D-NM) to serve as Secretary of the Department of the Interior. When confirmed, it will be the first time an American Indian will lead in the 171-year history of the DOI, which oversees many departments that includes Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She added that being tapped to lead the DOI is a testament of the sacrifices made by her ancestors and breaks down the old ideologies of past Interior Secretaries. “Breaking barriers is nothing new for Haaland,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in a statement. Biden’s nomination is reflective of what tribes have asked for in Indian Country according to Gov. Lewis. “We’ll have a Native American on that opposite side of ‘the table,’” he said on the representation of Indigenous people at the highest level of the federal government. He said Haaland will be a champion for all tribes, serving as a strong federal partner to the Community and others across the Nation. “[This] decision honors past generations, who have fought so hard through the centuries for a place in these United States,” said Lewis.

### Schedule of Deadlines

**2021**

Please send all GRIN submissions to grin@gric.nsn.us

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Submission Deadline Dates</th>
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**Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News**
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Low Miles $265/mo.

2018 Dodge Durango
Low Miles $389/mo.

2016 Chevy Silverado
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2020 Chevy Equinox

2014 Ram 1500
Priced to Sell $19,999

2019 Nissan Altima SL
Fully Loaded! Only $299/mo.

2017 Ford Expedition EL
Can’t Beat the Price! $27,999

2017 Honda Accord LX
Low Miles $277/mo.

2017 Lincoln MKZ
19,000 Miles $21,999

2019 Toyota Camry
Can’t Miss at $16,999

2018 Kia Soul

CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER
1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE
520-836-2112

INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL
www.crossroadsauto.org

*Payment based on 700 credit score, 3.99% APR @ 72 mos. with TrueCar. Not all customers qualify based on approved credit. Must present ad at time of purchase. Not all vehicles qualify. Ask manager for details.
Congratulations to Kenneth Manuel on being selected to Phoenix Business Journal’s 2020 Most Admired Leaders. The mission of the Gila River Hotels & Casinos is to generate income for the Community, to provide employment opportunities for the Community, and to participate in the economic growth of the Gila River Indian Community.