Today’s stop shows that the Biden/Harris administration wants to partner with tribes as we tackle the critical

Legacy of Trailblazing Gila River Indian Community Attorney
Rodney B. Lewis Remembered at Water Conference

“His objective to move forward and meet the many obstacles he faced is what made him a leading force in the

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Annual Water Research Review Center conference this year featured a tribute to the decades-long legacy of Rodney B. Lewis, a forerunner in the Gila River Indian Community’s fight for water rights. The University of Arizona hosted this year’s WRRC conference virtually, providing a slew of guest speakers and water experts over three days from Aug. 30 to Sept. 1.

The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“We are happy to be a part of this wonderful gathering of water policy experts, tribal leaders and scientists, all who have a common interest in the preservation and sustainability of water resources,” said Megdal. “The focus of this conference is about building a resilient future. Hence the theme of this year’s WRRC conference on ‘Tribal Resilience in a Changing Environment.’”

Megdal’s remarks were followed by a special presentation honoring the career of Lewis, a Community member and an attorney who specialized in tribal law and water rights.

“We are so honored to have the family of Mr. Lewis to share their experiences about his tireless work to champion for the Gila River Indian Community’s water rights and other tribes,” said Megdal.

John R. Lewis, former Director for the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona and Rodney Lewis’ brother, spoke about his brother’s upbringing and the cultural influences that drove Lewis to take up the practice of law. He explained that growing up in the Community, in an agricultural setting, there was an understanding of how important water was to the people.

“Rodney had the connections to the land, knowledge of the people and the need for water in the Community,” said Lewis. “His objective to move forward and meet the many obstacles he faced is what made him a leading force in the fight for the Community’s water rights.”

More on Page 3

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The Democratic National Committee’s Build Back Better Tour stopped in GRIC on Thursday, Aug 26, at the new Casa Blanca Community School, District 5. DNC Chair Jaime Harrison, Arizona Democratic Party Chair Raquel Terán, and GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis provided remarks for a small gathering of constituents and GRIC leadership.

The DNC Build Back Better Bus is trekking across the country and making stops in 10 battleground states. Its only stop in Indian Country was here in the Community. The purpose of the tour is to highlight the Biden Administration’s accomplishments and build support for the coming 2022 midterm elections.

“Today’s stop shows that the Biden/Harris administration wants to partner with tribes as we tackle the critical issues that face us now,” said Gov. Lewis. “It’s also an important acknowledgment that tribal nations are part of the solution as we look to move through the pandemic and rebuild our communities.”

Acknowledging the ongoing infrastructure needs faced by Indian Country, Lewis praised the Biden administration’s support for tribes and Native peoples. He said he looks forward to developing additional policies meant to ensure long-term health and economic wellness for tribal communities through increased resources and infrastructure.

During his remarks, Harrison praised the Democrats for advancing President Biden’s Build Back Better plan, including a multi-trillion-dollar bipartisan infrastructure bill. He also highlighted President Biden’s COVID relief bill earlier this year, which helped fund the Community’s new fleet of Mobile Vaccination Units.

“Let me be clear, we the Democrats have been able to deliver for the American people,” Harrison said. “I had an amazing experience here at Casa Blanca Community School with Gov. Lewis and so many officials from this community to talk about the American Rescue plan and Build Back Better effort, and I look forward to visiting again.”

THE GRIN
VOL. 24, NO. 17
GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS | WWW.GRICNEWS.ORG
SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

A file photo of Rodney B. Lewis delivering an acceptance speech, after receiving the Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award by the Phoenix Indian Center in 2015. Photo Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

DNC “Build Back Better” Tour Makes a Stop in GRIC

“Today’s stop shows that the Biden/Harris administration wants to partner with tribes as we tackle the critical

Members from the DNC and Arizona Democratic Party met with Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antonie and District 5 Council Representative Walcin Riggs to give the special guest a tour of the new Casa Blanca Community School on Aug. 26. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.

“The theme of this year’s event, “Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment,” delved into the state of water practices amid an ongoing drought. The Director for WRRC at U of A, Sharon Megdal, started the conference by acknowledging the land of the Tohono O’odham, the site of both the center and the school, and by acknowledging the many contributors who made the virtual event possible.
Gila River Indian Community

Mobile Vaccine Unit

**Saturday, September 11**
9:00A.M. - 12:00PM
**District 1 - Service Center**
15747 N. Shegoi Rd,
Coolidge, AZ 85128

**Saturday, September 18**
9:00A.M. - 12:00PM
**District 5 - Service Center**
3456 W. Casa Blanca Rd.
Bapchule, AZ 85121

**Saturday, September 25**
9:00A.M. - 12:00PM
**District 4 - Service Center**
Santan Rd, Sacaton,
AZ 85147

Vaccines will be available for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd doses for those who are eligible. If you attended the August 21 event, you are now eligible for your second dose.

**ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:**
GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, all federally recognized tribal members, GRIC essential employees and their household members, and community enterprise employees and their household members.

All individuals must be 12 years or older. Parent or guardian consent is required.
From front page

John B. Lewis, Rodney's son, said his father would have been proud of the event. John focused on the mentorship his father impressed upon, with those who were around him within the tribal water rights arena.

There was an informal mentorship my dad built around those who were involved in the fight for tribal water rights," said John. He said his father’s foresight into the future of water rights for tribes has left a lasting impact on the next generation of Native attorneys, scientists and others in the push for water rights and preservation.

John said tribal communities should invest in their members, whether it is on attorneys, scientist or other field of study. He said a similar parallel had been drawn by his father, who the Community placed its support behind to represent the people during the decades-long litigation in the federal courts.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis related the theme of the conference – resiliency – to the pandemic that has impacted the Community for more than 18 months. Gov. Lewis, also Rodney’s son, said his father understood the importance of resiliency in protecting the Community’s water rights and how that responsibility is passed on to the next generation of GRIC members.

"This was not an overnight settlement," said Gov. Lewis. "My father knew the next chapter is ongoing and believed in the idea of ‘eternal vigilance’ as caretakers and stewards of the water.”

Katherine Lewis, Lewis’ daughter, shared how her father’s work in water protection continued after the Community’s monumental water settlement.

"After the water settlement over, you think he would take a break. But he kept working for the Community and other tribes over water protection," said Katherine. She said the water settlement brought resiliency to the Community, after decades of being without water, an absence that had detrimental effects on people young and old. “Our community has been dealing with so much for so many years,” said Katherine, “but with the opening of locations like the Managed Aquifer Research 5 site, you see how resilient the land can be like the people.”

Katherine Lewis, who is on the Gila River Healthcare Corporation board of directors, said the MAR 5 site is a place of healing, especially for the clients of the Behavioral Health Department. “This has brought the Community full circle, to incorporate the history of our connection to the water in a very positive way, that speaks to how resilient our people can be,” said Katherine. “When you go out there, you think of your own family history and how this came to be and having a place we can tie back to in our own way.”

To conclude the panel discussion, a poem written by Willandene Lewis, Rodney’s wife, was read by their granddaughter, Sarah Camille Chiago. The poem alluded to Lewis’s strong connection to the river and how he and all Community members share a tie to Keli Aki’emel, the “Old Man River.”

Megdal announced the creation of the Rodney Blaine Lewis Scholarship Award to honor his lasting legacy. The scholarship will support graduate students from Arizona tribes who are studying in programs on water law, policy or a related field.

GRIC Education Department Hosts Virtual Teacher In-Service Day Ahead of School Year

Emma Hughes

The Gila River Indian Community’s Tribal Education Department annual Teacher In-Service event was aired live by the Gila River Broadcast Corp. and on social media on Friday, Aug. 14.

The annual event brings together staff and educators for a day to reflect and prepare for the new school year. This year’s event was virtual due to the pandemic.

Anthony Gray, TED Culture Coordinator, began the program with words of encouragement. Gray introduced videos submitted by the Community’s schools with greetings from staff and tours around the school campuses.

During the event, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis announced that effective Aug. 16, schools in the Community would resume virtual learning due to “an alarming rate of COVID-19 infections among school-aged children, for whom no COVID vaccine has been made available.”

"We have to keep our children safe," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone in regards to the new Executive Order. Lt. Gov. Antone recognized the teachers and staff for their continuous diligence during these unprecedented times, saying “your dedication does not go unnoticed.”

Gov. Lewis also acknowledged school employees’ hard work and dedication. “Our teachers will always be one of our greatest resources,” he said. “There is no greater resource than our children and there is no greater influence outside the home than a teacher.”

The Community’s increased focus and investment on education has begun to pay dividends, with greater resources available for teachers and students. The Higher Education Scholarship Program produced scholarships to more than 200 students for the 2021 academic school year. The program produced 84 graduates, including vocational certificates, diplomas, associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees.

New state of the art school campuses have been constructed for Blackwater Community School and Casa Blanca Community School. The school buildings integrate traditional values through education, language and art while providing the latest technology and innovative spaces for children to learn.

“During this year we realized the importance of inspiring students,” said Isaac Salcido, TED Director, who called the Community’s schools a source of inspiration, hope, kindness, understanding and greater
2022 is Approaching Fast!
Ensure your directory listing is updated for the upcoming 2022 Phone Directory!

An update may be needed if:

There is a change to the account holder

or

If you would like your phone number to be listed or unlisted

Deadline for changes

Nov. 1

Questions?
Contact our Customer Service Team
at (520) 796-3333
The Community staged another Mobile Vaccination Unit event on Saturday, Aug 28, at the District 5 Service Center, administering the newly FDA-approved Pfizer vaccine shots. In total, 44 vaccinations were administered, a drastic increase from the month prior, which saw fewer than 10 people come to be vaccinated. The majority of the vaccines given at the Saturday event went to young people.

“In the Community, we’re seeing a high increase in cases … between ages of zero to 19 years of age,” said GRIC Tribal Health Director Candelarian Preston. “That’s huge.”

Preston emphasized that vaccinations provide the best layer of protection for the Community. “I’m so happy to see the amount of people here today to protect themselves, their children, relatives, and all of us as a Community,” she said. “This is truly how we’re going to get out of this pandemic.”

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis attended the event and highlighted the recent approval of the Pfizer vaccine by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Governor called the approval further assurance of the vaccine’s safety and effectiveness for anyone considering the vaccine.

The Governor called the approval further assurance of the vaccine’s safety and effectiveness for anyone considering the vaccine.

Annie Jackson shows off her bandage after receiving her first vaccination at the District 5 MVU event on Aug. 28. Kyle Knox/GRIN

The Community’s planning for a booster vaccine program. Pending further research and development, he said a third booster shot may be on the horizon for everyone already fully vaccinated.

Throughout the morning, a steady stream of families arrived, with attendees coming until the event closed. While some received a second shot after initially being vaccinated last month, the majority were there for their first shot. In addition, numerous school-aged youth received their first dose, citing Pfizer’s FDA approval and in-person schooling as a driving factor.

“I wanted to get the vaccine and was nervous and excited,” said Annie Jackson, who recently turned 12 and became eligible for a vaccine. Jackson, who attends in-person school, said she feels safer and looks forward to being around friends and family. She also stressed to her peers that getting vaccinated is not as scary as you may think and encouraged everyone to get a vaccination.

Annie Jackson’s mother, Iris, also brought her son for his vaccination. With both her children attending school outside the Community, she called the vaccine a source of comfort. “The vaccinations provide a little bit of reassurance that you’re a little safer than without it.” Similar feelings about the vaccine were shared at the District 1 GRIC MVU on Aug. 21 event among parents, who brought their kids to the get vaccinated. “At first [they] were a little apprehensive. My oldest daughter has gotten vaccinated on the last event,” said Andreena Duran from District 1, who brought her two daughters to the MVU event.

She said, “I gave them the option on whether they want to get vaccinated, even though I have already gotten it. I am very proud of them for making their own decision, because it teaches them responsibility.”

With the start of school just around the corner, home, but Marrietta did as well, stating, “Who knew this little rez dog would bring so much joy to my life.”

The Community’s National Dog Day effort to encourage adoptions also included a video posted on GRIC social media outlets. The video highlights the Animal Control programs and facilities located in District 5.

“We have been trying to increase the number of our adoptions, but due to COVID, we didn’t allow people to come in, and that’s one thing that slowed down adoptions,” said Yvonne Flores, GRIC Animal Control Supervisor. “I think the facility is open by appointment only to provide services such as the spay-neuter and vaccination programs. Additionally, Animal Control is back to field operations, including owner turn-ins, bite investigations, and stray dog roundups.

As part of the adoption process, Flores shared that a small fee of 20 dollars is collected to help fund the dog’s license, vaccinations, and spay/neuter service. In addition, Community members can call the office to get an inventory of available dogs or schedule a time to view the dogs.

“If you’ve ever wanted the chance to have a lifetime fur friend, adopting from the Community service center staff, who provided incentives for Community members, who came out to get vaccinated. The District 1 staff gave out Amazon Fire tablets to individuals, who received their booster shot (second vaccination shot). The Amazon Fire tablets are available to all Community members, who signed-up with District 1 service center staff upon receiving their first shot at any one of the District 1 MVU events. MVUs and vaccination clinics throughout the Community are becoming increasingly available for everyone each month. These continued efforts will help increase the Community vaccination rate and slow the spread of COVID-19 among Community members.

As part of the adoption Program, Flores shared that the GRIC Animal Control is a great option. There are plenty of puppies and dogs looking for a loving home,” said Marrietta.

For more information about adopting, contact GRIC Animal Control at 520-562-5177.
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • August 18, 2021

Page 6

Gila River Indian News September 3, 2021

ACTION SHEET
Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona
58547; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

CALL TO ORDER
The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, August 18, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:01 a.m.

INVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Wahleah Riggs

ROLL CALL
Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll; Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Monica Antone
Council Members Present:
D1–Jo Whitman; Arzie Hogg(9/12); D2–Carol Schunz; D3–Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4–Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antoine-Smith, Christopher Mendoza; D5–James De La Rosa, Marlin Doxon(9/16), Brian Davis, Sr., Wahleah Riggs; D6–Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7–Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction – Human Resources Department
Director Margarita Valdez

Presenters: Suzanne Jones; Margarita Valdez
MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED MS. MARGARITA VALDEZ. MS. VALDEZ HAS EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AS WELL AS CONSULTING. MS. VALDEZ POSSESS A BACHELORS AND MASTERS DEGREE. MS. VALDEZ IS EXCITED TO WORK FOR GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS WELCOMED MS. VALDEZ TO THE COMMUNITY.

2. Introduction – New Employee John J. Martin
MS. TERESAMANDELIN INTRODUCED MR. JOHN J. MARTIN, REAL ESTATE LEASING MANAGER FOR PIMA LEASING & FINANCING CORPORATION. MR. MARTIN HAS WORKED WITH THE NAVajo NATION AND HAS EXPERIENCE IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE AS WELL AS TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF COMMERCIAL LEASING EXPERIENCE. MR. MARTIN LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL WELCOMED MR. MARTIN TO THE COMMUNITY.

REPORTS

1. Community Technology Center 3rd Quarter Report FY2020/2021
Presenter: Connie Jackson
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. COVID – 19 Update
Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force
ITEM HEARD
(GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVEnED AT 11:34 A.M.)

3. Sacaton Middle School Quarter 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021
Presenter: Brightstar Benson
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Sacaton Elementary School Quarter 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021
Presenter: Stephanie Celis
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. Casa Blanca Community School Quarter 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021
Presenter: Lillian Kim Franklin
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Quarter 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021
Presenter: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. Gila Crossing Community School Quarter 3 Tribal Allocation Report SY 2020-2021
Presenter: Jim Mosely

8. GRICUA Report – FY21 2nd Quarter
Presenters: Pamela Thomas; Leonard Gold
ITEM HEARD

9. WHPDA Monthly Report
Presenters: David White; WHPDA Board of Directors; Alex Yazzia; Michelle Bowman; Martin Sepulveda; Mark Grado; Jason Croxton
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Revenue Internal Audit’s Annual Audit Plan For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Dena Thomas; Treasurer Robert Keller
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Gaming Internal Audit’s Annual Audit Plan For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Dena Thomas; Treasurer Robert Keller
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. A Resolution Approval Of Approximately One Hundred And Sixty (160) Acres Of Community Trust Land Within District 4 Of The Gila River Indian Reservation To The Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. For The Purpose Of Developing And Operating A Four-Hour Casino And Hotel And Other Commercial Development (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC, CRSC and EDSG concurs)

Presenters: Ronald Rosier; Casandra Wallace; Bartley Harris; Dale Gutenson; Barney Enos, Jr. APPROVED

4. A Resolution Authorizing The Governor Or Lieutenant Governor Of The Gila River Indian Community To Enter Into An Agreement To Extend Gaming Device Operating Rights Transfer Pool Agreement With The Navajo Nation On Behalf Of The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Eric Dahlstrom; Linus Everling
APPROVED

5. A Resolution Authorizing An Application For Grant Funding Under The United States Department Of Commerce National Telecommunications And Information Administration Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program And Consenting To Use These Funds For Broadband Infrastructure Deployment On The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; CRSC concurs)

Presenters: Jason T. Hauser; Linus Everling; Allison Binney
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

1. Assistant General Manager Menteete and Irrigation Master Menteete – Completion of Menteete Ship (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSR concurs)

Presenters: Ronald Allison; Casandra Wallace
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. Revenue Internal Audit 3rd Quarter Report FY 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)

Presenters: Dena Thomas; Treasurer Robert Keller
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Gaming Internal Audit 3rd Quarter Report FY 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)

Presenters: Dena Thomas; Treasurer Robert Keller
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Resignation Letter-Joseph Manuel (LSC forwards with a recommendation to accept the resignation of Chief Judge Joseph Manuel)

Presenters: Shannon White; Thomas Murphy
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION

5. Special 2021 Chief Judge Election (LSC motions to forward to Council with a recommendation to declare the Chief Judge Vacancy position on August 23, 2021, to allow a special elections Program to advertise the vacant position immediately and recommend approval of the elections time schedule)

Presenters: Shannon White; Nadine Sheldie; Javier Ramos
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY EFFECTIVE AUGUST 23, 2021 AND SCHEDULE THE CHIEF JUDGE ELECTION FOR OCTOBER 22, 2021

6. Re-Purposing Allocation Funds (ESC motions to approve and forwards to Council as FYI and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter

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

Presenters: Isaac Salcido
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION

MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:26 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

One or more conventional mortgage payments in forbearance or deferment due to Covid-19

No fees
No down payment
Fully Amortized simple interest at fixed rate
5 years term loan

For more details about credit costs and terms and how to apply submit your contact information to info@theplfc.com

5350 N. 48TH STREET, SUITE 245 CHANDLER, ARIZONA 85226
Phone: (520) 796-7445

How will you Catch Up?

Pima Leasing & Financing Can Help Call 1-855-345-2500

www.pimaleasing.com

For more detailed advice on costs and terms and how to apply submit your contact information to info@theplfc.com

What are the terms?

1. No fees
2. No down payment
3. Fully Amortized simple interest at fixed rate
4. 5 years term loan

For more details about credit costs and terms and how to apply submit your contact information to info@theplfc.com

-1402
Annual Sock Drive Delivers Over 5,000 Pairs of Donated Socks to Phoenix’s Less Fortunate

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

In the July 16 issue of the GRIN, we highlighted Danielle Mercado, District 6, and her annual sock drive. Mercado’s event ended up a rousing success, with more than 5,000 pairs of socks donated to Andre House in Phoenix. The Sock Drive had an initial goal of 2,000 pairs, but through the support of friends and social media networks, Mercado more than doubled that during the month of July.

“It was amazing to see people’s love and generosity. It’s so inspiring to witness people’s kindness for others,” said Mercado after meeting her goal halfway through July. She called that moment crucial and exciting because it inspired her to reach higher this year.

When the original goal of 2,000 was met, donations continued to progress. Monetary donations continued to be followed by guest speakers, traditional dances to be watched online. The Sock Drive had an initial goal of 2,000 pairs, but through the support of friends and social media networks, Mercado more than doubled that during the month of July.

“I left telling myself I’m going to just go for it,” said Mercado, “I’m going to push for 5,000!”

Contributions allowed Danielle Mercado to donate more than 5,000 pairs of socks to Andre House. Photo courtesy of Danielle Mercado.

By the end of the month, the final total broke that mark. “I was in such disbelief, but also so happy and proud, that I collected 5,094 pairs of socks,” said Mercado.

She said that the Andre House and its residents were happy and thankful for the donation. At the final delivery, one person even thanked Mercado personally for the contributions. This person adored the socks she chose, adorned with pizza slices and another pair with hedgehogs printed on them.

“This year’s success has Mercado focused on how to again double next year’s donation amount. The use of online payment options contributed heavily to her success. Looking ahead, she is looking to develop improvements for her donation, collection, and marketing for next year. I’m so thankful to Mercado gets ready to deliver thousands of pairs of donated socks. Photo courtesy of Danielle Mercado.

A third dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now available to immune compromised GRIC and Ak-Chin Indian Community tribal enrolled members and their household members, and all federally recognized tribal members.

You are eligible to receive an additional (third) dose if you have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response (such as Enbrel, Humira)

FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT COVID-19, GO TO GRHC.OR/HUB OR CALL THE GRHC COVID HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079

You should contact your primary care provider if you have any questions:

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital .............................................. (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495
Komatke Health Center...................................................... (520) 550-6000 Ext. 6060
Hau’pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center......................... (520) 796-2600 Ext. 2697
Ak-Chin Clinic...................................................................... (520) 568-3881

You can contact GRIC’s Facebook page to watch the program.
Job Announcements
Casa Blanca Community School
527 W. Nelson Road Bapchule, AZ 85121
Vacancy Announcement:
• Bookkeeper (1)
• Bus Drivers (3)
• Bus Monitor (2)
• Community Liaison (1)
• Co-Culture Instructor (1)
• Desktop Specialist/Instructor (1)
• Elementary Teachers (1)
• Worker (1)
• Security (1)
• High School Teacher (1)
• Early Childhood Teacher (FACE) (1)
• Instructional

Assistants
(Instruction, Guidance & EES) (11)
• Library Technicians (1)
• Maintenance/Custodian (2)
• Teachers – EES (1)
• Teacher – Reading Interventional (1)

Benefits:
• Medical
• Dental
• Vision
• Life
• Insurance
• 401K
• Retirement
Plan
• Competitive
Salaries
• School
Information

Casa Blanca Community School

Gila River Indian News
September 3, 2021
Page 8

Submissions

NOTICE OF COMPLETED LEGISLATION
Chapter 2. CIVIL TRESPASS
8.201. Authority; Findings; Purpose.
A. Authority. The Gila River Indian Community Constitution and Bylaws (March 17, 1960) were formed pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act (25 U.S.C. § 461 et seq.) and were adopted for the common welfare of the Community and provide structure for the Community to enact ordinances governing conduct within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation (25 U.S.C. § 476). The Community enacts this ordinance under its inherent civil, legislative, adjudicative and regulatory authority.
B. Findings. Recognizing that the well-being and general welfare of members of the Community is a concern of the highest priority for the Community Council, the Community Council finds:
1. That the Community has inherent sovereignty to exercise civil authority and jurisdiction over the conduct of Community members and all other persons on all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation to maintain the environment, natural resources, public health, safety, welfare, political integrity and economic security of the Community;
2. That the Community has inherent sovereignty that includes the right to occupy and exclude non-members from lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation;
3. That trespasses onto Community lands in the past have caused serious damages to the Community, its members’ lands and its natural and cultural resources and caused an invasion on the privacy of Community members and local residents;
4. Trespassing onto Community lands continues to be a serious problem and poses an imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare of the Community, its members, its properties, and its resources and environment;
5. That the intent of this Chapter is to exercise the Community’s civil jurisdiction to the maximum extent permitted under Montona v. United States, 450 U.S. 544 (1981) and Water Wheel Camp Recreation Area, Inc. v. LaRance, 642 F.2d 802 (9th Cir. 2011) to regulate activities of Indians and non-Indians on matters which pose an imminent threat to public health, safety and welfare of the Community, its people, its properties, its resources and its environment.
C. Purpose. The Gila River Indian Reservation is for the exclusive use and enjoyment of the members of the Gila River Indian Community. The peace, property and public safety of the people of the Reservation are often threatened by destructive and malicious acts. To regulate these acts and provide relief for damages which result is necessary that remedies in the nature of civil penalties and forfeitures be enacted. This Chapter is enacted to minimize

A copy of this ordinance in its entirety is on file and available for review at all District Service Center coordinators’ offices and the Community Council Secretary's office.

From Teacher In-service article on page 3
learning.
Gov. Lewis welcomed special guest speaker Natalie Diaz, from Fort Mohave and a GRIC member (District 3). Diaz was recently awarded the Publication Prize in Poetry. She teaches creative writing at Arizona State University. Diaz expressed her gratitude to the Akimel O’otham and Pee Posh during the virtual event and shared her experiences as well some of her poetry.

Diaz, who played basketball for the majority of her life, became the first Native American woman to play in an NCAA collegiate championship game.

“I was able to pursue a graduate degree because of the Gila River education system,” said Diaz. “It gave me the opportunity to push myself.”

In closing, Gov. Lewis assured the Community’s educators about how his administration is working to provide resources to close the “digital divide,” to address virtual learning.

“We are standing with you. We always see each and every one of you as partners, to succeed in teaching our young Community members,” said Gov. Lewis.

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs
GBC Blatter
August 9, 2021 - August 22, 2021
Job Announcements

Job Title: Leasing Department Administrative Assistant
Salary: $34,000-$65,000 (DOE)
Status: Exempt and Non-Supervisory
Repos To: Real Estate Leasing Manager

The Leasing Department Administrative Assistant assists the Leasing Department with monitoring and providing business support to all land leases that have Agreements, Leases, and Permits from the Gila River Indian Community (Community) on Trust lands.

DUTIES AND ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:
• Conduct all property management functions for Pima & Maricopa Indian Community Development Corporation (PCIC) leases, including conducting routine site visits and handling work order requests to Gila River Indian Community Facilities Management.
• Assist Real Estate Leasing Manager with Gila River Indian Community Development Corporation Proposal Review Process for the Community and Community stakeholders and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).
• Receive, record, submit and track leases and related documents with various Gila River Indian Community committees (e.g., Community Office of General Counsel, PLTO Board, Economic Development Standing Committee, Resources Standing Committee, and Tribal Workforce).
• Organize and maintain the commercial lease database and documents in both digital and physical formats, while ensuring audit compliance.
• Provide administrative support to the Real Estate Leasing Team as needed, including receiving and directing incoming calls, preparing and maintaining outgoing mail, and scheduling in-person and virtual meetings.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES:
• An educational emphasis on customer service for existing and potential clients.
• Advanced verbal and written communication skills.
• Ability to work independently, maintain strong organizational skills and exercise sound judgment.
• Ability to conduct due diligence in a confidential manner.
• Must be a self-starter who can multi-task and meet tight deadlines while also being very detail-oriented.
• Possess an understanding of real estate lease transactions, development process and compliance requirements.
• Knowledge of the economic, educational, and social background of the Gila River Indian Community and its Government.
• Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook.

REQUIRED/LICENSED/ CERTIFICATIONS:
• Must possess a valid Arizona drivers license and proof of automobile insurance.
• High School Diploma or General Educational Development (GED) is preferred.
• Prior knowledge of real estate work experience or equivalent education.

EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION:
• High School Diploma or GED

APPLICATION PROCESS:
• Application Process:
  • A minimum of one (1)

WORKING CONDITIONS:
• The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Work is generally performed indoors and the employee in this position is normally exposed to a moderate noise level. Some travel by automobile will be required.
• Candidate must acknowledge and agree to maintain a Drug-Free Workplace along with a background check to be performed.

Wages, Benefits, and Employment:
Preference in filling vacancies is given to qualified Indian candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act (Title 25, U.S. Code, Sections 472 and 473). Preference in filling is given to qualified enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community. The Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation is also committed to achieving the full and equal opportunity without discrimination including race, religion, color, national origin, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation. In other than the areas of the Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To apply, please email info@theplfc.com.

Job Closing Date: September 29, 2021

Mosquito Control Fumigations

September 9, 2021

GRC: Environmental Health Services has conducted routine adult mosquito surveillance throughout the community and has identified an increase in mosquito populations which may require mosquito fumigations. Fumigations can be conducted with calm winds and no rain. Weather permitting the fumigations will be in the following areas:

District 4: Areas of District not covered from Sept. 7 due to weather
District 5: Areas of District not covered from Sept. 7 due to weather

If you have questions about the fumigation, please contact Environmental Health Services at 520-442-5380 and we will be glad to respond to your concern.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court Notices

In Memory of: David Lewis Killed In Action PFC 161 INF

World War II, November 15, 1912 - March 29, 1945

The gravesite of David Lewis, before the improvements provided by the Veterans & Family Services Office volunteers.

The Veterans & Family Services Office.

Please contact an information:

Daniell Whitman 602-610-0316
Sylvia Antone 602-202-0561

Contributors are:

GRC Veterans & Family Services

For the Huhugam Heritage Center.

District 4: Areas of District not covered from Sept. 7 due to weather
District 5: Areas of District not covered from Sept. 7 due to weather

Since mosquitoes can complete their life cycle in water in as fast as four days it is important to empty standing water around your home every two to three days. Containers such as dog bowls, buckets, planters and washing pots should not be emptied more than once a week, ideally.

Keep grasses cut low, remove old tires that can collect water, flowering pots and planters should have a drain hole, and avoid flood irrigation.

When outside, wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants. On clothing and exposed skin use insect repellant containing DEET. Be sure to follow the instructions on the package.

Provide windows and door screens that are in good repair.

If you have concerns about the fumigation, please call Environmental Health Services at 520-442-5380 and we will be glad to respond to your concern.
SEPTEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>D3 Headstart</td>
<td>9 am – 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>D1 Service Center</td>
<td>9 am – 12 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>D3 Headstart</td>
<td>9 am – 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>D3 Headstart</td>
<td>9 am – 3 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIFE CENTER
DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS
Preventing diabetes and living healthy with diabetes is possible. Call us at (520) 562-7940.

HIRING NOW!
Apply today at www.GRHC.org/Careers
Scan the QR code for more!

18th Annual Diabetes Virtual Health Fair
JUST MOVE IT! 5k virtual walk/run
Coming November 2021

Native American Day
GRHC Administrative Offices & Outpatient Clinics will be
CLOSED FRIDAY September 17th
CLOSED SATURDAY September 18th

Pharmacy Hours
Friday, 9/17 ......................... CLOSED
Saturday, 9/18 ......................... 8:30 am - Midnight
Sunday, 9/18 ......................... Noon - 10:00 pm

To find out more information on services open during the holiday, please call GRHC’s main line (520) 562-3321. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, September 20th. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449
Meet with our HR team and discover your next career today!

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

Hiring Event
September 14, 2021
9AM-3PM

Gila River Hotels & Casinos — Vee Quiva
15091 S. Komatke Lane
Laveen Village, AZ 85339

@PlayAtGila | PlayAtGila.com | 800-WIN-GILA
Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community