Gila River Indian Community Member Honored with Prestigious Pulitzer Prize for work in Poetry

ASU Associate Professor Takes Home National Honors for Her Collection, “Postcolonial Love Poem”

ASU Associate Professor and Community member Natalie Diaz was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her collection of poetry. Photo Courtesy of Deanna Dent

“The number of Community members receiving the COVID-19 vaccine has been lower than we’d like,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “The Pulitzer Prize is one of the highest honors in poetry, and it affirms what an amazing talent Natalie Diaz represents. Her creativity, unique voice and her moving storytelling light a path for Native writers in our Community and around the world.” We could not be more proud of Natalie and her work.”

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone lauded Diaz on her achievements. “There is unbelievable power when intelligence, creativity and insight fuse together,” Crow said.

“That’s what Natalie Diaz brings to language and poetry, and her voice is incredibly important. This Pulitzer Prize is very well deserved, and the ASU community celebrates this profoundly good news with her today.” More about Diaz’s award can be read at: https://news.asu.edu/20210611-creativityasu-poet-natalie-diaz-wins-pulitzer-prize-postcolonial-love-poem

MVU Weekend Stops Help Dozens of GRIC Members Get COVID-19 Vaccines

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Gila River Indian News

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Press Release

Esteemed poet Natalie Diaz, born and raised in the Fort Mojave Indian Village and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community was announced today as the 2021 winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her collection, “Postcolonial Love Poem.” This honor comes only a few weeks after Diaz, an Associate Professor at Arizona State University, made history by becoming the youngest chancellor ever elected to the prestigious Academy of American Poets.

“I care so much for the book and for the people that the book brought me to, but also for the people I hope the book could carry of my life,” said Diaz in a ASU press release about the award. “And so in a lot of ways I don’t think I’ve ever felt this way about a prize before.”

“I want to offer Mr. Diaz congratulations on behalf of the Community and myself personally,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “The Pulitzer Prize is one of the highest honors in poetry, and it affirms what an amazing talent Natalie Diaz represents. Her creativity, unique voice and her moving storytelling light a path for Native writers in our Community and around the world.” We could not be more proud of Natalie and her work.”

Diaz, awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 2018, is also a Lannan Literary Fellow and a Native Arts Council Foundation Artist Fellow. She has been awarded a Bread Loaf Fellowship, the Holmes National Poetry Prize, a Hodder Fellowship, and a PEN/ Civitella Ranieri Foundation Residency, and a U.S. Artists Ford Fellowship.

“There is no limit to what indigenous peoples and our Community members can achieve, and Natalie Diaz is living proof of that,” said Gov. Lewis. “Her words, her poems and her accomplishments serve as inspiration to all of us, young and old.”

ASU President Michael Crow lauded Diaz on her achievements. “There is unbelievable power when intelligence, creativity and insight fuse together,” Crow said.

“The number of Community members receiving the COVID-19 vaccine has been lower than we’d like,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “The Pulitzer Prize is one of the highest honors in poetry, and it affirms what an amazing talent Natalie Diaz represents. Her creativity, unique voice and her moving storytelling light a path for Native writers in our Community and around the world.” We could not be more proud of Natalie and her work.”

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MVU Weekend Stops Help Dozens of GRIC Members Get COVID-19 Vaccines

As the temperatures rise, so does the number of Community members receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The Mobile Vaccine Unit drew families out to District 1 and 4 to get vaccinated against COVID-19 on June 5 and 6.

The newly acquired MVU fleet has been on a rolling tour of the Community, making regular stops in each of GRIC’s seven districts over the past several weeks. In District 1 the MVU administered 12 vaccines. It provided 47 vaccinations to Community members in District 4.

Now that the age limit for the Pfizer vaccine has been lowered to 12 years of age, Community youth can now be administered the vaccine with a parent or guardian’s consent.

“You have to be 12 years of age and older to receive the Pfizer vaccine and 18 years and older to get the Moderna vaccine. You can come to any of the MVUs out in the Community and get vaccinated, because it is best protection for all of us,” said Candalerian Preston, Tribal Health Department Director.

Preston, a parent, accompanied her son to the MVU stop in District 4 to get the COVID-19 vaccine. “My 12-year-old son is here today,” said Preston. “I am thankful and happy that as young as he is, he has made that choice to protect himself and our family.”

A number of Council members attended the weekend MVU events. Lt. Gov. Monica Antone thanked Community members who visited the MVUs. “It’s really good to see everyone out here to get vaccinated, because it will help us grow strong and help fight this virus,” she said.

Lt. Gov. Antone encouraged families to talk with their children and do their own research about the vaccine to get a better understanding of how it can keep them safe. She said lowering the age limit and prioritizing vaccinations for the younger age group of GRIC members adds a level of security against COVID-19, before schools allow students to return to the classroom.

“We still have positive COVID cases in our Community and we cannot let our guard down,” Lt. Gov. Antone explained. “So [we] will need to come together as a family to get vaccinated in order to promote Community Immunity.”

District 1 Council Representatives Joey Whitman and Arzie Hogg also came out to support the vaccine drive. “It’s going to take us all to fight this thing (and) it takes every opportunity, like being here today, to combat this virus,” said Whitman, who emphasized getting vaccinated as a way for the Community to regain a sense of normalcy, and a way for GRIC members to get back to doing the things they enjoyed before the pandemic.

Councilman Hogg called the MVU effort “important because it saves lives.” He urged Community members to help prevent another rise in COVID-19 cases. “We are not out of this pandemic yet and one of the key things to do is get vaccinated.”

On June 13 the MVU made its latest weekend stop on Sunday, at St. Peters Mission School in District 5. Staff from Gila River Healthcare (GRHC) gave the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination to 17 GRIC members, including five individuals under the age of 18. A recent change to eligibility requirement has opened to the vaccine program to Community members as young as age 12. Clerenda Humeypumptewa, from Ak-Chin Indian Community, brought her 13-year-old son to St. Peter’s for a vaccination. Humeypumptewa said she and her son are looking forward to in-person schooling in the near future.

More on Page 12

Gila River Indian News

Staff

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More on Page 12

See Governor’s Comprehensive Executive Order No. 11 Regarding Coronavirus Pandemic page 8 to 11
Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

**CLOSED**

**Sunday, July 4th**
**Monday, July 5th**

**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital**
**Pharmacy Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, July 3rd</th>
<th>8:30am - Midnight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, July 4th</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 5th</td>
<td>10:00 am - 8:00pm</td>
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<td>(Curbside will be open 10am - 7pm)</td>
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For any information on services open during the holiday, please call GRHC's main line (520) 562-3321. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, July 6, 2021. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

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**Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE:** 1-800-259-3449

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**Alluvion Provides Training to GRIC Urban Members on Tablet Use**

Members of the GRIC Urban Members Association were issued tablets to be used to host virtual meetings. Alluvion provided a training and support session with the group to help them get familiar with their new devices! We are proud to assist our community with its technical support & training needs.

Topics in the session included:

1) How to Create a Gmail Account
2) How to Create a WebEx Account
3) Joining Scheduled WebEx Meetings
4) Joining a Meeting via Email Link

Thank you to the GRIC Urban Members Association and Warriors Code for inviting us to share our knowledge with your group.

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**Alluvion Communications**

Alluvion Communications offers a suite of mission-critical enterprise communications solutions that are always smart, fast, and reliable. Our bespoke services introduce service provider options to markets with our own unique network and local network operations center.

Alluvion Communications is a subsidiary of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. and is 100% GRIC owned. Incorporated in 2006, Alluvion began as an HPBX CLEC. Today, Alluvion has grown to become a provider of enterprise fiber, data, and voice services. Our fiber network continues to grow throughout Pinal and Maricopa Counties.

Job creation, network expansion, and 24/7 local support are among the many benefits Alluvion provides to the Gila River Indian Community. As our network grows, so does our team! We work with community entities to recruit local talent and offer training and employment to GRIC members.

To learn more, visit [www.alluvion.net/blog](http://www.alluvion.net/blog) and follow us on social media.

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**Employment Opportunity**

Begin an exciting career with Alluvion Communications by joining our team as an Associate Network Analyst! This entry level position will prepare you for a career in Network Operations through our on the job training program.

For more information or to submit an application, visit [www.alluvion.net/careers](http://www.alluvion.net/careers).

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**Hu’p’al’ (Red-Tail Hawk) Health Center**
**Monday - Thursday**

8 am - 4 pm

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To schedule an appointment, please call GRHC Pediatric Department:
520-562-1200 EXT. 7337

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Community Members Sworn Into Office After May 4th Election

From left to right: District 1 Council Representative Azrie Hogg, District 4 Council Representative Christopher Mendoza, newly elected District 5 Council Representative Walhagen Riggs and District 6 Council Representative Anthony Villareal, Sr., gather for the Community Council Election took place on June 4, 2021.

Christopher Lomahgahn, the Editor of Gila River Indian Community Letters and Guardians, was appointed by the GRIN Community Council to serve on Community Council. The Councilman currently sits on the Government and Management, Health and Social, Legislative and Education standing committees and serves on eight additional GRIC boards and committees. His “objectives have always been to advocate for the interests of the members of our village and the Gila River Indian Community, and to help alleviate hesitations about the vaccine. Everyone should continue to educate ourselves and ask questions about the vaccine for the sake of your health, because that is what is important to all of us,” said Osife. “For the youth that have not been vaccinated, remember this is for your health. You have our entire Community that’s here to support you, so ask all the questions you need to make the best decision for your health and protection against COVID-19.”

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis offered opening remarks for the event, aiming his message at the younger Community members. “You did a great job getting through this past school year, and we have the summer to look forward,” said Lewis. “Getting the vaccine is one of those important things you can do to protect yourself, to protect your family and to protect our Community so that we can get to the point of community immunity.”

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis formally swore in the 13 newly elected Community Council Members. The new Councilswore in on Community Council Chambers. Their oaths were administered by Judge Osife. “For the youth that have not been vaccinated, remember this is for your health. You have our entire Community that’s here to support you, so ask all the questions you need to make the best decision for your health and protection against COVID-19.”

“Positions like Utility Service Technician do not possess a college degree in civil engineering or irrigation or water resources to garbage collection. “Positions like Utility Service Technician, those positions are considered our entry positions within the water and waste water branch,” said Mark Horn, DPW

Director. He described the position as a vital one within DPW. “They help maintain water systems, pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and including the lagoon facilities,” said Horn. “Community members interested in the Utility Service Technician position, which pays a minimum of $16.45 per hour, are required to have some knowledge about construction, maintenance and DPW’s baseline qualifications. The starting salary offered is $62,549 annually. “You need a Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering or closely related field and three years of experience in either hydrology, irrigation or water resources and construction management type field,” said Horn. He added that candidates with a Master’s degree in civil engineering will be required to have at least 18 months’ experience in the field.

Horn recommends that all applicants for DPW positions familiarize themselves with the job requirements and with the GRIN Community. Applicants can find information about jobs and submit applications at https://selfservice.gric.nsn.us/MSSC/jobopportunities/default.aspx.

Christopher Lomahgahn
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Public Works is looking for qualified individuals to fill a number of positions throughout the organization. DPW is one of the Community’s largest departments, overseeing utility services from water resources to garbage collection.

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AOPPYC Hosts Vaccine Town Hall to Encourage Youth to Vaccinate Against COVID-19

Gila River Indian News

AOPPYC President Susanna Osife hosted the event and shared her own experience about getting the vaccine. In response, the audience that side effects that might occur would likely be minimal, depending on the individual. Dr. Dolasa emphasized the importance of consistent follow-up via phone calls between families and GRHC.

Dr. Anthony Santiago, the Chief Medical Officer for GRHC, dispelled the notion that the vaccine itself was “rushed” or developed and administered in less than a year. Dr. Santiago pointed out the COVID-19 vaccine history, citing its almost 20-year development that began from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

Robert E. Davis, Sr.

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If you wanted to ask someone where they work in O’otham, you can say “Ba:p hasko chikpan?” (Where do you work?) Answering this question uses the action word “chikpan” (to work) along with the location. “Maḥ chikpan amai Kokotham ha ki: am.” (I work over there at the hospital.) If you happen to be at the place where you work, you can switch out the locational adverb “amai” (over there) to “si:ya” (right here). “Maḥ chikpan iya Marshamakudu ampl.” (I work here at the School.)

Presently, the majority of employees are back in their offices and places of business throughout our Community. Many employees will pick up where they left off several months ago. New work habits practiced slightly different from pre-pandemic times. One area not dramatically affected is our “Chikpan ‘ap haichu ñe’ok.” (Work/office talk).

Once we are in our workplace for a short while and other coworkers will test you memory of the phrases. Some may be slightly different between the villages. The word match will instruct our clients how to ask where some establishments.

Another useful phrase is “Chikpan ‘ap haichu ñe’ok.” (Work/office talk). Now that we have learned how to ask where some employees will pick up where they left off several months ago. New work habits practiced slightly different from pre-pandemic times. One area not dramatically affected is our “Chikpan ‘ap haichu ñe’ok.” (Work/office talk).

As the workday wears on, we will often hear our office mates “Thom he’uva:giq tho!” (I’m going on break!). Some workers like to take a short walk, while others have a little snack at the breakroom.

When our O’otham work, we will now focus on work/office talk. We will often hear O’otham speak phrases that have not been heard for some time. One such phrase is “Chum hekid ’o:la ’ed ‘aṭt jijiva chikpan ’ap” (I always arrive on time to work!). As we all know, with the heavy volume of traffic at O’otham rush hour, that is not always the case. Sometimes, despite our best effort to take the back-road short cuts, we still wind up “Pi oi.” (Late arrival).

Once we are in our office, another phrase we will instruct our clients is “Neokakud thath math hekith ‘o:fe.” (Call and make an appointment.). Some offices are not fully operational yet, and others allow limited visitation. As the workday wears on, we will all take a short respite from our busy schedules at mid-morning. We will often inform our office mates “Thom he’uva:giq tho!” (I’m going on break!). Some workers like to take a short walk, while others have a little snack at the breakroom.

When our O’otham and other coworkers will reply with “Pegi, tho he:uva:giq tho!” (Well let’s go, I’m hungry!). Some O’otham tote their lunches from home and enjoy spending some time outdoors. Other O’otham like to get away from the workplace for a short while and visit their favorite establishments.

Another useful phrase is “Haichu a:m ‘o a’aga!” (I’m going to tell you something!), often used when you want to update your co-workers on events and other news. When your Boss asks you for that certain file you worked on before the emergency, you can respond with “Pi chektho hebai tho’a in” (I don’t remember where I put it!). Of course, the best phrase at the end of the workday is “Ai sha huthik!” (It’s time to quit work!). We encourage you to speak O’otham in your everyday lives. Speak with an Elder or Speaker on how to say the phrases. Some phrases may be slightly different between the villages. The word match will test you memory of chikpan ‘ap haicha ñeo’ok’. A special Thank You to Vah-ki ch Onk Akinmel Kekel for sharing their knowledge of Chikpan ‘ap Haichu ñe’ok’, which made this article possible. Answers to puzzle can be found on page: 14.
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Preschool to Kindergarten/Kindergarten to First Grade

Anevay A. Yucupisio
Blackwater Community School

Blackwater Community School
Pre-K nailed it. Kindergarten here I come! First milestone of your education complete. Way to go keep reaching for the stars.

Aniyanna Parra
District 6 Head Start

You did it babe, I knew you would! We love you and are so happy for you!

Abigail Relle Norris
Casa Blanca Community School FACE program

Charlotte Marilyn Kisto
Early Education Child Care Center

Charlotte, I hope you accomplish everything you want as you grow in your education. Dream big, & go beyond the stars. You are so full of possibilities in where life will take you. We love you, and we are so proud of you!!!

Noraa Marquez
You are a blessing. There’s no end to the way you amaze us, from your willingness to help to the vocabulary in your unusual stories. We know that you are going to love kindergarten. A new school with many books to read and lots of new friends to make. Kindergarten is just the start to your academic achievements. We are very excited to see what the near future brings. Love, Mom & Dad.

Angelica Estralla
Sacaton Elementary School

Early Education Child Care Center

Congratulations Anthony!! You are on your way to the BIG school now!! We love you, Mom, Nanna, B & Grandpa.

Aiden Rivers
District 6 Head Start

You did it babe, I knew you would! We love you and are so happy for you!

Valkyrie Champagne
Sunrise Preschool

St. Peter Indian Mission
We are so proud of our Valkyrie! You did it! On to the next challenge, Kindergarten.

Jairus Duran
Blackwater Community School

Yay! Jairus, it is a blessing to watch you become such a smart, funny, incredible kid with quite a personality. Your family loves you and we are super proud of you!

Anthony Olivia III
Early Education Child Care Center

Continuing school: Blackwater Community School

Congratulations Anthony!! You are on your way to the BIG school now!! We love you, Mom, Nanna, B & Grandpa.

Devon Pedroza
Sacaton Head Start

“I’m going to go to kindergar- ten!” – Devon Pedroza

Bailey White
Carebear Preschool

Basic Primary

We are so proud of you and love you very much! We will always be there for you... keep reaching for the stars. Love your family.

Ezra Littlesky Reyna
Blackwater Community School

Continuing school: BCS
We are so proud of you Ezra. You make us smile every day and always amaze us with your intelligence. It is the greatest thing to watch you grow and be your parents. We love you and congratulations on promoting to kindergarten. Love, mom and dad.

Bailey White
Carebear Preschool

Basic Primary

We are so proud of you and love you very much! We will always be there for you... keep reaching for the stars. Love your family.

Norsa Marquez
You are a blessing. There’s no end to the way you amaze us, from your willingness to help to the vocabulary in your unusual stories. We know that you are going to love kindergarten. A new school with many books to read and lots of new friends to make. Kindergarten is just the start to your academic achievements. We are very excited to see what the near future brings. Love, Mom & Dad.

Nahila James
District 6 Head Start

Continuing school: Gila Crossing Community School

Congratulations Baby Girl on promoting to kindergarten. You are Big Girl now! Mommy Loves You. – Marlena James

Charlotte Marilyn Kisto
Early Education Child Care Center

Continuing school: Blackwater Community School

Charlotte, I hope you accomplish everything you want as you grow in your education. Dream big, & go beyond the stars. You are so full of possibilities in where life will take you. We love you, and we are so proud of you!!!

Sunshine Perez
Casa Blanca Community School

Ezra X. Cardenas
Imagine East Mesa

You are just getting started! You are smart and with a lot of will, your energy is like no other. We love you, mom & dad!
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Kindergarten to 1st Grade

Noah Garcia
Casa Blanca Community School

Victors Stevens
Casa Blanca Community School

Aubriella Bojorquez
Casa Blanca Community School

Annalia Santos
Vector Prep & Arts Academy

Mahina Hutchinson
Casa Blanca Community School

Tony Lujan
Casa Blanca Community School

Trayden James
Casa Blanca Community School

Benjamin Gonzales
Casa Blanca Community School

Ezio Juan
Gila Crossing Community School

Jayson Riquelmy
Ahmann Traditional School

Jr. High School to H.S.

Straight Arrow Saraficio-Williams
Villaig Middle School
Continuing school: Casa Grande Union High School

Azumi Butterfly Murphy
Greenfield Junior High School

Priscilla Audrey Murphy
Greenfield Junior High School
Continuing school: Gilbert High School

Bryan L. Cardenas
Imagine Prep Superstition

Parents Carlos Santos Jr. & Beverly Ray would like to congratulate you!

Ezio Juan - from the family of Ezio.

Juanaes Morales
Casa Blanca Community School

Rosabella Rodriguez
Casa Blanca Community School

Nevaeh Brooks
Casa Blanca Community School

Rosa Rossel
Casa Blanca Community School

We are very proud of you! Keep going! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

We are so proud of you! Keep going! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

Bryan L. Cardenas
Imagine Prep Superstition

We are so proud of you! Continue being yourself and stay kind always. We love you, mom and dad.

We are so proud of you! Keep going! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

We are so proud of you! Keep going! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

We are so proud of you! Keep going! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

We are so proud of you! Keep going! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

Family

Way to go! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

Way to go! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

Way to go! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.

Way to go! You are a Gilbert Tiger! We are very proud of you and love you very much! – Mom & Dad.
Jr. High School to H.S. Continued

Anisa Jackson  
Jane D. Hull Elementary  
Continuing School: Casteel High School

Amy James  
Cholla Middle School  
Congratulations! We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished in Middle School. Goodbye 8th grade and hello to high school! Love, mom and family.

Sienna Burciaga  
Sacaton Middle School  

Conrad Co’Nei’Sen’Ney  
Imagine Prep  
Continuing school: Imagine Prep

We are proud of you and look forward to your next graduation in four years! Love your family

Esperanza Garcia  
Maricopa Village Christian School  

Tavaris Wright  
Sacaton Middle School  
Congratulations Son, we are all so very proud of you! Despite life’s obstacles you continue to make the entire family proud. You do your best and that’s all that matters! We love you!  
Love Mom&Dad Dosela and the entire family.

Amaira Miguel  
Cooldidge Junior High School

A complete list of high school and higher education graduates can be found on pages 12 to 14.

GRIC CHS Student Signs with Local School to Play Softball at Collegiate Level

Megan Fahnholz (center) is joined at her college signing by her parents, Donald Fahnholz (left) and mother Denise Enos (right). Emma Hughes/GRIN

He described Megan as largely a “self-taught” softball player. “She never really had full-on coaching,” he explained. “She just learned by doing it and she got to where she’s at right now.”

Megan credited her father for getting her into the sport and for helping her excel on the field and in the classroom. She thanked him “for always pushing me to do better and to continue playing.”

The newest member of the GCC softball squad says she has played year-round, practicing as often as she can at home— even by herself. She enjoys the travel involved in softball and the many people she’s met. Those positives kept her going, Megan said, even when she wanted to leave the game behind.

““There’s times where I wanted to quit, so many times, but I just missed the sport so much,” said Megan. Softball “helps me get away from so many things. It helps me cope with things that I went through.”

Coach Aleman was eager to recruit Fahnholz after seeing her talent on Coach Aleman. “She’s the display playing club ball. Her dad sent her to Gateway Community College for softball. She’s a smart kid. Very athletic, very personable and a respectable kid,” said Coach Aleman. “She’s the kind of kid you want on your team."

Megan Fahnholz (left) will also play at GCC with teammate Kinsey Garcia (right). Emma Hughes/GRIN

Fahnholz also played the utility player and played catcher. During her senior year amidst the pandemic,
COMPREHENSIVE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11 REGARDING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, from March 13, 2020 through October 2, 2020, I issued eight separate Executive Orders addressing various aspects of the coronavirus pandemic, ranging from a declaration of a public emergency to a requirement that all persons wear a mask while on the Gila River Indian Community Reservation; and

WHEREAS, I amended these separate Executive Orders on numerous occasions to extend and clarify them as necessary; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2020, I issued a new comprehensive Executive Order No. 9 that combined these prior Executive Orders into one single order, setting forth the numerous elements of our governmental response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, I amended Executive Order No. 9 on two occasions to both address necessary clarifications, and also to extend its effect until April 12, 2021, in order to provide necessary time to consider important possible modifications to the pandemic restrictions contained therein; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2021, I issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 10, which made various changes including approval of the Tribal Government Return to Work Plan and easing certain restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, I amended Executive Order No. 10 on two occasions to both address necessary clarifications, and also to extend its effect until June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infection rates have subsided substantially, including within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation, and other jurisdictions, including the federal government, have begun relaxing public health restrictions and safety measures in response to this positive development; and

WHEREAS, I have had the opportunity to consult with the Community Council, the Tribal Health Department, the Tribal Education Department, the Unified Command of the Community’s COVID-19 Task Force, and many other interested parties and entities on the Community’s approach as we enter a new, more hopeful phase of our pandemic response; and

WHEREAS, as part of our pandemic response, the Community has emphasized the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and made them available to all members of the Community over the age of twelve, all employees of the Community and its enterprises and all residents of their households, all residents of any household in which a Community member resides, and all teachers who teach at a school located within the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Community under this Executive Order to encourage all those eligible to receive a vaccine take their vaccine at the earliest opportunity because future relaxation of pandemic restrictions will rely upon a high level of vaccine protection for the Community and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Community Vaccination Rate, as of the date of this Executive Order No. 11 is 39%; and

WHEREAS, due to the rise of new variants of the coronavirus, despite the improvement in pandemic conditions, the Community must continue to be diligent in its efforts to address the coronavirus pandemic and take aggressive measures to continue to protect our Members and the public at large from this disease and the dangerous variants of it that are now afflicting our State and our Community; and
WHEREAS, as part of the Community’s continued diligence, while this Executive Order relaxes certain of the previously imposed public health restrictions, I am directing our Tribal Health Department to closely monitor infection rates amongst our members and to provide recommendations to Executive should conditions warrant re-imposition of any or all of the public health restrictions that are being relaxed pursuant to this Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, through the authority granted to me in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community and Title 1 of the Gila River Indian Community Code, hereby order as follows:

First, I hereby rescind Executive Orders 1 through 10, and all amendments to such orders, effective immediately, and replace those orders with this new Executive Order No. 11, which includes all requirements and measures that are to remain in effect from this date until the date ascribed herein for expiration, or until this Executive Order is otherwise amended or rescinded by a subsequent amendment or Executive Order.

Second, for purposes of this Executive Order No. 11, the following terms shall have the definitions set forth below:


b. “Community Public Safety Departments” means the Gila River Police Department, the Gila River Fire Department, the Department of Rehabilitation & Supervision, the Tribal Health Department, and the Office of Emergency Management.

c. “Community Vaccination Rate” means the percentage of Community members who have received a vaccination and (i) residing within the exterior boundaries of the Community’s Reservation.


e. “First Responders” means any individual directed to respond to any call for health care, emergency or police call, or essential services, including, without limitation the following:
   • Employees of the Gila River Police Department
   • Employees of the Gila River Fire Department
   • Employees of Gila River EMS
   • Employees of Gila River Health Care Corporation
   • Utility workers who are conducting work within the Reservation, including employees of Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority and Gila River Telecommunications Inc.
   • Employees of the Tribal Health Department
   • Employees of Department of Community Housing who work in the field and interact with the public
   • Employees of the Community Services Department who work in the field and interact with the public
   • The Community Manager and all Department Directors


g. “Reservation” means the Gila River Indian Community Reservation.

Third, I hereby declare that there is a continued public health State of Emergency in the Gila River Indian Community regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, which shall continue until further notice.

Fourth, all employee travel that normally requires authorization under the Community’s Travel Policy, adopted by Resolution GR-125-12, as amended, shall be subject to a separate directive issued by the Executive Office. Employees who have not been fully vaccinated in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines may be prohibited from or limited in business travel. Departments and programs are directed to continue seeking alternatives to travel, including teleconferences, online videoconferencing, livestream, or other alternatives for attending meetings, conferences or trainings. The Executive Office shall continue to consider all requests for necessary travel on a case-by-case basis.

Fifth, with the exception of meetings of elected and appointed officials, until the date on which the Community Vaccination Rate reaches 45.01%, all gatherings on the Community’s Reservation of more than forty (40) persons are prohibited, unless specifically approved in writing in advance by the Executive Office. The Executive Office shall approve only those gatherings of more than forty (40) persons that are conducted in accordance with public health measures that are approved in writing by the Tribal Health Department.
(1) Community commercial enterprises. This prohibition does not apply to Community commercial entities operating on the Community Reservation, provided those commercial enterprises are (i) undertaking efforts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among employees and customers, and (ii) making available appropriate personal protective equipment, including face masks, for employees and customers.

(2) Funerals. This prohibition of gatherings of more than forty (40) persons does not apply to funeral preparations, services, wakes and cremations, provided that individuals responsible for a particular funeral, service, wake or cremation, or preparations for such events, agree to COVID-19 protection protocols set forth in the Community’s Funeral Guidance, which shall be subject to oversight by each District.

Sixth, price gouging is unlawful on the Gila River Indian Reservation. GRIC Code Section 13.209 provides that “unconscionable and other unfair business practices” are grounds for the revocation of a business license. Individuals or businesses that engage in price gouging in the Community are subject to a revocation of their business licenses and non-members will be subject to exclusion from the Community under GRIC Code Section 8.101(C), which prohibits unfair business practices. I hereby direct law enforcement to fully and vigorously enforce these laws on the Gila River Indian Reservation to ensure that no business takes undue advantage of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Seventh, I hereby declare a continued moratorium on any new evictions being initiated by the Department of Community Housing (DCH) or the Department of Housing Development (DHD) until the expiration of the Community COVID-19 State of Emergency. This moratorium shall not apply to evictions based on criminal activity.

Eighth, I hereby designate and authorize the following departments, programs and entities to situationally receive PHI until the expiration of the Community COVID-19 State of Emergency:

a. All First Responders;
b. All Community Public Safety Departments;
c. The Gila River Health Care Corporation;
d. The GRICUA Administrator, but solely for utility workers who are conducting work within the Reservation;
e. The GRRT Administrator, but solely for utility workers who are conducting work within the Reservation;
f. The Community Services Department Director, Deputy Director, District Coordinators, and Assistant District Coordinators;
g. The Department of Community Housing Director and Deputy Director;
h. All field employees of CSD and DCH who are required to interact with the public;
i. The Tribal Social Services Child & Family Welfare Administrator and Crime Victim Services Coordinator;
j. The Tribal Health Department; and
k. All Community department directors.

Ninth, departments, programs and entities identified in the Eighth Clause of this Executive Order No. 11 shall follow the guidelines contained in “COVID-19 and HIPAA: Disclosures to Law Enforcement, Paramedics and Other First Responders and Public Health Authorities,” published by the United States Department of Health and Human Service, Office of Civil Rights.

Tenth, All Community departments and employees will continue to comply with the comprehensive “Tribal Government Return to Work Plan,” and their department or program plans. All Community government services shall re-commence no later than June 30, 2021.

Eleventh, under the Communicable Disease Ordinance, GRIC Code Title 17, any individuals who (i) have tested positive for COVID-19, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been advised to self-quarantine by a health care professional or the Tribal Health Department, and (ii) do not submit to a voluntary quarantine may be subject to a written quarantine directive by the Tribal Health Department and court-ordered quarantine by the Community Court, enforceable by the Gila River Police Department.

All Community Members and residents of the Reservation are strongly encouraged to follow the directions of their health care providers and the Tribal Health Department with respect to measures addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Twelfth, the Gila River Police Department is authorized and directed to enforce the Eleventh Clause of this Executive Order No. 11 under the applicable provisions of the Gila River Indian Community Code.
Thirteenth, until further notice, all employees of the Community government who have not been fully vaccinated shall wear appropriate protective face masks at all times while at such employees’ workplace when within 6 feet of other employees. Employees of the Community government are not required to wear face masks when alone inside their individual offices or work stations. All visitors to Community government buildings are required to wear appropriate protective face masks at all times during their visit to the Community government building. 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. Further, all persons, especially those who are not fully vaccinated, who are over two (2) years of age are strongly encouraged to wear a protective face mask while in any building located within the Reservation. All Reservation-based employers and businesses shall make available personal protective equipment, including face masks, for all employees and visitors to their facilities on Reservation.

Fourteenth, I hereby direct that (i) all employees of the Community who have not been fully vaccinated, and (ii) any employees, including fully vaccinated employees, who have displayed symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, must be tested for COVID-19 as directed until further notice. Any Community government employee who displays symptoms of the COVID-19 virus must be tested immediately by their health care provider. We strongly recommend that any employee of any enterprise or business located on Reservation who displays symptoms of the COVID-19 virus be tested immediately by their health care provider. In addition, employees of the Community government may be required to undergo serology testing for COVID-19 antibodies or to be re-tested as appropriate. Employees of the Community government who refuse testing or fail to show up for testing as directed will be subject to disciplinary action. The results of any testing shall be kept confidential in accordance with applicable law and positive test results shall be reported as required by Community or federal law.

Fifteenth, I hereby direct that the Community shall also make COVID-19 testing available to the following groups of individuals on a regular basis or as directed until further notice.

- Fully vaccinated employees of the Community government
- Community Council and elected and appointed officials of the Community
- Employees and students of all schools located on the Reservation
- All Community Members, including Urban Members residing in the surrounding communities
- Employees of all wholly-owned Community entities or operated entities, with the consent of those entities
- Employees of Boys & Girls Clubs on Reservation
- Such other groups of individuals as may be designated by the Executive Office in writing

Sixteenth, I hereby direct that all schools located on the Gila River Indian Reservation shall begin preparations for the resumption of in-person student learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Prior to resuming in-person learning, any school located on the Reservation must prepare and provide a complete copy of its reopening plan to the Tribal Education Department, Tribal Health Department and Education Standing Committee for review and approval. Any reopening plan shall contain appropriate COVID-19 prevention measures to protect students, school staff and visitors. COVID-19 prevention strategies should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines entitled, “Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention.”

Seventeenth, all individuals who have not been fully vaccinated in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention residing within the Reservation are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible. I emphasize that, for those not fully vaccinated, the safest place continues to be at home and that staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.

Eighteenth, I urge all Community members, employees, and all others eligible to receive a vaccine from the Community to take the COVID-19 vaccine at the earliest opportunity possible in order to help ensure the health and safety of our entire Community.

DONE THIS 16th DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

BY GOVERNOR STEPHEN ROE LEWIS
CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF
2021

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Jol Johnson
Dakota Grant-Hannon
Steven Echaverra
 JaQuar Allwine
Rogelio Mendoza
Drea Harper
Armando Felix
Felipe Montes
Francisco
Reyna Navarrete
Víctor Saucedo
Elena López
Leana Harrison
Ada Stevens
Erika Joaquín
Kayla Cordova
Layla Breckenridge-Marín
Sophia Moreno
Trinity Lewis
Morgan Martin
Alicia T. Nuamante
Anaesa Hernandez
Brandan Nuamante
Charles García
Davisha Pasqual
Emilio Garcia
Jaden Aplin
Jaylin Manuel
Jose Montijo
Joseph Béjarones
Junior Passott
Justin Romo
Kayla Ramos Garvin
Krista Lamayestewa
Mickey Pasquale
Mikal Brown
Theodore Hendricks
Amelia Thompson
Brianna Chavez
Academies at South Mountain
Alhambra High School
Apollo High School
Arcadia High School
Arizona Agriculture Business & Equine Center
ASU Preparatory Academy - Polytechnic High School
AZ Compass Prep School
AZ Compass Prep School
Antone AZ Compass Prep School
AZ Compass Prep School
AZ Compass Prep School
Basha High School
Basha High School
Buffy Fair Fax High School
Buffy Fair Fax High School
Buffy Fair Fax High School
Buffy Fair Fax High School
Buffy Fair Fax High School
Camille Casteel High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
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Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Casa Grande Union High School
Cesar Chavez High School
Cesar Chavez High School
Cesar Chavez High School
Cedar Grove High School
Central High School
Chandler High School
Chandler High School
Chandler High School
Chandler High School
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chandler Online Academy
Chernawa Indian School
Chernawa Indian School
Chernawa Indian School
Chernawa Indian School
Chernawa Indian School
Chief Hill Learning Academy
Coolidge Alternative Program
Coolidge Alternative Program
Coolidge Alternative Program
Coolidge Alternative Program
Coolidge Alternative Program
Coolidge High School
Coolidge High School
Coolidge High School
Coolidge High School
Coolidge High School
Coolidge High School
Coolidge High School

Damian Cowker
Gabriella Acuna
Hunter Antone
Devin Harrison
Trinity Valenzuela
Bobby Lopez
Iriscela Ramos
Kaylae Williamson
Nicholas Flores
Ruben Kyitan
Tyler Mendoza
Alexandra Miguel
Alexandra Miguel
Alexis Zuniga
Alonna-Marie Porter
Jose Angel Munoz
Jose Angel Munoz
Kayla Gage
Marissa Manuel
Marissa Manuel
Alysa Hernandez
Keenue Miles
Leon Brown
Nikki Soriand
Sabinica Solcido
Tristan Santos
Bianca Castro
Avelia Acuna
Chloe Blackwater
Cienna Pino
Megan Fahisholz
Tobias Yacynshilos
Alaini Santos
Alfonso Moreno
Alicia Ortiz
Anthony Blackwater
Chesive Kito
Ciara McGill
El Vazquez
HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES

Linndie Hunter
Erik Winnic
Brian Cooper
Paul White
Florine Manes
Magdalena Quammitewa
Giovanni Arbizu
Erica Hernandez
Skye Lucero
Danielle Pagat
Dekker White
Norma Perez
Joseph Armenta III
Andrew Ballestero
Shane Socoa
Martin White
Chelsea Miles
Elizabeth Tanin
Narmad Hazequez
Thomas Cortez
Antonio Guzman
Ashley Nourse

Gila River Indian News
June 18, 2021
Page 13

DeAngela Garcia
Devon Miles
Dominick Tazzio
Elyse Eno
Ethan June
Jasmine Mills
Joya Morago
Marcos Juan
Miah Gregg
Nielle Rodriguez
Quincy Randall
Sarah Pino
Sean Patrick
Shelby John
Trinity Luna
Kavir Luhan
Darian Pishon
Eliza Lewis
Allen Lewis
Alyssa June
Cecilia Lopez
Ezeqiel Martinez
Helina Romero
Joseph Cinca
Kamasure Cathcart
Kianna Sarafeli-Williams
Phyllia Romero
Kxwoloni Bradley
Riley Rodriguez
Miranda Caronado
Danaiel Albono
Austin Miller
Blanca Zamora
Earl Miles
Joseph Martinez
Lyman Morago
Yolanni Blaine
Christina Miranda

Skyline Gila River
Skyline Gila River
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Skyline Gila River
Skyline Gila River
Skyline Gila River
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Skyline Gila River
Skyline Gila River
Skyline Gila River
Skyline Gila River
South Mountain High School
Southwest Education Center
Tolleson High School
Vista Grande High School
Vista Grande High School
Vista Grande High School
Vista Grande High School
Vista Grande High School
Vista Grande High School
Washington High School
West Wood High School
Wilmar Anima Carter High School
Youngker High School
Central Arizona College Signal Peak
Central Arizona College Signal Peak
Central Arizona College Signal Peak
Central Arizona College Signal Peak
Central Arizona College Signal Peak
Rio Salado College

Universal Technical Institute, Motorcycle Mechanics Institute
West Coast University
The Refrigeration School
Touro University
Carrollton College
Keller Graduate School
The Refrigeration School
Carrollton College
Carrollton College
Charnamade University of Honolulu
Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University
Keller Graduate School
The Refrigeration School
The Refrigeration School
The Refrigeration School
The Refrigeration School
Ontario University
Universal Technical Institute
Universal Technical Institute
University of California, Riverside
Colorado Mesa University
University of Texas

AOS, Motorcycle Tech., w/BMW
Bachelor, Nursing
Diploma, Electro-Mechanical Technologies
Master, Public Administration
Certificate, Medical Coding and Billing
Masters, Network & Communications
Diploma, Electro-Mechanical Technologies
Certificate, Medical Billing and Coding
Certificate, Dental Assisting
PhD, Clinical Psychology
Bachelor, Aeronautics
Graduate Certificate, Human Resources Management
Certificate, Welding
Certificate Welding
Diploma, Electro-Mechanical Technologies
Certificate, Welding
Masters, School Counseling
Associate, Auto Tech II + GM
Associate, Auto Tech II + GM
Bachelor, Education Society and Human Development
Bachelor, Accounting
Masters, Human Resources
Dallas Lopez Jr.  
University of California - Berkeley, School of Law Juris \nDoctorate - Law  
Associate, Liberal Arts: Social & Behavioral Science

Devin Richards  
Antelope Valley College  
Masters, Public Health

Heather MedicineBear  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Bachelor, Health Science

Tristen Young  
Austin College  
Bachelor, Nursing

Kaitli Appleby  
California State University - Fullerton  
Bachelor, Social Work

Matayo Torres  
Texas A & M University  
Master, Social Work

Matthew Zuckert  
California State University - Dominguez Hills  
Bachelor, Chemistry

Melvin Moore  
Le Moyne College  
Bachelor, Retailing

Sarah Springer  
University of South Carolina  
Masters, Plant Science

Travis Woods  
California State University - Fresno  
Associate, Liberal Arts/Social Behavior

Jazmin Aparicio  
College of the Sequoias  
Certificate, Psychiatric Technology

Celeena Woods  
Porterville College  
Bachelor, Business Management

Michelle Marion  
Bemidji State University  
Associate, Liberal Arts: Social & Behavioral Science

Shawn Cortez  
College of the Desert  
Masters, Addiction Counseling

Tracy Ennis  
Grand Canyon University  
Bachelor, Homeland Security

Vanessa Enos  
Grand Canyon University  
Bachelor, Behavioral Science

Shana Grant  
Grand Canyon University  
Masters, Public Administration

Faron Hurleyumptewa  
Grand Canyon University  
Bachelor, Government with an Emphasis in Legal Studies

Monica Jackson  
Grand Canyon University  
Bachelor, Public Administration

Robin Jackson  
Northern Arizona University  
Bachelor, Health Science

Henry Lopez  
University of Arizona  
Bachelor, Christian Studies

Nicholas Salazar  
Grand Canyon University  
Masters, Public Health

Linda Soto  
Grand Canyon University  
Bachelor, Christian Studies

Daniel Spring  
University of Arizona  
Masters, Mechanical Engineering

Matthew Steiner  
Northern Arizona University  
Bachelor, Accounting

Janice Tepeda  
Northern Arizona University  
Masters, Human Relations

Claybourne Lamadofie  
Northern Arizona University  
Master of Business Administration

Christine Nofiah  
Grand Canyon University  
Associate, Information Technology

Rodrigo Castellon  
Chandler-Gilbert Community College  
Associate, General Requirements

Tiffany Stone  
Chandler-Gilbert Community College  
Associate, General Requirements

Ashley Thompson  
Chandler Gilbert Community College  
Associate, Administration of Justice Studies

Jacob Moreno  
Estrella Mountain Community College  
Associate, Business

Lisa Lindner  
Gateway Community College  
Associate, Nursing Assistant

Taylor Midlaugh  
South Mountain Community College  
Associate, Business

Nicholas Tapia  
Chandler Gilbert Community College  
Associate, Information Technology

Preston Soke  
Chandler-Gilbert Community College  
AGEC - General Requirements

Katlin Holbrook  
Estrella Mountain Community College  
Associate

Antonia Hugo  
Central Arizona College  
Certificate

Abrielle Tagert  
Central Arizona College  
Associate

Sierra Jackson  
Central Arizona College  
Associate

Sabrina Jackson  
Central Arizona College  
Associate

Tashya Gonzales  
Mesa Community College  
Associate

Angela Hernandez  
Phoenix College  
Associate

Cameron Johnson  
Arizona State University  
BA - Special Education

Maria Varelas  
Arizona State University  
BS - Social Work

Ellias Rangel  
Arizona State University  
BS - Social & Behavioral Science

Destina Miller  
Arizona State University  
BS - Family & Human Development

Samantha Molina  
Arizona State University  
BS - Psychology

Salina Williams  
Arizona State University  
BA - Early Childhood Education

Mia Hernandez  
Arizona State University  
BS - Graphic Information Tech.

Kelley Mosley  
Arizona State University  
BS - Exercise & Wellness

Jaclyn Fox  
Arizona State University  
MS - Social Work

Francisco Hernandez  
Arizona State University  
BS - Health Science

Jasmine Reece  
Arizona State University  
BA - Human Resources

Anthony Smith-Begay  
Arizona State University  
BS - Mechanical Engineering

Clarissa Juan  
Arizona State University  
BS - Business - Healthcare

Jessica Landa  
Arizona State University  
BS - Educational Studies

Krystal Sheppard  
Arizona State University  
BS - Organizational Leadership

Priscilla Terry  
Arizona State University  
BA - Tourism

Aralia Blackwater  
Southern Oregon University  
University of Arizona

Brittany Cooper  
University of Arizona  
University of Arizona

Joysen Brown  
Capitol Technology University in Washington DC  
Capitol Technology University in Washington DC

Nathan BrownEagel  
Phoenix Digital Academy  
NAU, Flagstaff, AZ

Omar Soke  
NAU, Flagstaff, AZ

Paul Flores
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY'S OFFICE • JUNE 2, 2021

ACTION SHEET

Community Council; P.O. Box 2136; Sacaton, Arizona
85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, June 2, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:05 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone-Smith

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis (9:55)

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

District 1 – Annette T. Hogg

District 2 – Christoph Mendoza

District 5 – Wahlean Jones

District 6 – Anthony “Chris” Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans, and Devlin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE REPORTS #3, #4, #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #3, #4, AND #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE INTRODUCTION #2 AND APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

District 1 – Annette T. Hogg

District 4 – Christoph Mendoza

District 5 – Wahlean J. Riggs

District 6 – Anthony “Chris” Villareal, Sr.

JUDGE ANTHONY HILL ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO EACH COUNCIL MEMBER

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction of District 7 Service Center Coordinator, Richard Kruszynski

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Richard Kruszynski

MS. THOMAS INTRODUCED MR. KRUSZYNSKI, MR. KRUSZYNSKI PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF HIS WORK HISTORY WITH THE COMMUNITY AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

2. Introduction of Elderly Services Coordinator, Lindsay Antone

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Lindsay Antone

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

REPORTS

1. Growing Readers Developing Leaders Project Update Presenter: Anthony Gray

ITEM HEARD

2. COVID-19 Update Report Presenter: COVID-19 Task Force

ITEM HEARD

3. Blackwater Community School Quarter 2 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021 Presenter: Jagdish Sharma

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Sacaton Middle School Quarter 2 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021 Presenter: Cindy Lewis

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA


ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council April 2021 (Executive Session) Presenters: Gaming Commission Board; Melvin S. Sanderson

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #6 AND #7


ACCEPTED AT REPORT #6 RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing The Exchange Of Community Trust Land For Interest in An Allotment Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Community Trust Land And Allotment 4217) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections, NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Eugene Blackwater, Kimberly Antone, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Authorizing The Transfer Of An Additional Twenty-Four Million Dollars ($24,000,000.00) From The Arizona State Treasury To The Wild Horse Pass Development Authority To Further Fund The Renovation Of The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Grand Resort (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with additional material, EDSC concurs)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

APPROVED

>3. A Resolution Approving The Submission Of Year Six Of The Five-Year Grant Application To The Department Of Health And Human Services, Office Of Head Start, American Indian And Alaska Native Programs In Order To Request Renewed Funding For The Gila River Indian Community Head Start/ Early Head Start Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)

Presenter: Carolina Kelley

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving The Submission Of Year Three Of The Five-Year Grant Application To The United States Department Of Health And Human Services, Administration For Children And Families, Office Of Head Start, American Indian And Alaska Native Programs In Order To Request Renewed Funding For The Gila River Indian Community Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)

Presenter: Carolina Kelley

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Authorizing Personnel From The United States Census Bureau To Collect Data For The National Crime Victimization Survey (“NCVS”) Within The Gila River Indian Community (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; LSC concurs with recommendation for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. A Resolution Approving The Tribal Education Department’s Corporate Proposal For The Gila River Indian Community’s Growing Readers & Developing Leaders Program And Approving The Application And Submittal For Copyright Protections For Its Book Contents (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; CRSC concurs)

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gila River Gaming Commission Two (2) Commissioner Appointments

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT DENISE ALLISON AND GARY WILLIAMS

2. Community Council Secretary Appointment

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT SHANNON WHITE

3. Government & Management Standing Committee Appointment (2) Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. AND CHRISTOPHER MENDEZ

4. Health & Social Standing Committee Appointment (1)

Council Seat

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT WAHLEAN J. RIGGS

5. Legislative Standing Committee Appointments (2)

Council Seats

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT WAHLEAN J. RIGGS

6. Economic Development Standing Committee Appointment (1)

Council Seat

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT AVERY WHITE

7. Gila River Farms Board of Directors (2) Appointments

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT WAHLEAN J. RIGGS AND ARZIE HOGG

8. Economic Development Standing Committee Appointment (1)

Council Seat

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT AVERY WHITE

9. Gila River Farms Board of Directors (2) Appointments

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT ARZIE HOGG AND WAHLEAN J. RIGGS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Children’s Court Judge Vacancy (LSC forwards to Council to declare the vacancy and advertise for 30 days through the Human Resources Department)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY

2. I-10 Improvement Project Tentative Recommendation Build Alternative (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC, EDSC, and CRSC concurs)

Presenter: Javier Ramos; Ian A. Shavit; David White; Timothy Oliver; Timothy Chavez; Kathy Garcia; Ronald Rosier; William Antone III; Kyle Woodson; Barnaby Lewis; Kimberly Antone

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. REDW FY2020 Audit Reports (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept)

Presenter: Anthony Gerlach; Tony De Mark; Kenneth Manuel

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED COUNCIL

*SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

ADOJMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:36 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM
Community members came out to the MVU stop at the St. Peter Indian Mission School in District 6, including students 12 years and older, who can now receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Photos Emma Hughes/GRIN
Representatives from Child Crisis Arizona show their appreciation for the generous donation by Gila River Hotels & Casinos. Photo Courtesy of Justin View/OH Partners.

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Gila River Indian News
June 18, 2021
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Veterans, Families, Service Members Services

Memorial Day is a day to remember and honor our military men and women who have died while serving in our nation's armed forces. It is also a special day set aside to remember the sacrifices of our veterans and their families in this country’s wars (Vietnam, War POW) and those that are still missing in action (WIA). Let us remember them along with the men and women that have passed on after their honorable service.

Mr. Anderson was a veteran of the Gila River Indian Community’s Kids Cares event at the end of the year. “Year after year, self-excluded jackpot funds will be June 30, 2021, at 5 p.m.

All Arizona 501-C3 nonprofit organizations that are recognized by the IRS and that enhance the lives of Arizonans through educational programs and children’s welfare will be eligible for consideration to receive the self-excluded jackpot funds. Selected applicants’ self-excluded jackpot funds will be finalized by the end of October, and recipients will be honored during the 27th Annual Gila River Casino Cares event at the end of the year.

Tribal Court Summons

JOSEPH MCCULLIS LUCAS

Respondent/Defendant

YOU ARE NOTIFIED, unless the time is extended by order of the Court, that a civil action has been filed in the Gila River Indian Community Court. The project would be June 30, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Telephone: (520) 562-3326
Sacaton, Arizona 85147

You may respond in writing. However, if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.

At your request, we will withhold any comments received by you from the public record associated with this proceeding. All comments received become part of the public record if any person or organization makes a request to submit comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed project.

The Natural Resource Standing Committee (NRSC) will be considering the Environmental Assessment from the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. regarding a communication site lease on approximately 0.0574 acres of land at the Rawhide Western Town and Event Center at its regular meeting on July 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., located in Conference Room C of the Community Council’s Secretariats Office. All District Service Centers and the Community Council’s Secretariats Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the Environmental Assessment Site lease on approximately 0.0574 acres of land at the Rawhide Western Town and Event Center at its regular meeting on July 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., located in Conference Room C of the Community Council’s Secretariats Office. All District Service Centers and the Community Council’s Secretariats Office.

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GRIC 4-H Club Launches this Fall

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Beginning this fall, the Community will host a new 4-H Club, to be called GRIC 4-H. The nationally renowned 4-H youth program focuses on developing youth leadership, new skills, health, educational opportunities, and more. The program will recruit GRIC youth between ages 8 and 18, as well as adult volunteers to support 4-H projects as mentors and project instructors.

"I hope to ignite new interests in the youth, not only for agriculture, but through different educational experiences," said Bailey Bates, the GRIC 4-H Club Program Coordinator, who says she is to share her passion for agriculture, ranching, and horses with GRIC youth. "4-H is such a positive program. I hope it gives youth that gateway for continuing their education or considering it later on in life."

In addition to guided projects, 4-H will also provide opportunities for summer camps, academic scholarships, interaction with youth from across the state, and potentially competing at the county level in various 4-H competitions. While many 4-H learning projects are geared toward natural resource education and careers, the GRIC 4-H club will utilize the Community’s land base, help provide new learning focused on farming, gardening, ranching, and woodworking.

The GRIC 4-H Club initially started in May 2020, within the Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District (GRIIDD), but COVID-19 put the club’s activities on hold.

“Two years ago, the GRIIDD Board saw a need for a program like 4-H and to see (more) agricultural projects passed onto the youth within the Community,” said Jessica Romo, Assistant General Manager Mentee, GRIIDD. “So we would like to see more youth involved in those areas through GRIC 4-H Club.”

Romo shared that animal husbandry and ranching are also focus areas for the GRIC 4-H Club. Romo says she hopes 4-H inspires more GRIC youth to pursue agricultural science fields to benefit the Community’s farmlands.

The GRIC 4-H Club is currently recruiting this summer, with programming scheduled to begin in October. Bates encouraged all youth to consider joining.

“If you are looking for something new to do, then come out to 4-H, and we can all learn together,” she said.

For more information on joining or volunteering with the GRIC 4-H Club, contact Bailey Bates by phone at 520-610-5554 or e-mail at gric4h@gridd.com. You can also find GRIC 4-H Club on Facebook.

Public Notice

GRIC Environmental Health Services

Moratorium
Aerial Application of Pesticides and Fertilizers

The Gila River Indian Community (Community) has implemented a temporary moratorium for the aerial application of pesticides and fertilizers pursuant to the constitutional powers of the Community Council. The moratorium is effective immediately and will remain in effect until such time as appropriate regulations further governing these activities are approved by the Community. Questions and written comments can be directed to the DEQ Pesticide Control Office at 520-562-5234 or to the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning office at 520-562-6003. About the Pesticide Control Office. Under Title 18, Chapter 3 of the Gila River Indian Community Code, in 1991 the Community Council established the Pesticide Control Office as the lead Community agency for regulating pesticide use in order to protect the public health, safety and environment of the Community and all individuals living and/or working within the Reservation. For more information, visit http://www.gricdeq.org/.

Why?
The recycling facility employees cannot see what type of material is in the bag, and unfortunately many bags of trash get thrown into the bin. The sorting process is slowed down considerably if a bag with unknown contents is mixed in with loose items.

Thank you!
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