

# GRIN



VOL. 24, NO. 13

GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS | www.GRICNEWS.org

JULY 2, 2021

# GRIC Passes Resolution Announcing Plans to Build a 4th Casino in the Community

**Christopher Lomahquahu** 

Gila River Indian News

In an historic decision, the Community Council of the Gila River Indian Community on June 18th approved the construction of a new tribal casino - the Community's fourth facility - to be located in the East Valley.

The new site, located in District 4 of the Community south of the intersection of Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway, was chosen after an extensive site selection process led by Gila River's Casino Expansion Owners Team (CEOT).

Working with GRIC gaming leadership and leading industry consultants, CEOT utilized a computer model of the Phoenix gaming market to help with the process. The site selectors also considered likely population economic growth, future expansion and the capacity to develop necessary infrastructure. The decision also was motivated by a strong desire to bring new



A large swath of land near Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway is the proposed location for the Community's 4th casino, located in District 4. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

jobs to Community members and economic this area of the Valley.

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis called the new casino "a gamechanger" for the Community and for the East Valley, one that will bring

opportunities while working to minimize possible effects Community members, neighboring businesses and local residents.

employment been a good neighbor sensitive to the needs of our members and the communities we live beside and partner with," said Gov. Lewis. "Historically, the decisions made by our Council have balanced the "The Community has always needs of the present with all the

potential impacts on the future, and by a desire to create economic success for the Community and the region without impinging on anyone's quality of life."

Lewis continued: "We have a long track record of quality economic development coupled with collaboration, vision and concern for the public good. I expect this new casino project to follow in those footsteps."

The Community, which gave up the right to build a fourth casino during the gaming compact negotiations of 2002, negotiated for restoration of that option in the Amended and Restated Compact signed in May by Arizona tribal communities and the State of Arizona. The new fourth casino is not the only historic element of the new Compact. Tribal communities also retained strict exclusivity over gaming for the next 26 years including tribal exclusivity over blackjack and new games like roulette and baccarat.

# Gov. Lewis Issues **Executive Order** No. 11, Eases Stay-**At-Home Mandate**

**Emma Hughes** Gila River Indian News

In a June 18 video address, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis highlighted that between June 6 and June 12 the Community reported only two new COVID-19 positive cases. In the wake of this welcome news, the Governor announced Executive Order No. 11, which lifted the Communitywide stay-at-home order and eased some other restrictions.

"I have been committed to following the science and the data and using that information to drive our policy to address this pandemic," said Gov. Lewis in his address. "The new Executive Order No. 11 relaxes certain measures for our community with a goal of loosening these restrictions further as members become fully vaccinated."

The Gila River Indian Community has reached the 40% vaccination rate, according to the

Tribal Health Department. A total of 19,619 vaccines have been administered. The Community has performed 256, 947 COVID tests leading to 6,644 positive results, according to Tribal Health Department's data report.

"The virus is not over," said Lewis. The Governor encouraged individuals who are not fully vaccinated to stay home as much as possible to prevent the possibility of infection. Symptoms of the COVID-19 virus may not be present until 2-14 days after exposure, according to medical professionals. Symptoms can include fever, chills, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell.

Face mask requirements remain in place for those who are not fully vaccinated, first responders, anyone visiting a GRIC government building and GRIC employees who are within six feet of each other or when

More on Page 5



Members from the Gila River Basket Dancers group took part in the O'otham New Year video presentation that aired on Gila River Broadcasting on June 21. Zachary Redbird/CPAO

# O'otham New Year Celebrated with Emphasis on Staying Safe during Pandemic

**Christopher Lomahquahu** 

Gila River Indian News

Even pandemic could not prevent the Community from celebrating an age-old Akimel O'otham tradition. A special video presentation of the O'otham New Year was aired by the Gila River Broadcast Corporation Community on June

In the past, the O'otham New Year has been celebrated as a social gathering lasting from sunset to sunrise and involving the changing seasons to welcome person, we can celebrate at home." monsoon storms and to usher The in the Baithaj harvest from the Ha'ha:shan (saguaro cactus).

According Communications & Public Affairs Office Special Events Coordinator Alie Walking Badger, the video served to supplement the normal gathering held at the Sacaton Fairgrounds.

"We wanted to put a video together for the Community as a reminder about O'otham New

singing, dancing and traditional Year," said Walking Badger. games. It is a representation of "Although we cannot celebrate in

> Managed Recharge Site 5 in District 2 was chosen as a focus of the video presentation to mark the significance of water, animals and vegetation in the Community's culture. Walking Badger said the remains on her list of sites to host a future in-person O'otham New Year event when it is safe to do so.

> > More on Page 3

Gila River Indian News P.O. Box 459 Sacaton, AZ 85147 **Change Service Requested**  PRESORTED **STANDARD** U.S. Postage PAID Sacaton, AZ Permit No. 25

## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM







Page 2 Gila River Indian News July 2, 2021





COVID-19 Test Dates, Vaccines & More! Visit GRHC.ORG/HUB



## **COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY**





# **JULY 2021 SCHEDULE**





DATE:	LOCATION:	TIME:
July 7	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
July 14	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
July 21	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
July 28	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm







# Dr. Yamada Retires After 33 years of Service to Gila River Indian Community.

A permanent fixture here at Gila River Health Care, Dr. Yamada began his journey with GRHC over 30 years ago as a podiatrist. Over the years, he has become much more, serving as a supportive, caring physician in the lives of many of our patients while lending his wisdom, expertise, and knowledge. He has served in the capacity of Director of Podiatry and most recently interim Chief Medical Officer.











We are grateful for your years of service to the Gila River Indian Community and our patients. We wish you a joyful retirement!

National Suicide Preventions Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255





Governor

**Stephen Roe Lewis** 

Lt. Governor **Monica Antone** 

Community Council Representatives District 1 Arzie Hogg Joey Whitman

> District 2 Carol Schurz

District 3 Avery White Rodney Jackson

District 4 Jennifer Allison Regina Antone-Smith Delmar Jones Christopher Mendoza

District 5 Marlin Dixon Brian E. Davis, Sr. James De La Rosa Wahlean J. Riggs

District 6 Anthony Villareal, Sr. Terrance B. Evans Charles Goldtooth

> District 7 Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer Shannon White. Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

#### Roberto A. Jackson

roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us CPAO Acting Director (520) 562-9719

#### Christopher Lomahquahu

christopher.lomahquahu@gric.nsn.us GRIN Acting Managing Editor (520) 562-9718

#### **Emma Hughes**

Emma. Hughes-Juan@gric.nsn.us Community Newsperson (520) 562-9852

#### **Kyle Knox**

Kyle.Knox@gric.nsn.us Community Newsperson (520) 562-9717

#### For more information

grin@gric.nsn.us (520) 562-9715

#### Write to: **Editor, GRIN** P.O. Box 459

Sacaton, AZ 85147

Published letters or columns do not nece sarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community. LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Let ters 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. **Gila River Indian Community** P.O. Box 459 Sacaton, AZ 85147 (520)562-9715

www.gricnews.org Material published in the Gila River Indian News may not be reproduced in any form without consent from the Gila River Indian



# The Community Bids Farewell to Health Care Provider After 33 Years of Service

**Emma Hughes** 

Gila River Indian News

Dr. Wesley Yamada, the Chief Medical Officer for Gila River Health Care, is retiring after 33 years with the Community. Yamada, who served generations of Gila River children, elders and families, was hired in June 1987, becoming only the second podiatrist to work for Indian Health Service and the first full-time podiatrist in Sacaton.

"Every family in the Community has benefited from Dr. Yamada's medical ability and his huge heart," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "Words don't do justice to his commitment to our members and how he's touched so many lives. Dr. Yamada will always be a part of the Community and he will always be held in the highest regard."

Katherine Lewis, a member of the GRHC Board, credited Yamada with changing the face of Community healthcare. "He created an environment that our Community members and other native people weren't scared to see the doctor," said Lewis, who has known Yamada since she was a child. "It's going to be a big loss, but I think he created a really strong department that's going to do great things. I'm very grateful for the work that he's put into the Community."

Yamada graduated with honors from the California School Of Podiatric Medicine in 1985. He was hired by the Community soon after completing his surgical residency training. At the time, Yamada was only staff member in the

podiatry department. He worked out of a single exam room that served as his office.

"I didn't have a nurse," Dr. Yamada recalls. "I didn't have medical assistants. I didn't have a scheduler and was housed in the old hospital clinic, a single-wide trailer. This was before the casino, so money for staff, space and growth was extremely tight."

During the years Dr. Yamada led the department, it grew in staff, space and expertise. He developed an amputation prevention program to help Community members afflicted with Type 2 diabetes, created a podiatry student program and established the first on-site diabetic shoe program, which provided patients orthotics and special shoes. Yamada also created a strong wound care program at GRHC facilities.

"So many of our families trust him and our patients," said Rachel Hernandez, Vice-Chair of GRHC Board of Directors.

Hernandez lauded Yamada's orthotic program, saying it impacted scores of GRIC youth, including her own children, "encouraging them to be healthy and active." As good a doctor as he's been, said Hernandez, Yamada is every bit as solid as a person.

on a personal level many, many years ago as a child," she recalled. "He's just a really good mentor. He has always been there to give that encouragement and just to be a friend."

In November 2006, Dr. Yamada assumed the role of Chief



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis with Dr. Yamada who is retiring after three decades with the Gila River Health Care. GRIC Photo

became GRHC's Interim Chief ming, playing the piano and read-Medical Officer, helping to lead ing. He also intends to visit family the Community's response to the members he hasn't seen for years. COVID-19 pandemic.

ference in the Community," said munity. "I actually met Dr. Yamada Dr. Anthony Santiago, Chief Executive Officer for GRHC. "Without a Wes Yamada, many people would have suffered the ills of losing their limbs. Wes has literally preserved peoples' limbs and they've given me the opportunity preserved their lives."

Yamada says he's looking forward to getting back to his old of Surgical Services. In 2020, he hobbies, including running, swim-

Even so, he says a piece of his "He's made such a huge dif- heart will remain with the Com-

> "I am eternally grateful to Gila River Health Care and the Community. They've given me virtually my entire life," said Dr. Yamada. "If you think about it, to practice my profession. They've given me and my family a roof over our heads, education for my kids and truly a job for life."





L-R (Above): Barnaby Lewis and Anthony Gray provided the cultural background of O'otham New Year. (Group photo) The "We Children" basket dancers took part in the video presentation of the O'otham New Year on June 21. Zachary Redbird/CPAO

#### From front page

Barnaby Lewis, District Lewis. 4 member and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, played a prominent role in the video celebration. "I am glad to be here with you," said Lewis. "This year we are not able to have [that] gathering. Today, we still continue those cultural practices and beliefs here in this modern world in

Lewis emphasized the need to reinforce O'otham cultural traditions throughout the year and, once it's safe, for Community members to again gather in person to celebrate the summer solstice together.

"We want you to come out when the time comes to celebrate this season, the summer solstice for O'otham New Year, when we come together sing, dance,

share food, share friendships and remember the animals, the plants, of the "We Children" dance group: dance from sunset to sunrise," said

Anthony Gray, Community's Tribal Education Department Cultural Coordinator, also appeared in the video.

"As we celebrate the O'otham New Year from our homes, from our Community, from our work or wherever we are in the world, I encourage you to do those things that we would have done together," said Gray, a District 4 3 and member of the Gila River

Gray encouraged people familiar with O'otham traditions like dancing, singing and cooking a meal for loved ones to continue to mark those cultural touchstones at home. "Although the pandemic is here and is slowly going away," said Gray, "we still need to celebrate [those] things and let Mother Nature know we

the songs and everything the Creator has given us."

Ana Joaquin, a District 5 member from the Vah-Ki dance group, shared her thoughts on the purpose of the dances and what they mean to the people. She encouraged Community members to be safe and look forward to the next time everyone can gather for cultural traditions.

Gabrielle Garcia, a District Basket Dancers group spoke about the importance of maintaining social distancing while sharing O'otham traditions.

together because of COVID, but it is good to share some songs and dances with you. I hope all of you stay safe out there and 'mask up,"

Said Yolanda Elias, a member in a Bahitaj harvest."

"We may not be able to do what we have done in the past, but this is close enough to know that we are still carrying on our traditions and our culture."

Walking Badger said the Community is working to ensure that other important events will be celebrated even amid pandemic restrictions. She said plans to present the Baithaj harvest are underway, but cautioned that this year's event may follow the same format as the O'otham New Year video presentation.

"We want to let Community members know about the Baithai "I know we can't all be harvest and also serve as a reminder about how integral it is to the people," said Walking Badger. "If they see the video, then it can spark their interest and come out next year to participate



# Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

"Proudly serving the Gila River Indian Community since 1988"

Box 5015, 7065 West Allison Road, Chandler, Arizona 85226-5135 (520) 796-3333 • www.gilarivertel.com • Fax (520) 796-7534



@GilaRiverTelco



@NativeTechAZ



@AlluvionCom



@GilaRiverTV

# Enhanced Lifeline

The Lifeline Program is a federal program that provides a discount of \$34.25 off phone and Internet service to qualifying participants. There are many ways to qualify for the Lifeline Program either through a Government program, Tribal specific program or through income guidelines.

New service with GRTI means you may qualify for Link-Up. Link-up pays for \$75 of the GRTI installation fee, the Link-Up discount is a one time benefit per address.

#### **Government Programs**

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs

#### Tribal Specific Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

#### **How To Qualify!**

Contact our Customer Service Team at 520-796-3333 or go to the GRTI website at www.gilarivertel.com to print out an application.

\*One per household

Income Guidelines		
Annual Income		
\$17,388		
\$23,517		
\$29,646		
\$35,775		

For each additional person in the home add \$6,129 to income eligibility requirements.

# We Want To Hear From You Take Our Survey!



Customer Feedback Vital to ensure quality service

Your meaningful input and feedback ensures GRTI serves

Community.

the needs and interests of the



Customer Perspective Your opinions improve our performance

Customer Satisfaction Survey: www.bit.ly/33WMHYv



Customer Perspective Frame the future for our community

Scan the QR code to be taken to the survey.



# Gila River Health Care Opens the Doors Northeast Expansion Building

**Christopher Lomahquahu** Gila River Indian News

In recent months, Gila River Health Care's Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital campus in Sacaton has been a center of development for the Community. The Expansion Northeast (NOREX), a years-long construction project, has been in operation since opening its doors in May.

"We basically were able to double the number of exam and procedure rooms for the podiatry, women's and dental clinics," said David Samples, GRHC's Director of Planning, Design & Construction, who said the expansion will allow for more patients to be seen and an increase in services offered. "It has worked out ... well, so (people) won't be waiting weeks to get in for appointments."

James Longton, GRHC Department **Podiatry** Director, for podiatry patients have doubled in size to about has undergone a similar 15,000 square feet with the



An exterior view of the new Northeast Expansion building, which opened to patients in May. It houses expanded podiatry, women's health and dentist offices. Paul Molina/GRHC

expansion.

"We've grown from 12 total treatments rooms to 20 treatment rooms, including two RN nursing wound care rooms and an on-site medical imaging (x-ray said facilities room)," said Longton.

> The women's clinic expansion, according to Claudia Castrillo, GRHC

Women's Health Nurse close to the main building. Practitioner. Castrillo said the new space will allow the clinic to offer more in-depth procedures unavailable at the previous facility located on the west side of the HHK campus. She said being located on the second floor of the NOREX provides a sense of privacy while allowing the clinic to remain

"We have 10 exam rooms with a separate procedure room, a separate ultrasound room, separate lab," said Castrillo. "We anything from gynecological procedures and exams, maintenance and screening of pregnancy up to the time of delivery. (Then) we refer (women) to their delivery providers."

Samples said the overall goal is to better meet the needs of patients and staff members. One example: an increase in handicapped parking spaces to increase accessibility to the building, and the addition of a wheelchair ramp. With the transfer of departments to the NOREX, the old space

can be converted to serve other needs identified by GRHC.

"It gives us flexibility, such as the old pediatrics area, which can be used for a variety of purposes," said Samples. "That works into everything that we do to better serve the patients."

#### From front page

visiting another department, regardless of vaccination status. **GRIC-based** businesses are strongly encouraged to adopt or maintain mask requirements for both employees and visitors. All Community government services will resume June 30.

Executive Order No.

gatherings up to 40 people. Funeral services, GRIC commercial entities and meetings of elected and appointed officials are exempt from the gathering limit, as long as they adhere to GRIC's public health guidelines. Gov. Lewis activity. stated he would consider

11 increased the limit for the Community reaches a vaccination rate above 45 percent. The moratorium on utility cutoffs for those who have not paid has been eliminated. A moratorium against evictions for those who have not paid rent remains in place, unless the and COVID-19 protection eviction is due to criminal

relaxing this limit once jurisdictions are lifting Education

restrictions completely, but Tribal Health Department we have to make those decisions that are best for our community as a whole," said the Governor.

Lewis also announced that schools will return to inperson learning in August. Each school's reopening "I understand that many approved by the Tribal virus have been reported

as a sovereign government, Health and the Community Council's Education standing committee.

"This is an important milestone for our youth," said Gov. Lewis. "They've this pandemic."

plan will be reviewed and variants of the COVID-19 Department, and are being monitored

by the Centers for Disease Control. The Delta variant, which has proven to be more contagious, is expected to become the dominant strain of the virus. Studies suggest that the current available been so resilient throughout vaccines have proven effective against the variants Currently six different by lessening the severity and need for hospitalization, according to the CDC.

# **District 7 Site Provides Air-Conditioned Accommodations** for Efficient MVU Vaccine Event

**Kyle Knox** 

Gila River Indian News

On June 19, a Mobile Vaccination Unit and Gila River Health Care staff were stationed at the Maricopa Village Christian School in District 7, administering the Pfizer vaccine and booster While summer temperatures continue to rise, GRHC and Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 task force members from the Office of Emergency Management, Community Services Department and Tribal Health Department, remain steadfast about the Community to provide safe and accommodating locations.

**GRHC** staffers administered 18 vaccination shots, including one booster shot, with little time spent waiting. Al Chatman Jr., Maricopa Village Christian



finding sites throughout Community members wait to get their COVID-19 vaccine at the MVU stop in District 7 Maricopa Village Christian School on June 19. Kyle Knox/GRIN.

Minister. led and execution of the event. Chatman ensured accommodations for everyone in attendance.

School Director and Lay needs of the Community," the school year.

planning said Chatman. "[Maricopa Village Christian School] is a school and a church, included so this is just up the alley an indoor location, ample of how we serve." The parking, and air conditioning school typically provides transportation for students to "We exist to meet the receive vaccinations during on Facebook, teenagers

vaccinated, for a weekend movie night.

Rasia Perkins and Beulah

The District 7 Service Cleveland received their Center provided incentives first shot that morning. Both for everyone who was are enrolled members of including the Navajo Nation and took movies, popcorn, and treats advantage of the opportunity. Both agreed that the process After seeing the flyer was quick and the shot felt like a "little pinch."

As they put it afterward,

"Everyone who can get a vaccination, should get a vaccination."

Shannon Begay escorted Rasia and Beulah to the MVU and praised GRIC and GRHC for their ongoing efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible, including federally recognized tribal members and employees of Community entities.

"Gila River Indian Community has done a very good job at coordinating and organizing the process," said Begay, who was bringing family members to get vaccinated for the second time in the recent past. "(It) flows very well, especially for those who aren't as familiar with health care services and don't know what to do or where to go."

Many youths attended the MVU for vaccination, including GRIC youth

More on page 8



# FACE MASKS DO'S AND DON'T'S

Employees of the Community government who have not been fully vaccinated shall wear face masks at all times while at such employees' workplace when within 6 feet of other employees and/or visitors.

Employees of the Community government are not required to wear face masks when alone inside their individual offices or work stations.

All First Responders shall wear an appropriate protective face mask at all times when visiting a residence or other building located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation

Reservation-based businesses are strongly encouraged to adopt face-mask requirements for their employees and visitors similar to those set forth above for Community government employees and visitors.

# **Face Mask Requirements for GRIC Employees**

	Face Mask Required	No Face Mask Required
Employee is NOT vaccinated		
Vaccinated Employees alone inside their office/work stations		
Vaccinated employees who are within 6 feet of other employees or visit other department		
All Visitors to GRIC Government buildings (vaccinated or not)		

# 33rd AOPPYC Youth Conference Promotes Self Wellness and Growth for Youth

**Kyle Knox** 

Gila River Indian News

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council built upon the last year of successful virtual programming to provide its 33rd Annual AOPPYC Youth Conference on June 26 and 27. The two-day event provided an array of presentations and workshops for GRIC and Native youth locally and across the country focused around the theme of "Self Wellness and Growth."

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis provided opening remarks on the first day. "All of you attending this conference are already showing such great leadership for our Community," he said. "I want nothing more than to watch you grow as you continue on your lives and continue to contribute to our Community."

Gov. Lewis commended the AOPPYC their contributions towards the Community's overall wellness by hosting several virtual activities throughout the pandemic. Gov. Lewis also thanked vaccinations.

In total, 68 youth different art classes.' participated this year. Many platforms. and California.

Youth Coordinator. meant a lot," "Although most of them experienced over the last year due to speakers COVID-19, they still put in motivational the effort to plan and host a virtual conference for their everyone engaged over the peers. That is the essence of two days. Keynote speakers youth leadership."

of AOPPYC, was thrilled former Miss Indian World with the offerings this year. Cheyenne Kippenberger, "The youth were able to and the Community's own sign up for a huge variety of workshops relating to District 5. our culture, self-wellness, physical fitness, and a lot Antone addressed the youth

everyone for their continued cited new friendships and efforts to ensure everyone fun icebreaker exercises remains safe. He strongly as a few highlights. "Some urged youth participants even came with kits to build to get their COVID-19 headphones, bead earrings, basket weaving,

Eliana Antone, a young more participated at home, District 6 resident, echoed made possible through the the positive aspects of the live broadcast by Gila River conference. "I feel I gained Broadcasting Corp., and a little more confidence in its Facebook and YouTube interacting and speaking Participants with others," said Antone. included Native youth from "It was amazing to see all Washington, Kansas, Texas, the participants and the presenters. We all had lots 'The adaptability of the of fun and I personally Youth Council members this really enjoyed everyone's year was remarkable," said company, even though it Michael Preston, AOPPYC was just over a screen. It

The conference also challenges showcased inspirational shared stories sprinkled with humor to keep this year included actor and Jada Young, a member comedian Tatanka Means, "Gilarious" Wolf Brown,

GRIC Lt. Gov. Monica more," said Young, who on the second day of the



GRIC youth from across the Community came together through Zoom to participate in the 33rd Annual AOPPYC conference on June 26 and 27. Kyle Knox/GRIN.

event. "Be positive, keep on the council. The new your humor, teach yourself members include Crystal been on a roller coaster of about your family history, Lomayestewa, District 3; identity, and where you Evelyn Enos, District 4; all come from," said the Eliana Antone, District 6; Lieutenant. "And remember and Lehua Dosela, District our ancestors envisioned for to keep a good heart, be 6. humble and grace yourselves with the teachings of our was a goal of the conference, Akimel O'otham and Pee said AOPPYC President Posh ancestors."

elections for new AOPPYC representatives place. Four youths were was the most meaningful

Providing fun activities Susanna Osife, As in past years, providing the opportunity to share more about the importance of mental health voted in for new terms element of the event.

"This year, we have challenges and blessings, but through it all, we continue to carry the strength that us," said Osife. "I strongly encourage you all to learn about mental health and how we can bring wellness to our hearts, minds, and bodies. By those actions, you are making great change for our Community now and for our future."

#### Submitted

By The Notah Family

The Notah family would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Gila River Indian Community, families, relatives, friends, Post 51 Veterans, District three Community and medical personnel. The support, contributions, assistance, encouragement, love, prayers and kind thoughts were indeed overwhelming.

All of which brought joy and thankfulness to our hearts during a difficult and tragic time for our family. It is people like you that make this world a better place to live. Furthermore it

demonstrates our traditional values and way of life.

Let us continue to strengthen the family foundation, build unity among our people and more importantly take care of our people.

May God bless you all.

### **Submissions**

**Submitted** By Lloyd and Dylan Notah

A Tribute to Rhonda "June Bug" Notah: A beautiful June Bug landed on a worldly garden in this life. She chose to make this garden her home and raise her family. June Bug was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend to many others. When grandchildren came, she was touched with unconditional love for her grandchildren. Rhonda made sure that her grandchildren were properly cared for in addition to being protected from harms way.

Her life was full of joy and happiness. She took pride in the accomplishment of her children. nieces, nephews and of course her grandchildren. June Bug was also proud of her brothers and sisters along with her relatives.

She was very proud of her mother and father. More so, June bug said that her grandfather was the foundation that made her the person she is today.

There were so many good vears she spent with her family. As years passed she was diagnosed with a dreadful disease that

Enos from Dist.#4. I want to write this

letter to thank our families and friends

who came out and donated their time

and donated food, and supplies for my

mother's services. I also want to thank

the Dist.#4 laborer's for their help as

was determined to live and fought this disease to the very end. Her display of courage, determination and spiritual strength was truly amazing. We will always love, remember and miss this beautiful lady. After all we loved her deeply, but God loved her more. Rhonda June Bug will be the shining star at night, a cool wind, the chirping bird in the distance and most of all the timeless light in our hearts forever. We never said goodbye, but rather until we see and meet you again.

By Lloyd and Dylan Notah

well. A big thank you to Tory Evans and

family, thank you for all the help. Thank

you again to everybody who came

and supported our family as we laid

our mother to rest. Our family greatly

appreciate it.

# eventually took her life. June Bug

#### \*\*NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT\*\* COMMUNICATION SITE LEASE AT RAWHIDE WESTERN TOWN AND EVENT CENTER

#### Submitted by

Office of General Counsel

The Natural Resource Standing Committee ("NRSC") be considering the Environmental Assessment Form from the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. regarding a communication site lease on approximately 0.0574 acres of land at the Rawhide Center at their regular meeting on July 13, 2021 at 9:00 scheduled NRSC meeting

Council Secretary's Office. the NRSC Chairperson at A copy of the Environmental (520) 562-9720. Assessment Form its entirety comments may be emailed is available for review at to Casaundra Wallace at all District Service Centers casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn. and the Community Council us or mailed to Office of the Secretary's Office.

providing comments to the Casaundra Wallace. Western Town and Event Environmental Assessment

a.m., located in Conference You may also contact your Room C of the Community Council representative or General Counsel, P.O. Box If you are interested in 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn:

**Submitted** 

By Josephine Ignacio

Hi, my name is Josephine Ignacio, I am the oldest daughter of Abigail

#### **Submission**

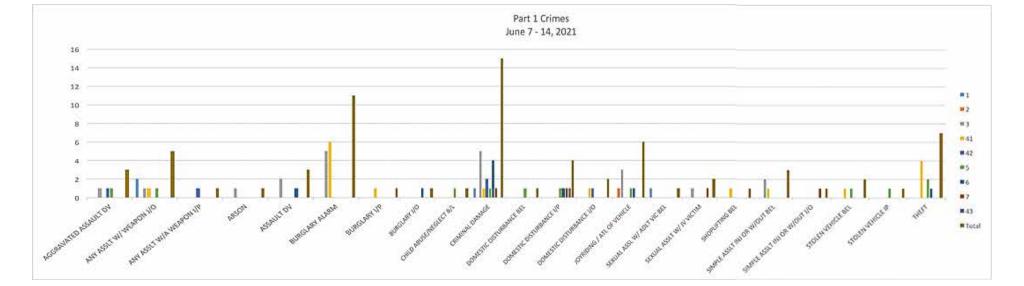
**GRIC WIC Program** 

Mary Osife has been a dedicated employee of the Gila River Indian Community for more than 27 years of service. Ms. Osife worked for thr Elderly Nutrition Program as a

Cook and retired in January Mary's laugh will be missed and we wish her the best on her well deserved retirement.

Congratulations to Ms. Osife on her years of service and commitment to the Community.

## Gila River Police Department Incident Logs



# **COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS**

# Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • June 16, 2021

**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, June 16, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m. INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Carol Schurz

**ROLL CALL** 

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

**Council Members Present:** 

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans (9:08); D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISPENSE REPORT #5 AND ADD NEW BUSINESS #5 GOVERNOR'S STATE FAIR TASK FORCE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #6 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #1 AND #2 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

\*1. Introduction of Elderly Services Coordinator, Lindsay Antone

Presenters: Laurie Thomas; Lindsay Antone
MS. THOMAS INTRODUCED MS. LINDSAY ANTONE.
MS. ANTONE INTRODUCED HERSELF AND PROVIDED
A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO
WORKING WITH THE ELDERS IN THE COMMUNITY.
VARIOUS COUNCIL EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME

2. Introduction – Office of the Community Manager Ombudsman Kenneth Young

Presenters: Suzanne Jones; Kenneth Young
MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED MR. KENNETH
YOUNG. MR. YOUNG PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF HIS
BACKGROUND AND EXPLAINED THE MAIN DUTIES OF HIS
POSITION. MR. YOUNG LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING
WITH ALL DEPARTMENTS AND LEADERSHIP. VARIOUS
COUNCIL WELCOMED MR. YOUNG TO THE COMMUNITY

3. Introduction of Tony Elley Land Surveyor Manager Presenters: Kimberly Antone; Tony Elley

MS. KIMBERLY ANTONE INTRODUCED MR. TONY ELLEY, LAND SURVEYOR MANAGER FOR LAND USE

PLANNING AND ZONING. MR. ELLEY PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF HIS WORK HISTORY AND IS EAGER TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME

Casa Blanca Community School Construction Update
 Presenters: Casaundra Wallace; Steven Heeley; Curtis
 Johnson, Laurie Post; Jim LaPosta

ITEM HEARD

**REPORTS** 

2. COVID 19 Update

Presenter: COVID-19 Task Force

ITEM HEARD

{GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:50 A.M.}

3. Office of the Prosecutors FY 2021 Semi-Annual Report (October 1, 2020-March 31, 2021)

Presenters: Michael Lando Voyales; Carleton Giff; David Williams

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

4. WHPDA Monthly Report

Presenters: David White, WHPDA Board; Alex Yazza; Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado; Jason Croxton

REPORT HEARD

5. AZ State Fair Update

Presenters: David White, WHPDA Board; Alex Yazza; Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado; Jason Croxton

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. GRTI - CAF-ICC Data Submission

Presenters: Courtney Hogancamp; Jim Meyers; Board ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. FY2021 Monthly Financial Activity Report ending May 31, 2021 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT
RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community And The Gila River Indian Community For Emergency Temporary Housing Of Inmates (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Ron Lopez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Approving The Fiscal Year 2022 Gila River Indian Community Indian Housing Plan For Implementation And Submittal To The United States Department Of Housing And Urban Development (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Trina Fasthorse

# ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of
Understanding With Maricopa County Community College
District For South Mountain Community College For A Stem
Summer Camp For Girls In Grades 6-8 (ESC forwards to
Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Rebecca Hall; Isaac Salcido

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**NEW BUSINESS** 

1. WHPDA FY2020 Audit (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept; EDSC concurs) Presenters: David White, WHPDA Board; Alex Yazza; Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado; Jason Croxton; Albert Cheung; Steve Harris

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

2. GRTI Independent Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements December 31, 2020 – 2019 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Eric Vreeke; Jennifer Burkhalter; Jim Meyers; Board

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

3. GRHC Letter of Request for GRIC Council Orientation (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation to accept the recommended date of August 3, 2021)

Presenters: Board of Directors

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD THE ORIENTATION ON AUGUST 3, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

4. Letter of Resignation (CRSC accepts the resignation, forwards to Council to declare the vacancy; and appoint at the July 7, 2021 regular Council meeting)

Presenter: Councilman Avery White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE

RESIGNATION AND DECLARE THE VACANCY

[ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA]

Governor's State Fair Task Force (Executive Session)
 Presenters: Ronald Rosier; Governor Stephen R. Lewis
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUPPORT THE

 SPECIAL TASK FORCE

MINUTES

1. April 21, 2021 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. June 2, 2021 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:44 P.M.

- \* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
- > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

# Continued from page 3

Gabriel Coppedge, District 3, who received his booster shot at the District 7 MVU site. Coppedge said he looks forward to returning to typical day-to-day activities and inperson events like going to school in person, fairs and festivals, and public places without the fear of catching COVID. Despite his initial hesitations, he is happy to be protected and hopes more of his peers consider getting their vaccinations.

"Getting the COVID-19 vaccination is great, because not only does it protect you, but also protects others around you," said Coppedge. "The free goodies you receive are nice, and all of the staff that here are really very nice and help ensure you're safe."



Gabriel Coppedge a GRIC youth from District 3, visited the District 7 MVU stop to receive his COVID-19 vaccine. Kyle Knox/GRIN





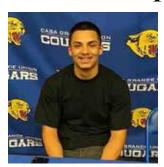
Always remember to drain liquid from containers and wipe food residue from recyclable items before placing them into

Thank you for recycling!



This includes paper coffee cups coated with insulation made of styrofoam or plastic.

#### **Recent Graduates**



#### **Justin Myles Romo**

Casa Grande Union High School Continuing to Fort Lewis College Justin we are proud of the young man you have become. We know your path

Alejandra Morales Madrid

Marcelino Manuel Figueroa

CASE Number: FM-2021-0027-PT

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a

civil action has been filed against you

in the Gila River Indian Community

Court Date: August 4, 2021 at 11

a.m. COURTROOM #3, 1ST FLOOR

FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT

JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA

MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

ADDRESS: 10040 E. OSBORN RD.

Court Date: August 4, 2021 at 11

SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

CONTACT: (480)362-6315

Antone, Jordan James

Case: J-21-0089/0090

Respondent/Defendant

Petitioner/Plaintiff

**Civil Summons** 

Toney, Zakirah Char

Case: J-21-0089/0090

**Formal Hearing** 

YOUR RIGHTS

#### has not always been the easiest but you always kept your head held high and never gave up on your goal. We look forward to watching you play football at the next level. We will always be here for you.

Love Dad, Mom & your brothers, the Romo Family and the Antone Family.

#### Ziera Garcia (right)

Graduated from 8th grade to high school.

You have always been so smart, beautiful, and kind. We could never imagine a life without the sweet, intelligent, metal head, Marvel and anime loving girl that you are. We will always be by your



side to lessen your obstacles and also give you the push you need. We can't wait to see all that you will achieve in high school and beyond! Love, Dad &

#### **Court Notices**

YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/ RESPONSE HEARING regarding this

Monday, August 9, 2021 at 2:30 pm in Courtroom I.

Akimel O'otham Loditha Kud Ki. 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton,

YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response

a.m. COURTROOM #3, 1ST FLOOR FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS

JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

ADDRESS: 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 CONTACT: (480)362-6315

Whitman, Grant Justin C **Review Hearing** Case: J-17-0191

Court Date: August 2, 2021 at 9 a.m. COURTROOM #3, 1ST FLOOR FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court. If you fail to appear and defend, judgement by default will be entered against you for the relied demanded in the complaint or petition.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2021

INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT ADDRESS: 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 CONTACT: (480)362-6315

Marrufo, Marissa Sharon **Review Hearing** Case: J-17-0191 Court Date: August 2, 2021 at 9 a.m. COURTROOM #3, 1ST FLOOR FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

ADDRESS: 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256 CONTACT: (480)362-6315

COURT

### COMMODITY FOODS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM 300 S. Ocotillo Dr. Sacaton, AZ 85147 P.O.Box 1539 Sacaton, AZ 85147 | Phone: 520-562-9233 | Fax: 520-562-3573 | Email: co The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near the reservation. Applications are available at our office. \*We are currently accepting applications over the phone. **Income Limit** You may also mail, fax, or email application (After 20% deduction of ea ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED:

- CHECK STUBS FOR THE LAST 30 DAYS FOR HOUSEHOLD (WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY, MONTHLY)
- <u>Tribal Identification</u> from anyone in the
- Proof of Residency and Utility Bills and/or Shelter
- Award Letters- If you receive any UNEARNED Income: Social Security, SSI, GA, Pension Retirement, VA Benefits, Alimony, Child Support, and AFDC. We will need a copy of all award letters and/or check stubs of benefits received.

REMINDER: YOU CAN NOT RECEIVE COMMODITY FOOD IF YOU ARE RECEIVING OR HAVE APPLIED FOR SNAP (FOOD STAMPS).

\$1,231 \$1,604 \$1,977 \$2,365 \$2,769 \$3,173 \$3,547 \$3.920 **Each Additional** +\$374

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 or retaliation 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 or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, 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. Additionally, program 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 How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint 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

#### **Submission**

Formal Hearing

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for the Riggs Road Storage Project in District 4 of the Gila River Indian Community

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Pima Agency and the Gila **River Indian Community** 

(Community) are releasing this notice in support of an environmental assessment for the proposed Riggs Road Storage Project (project) in District 4 of the Community. The project would be a new mini-storage and recreational vehicle (RV), truck, and contractor storage facility.

The project proponent (Riggs Road Storage, LLC) has submitted a commercial lease application to the BIA for the development of a new ministorage and RV, truck, and contractor storage facility on approximately 20 acres of allotted lands within the Community. The project would be located on the north side of Riggs Road approximately 0.25 mile east of the Interstate 10 and Riggs Road traffic

The project would install multiple mobile storage container units of varying sizes. Construction methods and design styles would meet industry standards for similar facilities. The site design would encircle the property with the

around the property. The exterior of the containers facing Riggs Road would be finished in stucco to conceal the appearance of containers and screen the storage area. Multiple covered and uncovered parking areas would be located in the center of the project area where boats and recreational vehicles would be stored. The tallest project features would include the 14-foothigh covered parking areas, which would be separated by driveways. The project would include approximately 2,000 square feet of office space. Site vegetation would be cleared and finished to existing grade with some paved areas, some graveled areas, and areas of decorative landscaping. storage containers, acting as a "fence" Security lighting would be installed

facing downward where possible. The facility would be open during normal daytime business hours. For security, the project site would be fully fenced and kept locked during off-hours. The project would create a new driveway off of Riggs Road as the site

ingress/egress point, but no alterations to travel lanes are planned.

Construction is expected to take 6 months. Vehicle access along Riggs Road would be maintained throughout construction; however, traffic could experience occasional shot-term temporary delays. No transportation detours or changes in access are anticipated.

The purpose of the project is to

truck, and contractor storage facility to serve this portion of the Community, as well as the more heavily developed communities nearby. This project would provide a much-needed storage option to a geographic area where storage capacity is currently lacking. The project would also constitute a new commercial opportunity within the Community for economic growth and increase lease revenues for allottees resulting in a quality of life improvement.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act, federal agencies must consider the potential social and environmental impacts of proposed actions. This letter serves as the develop a new mini-storage and RV, BIA's invitation to you or your agency

suggestions regarding the proposed action. All comments received become part of the public record associated with the proposed action. Accordingly, your comments (including your name and address) will be available for review by any person that wishes to view the record. At your request, we will withhold your contact information to the extent allowed by the Freedom of Information Act. Please submit your comments by July 5 to: Cecilia Baker, Superintendent

to submit comments, concerns, or

P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85147 Telephone: (520) 562-3326 Email: Cecilia.Baker@bia.gov

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency

## Gila River Hotels & Casinos Launches Free-to-Play Online Social Casino through Mobile App

Press Release

CHANDLER, (May 27, 2021) – Gila River Hotels & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte & Vee Quiva is elevating the gaming experience by giving its guests a new way to enjoy the fun and excitement of casino games from the comfort of their

Created in partnership with online gaming supplier (GameAccount GAN Network), PlayGila is a free-to-play, online social casino that allows guests to play casino favorites like slots, blackjack, roulette and video poker on any device, no matter where they are. The games are solely for amusement purposes and users are not able to win money through game play, however, PlayGila allows players to earn rewards

Gila River Hotels & Casinos that can be redeemed on property.

> PlayGila is integrated with Gila River's loyalty program, THE Card®, allowing members of the program to earn rewards by purchasing coins that can be used on the site. Users who link THE Card to their PlayGila account and purchase coins are rewarded with point play which can be converted to free bonus play or promo chips at any of Gila River's three locations.

"We are always looking for ways to enhance the gaming experience for our guests and wanted to give them a new way to experience the excitement of casino games," said Dominic Orozco, Chief Strategic Marketing Officer of Gila River Hotels & Casinos. "PlayGila allows our guests a new sense of freedom to play their way and gives THE Card









Gila River Hotels & Casinos recently launched their on-line social casino, that is free-to-play through a downloadable app. Photo Courtesy Gila River Hotels & Casinos

members the platform to and wherever they want."

Users can access PlayGila from their smartphone, tablet or computer by visiting PlayGila.com or downloading the app for free in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

"Just two short months is live and ready for users players." earn point play whenever ago we signed an exciting to play their favorite casino new agreement with Gila games, earn loyalty rewards River Hotels & Casinos and redeem those rewards to launch our Simulated directly at Gila River Gaming solutions for properties. We are delighted both desktop and mobile that Gila River selected gaming," said Joann Pierce, GAN to develop PlayGila Director of Business and we look forward to Development of GAN. the enjoyment these new "Now as of today, PlayGila solutions will bring its

With three casinos and one loyalty program, the possibilities are endless at Gila River Hotels & Casinos. Guests can sign up for free today to start playing and earning rewards. For more details on PlayGila and how it works, visit PlayAtGila.

# Community Artist Builds on Talent at Namingha Institute

**Kyle Knox** 

Gila River Indian News

This Summer's 2021 Namingha Institute featured five Native American artists from around the region, including District 5 Casa Blanca member Melissa Yazzie, from Casa Blanca. The annual two-week institute helps non-Native artists build on their talents and explore new mediums and techniques. Held from June 3 to June 17 this year at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) in Flagstaff, the residency allowed Yazzie and others to study for two weeks under internationally acclaimed Master artists Dan and Arlo Namingha, members of the Hopi and Tewa tribe.

Yazzie, who called the Insitute a "once in a lifetime experience," said her love for art developed early

sketches, Yazzie gradually advanced to watercolor and acrylic painting and has designed various event-Casa Blanca Community School, Blackwater Community School, and the Puente Human Rights Moveearned numerous accolades across the state.

scribed herself as hesitant sense of freedom, one that to apply for the Institute, which draws applicants of various backgrounds and skill levels and requires art school experience.

with all my hard work and ed with an artist installation consistency with painting,

in life. Starting with simple eventually Dan Namingha saw my work and decided to work with me," said Yazzie.

Yazzie says the residigital artwork. She also dency allowed her to grow in ways she didn't expect themed logos. Yazzie's art by experimenting with other adorns numerous Com- art mediums, learning from munity settings, including other artists, and working one on one with the Master Artist instructors.

"Dan Namingha would pull me aside to suggest ment headquarters. She has new techniques to help me ... (and) pushing me to be for her artwork, which has more open-minded with my been displayed in museums artwork, without restrictions,' said Yazzie. She said Even so, Yazzie de- this gave her a "refreshing" allowed her to build on her talents, learning rather than striving for perfection.

The institute - sponsored in part by the Philip "It goes to show that M. Smith Trust - culminatshowcasing work from the

District 5 Community member and artist Melissa Yazzie stands next to her artwork, showcased during the Namingha Institute workshop. Photo courtesy of Melissa Yazzie

two weeks spent at MNA create new art for the Comand celebrating the five res- munity. ident artists' accomplish-

Institute as reinvigorating and don't give up," said her love for art. She hopes Yazzie in a message to deto share her teachings with developing artists and by

"You art matters, nomatter what. Continue your Yazzie described the desire to create, work hard, veloping artists.

"I couldn't ask for anyusing her renewed spirit to thing better," said Yazzie.

"The institute was a really great opportunity for me. I believe that many young artists need to take any opportunity that can help their journey with their art, no matter how small or big it

# Community Youth Take Part in First Responders Cadet **Summer Program**

**Emma Hughes** 

Gila River Indian News

The Community's First Responder Cadet Program resumed this year after being put on hold last summer due to the pandemic. The program, funded through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), initially began as a cadet program for the Gila River Police Department, but has since expanded to include the Gila River Fire Department and Gila River Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Gila River EMS is also known as an ambulance service that provides urgent pre-hospital treatment and stabilization for serious illness and injuries.

The program, the first of its kind within Indian country to include all three public safety entities, offers hands-on training experience for youth. The eight-week "pilot program for career preparation" is geared towards participants between ages 18 and 24 and includes pay for the cadets.

"I'm really excited for more work experience to be gained," said Sineca Jackson of District 3, one five cadets participating this year. This was Jackson's second summer with the program. "I keep returning just because I love getting that new experience, especially the fire side."

Jackson says after pursuing her education, she is considering working with Fire or EMS.

"We're going to give them all of the tools they need and hopefully an application," said School Resource Officer James



Participants in the First Responder Cadet Program learn how to handle fire hoses and other equipment used by the Gila River Fire Department. Emma Hughes/GRIN.

Milano, who's been with the Community members." program since 2014 and has

others were unavailable. individuals be the 2021 marker her third year generation." as a cadet.

"It's a good learning developed experience. I've learned partnerships in law enforcement. "I just speakers like Gov. Stephen chose to try it out, (and) "It turned out that I liked it."

Robert Jackson, GRFD Fire Engineer, who introduces the cadets to Fire service, went through a similar program through the Community's Employment and Training Program.

"That's one of the reasons why I'm here, because of the opportunity that I was given," said Jackson. "I'm just wanting to continue that with other

School Resource seen it expand over time. Officer Sgt. Paul Maroney Milano said GRPD also began working with the offers a year-round cadet program in 2018. "This is the next generation of the Chief Timothy Chavez Ayana Hernandez, a Community," said Maroney. District 3 resident, joined "We are here to help create the summer program when a difference and help these Rainbolt (GREMS)

The program has numerous with a lot throughout this departments across the program," said Hernandez, Community. This year, the who plans to pursue a career cadets were visited by guest

Roe Lewis and members of Community Council. Cadets even received training on cultural awareness.

The programs thanks (GRPD). Chief Kathy Garcia (GRFD) and Chief helping make the program possible.

2021 First Responder Participants:

> Alaysia Hernandez Ayana Hernandez Deja Sustaita Sineca Jackson Timothy Teeboom



A cadet learns how to operate a fire hose used by GRFD firefighters. Emma Hughes/GRIN.



All District Service Centers will be returning to the **In-Person Application Process on** for the Families with Children under 5yrs of age

Effective July 1st 2021

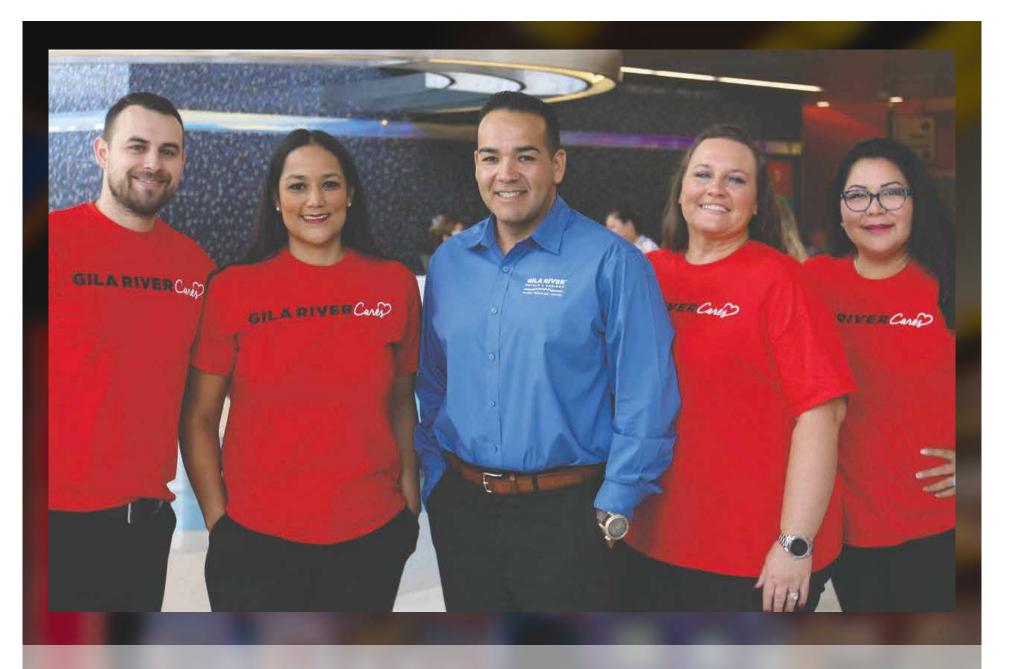
All other families

All District Service Centers will be returning to the **In-Person Application Process on** for the **Elderly and Disabled** 









# START YOUR WINNING CAREER AT GILA RIVER HOTELS & CASINOS

This is your opportunity to start a fulfilling career at the Valley's most exciting entertainment destination! We at Gila River Hotels & Casinos take pride in our high level of attention to guest service and our positive impact on communities around Arizona. If you are looking for a fun, fastpaced work environment, a position at one of our three locations along the 202 freeway will be perfect for you! Visit our hiring event to see if Gila River Hotels & Casinos is a good fit for you!



# **Hiring Event**

July 13, 2021 9AM-3PM

# **Shelde Building**

5710 W. North Loop Rd. Chandler, Arizona 85226









