Arizona Governor Doug Ducey Signs Historic Gaming Compact

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis took part in the historic Tribal-State Gaming Compact Amendment signing with Arizona tribal leaders and Gov. Doug Ducey at the Heard Museum in Phoenix on April 15. The amended compacts modernize gaming for the 21st Century and will expand the number of gaming devices and allow for new casinos.

The Gila River Indian Community has unveiled a new way to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to Community members. In a series of opportunities to reach Community members, the GRIC COVID-19 task force held a vaccination clinic at the Rawhide Event Center at Wild Horse Pass on April 26.

The event also offered Community members and partners on the COVID-19 vaccine initiatives, an opportunity to see the unveiling of the new Mobile Vaccination Unit. Referred to as an MVU, these vehicles have been outfitted to provide vaccinations across the Community at various locations.

“I am excited to share the Community’s latest resource in our fight against COVID-19,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. He said the MVUs are part of the Community’s efforts to get vaccinations to GRIC members who have not been able to attend previous vaccination events.

“We now have a resource that can bring the vaccine to your household and local districts,” said Lewis. “These MVUs represent our Community, our ability to seek and commitment the Community’s governor demonstrated during negotiations. “You have been invaluable to the process and invaluable as a partner,” said Ducey.

Gov. Lewis called the compact signing a “momentous occasion,” and like Ducey said that all the stakeholders will benefit from the agreement. “I’m filled with gratitude and appreciation,” said Gov. Lewis in his remarks.

Gov. Lewis recalled the early negotiation process between the state and the tribes and the doubts among stakeholders, which made the signing event more meaningful. “It’s taken years to bring full-circle,” said Gov. Lewis of the compact amendments. “Thank you for your leadership and all my fellow tribal leaders here.”

National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. was also on hand to witness the signing and show support to the tribes in Arizona.

“The big is a good day to move Indian Country forward and move Arizona forward,” said Stevens.

New Mobile Vaccine Units Begin Rolling Out into the Community

“We now have a resource that can bring the vaccine to your household and local districts” - Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

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**COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY**

### MAY 2021 SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION:</th>
<th>TIME:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>D3 Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
<td>9 am – 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>D3 Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
<td>9 am – 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>D2 Service Center</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Mobile Vaccine Unit</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Mobile Vaccine Unit</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Rawhide Vaccine Event</td>
<td>12 am – 8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>D3 Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
<td>9 am – 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>D3 Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
<td>9 am – 4 pm</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>D4 Service Center</td>
<td>9 am – 3 pm</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>D6 Service Center</td>
<td>9 am – 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>D7 Service Center</td>
<td>9 am – 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>Mobile Vaccine Unit</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
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**CONGRATULATIONS! The Caring House receives a five-star Long Stay Quality Measure rating from CMS.**

The Caring House underwent a recent audit by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Quality Control Measures in both long stay (more than 100 days) and short stay (less than 100 days) residencies.

In the long-stay category, officials reviewed various data, including the percentage of residents experiencing one more injury falls and the rate of high-risk residents with pressure sores. For the short stay category, officials looked at the percentage of residents with pressure injuries and those who improved during their stay. The Caring House scored five stars in the long-stay category (which includes most residents) and three stars in the short-stay category. The average rating for The Caring House rose from 2020, going from three stars to four.

**MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURE**

Gila River Health Care’s Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021

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

**THE HUB**

COVID+FLU Resource Center

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**Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449**
Phoenix Rising FC Plays First Game in the Community

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Rising Football Club made their debut at their new stadium at Wild Horse Pass on Friday, April 30. Phoenix Rising officially kicked off their 2021 season with a 4-1 victory against the San Diego Loyal SC to a roaring crowd of fans and supporters Friday evening.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was present for the opening ceremony before the match began. “Phoenix Rising, welcome to the Gila River Indian Community for your first game. It is truly an honor to host the Phoenix Rising organization. We are so fortunate to be the host of some of the top athletes in the spirit and discipline of soccer,” said Lewis.

As part of the ceremony, Gov. Lewis also opened the season by scoring the “first goal” in the new stadium. Local American Legion

GRIC Youth Hosts Virtual Presentation with Former Miss Indian World

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Former Miss Indian World (MIW) 2019-2021 Cheyenne “Eete” Kippenberger shared her extraordinary life journey during a presentation for youth hosted by the Akimel O’otham/Pee-Posh Youth Council on Sunday, May 2.

Cheyenne Kippenberger is from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She served as Miss Indian World for two years, a first for a Florida. She served as Miss Indian World for two years, a first for a Seminole woman.

Kippenberger’s presentation recounted her struggles with her mental health growing up while overcoming numerous challenges in pursuing her dreams. The presentation provided youth a chance to dialogue as a group with Kippenberger about her experiences. Kippenberger also shared how she was able to persevere through therapy and counseling in order for her to find balance and continue to build upon her success.

“I think mental health is extremely important to the general health of all of our communities, and I think we should normalize the conversations about it and destigmatize the negative connotations about mental health,” said Kippenberger.

Kippenberger said the event was “really awesome” as everyone could still connect as if it were an in-person event despite being held over Zoom. Furthermore, she feels it is a win when everyone in the presentation participates and learns something new. Part of Kippenberger’s presentation also highlighted “generational trauma” found among tribal communities that can continue with our youth without knowing it.

AOPPC President Susanna Osife found many takeaways from the presentation and enjoyed everything that Kippenberger shared. “As a youth, it is one thing to be told how to get better, but it is another thing to go through that experience and not know which road to take.”

Osife found many takeaways from the presentation and enjoyed everything that Kippenberger shared. “As a youth, it is one thing to be told how to get better, but it is another thing to go through that experience and not know which road to take. And hearing others share their own story of ups and downs, we learn that this is something that every single person goes through,” said Osife.

Jada Young enjoyed the presentation and said, “I feel presentations are crucial for native youth because even some teenagers and even kids might feel like they are the only ones dealing with these problems. And no one should have to be in this deep dark hole wondering what is wrong with them and having no one to help them.”

Closing out the presentation, Kippenberger encouraged all the youth and said, “You all have the power to change your community, you don’t have to be MIW, part of the government, some prominent figure, just being a Community member using language, culture, art for example, and I encourage everyone to explore that idea.”
GRIC Youth Sets Sights on University Life Across the Country

Currently Ranked No. 1 in the Arizona Amateur Heavyweight Division

March 13 at the Glendale Civic Center to improve his overall record. He says he has achieved an important goal with his current ranking, but he is still focused on his future in combat sports.

“The next step is definitely going to be a bigger step,” said Martinez who discussed the possibility of fighting for a title or taking on the sport professionally, which would also allow him to fight internationally. “It’s hard work for sure but once the Community supports you, that’s really all you need. It’s really humbling to have that support.”

Martinez’s amateur career took a pause with COVID-19. Last year when the pandemic hit, matches were cancelled and training in the gym was no longer an option.

“It was hard, but at the same time it was what I needed,” said Martinez who took his training outdoors, something he had already been familiar with growing up in Casa Blanca.

He has two consecutive wins and doesn’t plan on slowing down. He trains three to four times a week and at least two days a time when preparing for a fight. “I always liked just being active and (there’s) just something about combat sports. It helps me mentally, physically, it’s like therapy for me.”

Martinez currently trains in Mesa with Power MMA. He says he is hoping to fight again this coming August.

Coming off of a March victory, Deran Martinez, an amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter from District 5 in the Gila River Indian Community, is currently ranked No. 1 in the Arizona amateur heavyweight division.

Martinez, who began wrestling in high school, has parlayed his love of MMA into success early in his career. When he trains and steps into the ring, it’s always with his community in mind.

As he puts it, “I started fighting to help give back to my district and family.”

Martinez began training in 2016 and entered his first fight the following year. Martinez now claims the top spot in the regional rankings out of 14 active Arizona Amateur Heavyweights, as ranked by Topology.com.

He also ranks No. 22 among U.S. Southwest Amateur Heavyweights.

Martinez was declared the winner by unanimous decision over contender Mashonte Mailboy on March 13. Courtesy of MMA Statistics.

For one Gila River Indian Community member, caring and being active in extracurricular activities has been a lifelong journey. As the high school year comes to a close, Mary Elias has been looking forward to completing her senior year at McClintock High School in Tempe and starting college across the country.

“Going through the pandemic, it has been a very stressful time,” said Elias, while balancing school, college courses and sports. How Elias managed her last year of high school? “Looking back, I just knew I had to take it one step at a time.” Elias said she will be attending Cornell University located in Ithaca New York, with an emphasis on animal science.

She said caring for animals has always been an interest of hers, starting from an early age, which has influenced her to pursue a career as a veterinarian.

“My family has always rescued animals throughout my whole life. It has really helped me realize how helping animals and treating for them has created a bond with them,” said Elias. Although she is not sure what kind of animals to specialize in, she does envision treating large animals like cattle and horses.

Regarding sports, Elias said she will focus on the hitting the books as opposed to playing a sport at the collegiate level. “I have gotten offers to play basketball at universities, but I wanted to focus on my academics for my college career, because my parents have always encouraged me to try new things and help me develop a sense of what’s available to me,” said Elias.

“She’s done a bit of everything,” said Reuben Elias, Mary’s father. “She’s been playing basketball since the age of four. She has always had an interest in being active and finding interests and pursuing them,” said Reuben.

He said the family has always been active in raising small animals such as dogs, cats and any animal in need of help. “It’s grown from being a little kid working with animals to now wanting to do it as a career,” said Elias.

Reuben said Mary’s older sister Grace is also active in sports and is a junior at UCLA on the rowing team. Although Elias has elected to focus on her academics, she said participation in sports is not totally out of the question and is considering joining a basketball club to maintain her participation in the sport. In her last two years of high school Elias took-up golf, just to see how well she would adapt to a different activity. “It was sorta a ‘last minute’ sport, that took up during my junior year. I wanted to see what playing a new sport would be like and to learn a new skill at the same time,” said Elias.

“Looking forward to university life, Elias said that it is going to be an exciting experience being away in a new place. “I really have to give credit to my parents, for always being there and pushing me to do what interests me,” said Elias.

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Paid Sick Time   • 401K   • Training Provided

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GreatCall is a 24/7 medical alert service available to qualifying Gila River Indian Community members. The GreatCall unit is great for individuals who lead an independent lifestyle, as well as for family or loved ones who would like peace of mind knowing they are a press of a button away from emergency services.

**GreatCall Features Include:**

- **5 Star Service** - Highly trained 5 Star Agents to help you at anytime.
- **GreatCall Link App** - Stay connected with family and caregivers using the app.
- **Urgent Care** - 24/7 access to registered nurses and board certified doctors.
- **Fall Detection** - Automatically calls a 5 Star Agent for help when a fall is detected. It works where you go!

GreatCall is provided by GRTI in partnership with the Tribal Health Department-Injury Prevention Program. View the GreatCall page on the GRTI website for more information or contact the Tribal Health Department at (520) 562-5114.
PHOENIX, Ariz. (April 28, 2021) — In the spirit of “Pay It Forward Day,” Gila River Cares, the philanthropic arm of Gila River Hotels & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte & Vee Quiva, and the Arizona Coyotes Foundation joined forces today to present a $50,000 check to Human Services Campus, Inc. (HSC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness.

Gila River Hotels & Casinos also donated 4,000 towels to assist with daily shower services. “Pay It Forward Day” is a global annual event, hosted by the Arizona Coyotes Foundation, that encourages people to make a difference by creating a huge ripple of kindness felt across the world.

Ken Samuelson, CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass and Xavier Gutierrez, president & CEO of the Arizona Coyotes Foundation presented the check to Amy Schwabender, executive director of Human Services Campus, Inc. The nonprofit owns and operates a 13-acre campus at 12th Avenue and Madison that is home to 21 independent nonprofit organizations providing wrap-around services and resources to people experiencing homelessness.

On any given night, there are an estimated 7,500 individuals experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County, according to the last Point-In-Time (PIT) count in January 2020. Of those, some 3,700 are unsheltered. The last PIT count also reflects a nearly 20% increase in unsheltered individuals from 2019 to 2020 and nearly 800 more people experiencing homelessness year-over-year.

“We are so fortunate to have an agency like Human Services Campus in our community,” said Gila River Hotels & Casinos president & CEO Ken Samuelson. “The work they do to help the homeless and other vulnerable populations is truly remarkable. Our Gila team is aligned with the Arizona Coyotes in supporting these critical community initiatives.”

Gila River Hotels & Casinos and the Arizona Coyotes have been partnering on philanthropic events since 2007.

“We are thrilled to team up with our great partner Gila River Hotels & Casinos to make this significant donation to the Human Services Campus on Pay It Forward Day,” said Coyotes President & CEO Xavier A. Gutierrez. “It’s our responsibility to give back and be a leader in our community and we are proud to be able to make an impact and help so many individuals who are in need.”

HSC Executive Director Amy Schwabender added that the funds will enhance multiple initiatives including, but not limited to, temporary shelter, transitional housing and operational needs to support the 15 on-campus collaborative partners.

“We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity and breadth of these two donations and the overall impact they will have on the individuals experiencing homelessness we serve every day,” she said. “For an individual experiencing homelessness, the simple act of taking a shower is a chance to cleanse, refresh both physically and emotionally, and feel a sense of dignity. Having this massive inventory of clean, fresh towels is a wonderful gift.”

For details about Gila River Hotels & Casinos’ philanthropic arm, Gila River Cares, visit PlayAtGila.com.

For more information about the Arizona Coyotes Foundation, visit https://www.nhl.com/coyotes/community.

To learn about Human Services Campus, or to make a donation, visit www.hsc-az.org.

In Memoriam: Sylvia Porter McCabe

Submitted by: Danita Yocom

Gila River Indian News

May 7, 2021

Page 7
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS**

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • April 21, 2021

**ACTION SHEET**

Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, April 21, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone-Smith

**ROLL CALL**

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone (9:21)

Council Members Present:
D1—Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2—Carrol Schurz; D3—Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4—Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith; D5—James De La Rosa, Marin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Thomas White, D6—Anthony Villanear, Sr., Charles Goldtooth; Terrance Evans; D7—Davin Redbird

Council Members Absent:
D4—Vacant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE**

REPORT #1 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL; ACCEPT AND APPROVE REPORT #3; ACCEPT AND APPROVE Resolutions #2 THROUGH #4 AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #2

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

REPORT #4 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL AND APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

*1. Introduction of Chas Damo—Grant Specialist Presenters: Isaac Salcido; Chas Damo Mr. Salcido introduced Mr. Chas Damo as the new Grant Specialist. Mr. Damo will focus on all tribal education department grants.

REPORTS

1. BGCCRIC 2021 2nd Quarter Report Presenters: Jason Jones; Mark Clavel; Jocelyn Young; Nancy House; Anita Leon; Soyet Antone; Emilio Morondos; Travis Jack; Guru Khalsa

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. COVID-19 Taskforce Update

Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force

REPORT HEARD

3. Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Grant Reporting Process Amendment Presenters: Sienna Whittington; Isaac Salcido

ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Draft Education Code Presenters: Isaac Salcido; Naomi Bebo; Rebecca Hall

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. WHPDA FY2021 Overview Presenters: David White; WHPDA Board; Alex Yazzia, Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado

REPORT HEARD

6. WHPDA First Quarterly Report Presenters: David White; WHPDA Board; Alex Yazzia, Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado

REPORT HEARD

7. GRCUA Report FY21 Q1 Presenters: Pamela Thomas; Leonard Gold

Resolutions

1. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 49 To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Years 2021 Through 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas; Javier Ramos; Suzanne Jones

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Approving An Amendment To Part I, Of The Home Energy Assistance Program To Provide Home Energy Assistance For Eligible Community Members Residing Outside The Community Temporarily And Receiving Temporary Rental Assistance (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: roller Thomas; Javier Ramos; Suzanne Jones

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directed The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-197-20 And Approving Waiver Of Compensation And Right-Of-Way Application For A Perpetual Right Of Way To Facilitate Extension Of Sundust Road At Lone Butte Development Park (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and EDSC concur)

Presenters: Christina Warque; Esther Manuel

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

*1. Vaccine Trackers for Tribal Education Department Programs and Community Schools (ESC forwards to Council under New Business as FYI)

Presenter: Isaac Salcido

ITEM HEARD

>2. Gila River Farms 2nd Quarter Tribal Budget Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Detea Shirley

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Gila River Farms Olive Oil Name Request (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Stephanie Sauceda-Manuel

APPROVED

4. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Occupancy Plan (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with additional material)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel; GRCG Executive Team; Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

APPROVED

5. Title 1.105 Special Duties of The Chief Judge (Executive Session) (LSC forwards to Council for discussion and action)

Presenters: Legislative Standing Committee

ITEM HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND CHIEF JUDGE-PENDING OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATION

6. WHPDA Reporting Process Amendment (EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for WHPDA to report to EDSC monthly)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR WHPDA TO REPORT MONTHLY

7. Phoenix Rising Preliminary Planning Information (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business)

Presenters: David White; Mark Grado

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~SERVICES FOR MS. SYLVIA MCCABE MAY 8, 2021 9 AM TO 12 PM

~PRAYERS FOR FORMER COUNCILMAN LAWRENCE WHITE

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:04 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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**Arizona Organization Congratulates Big Brother & Mentor to Community Youth**

Press Release

Big Brother Big Sisters Arizona

On Friday April 9, 2021 Big Brother Mentor/Officer James Milano was recognized as the Site Based Big of the Year at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona’s Big Night Out Event in Phoenix. The program was attended by many, both online and in-person, and honored the impact of mentorship and the unlimited possibilities it can create for the youth in our community. Officer Milano has been a volunteer Big Brother in the Gila River Site based mentoring program at the Sacaton Boys & Girls Club for over 3 years and currently mentors two Little Brother Mentees from the Gila River community. Milano was recognized for his consistent positive influence with his Little and efforts to help promote the program within the Gila River Police Department and community at large. The Gila River Police Department, Sacaton Boys & Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona congratulate Big Brother Mentor/Officer James Milano on being selected as this year’s Site Based Big of the Year!

Right: Big Brother Big Sisters Arizona CEO Lauren Capello (far left) and Board Chair Stacey Smith, presented GBBF Officer James Milano (center) with the “Site Based Big of the Year” award. Photo courtesy of BBBSAZ
Tribal Court Summons

Karla Memorial Hearing: It’s time to say thank you for this opportunity, for knowing you has been a true pleasure. I would like to give you a few words to express my gratitude. You have been a great help and support to me and my family. I am grateful for your presence here and for your kind words.

If you fail to appear as an interested party as ordered by this Court, YOU MAY REQUEST TO APPEAR BY PHONE. PLEASE CALL ONE HOUR BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED DATE AND TIME. (520)952-8880. Answer/Re-Scheduling Hearing Date: J U LY 7, 2021 TIME: 11:00 AM AKI MEL O’D THAM LODITHA KUD XI KI KU 721 West Seed Farm Road Sacaton, AZ 85147

Submissions

Kam Memorial Hearing: It’s time to say thank you for this opportunity. I want to express my gratitude for being a part of your life. Your presence here has been a true blessing. You have been a great help and support to me and my family. I am grateful for your presence here and for your kind words.

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YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated by this Order.

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated by this Order.

In Memoriam: Rod McAfee

Rod McAfee was Akimel O’odham, a proud member of the Gila River Indian Community, an agriculturally rich and geographically diverse region, which was the first Indian reservation created in Arizona. He was born on the summer solstice in 1951 in Phoenix, Arizona, the youngest of five children born to Johnson McAfee and Sara Patton. Johnson was a printer who became tribal government treasurer and later tribal judge. Sara’s father owned a general store in Sacaton. As a child, Rod loved spending time with his grandfather, Mason McAfee, and other traditional elders who taught him the O’odham dances and culture. His workaholic father asked him what he wanted to do when he grew up. Rod’s treatment and recovery from alcoholism led him into an entirely different path.

Rod was a natural quiet man, and he was a leader, a helper for the Pilot Rock Sundance. He travelled around the US, Mexico, and the world, teaching people to Go Beyond their limits. Rod was naturally a quiet man, and he was a leader, a helper for the Pilot Rock Sundance. He travelled around the US, Mexico, and the world, teaching people to Go Beyond their limits. Rod was naturally a quiet man, and he was a leader, a helper for the Pilot Rock Sundance. He travelled around the US, Mexico, and the world, teaching people to Go Beyond their limits.
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When you play with Gila River Hotels & Casinos, you play for good, something that many players may not realize.

Funds generated from Gila River Hotels & Casinos not only have a positive social and economic impact on the Gila River Indian Community, but also the state of Arizona. Under the Arizona Tribal-State Gaming compacts, 12% of the tribe’s contribution to the state has been invested back into Arizona to improve education, healthcare, conservation and the economy of local communities throughout the state.

This month we’re highlighting Ryan House, a local 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on respite care, palliative care, life-enhancing therapeutic activities, end-of-life care, and bereavement care to families. Now in its 10th year, this wonderful nonprofit provides a welcoming, home-like environment where families navigate life-limiting or end-of-life journeys. Parents get a much-needed break, while children receive care from a world-class caregiving team. At a highly sensitive time, Ryan House provides a rare opportunity to focus on being a family and living life to the fullest.

The 12,500-square-foot home is equipped with accessible facilities that provide an escape from the realities visiting families face, including a backyard memorial garden, creative therapy rooms, eight themed rooms for the children and teens that stay at Ryan House, as well as three family suites, handicap accessible bathrooms and a non-denominational sanctuary. Since opening its doors in 2010, Ryan House remains the only free-standing facility of its kind in Arizona and one of just three in the country.

Ryan House is instrumental in supporting families through their child’s end-of-life journey and the grant from Gila River helped enhance these efforts, providing care and support to families facing these difficult times. Part of end-of-life care includes the Treasured Memories bereavement box that celebrates the life and love of a child. Most often they contain fingerprints, hand molds and other keepsakes for families to remember their child by and provide a small comfort to struggling and grieving families. End-of-life care also includes grief support as families navigate life after their child has passed.

This support provides a breath, a short rest and the courage to move forward.

At Gila River Hotels & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva, we’re proud to support Ryan House, and we thank our players for helping us contribute to this worthy nonprofit organization.

For more information on organizations our Play for Good initiative supports, check out our blog at playatgila.com/corporate-giving.