High School Basketball Player Sets Sights on College

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The 2021 state championship run has ended for the Coolidge High School Bears Boys’ Basketball team, but the playing days for District 3 resident Nickolas Harrison, the team’s star guard, will likely continue into college.

Through hard work in the books and on the hardwood, Harrison has been offered scholarships by the following institutions to play basketball for Benedictine University, Humboldt University, Purdue Northwest University, SAGU American Indian College and Northland Pioneer College. Harrison, who led Coolidge to the state quarterfinals after having torn his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), putting him in the training fields and facilities that will house the team’s coaches, locker rooms, medical staff, and training staff, players, and coaches attended a cultural training. The training facility includes a whole host of amenities to enhance fan experience. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Besides basketball, Harrison has an interest in the culture of the O’otham and says he is excited about seeing him succeed, we try to tell him to consider his future and what ever he wants to do, “we support him,” said Carolyn Escalante, Harrison’s mother. She added, “We encourage him to work hard, be humble and keep his grades up, because it’s going to take him a lot places.”

For Harrison, the game of basketball has provided him an opportunity to further his education after high school. “I know basketball has always been an interest of mine, but I also know school is important and what I want to pursue. My main focus is to go into the medical field and being a physical therapist or in sports medicine,” said Harrison.

His father Danny Harrison said, “He’s always played basketball since he was 12-years-old, he’s always had an interest in the sport.” Danny said his son has made a remarkable come back, after having torn his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), putting the shooting guards season on hold.

In addition to being a standout on the court, Terry Willis a Tribal Education Department Student Advisor said he continues to excel in his academics. “It has been a pleasure to know Nick. Not only is he a great athlete, but he has also been dedicated in his four-years at Coolidge High School,” said Willis.

Much of Harrison’s recognition off the court is receiving the student of the month outstanding character award in February and the Chief Azul Award in 2019. Willis added that Harrison also commits time to helping his local district and has an interest in the culture of the Community.

More on Page 5

Phoenix Rising Football Club Ready to Host Fans at New Facility

Defending Western Conference Champions Aim for May 1 Season Opener

Bobby Dulle, Phoenix Rising

Phoenix Rising will begin the new season on May 1, as the United Soccer Leagues defending Western Conference champions.

The regular season schedule has yet to be released. Fans can visit phoenixrisingfc.com for more information on Phoenix Rising and the upcoming season.

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More on Page 5
GRIC Booster Shot Vaccination Event

Save the Date!

March 20, 2021

Did you receive DOSE 1 of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the 2/20 GRIC Community Vaccination Event?

- The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is a two (2) DOSE vaccine.
- You can return for DOSE 2 of the Moderna vaccine on:

Saturday, March 20, 2021
Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park
Chandler, AZ

9 am to 3 pm

This event is for GRIC members and GRIC Essential Employees who have received DOSE 1 of the Moderna vaccine.

Please bring your COVID-19 Vaccination card (that you received with your first dose) to the 3/20 vaccination event.

FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT COVID-19, GO TO GRHC.ORG/HUB OR CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079
Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

For the first time in the history of the Department of Interior, a Native American will lead the agency as Secretary of Interior. In a historic Senate vote, 51-40, New Mexico Representative Deb Haaland, was officially confirmed as the 54th Secretary of Interior on March 15.

A letter to the editor from Robert Jackson:

I've been playing high school basketball. "I grew up playing every sport and basketball, which I liked a lot, I've been playing since I was 12-years-old and all of my siblings have played sports in high school.

Submittal

Dona-Krista Jones

It has been a year since our father has gone to be with his heavenly father and at the time, we needed to get our thanks out to all of you who were there for us. We apologize for the failure to mention all of you who helped us during our time of grief. We are all proud of him and how far he has come after the injury last year," said Danny. He added, that Harrison is a role model to his Community and that above all the education that Harrison has received.

From Front Page

Gregory Rummel

Harrison has made history. For the first time in the history of Congress, Haaland will lead the Department of Interior, an agency that oversees the functioning of government policies that impact millions of Native Americans.

Rep. Deb Haaland Confirmed as Secretary of Interior

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Additional COVID Vaccination Events

Walk in, no appointment required.

- March 16, 2021
  District 1 Service Center
  9am - 3pm

- March 17, 2021
  District 2 Service Center
  9am - 3pm

- March 18, 2021
  District 4 Service Center
  9am - 3pm

- March 23, 2021
  District 5 Service Center
  9am - 3pm

- March 24, 2021
  District 7 Service Center
  9am - 3pm

THOSE ELIGIBLE

- GRIC Tribal Enrolled members 18+ years old (includes GRIC urban members) AND 18+ years old residing in the boundaries of GRIC
  - GRIC Tribal Enrolled members, please bring your tribal identification to vaccination site.
  - 18+ years old residing in the boundaries of GRIC, please provide proof of residency i.e. mail with name and address indicated.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation for individuals residing within GRIC boundaries, call (520) 562-3321 ext. 1384 to schedule your transportation as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at (520) 550-6079

FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT COVID-19, GO TO GRHC.ORG/HUB OR CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079
**O’otham Distances Near and Far**

Ever wonder why O’otham point with their heads, and lips? For that possibility, we will have to take a giant leap backward in time, before modern conveniences. Imagine mom sitting under the va’ho weaving her basket. She instructed her daughter to bring more cattail for her weaving. “Him ko ‘e bëkai heg uduv vuds, thołams amai.” (Go bring another bundle of cattail and set it down there.) As she instructed her daughter, she did not want to release tension from her hands in weaving the basket to point, so she had used her head and lips to point. She must likely held a splint of devil’s claw in her mouth, in preparation for the next stitch. If we examine the distance more closely, we see that she said “amai” (there) away from her. If she wanted the bundle of cattail close to her would have said “cy’ó” (close by). So, now we read that “cy’ó” means (close by) and “amai” means (there), away from an O’otham at a distance. Another form of close is “mía” (near, next to). If mom had wanted the bundle of cattail right next to her, she would have instructed her daughter “Pt’o tawihibth thaiwah.” (Set it down next to me.)

These are three examples of (there, close by and next to) and can still be spoken today. Now, we will come back forward to our present time. Did you ever have to “dispatch” an intrusive ‘critter’ in your house? Back in the day, when we lived in our sandwich style homes, it was not uncommon to find certain ‘critters’ inside our home. After we had dispatched a large scorpion, we were instructed by mom, “M gu bu hehi nakshel koli thap!” (Take the scorpion over there to the fence!). We read that “gu hú” means (at a greater distance) away from a place. In that case “gu hú” was the distance from the house to the fence, which was about fifty-yards.

Another time, a ko’i (rattlesnake) had crawled behind our fireplace box. Once again, we had dispatched ko’i, before we removed the crracuss from the house. Grandma had instructed us, “Gam g hú ‘ia’wá ko’i shai thap!” (Throw away the rattler way over there into the bushes!) In that case, we had left our yard entirely and took the dispatched ko’i into the desert at a great distance from our house. We read that “gám g hú” means far away. In that instance “gám g hú” meant a quarter-mile walk into the desert.

In this last example of “at a great distance,” one of our cousins had attended boarding school at Sherman near Riverside, California. The grownups often spoke of him and said, Gud hu mamentschamham Wesley, Mondela thap. (Faraway, out of sight, Wesley is attending school in California). We have read about distances that separates an O’otham from objects and persons from near, far, and far away in the distance out of sight. These are only a few examples of distances.

Practice saying these phrases in your everyday lives. Speak with an Elder or Speaker and see what other phrases for distances are possible. Phrases may be slightly different between the villages. The word search will challenge your memory of distances in O’otham.

A special Thank You for the Vah-Ki District Elders for sharing their knowledge of O’otham Neo’ok which made this article possible.

**Answers to puzzle can be found on page 6.**

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**AOPPYC Workshops Sharpen Talent and Community Knowledge for Youth**

**Kyle Knox**
Gila River Indian News

The AOPPYC will host a series of workshops on various topics with Community youth, such as the one pictured above with District 7 artist Paul Molina. Screenshot by Kyle Knox/GRIN

Preston recruited local Community artisans to facilitate the workshops to help youth learn how each facilitator found success with their craft or area of expertise. For this series, the workshop topics include clay pottery making, painting, necklace binding, social media branding, training, yarn weaving, and concluding with a “Close Up” workshop. Each youth who participate will receive an “art kit” before the workshop. The kits consist of all the materials necessary to create the topic of the workshop, including clay, paint, paintbrushes, yarn, and beads.

Clarice Johnson attended the first workshops last year and is attending more this year. “I had previously joined the beading workshop last year, and it changed my life,” said Johnson. “After the workshop, I got more

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**The AOPPYC will host a series of workshops on various topics with Community youth, such as the one pictured above with District 7 artist Paul Molina. Screenshot by Kyle Knox/GRIN.**

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**O’otham Distances match the phrases with their picture!**

1. ‘va.kl!, thaiwah i:ya!
2. Viappoi gam g hú haichu ñeidakuñ hekaj.
3. Vachvi heg ‘e shoiga mia vakonakud!
4. Haui am oimè g m hú thoar’ag thap.
5. Sap ha thoar’in heg huas’a amai gegoshakud tha:m.
6. Manth ‘o me: gam g hú nolavthakud wui.

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**Distances in O’otham, match the phrases with their picture!**

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**Huhugam Heritage Center**
Gila River Indian News

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**Parents, guardians, and youth interested in signing up for the remaining workshops, can do so by visiting AOPPYC.org or by emailing youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us.**
Residents at Caring House Receive Lifelike Robotic Pets

On March 8, residents at Gila River Health Care’s Caring House Skilled Nursing Facility received some unique gifts from the Gila River Health Care’s Behavioral Health Services and the Caring House’s Recreation Therapy Department staff, who delivered 45 robotic pets to the residents at the Caring House.

The life-like animals were created by Ageless Innovation, a company that has designed “Joy for All Companion Pets” specifically for elder loved ones. The battery-operated pets feature realistic fur, sounds and motions that provide a low maintenance alternative to the real pets, while offering comfort and companionship.

Priscilla Foote, Chief Behavioral Health Officer discussed the affects of robotic pets through studies and research, finding that individuals who had daily interactions with the robotic pet seemed to improve in their mental well-being. “The pets are a way to provide interaction and comfort when people might be feeling isolated or lonely,” said Foote.

With more isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, sales of the pets have increased. GRHC Behavioral Health Services was able to purchase thirty dogs and fifteen cats from Joy for All with grant dollars received from the Gila River Indian Community’s Tobacco Tax and Health Care Fund.

“A resident of the Caring House poses with the robotic pets, that are meant to improve the mental health and wellness of elders. Photo courtesy Paul Molina/GRHC

National Vietnam Veterans Day

March 29, 2021

WELCOME HOME

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home more than 40 years ago.

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The staff of the Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) of Gila River Indian Community would like to say “Welcome Home” to those men and women that served in our military during the Vietnam War Era.

Let us remember those military heroes of this community that gave the ultimate sacrifice during that war and those that returned home to their families but leaving us later in life. Remember and Honor!

The Veteran & Family Services Office is committed to assist the Veterans of Gila River Indian Community, their Families and Beneficiaries by providing information and assistance in securing their entitled benefits as provided for by the Gila River Indian Community, the State and Federal Laws.

Veteran & Family Services Office
291 W. Casa Blanca Road, Bldg#1
Sacaton, Arizona
520-562-3389

Gila River Indian Community

Voter Registration is OPEN

DEADLINE: March 24, 2021, 5 pm

Contact your District Judge TODAY:

DISTRICT #1 Judge: Victoria Gutierrez, (480) 242-2758
DISTRICT #4 Judge: Sharon Miguel, (520) 610-5078
DISTRICT #5 Judge: Verna Sunna, (480) 797-1831
DISTRICT #6 Judge: Lovina Almson, (480) 484-5184

For the Gila River Indian Community

2021 Community Council Election, May 4, 2021
In Districts 1, 4, 5 & 6

Tribal Elections Office
520-562-2855

Open Positions

Part-Time Positions:
- Computer Lab Specialist
- Discovery Lab Specialist
- Games Room Specialist

Full-Time Positions:
- Program Director
- Health & Physical Education Director

We are looking for future teammates that enjoy working with youth & teens, excited to share their skills and talents, able to work as a team and work to accomplish our team goals!

For more information call us at: (520) 562-3890 / Email sayet.antonette@groc.og
Alluvion Provides Technical Support & Training for GRIC Elders

Alluvion Communications is developing training materials for GRIC elders who are using Amazon Fire 7 tablets and WebEx to host virtual meetings. Tune in to GRBTC TV to view our training videos or visit www.alluvion.net/GRIC to view videos on demand.

Our network operations center has created a dedicated support line to assist elders with their tablet and WebEx needs.

Call us at (520) 796-4784

Alluvion Expanding Fiber Network into Casa Grande, AZ

Alluvion is expanding our fiber network into Casa Grande to address the city’s growing need for fast and reliable enterprise internet service. Read more about the project on our blog!

www.alluvion.net/blog
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • March 3, 2021

ACTION SHEET
Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; 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, March 3, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:01 a.m.

INVOcation
Provided by Councilman James De La Rosa

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; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr.; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent: D4-Vacant D5-Thomas White

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
1. Introduction-Elizabeth Bohnee, Finance Director

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller and Elizabeth Bohnee MS. BOHNEE INTRODUCED HERSELF AND PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER EDUCATION AND WORK HISTORY. GOVERNOR LEWIS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WELCOMED MS. BOHNEE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

2. Introduction-Laurie Thomas Department of Community Services

Presenters: Suzanne Jones and Laurie Thomas MS. LAURIE THOMAS PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER WORK HISTORY. GOVERNOR LEWIS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MS. THOMAS ON HER NEW POSITION

REPORTS
*1. Blackwater Community School GRIC Construction Grant Report: Quarter 1 Presenters: Jagdish Sharma and Wendell Joe ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services First Quarter Report Presenter: Diana Lopez Jones and Jeffrey Thomas ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA


4. COVID-19 Update

5. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation 1st Quarter Report for School Year 2020-2021 Presenter: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA


7. CY 2020 Office of the General Counsel Annual Report (Executive Session) Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy, Ronald Rosier, Javier Ramos, Sunshine Whitehair, Rebecca Hall, Casaudrina Wallace

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
8. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council January 2021 (Executive Session) Presenter: Melvin S. Sanderson and Gaming Commission Board

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTIONS
*1. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement For Aging Services And Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity For The Limited Purpose Of Arbitration And Enforcement Of Any Arbitration Award Between The State Of Arizona, Acting By And Through Its Department Of Economic Security And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Community Services Department (G&MSC forwards to Council under Resolution with the additional information and a memorandum to be provided; H&SSC concurs in addition to the correction to the title)

Presenter: Laurie Thomas APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Elm Tree Advisors V, LLC For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller APPROVED

>3. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Social Services Department To Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Office For Victims Of Crime Fiscal Year 2020 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)

Presenter: Trina Hart ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The Agreement Of October 1, 2020 Between The Gila River Indian Community And Lippes Mathias Wexler & Friedman, LLP (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Javier Ramos and Will Antone III ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Regional Fire And Rescue, Inc. Of Pinal County For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Coolidge And Gila River Indian Community For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The City Of Phoenix For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda) Presenter: Kathy Garcia DISPENSED

>8. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Authorizes Reverend Steve Cartwright Of The Siloam Indian Baptist Church To Reside On The Siloam Indian Baptist Church Grounds Within The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Steve Cartwright ITEM APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
1. Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacation (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presenter: Community Council MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY AND ADVERTISE THE POSITION

>2. Gila River Farms FY21 1st Quarter Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Stephanie Sauceda-Manuel TABLED AT THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Report Gila River Farms (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Stephanie Sauceda-Manuel TABLED AT THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Governor’s 6th Annual Education Summit (ESC forwards to Council under New Business as FY1 and for placement on the consent agenda)
**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**PROPOSED REVISION TO TITLE 19 OF THE GRIC CODE ADOPTING 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODES**

The Legislative Standing Committee (“LSC”) will be considering the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code adopting the 2018 Editions of the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Residential Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the Energy Conservation Code, the Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities, the Green Building Code, and the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code at their regular meeting on April 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. A copy of the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code in its entirety is available for review at the Community Council Secretary’s Office or by contacting Casandra Wallace, Senior Assistant General Counsel, at casandra.wallace@gric.nsn.us.

If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code, please attend the scheduled LSC meeting, your Council representative or the LSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720, or provide written comments by email to Casandra Wallace at casandra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casandra Wallace.

Reflection on Years of Service to the Community and Thank You to Officer Uribe

On behalf of Phoenix Rising FC, Arizona’s top professional soccer franchise, thank you for allowing us to come into your community and build a stadium at your home on the Gila River Indian Community. Established in 2016, Phoenix Rising plays in the USL Championship, the largest Division 2 pro soccer league in the world.

Prior to the first day of training at the new stadium the front office employees, coaches and players gathered at Rawhide to learn more about the Gila River Indian Community, its history of peace and hospitality and the water rights your people fought to win back. The entire team is excited to join with such warriors! Phoenix Rising looks forward to growing together in the future while honoring your rich history. The team hopes to earn your support through victories on the field and by supporting your community off the pitch.

One of the team’s favorite aspects of learning the history of your people was the original name you gave to South Mountain - Greasy Mountain. Our club often works with charity organizations to plant trees in the community and support the underprivileged through the design and sale of custom Phoenix Rising t-shirts. Sales from these shirts go to benefit our charities and community organizations.

Phoenix Rising would love to take a stab at creating a “Greasy Mountain” t-shirt, with proceeds benefiting the Gila River Indian Community organization. This project would serve as the first in a long line of successful partnerships between Phoenix Rising and the Gila River Indian Community.

The first match of our 2021 season is scheduled to coincide with the completion of our stadium, on or around Saturday, May 1. If you would like to learn more about the club, please call 623-594-9606 or visit PHXRisingFC.com. Rising is also on Facebook (PHXRisingFC), Twitter (@PHXRisingFC), Instagram (@PHXRising) and YouTube.

A Message From Phoenix Rising

On behalf of Phoenix Rising FC, Arizona’s top professional soccer franchise, thank you for allowing us to come into your community and build a stadium at your home on the Gila River Indian Community.

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For the first time since President Biden took office, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) held a Tribal consultation session on March 10. The session – part of a week of consultations with Tribal communities around the country – gave Native communities an opportunity to share their unique needs with the DOI.

“What we are trying to do is make sure that all agencies at the Department of Interior such as National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and other agencies at DOI are also in these sessions hearing directly from tribal leaders,” said Brian Newland, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, who leads the consultations.

These consultations were a directive set forth by President Biden per an Executive Memo on Jan. 26. President Biden’s memo states: “It is a priority of my Administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.”

According to the memorandum it said, “American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations are sovereign governments recognized under the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions.”

Newland acknowledged the work of the Community and said, “I really look forward to being a part of this process with Gila River, and all tribes, whether it is providing economic relief, vaccinations, getting kids back to school.” He expressed his gratitude for the leadership of Governor Stephen Roe Lewis for helping to bring out the best in people during this difficult time.

When the consultation is complete, the data will provide an extensive report for the federal government and its agencies. In the future tribal input from the consultations will be considered in future policy and decision-making. The final report and its findings will be submitted to President Biden and shared publicly beginning in April.
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