

First Lady Jill Biden Visits the Gila River Indian **Community, Greeted by Traditional Basket Dancers**

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

The First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden visited the Gila River Indian Community on March 7th as part of a visit to the State of Arizona to discuss the Biden Administration's priorities and initiatives. The visit occurred at the Huhugam Heritage Center where the First Lady was greeted by the Keil Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam (Gila River Basket Dancers), who conducted a performance in the main plaza of the HHC.

Following the greeting, the First Lady held a private meeting with Governor Lewis, Lt. Governor Monica Antone, and members of the Community Council. During the meeting the elected leaders highlighted the need for strong partnership between the Community and the White House, which was especially apparent during the pandemic. The Community leaders described the leadership role the Community is taking in addressing drought conditions along the Colorado River and invited the First Lady back to see the newly constructed schools, utilizing the innovative program piloted by the Community.

Before attending the public portion of the event, the First Lady walked through the museum portion of the Huhugam Heritage Center and Governor Lewis pointed out the cultural items and artifacts that show the Community's ties to the Gila River in contemporary times and since time immemorial.

The public program began with a prayer by Mr. Barnaby Lewis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, followed by a request from Governor Lewis for a moment of silence for the people and the leaders of Ukraine. Governor Lewis stated "as a sovereign nation, the Gila River Indian Community knows that when one sovereign nation is under attack, we are all under attack and we stand with our President and



First lady Jill Biden (center) and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (center-left) were greeted by the Keli Akimel Hua Modk Cudkdam (Gila River Basket Dancers). Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

look at all the things that we need to accomplish."

She added that the president has been instrumental in bringing the country together during a turbulent time and with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. First Lady Biden said the president has focused on education and accessibility to the internet in rural communities as well as the preservation of indigenous languages through various initiatives.

Echoing her remarks, Gov. Lewis said, "I think we all know the last election was an unprecedented time in the middle of a pandemic, a divided country, because our democratic processes were put to the test, Native voting was put to the test, and our president Joe Biden rose to the occasion because this country needed a leader who has put Community the people first, since day one."

we have to move forward, because access to clean drinking water and for grabs. "You know that we me here today and for allowing me good-paying jobs. "[These] are the are working hard for you and we to talk to you [and] for just being things that we need we all can agree all really appreciate that you are a part of this positive optimistic on and that we all have to work standing behind us," the first lady movement as we move forward." together to achieve," said the first said, "and so thank you for inviting ladv

> During the sharing of remarks in the main galley of the HHC exhibit hall, City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego expressed her gratitude for first lady Biden's visit to her city and the Community.

"We're so thankful to the city leadership of our first family and the commitment to Arizona," Gallego said. "[W]e are so happy to have her first in Phoenix and now on the Gila River Indian Community, so thank you for your investment, bettering the lives of all of our community together," said Gallego.

Gallego added that the and the Biden administration have been instrumental in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, offering mobile vaccinations units and, with the presidents' support of the American Rescue Plan, bringing needed funding to communities everywhere. The first lady encouraged everyone to consider the mid-term elections and how that will shape



his actions to bring a swift end to the war on the people of Ukraine."

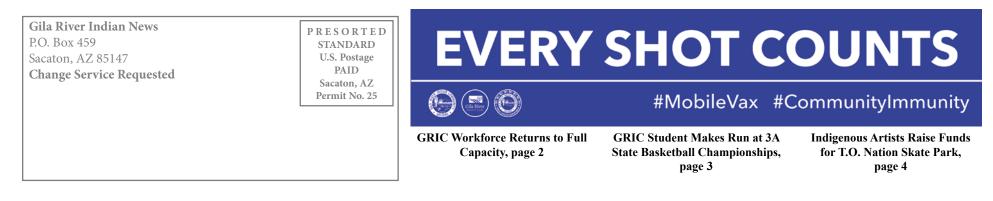
In introducing and welcoming the First Lady to the Gila River Indian Community, Gov. Lewis stated that "Dr. Biden's advocacy and initiatives have offered hope to our students, our families, our veterans and our communities."

"We have to stay together as a people," the First Lady said. "We can't be divided in this country-

'As an educator," the first lady said, "I know all children should have the same access to the internet [for] education. I taught the last spring over the internet and online, and it was hard for our kids... [T] hey have so much to make up, and it's hard on the families."

She also said that we have to make sure Native Americans have

First lady Jill Biden was introduced to invited guests, during her visit to the Community and the friendship the Biden Administration has the country with Senate seats up developed with GRIC. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



GRIC Employees Fully Return to Work in Wake of Lower COVID-19 Cases

Community Schools also Prepare for Students' Return to In-person Learning

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

After returning to their workplaces in phases over the past year, Gila River Indian Community governmental employees returned in full force on March 14 now that COVID-19 cases have decreased significantly in the Community and across the state. Arizona has a 12.3% positive rate and a total of 1,992,471 positive cases as of March 16, according to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

In March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, GRIC's executive orders initiated mask mandates, stay-at-home orders and the tribal governmental shutdown that led employees to begin working from home to limit in-person interactions and slow the spread of COVID-19.

In April 2021, the Tribal Government Return to Work Plan was approved and began partial re-opening, allowing departments to function with only 25 to 75% of staff teleworking, based on the changing conditions of the pandemic.

Crucial departments and services like the District

100% to assist and serve the Community throughout the pandemic.

"As we ease in to in-person meetings, open gyms and computerlabs,[the]Community Services Department will always ensure safety first for everyone," said Laurie Thomas, Community Services Department Director.

Thomas said District Service Center staff limits in-person interactions for the safety of staff and community members and to allow services to continue.

Now, full operations have begun to resume throughout the Community while maintaining COVID-19 safety measures and precautions from the Tribal Health Department (THD).

"Some elders were excited to return and interact with others they had not seen." Thomas said. However. she added that others were saddened to return, knowing the Community lost so many lives to the virus and many elders will no longer be part of the daily activities at the Elder Centers.

Like the rest of the country, the Community in COVID cases reported by January experienced a surge THD as of March 15, 6,996

Service Centers remained at in positive cases, but has since were among GRIC members masks are still required while seen a turnaround.

> "With the phase[d] approach, we will be able to transition into a different phase if we begin to experience a surge in positive cases," said Candelarian Preston, Director of the Tribal Health Department.

> Employees must go through a health screening at the beginning of each work day and are required to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), provided by GRIC's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), when conducting services.

> Visitors also must complete a health screening prior to entering any tribal government building or department. All entities, organizations and departments are required to report any positive COVID-19 cases immediately to THD.

> "Our current 14-day percent test rate is 0.4%. This indicates positive cases have decreased substantially for the Community; therefore, the risk of infection has lessened," said Preston.

Of the 14.682 positive

and 7,686 were non-members, with 134 deaths among GRIC members. Only seven positive cases were reported between March 7 and March 13, according to the THD's COVID-19 data report.

COVID-19 surveillance testing must be done for all employees on a biweekly basis, regardless of vaccination status. If positive cases in GRIC continue to decrease, surveillance testing may only be required for those who have not received the COVID vaccine or have not been fully vaccinated, according to Preston.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving their second dose of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after receiving the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A booster (third dose) is recommended when eligible.

return-to-work for employees, Executive Order No. 14 was issued with revisions that have reduced other COVID restrictions in the Community.

The mask mandate has been lifted in some areas but Facebook page on March 11.

inside tribal governmental buildings or Community schools.

Up to 50 people are now allowed at indoor gatherings, with the exception of meetings of elected and appointed GRIC officials and GRIC commercial entities. Exceptions for funerals must be approved by the Executive Office and must follow COVID-19 protection protocols.

A continued moratorium on housing evictions is still in place, but does not apply to evictions based on criminal activity.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or have been advised to quarantine and do not are subject to a written quarantine directive by THD and court-ordered quarantine by Community court, enforceable by Gila River Police Department.

"If the current trend Along with the full continues, I expect to be able to ease even more of the restrictions in the coming days and weeks," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in a video address to the Community posted on GRIC's official

Schools in the Community may reopen, but are required to submit a reopening plan to the Education Standing Committee for approval.

The plan must provide that students, teachers and staff attending classes inperson are vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide а negative COVID-19 conducted within five days prior to attending school. They must continue to be tested for COVID-19 while providing virtual learning for non-vaccinated students or those who wish to continue virtual learning.

Gila Crossing Community School, Blackwater Community School, Casa Blanca Community School and the Maricopa Village Christian School were approved by the Education Standing Committee to begin in-person classes March 21.

"We are pleased and excited that Community schools are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for our children and are reopening for inperson learning," said Gov. Lewis.





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March 18, 2022

Gila River Indian News



GRIC basket dancers perform in front of first lady Biden at the Huhugam Heritage. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



First lady Biden speaks to guest in the main galley of the HHC exhibit hall. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

GRIC Member Contributes to Team's **Run at State Championships**

Christopher Lomahguahu Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community member is a rising star on the basketball court who helped take his team to the state championships recently. Josh Pratt, a shooting guard for the Coolidge High School Bears, was instrumental in his team's run at the 3A State Championships on Feb. 25 and 26. While they were upset by the Valley Christian Trojans, Pratt has a bright future in the game and is eyeing a career in the NBA.

"As a parent looking at his progression and commitment as a basketball player, I am very proud of him," said Sabrina Brannon, Pratt's mother. She said basketball has been the center of her son's interest since age nine.

brothers, he played a lot of sports growing up. "When I got into junior high, that is when I really started playing basketball."

Brannon said, "Playing basketball was a sport he naturally grew to.... He tried football and tried soccer. He was good in both of them, but once he played basketball, he fell in love with it. He did Little League baseball, but

Pratt said like his older

basketball was [his] thing."

Pratt said he's played with



Coolidge High School Shooting Guard Josh Pratt snaps off a three-pointer, during the 3A state championship game against the Valley Christian Trojans on Feb. 26. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

he said. "As far as championships go, last year they went into the playoffs, but they didn't go all the way to the Final Four," said Brannon. She said last year's run was difficult because the teammates could not practice as Trojans. During the championship they were greeted by classmates, much or play during the height of game the Bears would have a few staff and parents with a parade

leading up to the championships," the game. Pratt contributed to the team's overall score with a slew of three-pointers. In that game, the Bears

defeated the Roadrunners 67-57, ensuring them a shot at the that in 20 years," said Pratt. championship the following day against the Valley Christian take home the championship,

game and the 3A championship. "Even though we wanted to win it and came up short, it was still good to bring back a trophy for the school, because we haven't done

Although the team did not COVID-19 due to limits on the runs to the basket, putting them recognizing their hard work and

Governor **Stephen Roe Lewis** Lt. Governor **Monica** Antone

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of Lt. Gov. Antone. Jr. Miss Gila River Presents first lady Biden with a

traditional basket. Photo courtesy Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

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many of this teammates on the Bears starting five lineup since junior high, which adds to the team's chemistry in big game situations. "I've really built relationships with all of my teammates and I've been playing basketball with some of them since I was little," said Pratt.

"The boys my son plays with are great," Brannon said. "The starting five has been playing together outside of school and the tournaments from the time of their youth."

preparing for their In championship run, Pratt said the team put in a lot of work and played every tournament available, which pitted them against 5A and 6A schools. "Those games really helped us play through a variety of teams, which added to our confidence as the season went

use of facilities.

When the team made their trips to the state championships in Phoenix, they were sent off by fellow students, school staff and family members. Pratt said, "It's pretty exciting, before we'd leave for the games, they [had] a big send-off where everybody [was] waving and saying, "Good luck!" During the tournament, Pratt said, it was good to see parents and residents from Coolidge who made the drive to Phoenix to cheer on the team. "I've never seen that before in all the times I have gone to school at Coolidge High School," said Pratt. "It was an amazing experience."

During the semifinals game against the Holbrook Roadrunners, Pratt and the Bears were dominant on the court, going on unanswered scoring streaks for a majority of through, the Trojans took the

ahead by at least 11 points, but the Trojans were not going down without a fight.

'We knew it was going to be a difficult game going into the championship, because we knew how tough Valley Christian would be going into the championships," said Pratt. He said the match-up was pretty even, given both teams led their division in wins and overall victories for the season.

After halftime, with victory still in reach, the Bears faced a few setbacks with late-game fouls, placing the Trojans in a position to notchup their lead. These factors and a couple of misplaced shots caused the Bears' troubles to mount as the Trojans found a way to maintain the lead.

With time running out and the Bears' shots not following

determination to make this season one to remember.

Pratt said it was a bittersweet ending to a season that offered many opportunities to build on the team's chemistry and to make strides towards the state championships. With high school behind him, Pratt would like to continue his passion for basketball in college as he pursues his education. He said he wants to seek out a career in architecture or engineering.

Although Pratt aspires to play for the NBA, he understands that it is good to have an education to utilize for what opportunities may come his way. Currently, he is trying out for local college basketball teams and eventually would like to attend Northern Arizona University.

Gila River Indian News

Arts & Entertainment GRIC Artists Band Together for the Love of Art and Skateboarding



for kickflips and many tricks. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Kyle Knox

Gila River Indian News

ArtSpace West at Arizona State University's West Campus in Glendale is hosting the "Boardz & Arrowz" exhibition in March, featuring over 40 one-of-akind skateboard decks up for auction. The decks were designed by Native American artists from all over the country, including eight by artists from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). O'odham Nation.

network, found other GRIC to represent the Community." artists to contribute and reach the goal.

to

Proceeds from the auction week-and-a-half, a short will go towards constructing turnaround, to get it done, but a new skate park in the got it done," said Justin, who GuVo District on the Tohono also designed a skateboard for the auction. When asked what Organizers set a goal of inspired him to contribute, he 40 skateboards so the auction said, "I used to skate when I would make a financial was a kid, so contributing to impact, but when they didn't getting a park built is really meet that, District 6 artist something. But it's really just Zachary Justin, through his the love for art and being able

District 5 artist Angelo Cortez contributed his "Long "Once I got the boards Distance Traveler" board. everyone, they had a He also skateboarded as a

Zachary Justin and his "Untitled" board features a prominent "trickster," designed Angelo Cortez, next to his board titled "Long Distance Traveler" depicting a historic traveler, representing the trade routes between people across the Americas. Kyle Knox/ GRIN

> youth and remembers how Cortez. far he had to travel to go to a skatepark as a kid. His support Maidu), assistant professor draws from that experience, and he is happy that the youth of the rural GuVo District in the southwest region of the T.O.N will have a skate park organization in collaboration close to home.

enough skate parks," said all our individual struggles

Jacob Meders (Mechoopda/ in the New College of to the public from noon to Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance at ASU West, led the event and auction with Cowtown Skateboards. "It really makes me feel The company's website good to know I contributed includes this quote from my part and give a little to Meders: "This exhibition/ the funding for a skate park, fundraiser is a fine example of and being a skateboarder, the power in our Native and we know there can never be SK8 communities. Even with

we stand up and unite to help each other."

The exhibition is open 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at ASU West's "ArtSpace West," 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, through March 31. A full list of artists along with more information on the exhibition, auction, and photos of the skateboards is online at cowtownskate.org.





An untitled board by Edgar Hernandez is among the boards that are available to view at the ArtSpace West until March 31. Kyle Knox/GRIN



(At left) Organizer Jacob Meders stands before the board he designed, "Creator is a Woman," is a small run of boards that are available on sale from Cowtown Skateboards. (Bottom right) The Boardz & Arrowz show was held at the ArtSpace West at ASU West Campus where the one-of-a-kind skateboards adorned each wall. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson Hosts Virtual **Farewell, Reflects on Two-Year Reign**



Alyse Marrietta 2021-2022 Miss Indian Arizona stand with out-going Jr. Miss Gila River 2020-2022 Sineca Sunflower Jackson. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

Sineca Sunflower Jackson reflected on life during the pandemic and representing Gila River Indian Community for two years as Jr. Miss Gila River during a virtual farewell special on March 12.

"It is a bittersweet farewell but it is time for other amazing young woman in the community to hold the titles of miss and junior miss Gila River," Jackson

streamed on Gila River also recalled her time as Broadcasting Corporation's Miss Gila River, as both Facebook page and GRBC she and Jackson took their channel 29.1.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said Jackson represented the Community on several opportunities during her reign. "She has poise and she represented the best year of their reign. values of our youth," he said.

Akimel Posh Youth Council and as a representative on the COVID-19 task force and other initiatives geared towards youth.

also offered appreciation for Jackson's tenure as Jr. Miss Gila River. "I'd like to first of all thank Sineca for her many years of service but first and foremost I would like to thank her parents, Alana Jackson and Jimmy Jackson," she said.

"Sineca has played a true example of a leader by conducting virtual trainings working with the youth council, speaking up for the vaccination events we had, and ... more input that she gave our COVID task force team and at the same time attending school," Antone said, adding that Jackson is a "creative and strong resilient Akimel O'otham woman."

Alvse Marrietta, 2021said. The farewell event 22 Miss Indian Arizona, respective titles at the same time. Marrietta said 2020 felt like a long time ago and the pandemic made it seem even longer with everything being shut down for the first

Speaking about the pageant in which she won Roe added that Jackson the title of Jr. Miss Gila was an instrumental young River, Jackson said, "I was

serving the Community's getting a feel for different O'otham/Pee things and ... I didn't expect to be crowned, but ... I ran with a lot of amazing young women and I was fortunate enough ... to be crowned."

Marrietta also reminisced Lt. Gov. Monica Antone on her experience winning the title of Miss Gila River. "I definitely relate to [you,]" she told Jackson. "I know that that whole week it feels surreal because it feels like you're just pushing yourself to perform at your best and you're constantly reminding yourself like 'I want to try my hardest,' and at the end when you get to the stage and it's the crowning, at that point a little part of me is like, 'I don't care if I get the crown; I did it anyways,"" said Marrietta.

> Marrietta and Jackson looked back at their reignsfrom virtual presentations, workshops and eventually in-person events when eased-and restrictions said they both wanted to represent the Community in the best way possible.

"During that time, it was very unusual circumstances we had to overcome, such as the pandemic, which really affected us in some different ways," said Marrietta. "As royalty, we really felt obligated to share our voice, making sure that people guidelines and actually because of COVID."

Jackson added that leader who did a great job fortunate for going out there, some of the highlights of



Gov. Lewis describes exemplary role Jackson fulfilled during her reign as the 2020-2022 Jr. Miss Gila River. Zachary Redbird/CPAO



were informed about safety Lt. Gov. Monica Antone with Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca protocols and the COVID Jackson. Photo courtesy of Lt. Gov. Monica Antone

to throw out the first pitch at First Lady Jill Biden. an Arizona Diamondbacks

her time as Jr. Miss Gila game and meet Secretary of River included being able Interior Deb Haaland and

Chief Azul Scholar Awards Now Accepting Nominations for Students

Emma Hughes Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department (TED) is accepting nominations for the 2022 Chief Azul Scholar and Citizenship Awards, which acknowledge educational

their academics up during their goals. the pandemic," said Isaac Education Department.

good attendance, and keeping desire and ability to achieve

There will be one Chief Salcido, director for the Tribal Azul Scholar Award and two honorable mentions per Parents or school advisors grade and nominees must be may nominate a student who an enrolled GRIC member shows exemplary behavior, or have a parent enrolled. participates in extracurricular The student must submit a



accomplishments, academic excellence and leadership by students in the Community.

Formerly known as the Governor's Scholars Award, in 2016 Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis recommended it be renamed to honor Chief Antonio Azul (1817-1909), the last head chief of the Akimel O'otham.

The award recognizes students who embody the same leadership qualities as Chief Azul and provides motivation for them to aspire towards higher educational goals and achievements.

"These are students who have worked hard throughout their whole school career and have done a good job of staying focused, [having]

activities, demonstrates and displays individual determination to succeed and further their education.

Salcido shared during the pandemic, some students did better in a virtual-learning environment Azul the typical distractions of inperson learning.

"This is a real opportunity to honor our kids who are model to others. succeeding and of course their families, too," he said.

fourth-through twelfthgrade students and fullconsistent

personal essay is required for cultural knowledge or interest, ninth-through twelfth-grade students and undergraduate candidates as well as two letters of recommendation and that other supporting documents requested in the application. The 2022 Chief Citizenship Award that allowed them to learn at recognizes outstanding GRIC their own pace and without high school students who consistently demonstrate a positive attitude and friendly demeanor and who are a role

Citizenship award nominees must provide The 2022 Chief Azul proof of GRIC enrollment Scholar Award is open to and must be a high school senior for the 2021-2022 school year. The student must time undergraduate college submit a personal statement students who demonstrates letter and provide two performance, letters of recommendations

The Chief Azul Scholarship and Citizenship awards are presented each year to students, who excel in their education. GRIN Photo

from school staff and other area, all of which is tentatively supporting requested in the application.

this year.

The recipients have the opportunity to travel, tour and visit with Congressional in-person event will resume The application deadline is leaders and other GRIC this year, depending on the April 8.

documents scheduled for this summer.

"Last year, we did Fifteen seniors will be totally virtual," said Salcido. selected for the Chief Azul The Washington trip was Citizenship Award, and in the cancelled and a virtual awards past years, recipients received event was held to celebrate an all-expense paid trip to the nominees and announce Washington, D.C., which the winners via Zoom. Seniors department hopes to continue also received laptops to assist with their educational and work endeavors.

Salcido said he hopes the members who reside in the conditions of the pandemic.

"It turns into a very, very nice event for the Community and a great way to honor the students as well," he added.

The awards event is scheduled for May 14 and will be shared via Zoom. For more information or application packets, visit the Tribal Education Department website at gricted.com or call (520) 562-3662 or email TEDevents@gric.nsn.us.

Culture Corner Kwi I'ivakithag Mashath, Examples of Oob No'ok (Mountain Pima)

Submitted by Huhuhugam Heritage

Center

In our modern fastpaced lifestyle, we tend to forget that a:chim Akimel O'otham belong to a larger family of other O'otham. Toward the east, we have S-Auppak O'otham (Florence village People). Up north, we have Onk Akimel O'odham (Salt River People). Toward the southwest, we have Ak-Chin O'odham (Mouth of the Wash People). Due south, we have the Tohono O'odham Nation (Desert People), including San Xavier, Gila Bend, and Hia-Ched O'odham. Across the International Border there are Pimas de México who live in several lowland villages include that Magdalena, Altar, Caborca and Pitiquito.

Further south, in the mountain highlands, live the Oob (Mountain Pima). They live in the villages of Onavas, Yepáchi, Maycoba and Yécora. In 2013, Mr. Marshall Sunna (D-4), escorted a special Delegation of Leaders northward to our community during Mul-Chu-Tha. During their visit, a Language Summit was held at the Huhugam Heritage Center. The

Pimas de México Delegates You're a real cowboy). The provided a Comparative determiner marker (DM) Linguistics session, which was attended by community in Akimel O'otham: "Eg language teachers, Elders Oob esi-m ek huun" (DM and then, Governor Gregory person planting object corn/ Mendoza.

we learned a few sentence (DM woman making object structures in Oob No'ok and pot/The woman is making a realized how similar their pot). Predicate Adjectives language is to ours. A few (PA) are the same in Oob basic grammar examples No'ok, as Akimel O'otham: in Oob No'ok and Akimel "Eg ko'adaga si keega-d!" O'otham: "In soiga gogsi." (DM food really good PA/ (My pet dog/my dog). The food is really good!). Akimel O'otham: "Eñ shoiga gogs." (My pet dog/ match will challenge you to my dog). The possessive remember a few phrases in marker "ga" in shoiga is the Oob No'ok. Although we same for both languages. are separated by hundreds Example Pronoun (PP): "Hosi hemak Uto-Aztecan languages are pééso iñ-maa" (Joe one peso still spoken on both sides me-give [PP]/Joe gave me of the International Border. a peso). Akimel O'otham: We encourage you to speak "Husi hemako pish eñ ma:k" Akimel O'otham in your (Joe gave me one dollar everyday lives. Continue [PP]). Akimel O'otham call to speak and learn from our US currency bills (pish).

Grammatical spellings may be slightly different, to Pimas de México, whose but pronunciations and shared knowledge of Oob translations are the same. No'ok that made this article Subject Pronouns (SP) possible. Additional source may be repeated after a related from, An Overview statement for emphasis: of Uto-Aztecan Grammar, "Aap si keeg vapkéhél Ronald aapi" ([SP] really good University of Texas at cowboy [SP]/You're a real Arlington, 1977. Answers cowboy). Akimel O'otham: of Page 9. ('Ap s-ke:gaj vakial api/

"eg" is equivalent the "heg" The man is planting corn). During the session, "Eg okasi naati-m ek ha'a"

> This month's word of Personal of miles, our families of Elders and Speakers.

> > A special Thank You Langacker,



Mountain Pima Word Match: Match the Oob No'ok phrase with its picture!

In soiga gogsi.

Hosi hemak pééso iñ-maa.

Aap si keeg vapkéhél aapi.

Eg Oob esi-m ek huun.

Eg okasi naati-m ek ha'a.

Eg ko'adaga si keega-d!



Photographs Courtesv Robert Johnson

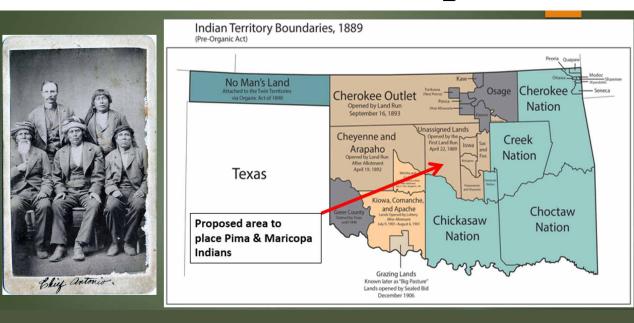
ASU Lecture Series Highlights GRIC History and Culture with Tribal Education Department

Kyle Knox Gila River Indian News

Arizona State University's American Indian Student Support Services (AISSS) has partnered with the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department (TED) to provide a month-long virtual lecture series for ASU students. During March, lectures are concentrating on Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh history and culture. This new initiative will enrich AISSS programming for students by allowing surrounding tribal communities to share their history and culture as they see fit. The first lecture on March 4 covered the history of GRIC under Spanish and American control and the establishment of its presentday land base. Also this month, they will cover topics such as "Vaila" Social Dance Music, Gila River Indian Community Water Rights and History, and Mountains and Waterways.

states or not from around here and aren't familiar with the neighboring tribes or whose land they're on, so I thought it would be good to educate them in those areas," said Danya Hinton (White Mountain Apache Tribe), AISSS Student Success and Retention Coordinator.

AISSS will follow similar model for other



Indian Territory Boundar (Pre-Organic Act)	ries, 1889
No Man's Land	Charakao Quitlat Werken Osage Cherokee Seneca
via Organic Act of 1890	Cherokee Outlet Opened by Land Run September 16, 1893 Unassigned Lands
	Cheyenne and Arapaho Opened by Land Run Opened by Land Run Arei 22, 1899 Arei 23, 1899 Arei 24, 1899
Texas	

"A lot of our AISSS students are from other tribes throughout the state in the future. But Hinton's primary focus is on the nearest neighbors of ASU, including the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation. Intended for Native

American students at ASU, TED's Culture and Language program manager Anthony Gray designed the series for non-GRIC members in mind. He says this will help address some common misconceptions about GRIC by students attending ASU from out of state. For example, he said, "One of the most common questions we always get is, 'Do you live in teepees?" Gray hopes

Anthony Gray's presentation slide illustrates a possible relocation site for the Akimel O'Otham and Pee-Posh in Okla. back in 1889, used during the GRIC history presentation. Photo courtesy of Anthony Gray

to educate attendees while are addressing similarities and differences among Arizona tribes.

Also driving this effort is enhancing AISSS's official acknowledgment," "land which recognizes ASU's locations campus as the original ancestral homelands of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh. Land

becoming commonplace and are shared aloud in public gatherings and at broader school functions.

However, а land acknowledgment doesn't explain who the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh are. celebrating that with everyone By providing this information in the lectures, Hinton and Gray hope everyone attending the series, AISSS will host will become familiar with the an O'otham social dance acknowledgments history and significance of the celebration at the ASU Tempe

more names associated with ASU's campus Wednesday, March land acknowledgment.

> "I'm really excited to have this partnership on this scale with ASU and to bring awareness to our history and identity and look forward to this month," said Gray.

At the conclusion of

30. This will be the only in-person activity and will showcase O'otham songs to mark the end of AISSS's first lecture series.

For more information on attending the last lecture, titled "Mountains and Waterways," email Danya Hinton at dhinton2@asu.edu.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 2, 2022 ACTION SHEET of the Community Leasing

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 2, 2022, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:05 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone 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, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin 2022 Redbird

Council Members Absent: **D5-Wahlean Riggs**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO DISPENSE REPORT #1, AND TABLE RESOLUTION #2 AND NEW BUSINESS #2 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2 THROUGH #11 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

REPORTS

*1. FY2022 COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Report

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Suzanne Jones, Neomi Martinez, Sheila Valenzuela

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51 FY21 3rd and 4th Quarter Grant Financial Report and Summaries

Presenters: Pamela Thompson, Alison Anderson ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. First Quarter Report for Four Rivers Indian Legal #12, #13, AND #14 Services

Presenter: Diana Lopez-Jones

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Blackwater Community School Quarter 1 Tribal Allocation Report SY2021-2022

Presenters: Jeffery Thornburg; Jagdish Sharma ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Sacaton Elementary School Quarter 1 Tribal Allocation Report SY2021-2022

Presenters: Jeffery Thornburg, Stephanie Celis, Dr. Lynette Michalski

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Report SY2021-2022

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. Casa Blanca Community School Quarter 1 Tribal Allocation Report SY2021-2022

Presenters: Jeffery Thornburg, Lillian Kim Franklin ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. Saint Peter Indian Mission School Quarter 1 Tribal Allocation Report SY2021-2022

Presenters: Jeffery Thornburg, Sister Martha Mary Carpenter

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. Gila Crossing Community School Quarter 1 Tribal Allocation Report SY2021-2022

Presenters: Jeffery Thornburg, Jim Mosley ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Report for School Year 2021-2022

Presenter: Lance Reyna

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. Head Start Program Monthly Report January

Presenter: Carolina B. Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER INTO Pete Hemmingway, Wayne Allison EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. January 2022 Monthly Report for WHPDA Presenters: Elizabeth Antone, Michelle Bowman REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council January 2022 (Executive Session)

Sanderson, Lydia Acosta

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report EXECUTIVE SESSION for January 2022 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Richard (G&MSC forwards to Council for discussion and action) Strafella, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

*1. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving the Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona, Inc. And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Tribal Health Department For The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Good Health And Wellness In Indian Country Grant (H&SSC forwards to 4, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M. Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Candalerian Preston

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving A Tower And Land Sublease Agreement Between Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. >6. Sacaton Middle School Quarter 1 Tribal Allocation And Gila River Cellular General Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless For Access, Improvements And Equipment Presenters: Jeffery Thornburg, Bright Benson, Dr. On And Near The 600 W. Seed Farm Road Tower Site

Pursuant To The Gila River Indian Community Leasing Regulations And Approving The Bill Of Sale Transferring The Tower, Shelter And Site Improvements To The Gila River Indian Community (EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Teresa Mandelin, John M. Martin, Jim Meyers, Joan Burke

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacancy

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE >10. K-12 Education Program Quarter 2 Manager's VACANCY AND ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

> 2. Home Owner's Team (HOT) 2015 R.H.I.P Home Progress Report to GRIC Council (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business to set a date for a Council Work Session and to include the Department of Housing Development as presenters)

Presenters: Avery White, Howard Reno, Kenny Harris,

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Gila River Telecommunications. Inc. Board of Director Declaration of Vacancy One (1) Unexpired Term (EDSC forwards to Council to declare the vacancy and advertise for 60 days subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE Presenters: Gaming Commission Board, Scott VACANCY OF ONE UNEXPIRED TERM AND ADVERTISE

FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER INTO

4. Federal Political Priorities (Executive Session)

Presenters: Donald Pongrace, Thomas Murphy

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE

MINUTES

1. February 2, 2022 (Regular)

APPROVED

2. February 16, 2022 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FRIDAY, MARCH •

 EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE AND HEALTH & SOCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

WHITE HOUSE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:34 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Emergency Crews Work Blaze Near MAR 5

CPAO Press Release

On Mar. 7 a wildland fire broke-out west of the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5 between Olberg Road and the 87. The Gila River Fire Department and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Wildlands crews on the scene to fight the blaze, including any hot spots after the flames were exstinguished. At the time of the fire, SR 87 was not effected, but the fire did create a sight for drivers traveling through the area.



Flames can be seen west of MAR 5. Top Right: An ariel view showing the extent of the fire. Bottom Right: The tracks of scorched land, that were ravaged by the wildland fire on March 7. All photos courtesy of GRPD Officer Milano.

GRPD assisted GRFD investigation. In order to launched on the site, putting with a large brush fire turn the tide in favor of out the flames. northwest of SR 87 and SR emergency crews battling 187. The fire is still under the fire, an air attack was



2022 RESOLUTION COPPER Native American Scholarship Program

Eligible high school seniors can receive up to \$3,000 through the Resolution Copper Scholarship Program to further their education.

> Applicants must be a high school senior and enrolled tribal member with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai Apache Nation, Tonto Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Zuni Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, or Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

Applications and guidelines are available at the main office of your local high school and on our website at resolutioncopper.com/scholarships2022

Applications are due to Resolution Copper by March 31, 2022

For more information, email jrcscholarships@riotinto.com or call 520.689.3409



Submissions & Notices



Claiming the **2021 Child Tax Credit** When You Don't Normally File a Tax Return





If you don't normally file a tax return, but you're eligible for the Child Tax Credit, you can still claim the Child Tax Credit on a 2021 tax return – even if you had no income in 2021. Advance payments sent in 2021 were not the full amount of the credit. The 2021 Child Tax Credit is \$3,600 for each qualifying child under age 6 and \$3,000 for each child age 6 to 17.

Learn more at 2021 Child Tax Credit Frequently Asked Questions.

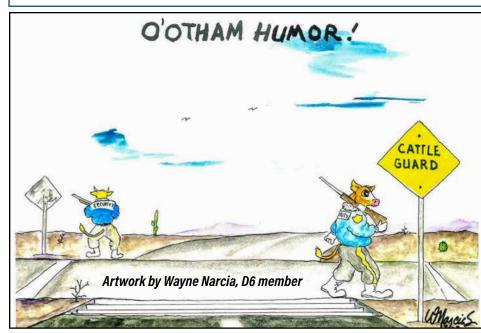


IRS Free File is a great electronic option for people who are only filing a tax return to claim the Child Tax Credit.

The most secure and fastest way to get a tax refund, which would include your Child Tax Credit, is to combine electronic filing with **direct deposit**.

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

Publication 5534-H (2-2022) Catalog Number 92759S Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov



Sacaton Elementary School District #18 Child Find—Developmental Screening Fairs

How is your child developing? Do you suspect your child may have a disability? What is Child Find?

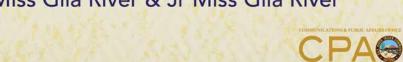
It's a process to "find" children who may have a delay in development or a disability in any of the following areas:

- * Vision/Hearing
- * Motor Control or Coordination * Behavior or Social Skills
- * Adaptive Behavior
 - When:

* Speech or Language Skills

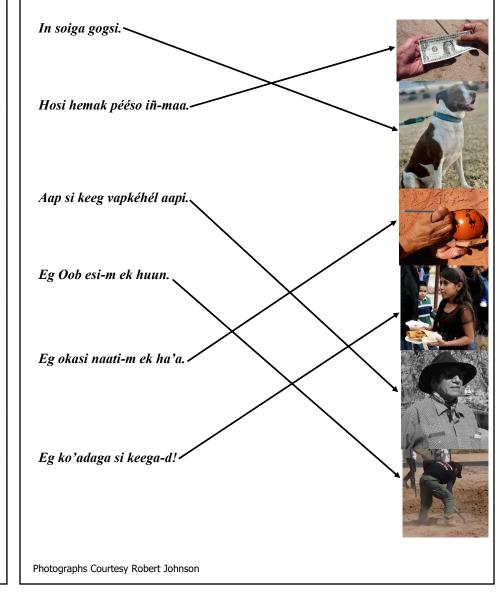
* Thinking or Performing Tasks





Gila River Police Department Incident Logs





FREE

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN BIRTH-5 YEARS OF AGE

For children <u>NOT</u> enrolled in an SESD schoolbased program.

How do I schedule an appointment for a screening?

You can contact Child Development and Education Support Services at (520) 562–3882 to schedule a screening.
 Where:
 Sacaton M.S. Library

 70 S. Skill Center Road,
 Sacaton, AZ

 Time:
 by appointment only

September 30, 2021

November 18, 2021

January 14, 2022

February 25, 2022

March 25, 2022

April 14, 2022

Due to COVID-19 safety procedures, all participants must wear masks, get their temperature taken, and answer a health screening questionnaire.

What if I have concerns?

If your child is under 3 years of age and you have concerns about your child's development or progress, you may receive help through Child Find. Contact the Arizona Early Intervention Program at (602) 635–9810 or the Division of Developmental Disabilities at (480) 831–1009.

If your child is in kindergarten through 12th grade and you suspect a disability, please contact your child's teacher or school administrator.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Exceptional Student Services for Sacaton Elementary School District at (520) 562–8600 ext. 2030 or Child Development and Education Support Services at (520) 562–3882.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM





STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE JUNE 1, 2022

WE ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING IN-OFFICE VISITS. VIRTUAL MEETINGS CAN ALSO BE SCHEDULED BY CALLING IN.

STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM

(520) 562-3316

P.O. Box 97 Sacaton, AZ - 85147

www.aricted.com

Student.Services@gric.nsn.us

or visi

www.grsg.com

For more information:

OR SCAN QR CODE:

Phone

Email:

Online

Mailing at:

APPLICATION CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS:

APPLICATION

- 200 WORD ESSAY
- CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN BLOOD (CIB) *(CURRENT - WITHIN 90 DAYS OF DEADLINE DATE)
- ACCEPTANCE LETTER
- ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT
- (VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ONLY)
- PROGRAM OF STUDY
- OFFICIAL CLASS SCHEDULE
- STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR 2022-2023) • HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF **HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCES!**

WE ACCEPT EARLY APPLICATIONS.



Competitive wages excellent health hene

REVISIONS TO TITLE 5, CRIMINAL CODE, TO DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA AND TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA ON THE GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

Press Release Office of General Council

The Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") will be considering proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code to decriminalize marijuana and allow medical marijuana on the Reservation at their regular meeting on March 29, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.. A copy

Title 5 of the GRIC Code in their entirety is available for review at each District Service Center, the Community Council Secretary's Office, or by contacting the Office of General Counsel at OGC. HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us.

If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed revision of

of the proposed revisions to you may attend the scheduled LSC meeting, contact your Council representative or the LSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720, or provide written comments by email to the Office of General Counsel at OGC. HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Title 5 of the GRIC Code, Attn: Casaundra Wallace.



SAND & GRAVEL CORP. Accepting Applications **APPLY IN PERSOI**

or visit www.grsg.com for more information

> Submit application Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM Santan Plant 2126 N. Tanner Rd.

Gila River Tribal Health Department—Animal Control Program 433 W. Seed Farm Rd., Sacaton, Az. 85147 520-562-5177 / 520-562-5100

The Tribal Health Department is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our employees, customers and visitors. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our work place and community.

The Animal Control/Spay and Neuter Program

Spaying and Neutering



Submit applic	ation Monday–Friday 8AN	1–4PM, Santan Plant	2126 N. Tanner Rd.	to 5:00 p or cats, c a messag name, nu
	INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT E OF ARIZONA		INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT COF ARIZONA	your call Emergen
KIMBERLEE ANN BEGAYVS. Petitioner/Plaintiff	CASE Number: CV-2011-0306-ZPT	SHANEEN LEA LEWIS , Petitioner/Plaintiff	CASE Number: FM-2019-0103-PT	of 5:00pt Departm
Vs. ROBERT JASON LEWIS SR.	CIVIL SUMMONS	VS. MARK PABLO FLORES, Respondent/Defendant	CIVIL 45 day NOTICE to Respondent	type of e D5 Anim
Respondent/Defendant TO: ROBERT ASON LEWIS SR. 109 SUNDERT CRCLE		Please take notice that a(u) Review Hearing was held on March 14, 2022 in the Gila River Indian Community Court. Respondent failed to appear. NOTICE IS GIVEN TO: RESPONDENT: MARK PABLO PLORES shall have forty-five days (45) to file and or context the Clerk of the Court to request a hearing date and dime. If Respondent fails to move the Court by April 29, 2022, The Court shall issue a Civil Bench Warrant summarily. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona. DATED this 16th day of March, 2022		

ns: Sundays thru Saturdays from 8:00 am estions or concerns pertaining to dogs al Control at 520-562-5177. When leaving speak clearly and detailed with your d your concern. A staff member will return

ou have an emergency between the hours am, please contact the Gila River Police 0-562-4511, give your name, number and

The Shelter is open to the public Monday en the hours of 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. the Shelter is closed on both Federal and lolidays.

Program: This program provides basic pet sic treatments, and sterilizations.



Vaccinations, Spay and Neuter services will be by appointment only. Please contact Animal Control Program at 520-562-5177 to schedule an appointment.

FRI, APR 1 | 8PM BRETT YOUNG

SAT, APR 9 7PM & 10PM GEORGEE LOPEZ OMG HI COMEDY TOUR

AT WILD HORSE PASS



Wild Horse Pass Lone Butte Vee Quiva

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