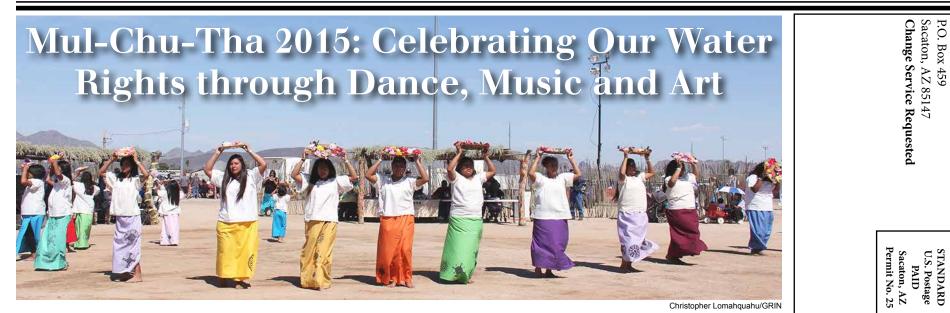


Hashen Kehk GuUKi-Santan - Casa Blanca - Komatke - Maricopa Colony Blackwater --

MARCH 20, 2015

Gila River Indian News P.O. Box 459



John Mike's Fifth Generation Basket Dancers perform at the Mul-Chu-Tha fairgrounds cultural circle Saturday, March 14.

By GRIN staff

Gila River Indian News

The 53rd Annual Mul-Chu-Tha was presented under the theme: "Celebrating our Water Rights through Dance, Music and Art."

From the parade to the chicken scratch, the rodeo to the thoka, the Mul-Chu-Tha had a little bit of everything for everyone.

During parade Saturday morning, March 14, Randy Ruiz from District 1 kept things moving as emcee.

"It was great. I always have fun doing these parades. [There were] a lot of good floats...very colorful, the performances were great. I really enjoyed the crowd, a lot of people really just taking it all in."

Traditional water symbols adorned nearly all the floats.

"It's great for our young people," said Ruiz, "you know, carrying on that tradition. And I think it's an exposure, too, to some of the young people about the water rights."

After the parade, the crowd lining Bluebird Road shuffled over to the fairgrounds about a half mile away where the fry bread popped and the kids on the zipper

tried not to get sick.

The fairgrounds hosted the Battle of the Bands, the Mul-Chu-Tha Rodeo, a powwow, a horseshoe-throwing contest and plenty of live waila music for dancing. Across town, Community members participated in a basketball tournament at the Sacaton Wellness Center.

Saturday night highlights included shows from comedy troupe The 1491s and a performance by hip-hop artist Baby Bash.

On Sunday, several teams took part in a thoka tournament just south of the fairgrounds. April Crawford is the captain of a newly formed team called Hemako E:p, which means One More in English.

"I was taught that it's a recreational game, you know, just to have fun, and that's what my thing is, to make sure that all my girls have fun," she said.

When asked why she plays, Crawford compares thoka, a traditional sport played by O'otham ancestors to another favorite, more modern sport.

"It's just like basketball. It's just fun. To me it's the running and

Continued on Page 7



Sienna Whittington crowned Miss Gila River, **Charisma Quiroz Junior Miss Gila River**



Immediately following the pageant, new royalty pose for the audience. From left: Miss Gila River First Attendant Cheyenne Jackson, Miss Gila River Sienna Whittington, Jr. Miss Gila River Charisma Quiroz, Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant Ashley Thompson and Jr. Miss Gila River Second Attendant Siasek Lucero.

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community was treated to an evening of fashion and cultural heritage at the 52nd Annual Miss and Jr. Miss Gila River Pageant March 7 at the District 1 Blackwater Vuhs-Ich Ha-Ke Multipurpose Building. People gathered to witness the crowning of the new Miss Gila River Sienna Whittington (D5) and Jr. Miss Gila River Charisma Quiroz (D1). Cheyenne Jackson (D6) was named Miss Gila River First Attendant. Ashley Thompson (D3) and Siasek Lucero (D1) were named Jr. Miss Gila River First and Second Attendant, respectively.

Community, showing the audi- tion and Reylynne Williams, the ence plants grown in Gila River. Gila River Royalty Committee Jackson shared her interest for Chair, was impressed with how the game of Thoka, a traditional well they all did speaking before O'otham women's sport similar a live audience. to field hockey. She explained aga), which is made of mesquite a really excellent job this week,

By Christopher Lomahquahu the agricultural history of the hard to prepare for the competi-

"I'm really proud of these the selection of the stick (u'us- girls," said Williams. "They did being comfortable speaking to a large group of people." She said, "In rehearsal it's just [you] up there on stage, but we encourage them to be themselves, to have fun [and] to help each other out." Even though the contestants were in competition for the title, the committee liked seeing the girls enjoy the pageant and take away new friendships from the experience.

Community members enjoy the Mul-Chu-Tha fair Friday, March 13.

The Miss Gila River competition consisted of two contestants, Whittington and Jackson, and both gave noteworthy presentations in the Time Honored category.

Whittington expounded upon

branches, and the puck (ola) used for the game.

This year's pageant also marked the return of the Jr. Miss Gila River, which has been absent since 2010. Quiroz, Thompson and Lucero impressed the audience with their cultural performances in the competition.

Quiroz danced with her siblings to an O'odham song. Lucero sang a song called "Smiling," which is about gathering through round dance. Thompson gave a presentation on the meaning of traditional plants found on the reservation

All of the contestants worked

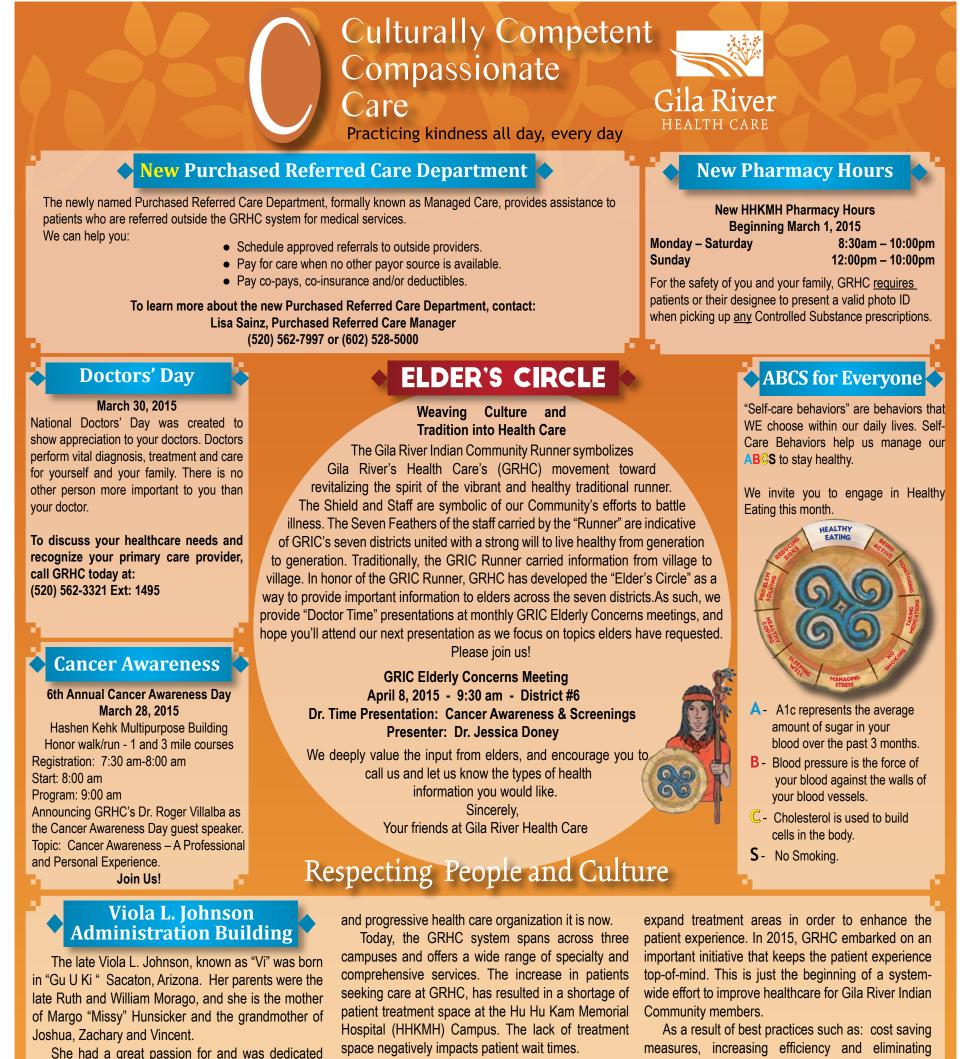
Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica L. Antone congratulated the contestants.

Continued on Page 9

IN the GRIN

Letters & Opinions.....Page 3 Culture & History......Page 7 Community Updates...Page 5 Announcements/Notices....Pg. 10 Loop 202 approved, Pg. 4 GRTI award at HHC First Friday, RES, Pg. 4 Pg. 8

March 20, 2015



to providing care for her people. For 20+ years, Viola L. Johnson self-sacrificed and worked for the greater good. As GRHC's first Chief Executive Officer, her

To address this problem and create more clinical space, GRHC's solution included a sequence of events that transitions business functions and 144 employees in separate phases from HHKMH to new and temporary work space. The new Viola L. Johnson Building will provide space and serve as the hub for important business functions (Finance, IT, Leadership, and Public Relations/Communications).

As a result of best practices such as: cost saving measures, increasing efficiency and eliminating waste, operating profit or surplus revenue will fund the \$12 million dollar Viola L. Johnson Administration Building. All surplus revenue helps to fund projects that tie directly back to the Community. We are proud and honored to commemorate the late Viola L. Johnson by naming GHRC's new business services building, the Viola L. Johnson Administration Building. We respectfully extend an invitation for you to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony in late April. Look for more information in the next edition of the GRIN. **For more information about this project, call: Steven Green, Chief Operating Officer at** (520) 562-3321 Ext: 1432 or sgreen@grhc.org.

leadership and vision paved a path for:

- Seamless transition from an IHS facility to a 638 self-governance health care system
- Successful Joint Commission Accreditation
- Financial stability

Page 2

On March 3, 2003, the late Viola L. Johnson lost her battle with cancer.

Today, it is incumbent upon GRHC to honor the late Viola L. Johnson for her years of service. It is through her vision and hard work, GRHC is the robust

GRHC's Board of Directors and Executive Leadership Team are honored to carry forward the vision of the late Viola L. Johnson. Her vision, together with GRHC's "Patients First" missiondriven philosophy, reaffirms our commitment to

GRHC.ORG

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ters should be limited to 200 words and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer's true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper. Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling and content.

www.gilariver.org/index.php/news Material published in the Gila River Indian



fication. To report an error call (520) 562-9719 or email grin@gric.nsn.us

Artwork by Community member Wayne Narcia

AZ Merit State Testing for 3rd & 4th Grade Students

GRTI named **American Indian Business of the Year By Mikhail Sundust** Gila River Indian News

Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. walked out of the Reservation Economic Summit with heads held high this year.

The annual conference, which was at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel last year and in Las Vegas this time, regularly awards tribally owned companies who demonstrate an "unrelenting dedication to improving the economy and the lives of the individuals living within their community," according to a press release.

In the press release, Gary Davis, President and CEO of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, said, "Gila River Telecommunication exemplifies everything that the National Center stands for -- a firm devotion to enhancing economic development in Indian Country."

He said, "Successful Native American businesses like Gila River Telecommunications are critically important to improving the economy and creating good jobs in Indian Country. The National Center is truly honored to recognize them for their achievements in business."

According to the press release, prior to the establishment of GRTI in 1988, "only 10% of the [Gila River Indian Community] had telephone services and telecommunication infrastructure was outdated and in poor condition, resulting in a low quality of service. Today, with an upgraded infrastructure network, the company provides telephone services to over 80% of the community, with a number of members receiving DSL [internet] services as well. Gila River Telecommunications also employs 65 men and women, over 65% of which are members of the Gila River Community."

Loop 202 Extension Gains Federal Approval

ADOT News Release

lease March 10:

Freeway, proposed by regional planners proved by Maricopa County voters in 1985. since the 1980s, has received final approval from the Federal Highway Administration, paving the way for the Arizona Department of Transportation to move the project forward.

5 by the Federal Highway Administration, grants the final approval necessary for ADOT to begin the process of acquiring right of way, complete the design and begin construction of the 22-mile-long freeway to serve the metro Phoenix region.

The Record of Decision will allow ADOT to begin final design and subse-Freeway. Acquisition of right of way is expected to begin immediately. ADOT has determined that, pursuant to an unsolicited proposal submitted to construct the freeway, construction will follow a public-private partnership path, helping to speed construction and reduce overall costs. The freeway would not be tolled under any public-private partnership proposal, but would include a private group involved with final design, construction and a 30-year agreement to maintain the freeway.

"The South Mountain Freeway has been approved as a part of two elections that have provided the region with additional transportation funding. Voters recognized the need and the benefits of this project to provide connectivity, travel reliability and route options for a growing region," said ADOT Director John Halikowski. "Both ADOT and the Maricopa Association of Governments agree this is a critically needed project, and ADOT is breaking new has decided to identify the Preferred Alterground by moving it forward under a public-private partnership agreement to more closely involve the private sector, helping to save money and speed construction."

tation announced the following Press Re- pa Association of Governments' Regional Freeway Program since it was first includ-The Valley's Loop 202 South Mountain ed in funding through Proposition 300, ap-The freeway was also part of the Regional Transportation Plan funding passed by Maricopa County voters in 2004 through Proposition 400.

The South Mountain Freeway is the The Record of Decision, signed March last piece to complete the Loop 202 and Loop 101 freeway system necessary for high-quality regional mobility, according to regional planners.

ant milestone in the history of the Valley's transportation system," said Maricopa Association of Governments Chair Michael acted to the announcement with it's own LeVault, mayor of Youngtown. "It has been quent construction of the South Mountain a long time coming, and we look forward to the improved mobility and economic opportunities that this freeway facility will bring to our region."

> The environmental review process, which included preparing both draft and final environmental impact statements, was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and identified the preferred route for this freeway corridor running east and west along Pecos Road and then north and south between 55th and 63rd avenues, connecting with Interstate 10 on each end. The Final Environmental Impact Statement documented the analysis of potential impacts associated with the freeway and the no-build alternative, and addressed comments received on the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements. The draft environmental report was published in 2013, followed by publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement in 2014.

The Federal Highway Administration native (a combination of the W59 and E1 Alternatives) as the Selected Alternative for the South Mountain Freeway project. This The proposed South Mountain Free- including responses to public comments re- process.

The Arizona Department of Transpor- way has been a critical part of the Marico- ceived on the Final Environmental Impact Statement, is documented in the Record of Decision.

> The freeway will be constructed with four lanes in each direction - three general-use lanes and one HOV lane - and modern features that have made Arizona freeways stand apart from other states for a generation, including rubberized asphalt and aesthetics designed in partnership with the community. The \$1.9 billion project is expected to take about four years to construct.

For more information, or to view the "This is a great day and an import- Record of Decision, visitazdot.gov/South-MountainFreeway.

> The Gila River Indian Community republic statement which read, in part:

> The Community is disappointed that ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") did not select the No-Action Alternative in the Record of Decision. ... The Gila River Indian Community is steadfast in its opposition to the proposed 202 South Mountain Freeway, as evidenced in the Community's comments on both the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The Community has taken the firm position that ADOT should select the No-Action Alternative to avoid irreversible impacts to Traditional Cultural Properties and to protect the Community, its members and the environment. The Community's comments also stressed that ADOT failed to undertake required environmental studies, and reiterated that the Community's refusal to permit an on-Reservation alternative does not excuse ADOT's obligation to study – and its failure to study -- a South Mountain avoidance alternative in the EIS.

The Community will evaluate the Record of Decision in the coming weeks to determine the most appropriate action in light of the short-comings that the Community decision along with supporting information, has identified in ADOT's and FHWA's EIS



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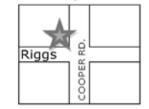
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COMMUNITY UPDATES BY GRIN STAFF

Here are some regular updates on the on-going issues pertaining to the Gila River Indian Community.

Kautaq Construction Building Houses in Gila River



hristopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

From left: Eric Donahue (District 7), Kautaq Superintendent Paul Holguin and Gabriel Martinez (District 7) outside of the construction company's local office in District 5.

By Christopher Lomahquahu can-owned construction business Gila River Indian News

Tucked away behind the District 5 Veterans Memorial Building rests the Kautaq Construction Services, LLC central field office, which busily manages the high rate of housing development in the Gila River Indian Community. Kautaq is a Native Ameri-

Alaska. Kautaq means "hammer" in the Inupiat language. In 2013, Kautaq opened an office in Tempe, but it also oper-

ates smaller offices in areas where it is involved with construction. The firm isn't new to working in

that is part of the Ukpeagvik Inu-

piat Corporation Family of Com-

panies based out of Anchorage,

tribal communities. Kautaq has experience working with the Navajo Nation and Hopi tribe.

Its first project in Gila River was for the Pee-Posh Community Housing development in District 7. Working along with architects Irvine Design Studios, Kautaq completed the project last winter.

The two companies have teamed up again with a goal to build 417 homes in Districts 1 -7, including eight in the George Webb Housing Division, under the direction of the Gila River Home Owners Team. Kautaq sub-contracts some of the construction work to Pimmex Contracting, a Gila River Community member-owned construction company.

"This project is big and it's moving fast. We've already hit 155 home sites. We're off to a quick start," said Paul Holguin, General Superintendent for Kautaq

Housing development in the Community has increased rapidly in recent years. Some of the homes Kautaq is working on will be finished within months. The pace of construction has hastened because there are many more to be

built throughout the Community.

Holguin said the progress they have made is "in the spirit of cooperation we have with the Community. We are happy to be a consistent builder."

The momentum in building homes is just getting started. Kautaq hopes to construct 20 to 30 homes a month.

For two Community members, working for Kautaq is an opportunity to add to their experience in construction, but most of all they see it as a way to give back to the Community.

Gabriel Martinez, District 7, was happy to be part of the construction of homes in Gila River.

"It's been great, I can't say enough about the company," said Martinez at the District 5 Kautaq office. "I started as a laborer last year, and then [moved up] to operator and went to Assistant Superintendent this year."

District 7, expressed his satisfaction working with the company. "It's been great because of all the homes that we've been building, I like that they are Native owned too," he said.

Martinez and Donahue both feel that they can help build relationships with their fellow Community members and keep them updated on the construction of their homes. "They're more relaxed [when they] talk with us," said Martinez.

Martinez and Donahue said seeing homes go from the ground up is an exciting part of being involved with the project.

Inside one of the homes under construction in the George Webb housing division, Holguin described how the homes will utilize solar lighting and incorporate building techniques that reduce the cost of utilities.

Donahue pointed out some of the structural features that are part of the building process, such as reinforced walls that are integrated into the foundation for a much sturdier house.

Holguin described the insu-Eric Donahue, also from lation process in the walls, where insulating foam is injected into the ribs of the bricks. It is a technique that helps keep the house warm in the winter and cool in the summer, further reducing utility expenses.

GRIC Donates to Cesar **E.** Chavez **Memorial** Fund **Scholarship**



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone speaks at the Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Foundation Celebration Dinner March 6.

By Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

It was an evening of recognition for high school students across Pinal County. On March 6, the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation Celebration Dinner was hosted at the Property Conference Center in Casa Grande.

cates for equal rights among farm ited.

Among the featured guest what our people went through just speakers was the grandson of Ce- to survive," said Antone about sar Chavez, Alejandro Chavez. the struggles both peoples expe-Like his grandfather, he advo- rienced when resources were lim-

GRICUA Linemen Recognized for Heroism

By Annie Gutierrez Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Linemen Samuel Jimenez and Reynaldo Rascon were recognized at the City of Coolidge Council meeting March 9 for their outstanding act of heroism in a tragic event.

On Feb. 25, the GRICUA linemen were working in the Coolidge area when they witnessed a three-vehicle collision on Kenworthy Road and State Route 87. The two GRICUA linemen sprung into action and removed an injured man from a wrecked pickup and quickly performed CPR and first-aid.

"To me it didn't seem real. It was graphic and just an unfortunate accident," said Rascon.

The two linemen utilized

praised GRICUA for providing adequate and proper training in emergency situations. "We were comfortable with the tools we were using to help the individual. It's unfortunate the individual didn't make it but we gave him a fighting chance."

At the Coolidge Council meeting, Coolidge Fire Chief Robert Jarvis and Police Chief Jim Malinski presented them with a certificate of heroism for their selfless act. The two were later presented with certificates from GRICUA.

As much as they appreciate the recognition, Jimenez and Rascon remain humble for their brav-

"Big kudos to the fire department and paramedics," said Jimenez. "They put themselves in a spot that most of us don't...but they don't get the recognition like this. We did it one time but they do it day in and day out."

The dinner recognizes students for their stand out qualities in academics and for choosing to pursue a college education.

Ralph Varela, Chairman of Cesar E. Chavez Memorial the Committee of Pinal Country welcomed the audience of dignitaries and students.

He said, "I wanted to thank fellow members of the commy mittee for being here to support [our] aspiring students."

'We are deeply indebted to the sacrifice of Cesar Chavez," he said, but praised the students for exhibiting the values he upheld and answering the "call to service" he advocated for.

workers and other issues.

The Gila River Indian Community was a Prestige Sponsor of the event for their donation towards the Cesar Chavez Foundation College Fund Program.

Lt. Gov. Monica L. Antone said, "It's an honor to be here to share this event with you."

She spoke about the closeness of the Community to the Pinal County both geographically very glad to contribute to whatevand culturally.

"Between two cultures, the native American culture and the Hispanic culture, we share a lot of the values and traditions you do," said Antone.

She spoke about the commonalities, like the agricultural heritage and some of the plants that were grown in abundance before water became scarce.

Antone said Cesar Chavez became a symbol of advocacy and strength for overcoming the challenges his people have endured.

She emphasized how important it is to fund students' scholarships and because the Community has donated toward this purpose it speaks to how far both cultures have come.

In closing, she said, "[We] are er we can do to support this endeavor for our future."

Afterward she was given the honor of handing out achievement medals to the 54 students receiving scholarships through the Cesar Chavez Foundation.

For some of the students the opportunity to go to college produces a feeling of pride, because they will be first generation col-"Everything is familiar to lege students in their families.

their first-aid kit and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) equipment provided by GRICUA to assist in the accident. The duo was able to keep the victim alive until paramedics arrived on-scene. Unfortunately the individual passed away later that day.

"Because of the nature of our industry, it's required for us to update CPR cards annually," said Rascon. Both men



GRICUA Linemen Samuel Jimenez (left) and Reynaldo Rascon (right) hold up the certificates they received from the City of Coolidge and GRICUA in recognition of their act of heroism, performing first-aid and CPR for a stranger in a collision Feb. 25.



ATTENTION ALL

COMMUNITY ARTISTS & DESIGNERS

GRIC *Gila River Indian Community* is creating a public bus system for the Community.

We are looking for creative ideas from the community for a name, design and a logo that will be used on our *NEW* fleet and related media.

Roadrunner Club Food Drive



Submitted by Mary Tatum Community Nutrition Program

The Tadai U'ugchu Roadrunner Leaders Club from Casa Blanca Community School held a food drive in which goods were donated to the Commodity Food Distribution Program. The donated food will be used to supplement the program's emergency food boxes. We very much appreciate the efforts and donations of the students!

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Culture & History

53rd Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo







From Page 1

the competition and the spirit," she said. "Plus, on top of that, it's one of our natural games. This is all natural equipment. It's not something you can go to the store and buy. You got to make it."

Thoka is like field hockey but the sticks (u'usaga) and puck (ola) are made from mesquite wood.

The Mul-Chu-Tha had a lot of other fun competitions throughout the weekend. Parade winners included Oasis Elementary School for best school/ club, Arizona Compass Prep Dance for best dance and Gila River Casinos for best GRIC department/ entity float. The Pickup Kings from Sells, Ariz. won the Battle of the Bands competition. Native Creed came in second and Gurdy Lopez and the T.O. Boyz came in third.

More information on winners can be found at www.mul-chu-tha.com

The cultural circle at the Mul-Chu-Tha brought together men and women young and old to perform traditional songs and dances. Groups like the Desert Butterflies and the Achem A'al basket dancers shared with the audience the culture of the Community.

There were a variety of songs performed like the bird song, one about eagle man, and about the flowers in bloom during the springtime.

Taras Johns from District 3 is the Desert Butterflies' main singer; he's been performing traditional songs for twenty years. He said, "It's a good



way to share our himdag with the visitors."

When asked about the meanings he said they are about a variety of social encounters, but are special to the O'odham people.

He said, "Performing here gives us an opportunity to show what is here, what our songs and dances are."

Yolanda Elias of District 6 was out at the cultural circle with her group the Achem A'al (We Children).

Elias says "Because the theme this year is celebrating our water rights, the art is in our dresses, the history is in our songs."

She takes pride in her participation, knowing that as time goes on, more and more girls are becoming interested in dancing and learning about their people.

She said, "It's an honor to perform here, to know that some of the younger ones are dancing, keeping to the traditions of our people."

Counterclockwise from top right: Miss Gila River Sienna Whittington and her fellow GRIC royalty dance during the Mul-Chu-Tha parade. The Gila Crossing Community School Color Guard marches in the parade. A cowgirl speeds through the barrel racing competition. The Cruz Band performs in the Battle of the Bands competition. Girls from the John Mike Fifth Generation Basket Dancers participate in a dance at the Mul-Chu-Tha Cultural Circle. Councilwoman Angelia Allison (District 4) starts a thoka game by tossing out the ola (puck made of mesquite).





HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER

Kwi I'ivakithak Mashath

quite tree) "leafing out" and is nature's way of letting us foot and jackrabbit's foot-hair. know that spring has arrived.

our community during the winter months, many wild- of this plant's blue flowers resembling the oriental hair-

The name for this month references the kwi (Mes- O'otham name for this plant translates to 'jackrabbit's

Chi:no hi:thpa - Desert Larkspur, the name for Due to the large amounts of rainfall that blessed this plant translates to 'Chinese queue' due to the shape

Solution on Page 8

s-oam e'es



Page 7

thash ma:hag

flowers are making an appearance throughout our region. Wildflower seeds can lay dormant for many years waiting for just the right amount of rainfall to germinate and grow.

In 1902 Frank Russell took an oral history account from Chukud Na:k (Owl Ear) the Salt River calendar stick keeper. "Salt River 1834-35: This year was long remembered because of the bountiful crops of wheat, corn, squash, pumpkins, and watermelons that were raised. The desert mesas were carpeted with flowers and the bloom of cacti further transformed them into gardens."

Our Hekiu Ootham named everything in our present natural environment including wildflowers. In the O'otham plant classification system wild annuals have their own category and are descriptive of their appearance, or a characteristic of their behavior.

A few common wildflowers are: thohavs – White Brittlebush, the O'otham root word thoha means 'to become white'. This plant is mentioned in the O'otham Creation Epic as being a bed for the infant Coyote. This is one of the first desert-plants to bloom in early spring, most notable along the I-10 corridor.

Chu:v tha:thad, chu:v thadpo - Owl-clover, the

style

Ho:hi ees - Mexican Gold Poppy, the name for this wild annual is appropriate as 'Mourning Dove's plants or flowers' since the ho:hi and many animals eat the seeds after the seed pods mature and burst open.

Thash ma:hag - Desert Lupine, the name for this plant thash ma:hag literally translates to 'sun hands' or 'hands toward the sun' and references the heliotropic [to follow the sun] qualities of this plant. The O'otham observed how the leaves of this plant resemble an open hand and how they follow the sun throughout the solar

S-oam e'es - Desert Marigold, this plant's name translates to "yellow plants/flowers", and are evident along most major roadways.

Hevel hiosig - Parry's Penstemons, the name of this plant translates to "Wind's Flower", and can be found along the foothills and sandy washes.

This month's word match focuses on wildflowers, we encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives. This is also a good time to observe wildflowers in our natural environment before they go dormant.

ho:hi e'es



chu:v thathad

thohavs



Huhugam Heritage Center First Friday

By Annie Gutierrez

Gila River Indian News

March 6 launched the start of First Fridays at the Huhugam Heritage Center. Every first Friday of the month, the Center will open its doors to the public for a night of food, art and entertainment.

This month's event featured ten local vendors, artists and musicians from around the Community, such as waila band Two Rivers, who had guests up and dancing. The museum and Community artist gallery were also open for exploring.

HHC secretary Rachel Enos believes the new event well help boost the Center's visitor attendance.

"Our goal is to be known," said Enos, who coordinated the First Friday event. "First Friday is a way of bringing awareness and promoting the museum and our own arts and crafts, vendors and artists."

She said for now they are only working with artists and vendors within the Community, but "in the future, when it gets bigger, we'll invite surrounding artists." However, evervone is welcome to attend.

Among the vendors were Mikalita Crystal-Kito and her business partner William with All Nations

COMMUN >

Gila River HEALTH CARE

ry. Artist Wayne Narcia was also in attendance with his painted her friends from the San Xavier Co-op Farms sold beans, cornmeal and other grown foods by the pound.

Community artist Russell Blackwater attracted many guests to his table with his unique traditional art and wood-burned pieces. "I try a little bit of everything," said Blackwater, District 1, about his artwork.

He does a lot of southwestern inspired art and basket designs, but is probably best known for his numerous works displayed around the Community, particularly the mural of the Iwo Jima Flag Rais- King of the Skills tonight," said

Dine and O'otham-inspired jewel- ing at the Ira H. Hayes Memorial Park

On the subject of First Friday, gourds while Joyce Hughes and Blackwater said, "It benefits me a lot. I've always been told to go evening as the HHC's first First off-reservation, but I do well here Friday. on the reservation. The tribe has always been good to me so I give terested in the culture side of beback."

> While some vendors used the event to sell arts and crafts, District 5 graffiti artist Jonathan White took the opportunity to showcase his skills. Bystanders watched from afar as the contemporary artist applied pink and black spray paint on two blank canvases to create a colorful masterpiece.

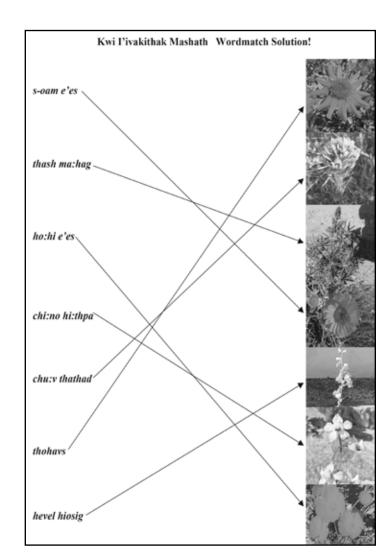
"I was supposed to be at the

White, 26. The annual King of the ing here. I feel it (First Friday) and this year took place the same too."

White said, "I felt more in-

Skills event in District 5 showcas- brought my talent back and I enes several dozen aerosol artists courage other artists to come out

> The next Huhugam Heritage Center First Friday will be April 3.





Gutierrez/GRIN Jewelry. The duo sold their Guests admire the artwork of local vendors at the First Friday event.

HONOR WALK/RUN-1& 3 MILE COURSE REG: 7:30 AM - 8 AM / START: 8:00 A.M.

CANCER A WARENESS DAY Honoring the Journey"

HASHAN KEHK MULTIPURPOSE BUI

For more info. contact: Devin Pablo (520) 550-8000

Info booths and arts & crafts vendors welcome! VENDORS & BOOTHS please register prior to the event at the information provided above. Deadline: 03/23/15.

New Gila River Royalty

From Page 1

"All of them had special culture and people." talents. I'm happy for all the girls; they all did an awesome tinue her education, but is unjob," said Antone. "I think decided between attending the the Junior Miss inspires our University of Arizona and Ariyounger girls to compete for zona State University. the pageant. It's just about them becoming mature women and different things with this title. possibly running for Miss Gila There are many opportunities River ... It is about sister hood, that can come from it," said about what they are going to do Quiroz. "For anybody looking for the Community, empower- to run for this, it's a great oping young women."

Gov. Lewis extended his future generations of girls interested in running for the titles of Miss and Jr. Miss Gila River.

promise and I hope they keep up their educational goals. They emphasized being active and being part of their culture."

reign as Jr. Miss Gila River.

"It's been pretty exciting, especially just turning sev- honor to take this position. It's enteen the day after [the pageant]," said Quiroz a few days Community." later.

the family is excited for her. the Community. My platform is "We knew regardless of the history, culture and education." outcome, it would be a learning experience for her, about her

Quiroz has plans to con-

"I look forward to doing portunity."

All of the royalty said that appreciation for the young in the coming year they want to women setting an example for learn more about what they can do for the Community.

For Whittington, that means getting back in touch "I am so proud of each and with the land and the people to everyone one of them," said show her appreciation for the Lewis. "They have so much Community's support while she was away pursuing higher education.

Whittington recently graduated from the University of Quiroz and her family were California – Irvine, where she very excited about starting her earned bachelors' degrees in Sociology and Anthropology.

> Whittington said, "It's an very rewarding to represent the

She said, "I want to address Her father, Richard, said the history and the culture of

NFL Star Teaches Financial Management at Sacaton Family Night

By Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

At six feet, six inches tall, Chicago Bears defensive end Jared Allen is big on saving.

The game of football seems like an unlikely way to learn about financial responsibility, but at Sacaton Elementary School's Family Night on March 5 the National Football League star talked with parents about spending wisely.

In his years in NFL he learned the value of spending responsibly, which eventually led to his sharing financial advice with other players in the league.

Off the field, Allen talks to groups around the country to help people understand how to manage money.

Allen says his background growing up in a farming family outside of San Jose, Calif. with little money taught him early on that money isn't always a luxury that can be had.

"Sometimes players will spend on big items and not really think about the costs of living that comes with it," he said. "Most young guys that sign on with a team haven't dealt with large amounts of money in their life."

He realizes that not everyone makes an NFL-size salary, but the danger of overspending applies to everyone. The advice for the parents is to set a budget and use it



Chicago Bears defensive end Jared Allen presents on the role of financial responsibility in a family's life.

on what you can spend.

The goal, he said, is to dispel the negative connotations around perspective of what people bebudgeting.

He said, "Yes it seems like your restricting what you want to spend your money on, but I want to point out it's about modeling good money habits."

mentary in partnership with Money Management International, a ic goals, otherwise you may not group that works with large organizations like the NFL to help guide players and other high pro-

as a tool, rather than a restriction file individuals on managing finances.

> Allen said, "Finances are a lieve is happiness."

In addition to Allen's advice, Maura Attardi from MMI said setting and achieving financial goals is important.

"[Budgeting] is a series of Allen visited Sacaton Ele- decisions families have to make," she said. "You must make specifachieve them."



Composting Dos and Don'ts

Submitted by DEQ Gila River Indian News

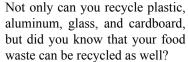
In 2014, the Gila River Indian Community Department of Public Works collected a total of 3,686 tons of trash from bi-weekly home collections. The collected trash is taken to landfills off-reservation, where an additional fee is charged per ton. Based upon the 2010 Census, there were 2,982 households in the Community. If you take those 2,982 households and divide by the 2014 trash that was collected, this would equal to almost 1 ton of trash accumulated per household in one year alone. A great way to reduce the amount and cost of trash is to recycle.

als, such as grass clippings, plantbased kitchen waste or barnyard animal manure; (c) and a compost bin or designated area. You may also want to consider coffee grounds, as they are a very good addition to your composting efforts. They would be considered a "green" or nitrogen source. Coffee grounds can be collected from home or from your local coffee shop, like Kowee Coffee.

To begin composting, add the compost material in layers, in which the "brown" layers will need to be thicker than the green layers (3:1 "Brown"-to-"Green" ratio). Every couple weeks, be sure to turn the pile with a fork or shovel. It is also important to keep the pile moist, but not soggy, which will encourage a faster breakdown of the "raw" materials into usable compost. When the material is black, crumbly, and sweet-smelling, the compost is ready for use. With these first steps, you can now begin your journey in composting. Enjoy!

- Stalks, stems & vines
- Coffee grounds & filters, tea bags
- Bark ٠
- Wood ashes (in limited amounts)
- Manure (horse, cow, chicken & rabbit)
- Garden clippings ٠
- Leaves Grass clippings

- Meat & Fat
- Fish
- Poultry
- Bones
- **Dairy Products** Plastics or Synthetic fiber
 - **Diseased** Plants
- Vogetable Oils
- Dog & Cat feces
- Weeds which have gone to seed
- Invasive Weeds



The recycled nutrients from your food can be added to other organic material to make a natural soil amendment that you can add to your garden or yard. This is called compost. Composting is

a great and simple way to restore vitality to depleted soil. All you need is (a) carbon-rich "brown" materials, such as fall leaves, straw, dead flowers from your garden, and shredded newspaper; (b) nitrogen-rich "green" materi-

The Department of Environmental Quality would like to request your organization's participation in this year's Earth Day Celebration. Organizations are encouraged to set up environmentally focused booths to promote environmental stewardship and provide environmental education activities for our guests.

For more information please contact Althea Walker

althea.walker@gric.nsn.us 520-562-2234

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality is announcing that the 30-day public comment period for **Toka Sticks Service Center, located at 6822 E. Williams Field Rd., Mesa, AZ 85212**, air quality operating permit officially begins on **March 20, 2015**. The gas station is being permitted for Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). Public comments will be accepted in writing until **April 20, 2015**, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received.

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality is announcing that the 30-day public comment period for **HANSON Aggregates Arizona, Inc., located at 2026 N. Tanner Rd., Sacaton, AZ 85147**, air quality operating permit officially begins on **March 20, 2015**. The concrete batch plant is being permitted for Particulate Matter (PM) and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). Public comments will be accepted in writing until **April 20, 2015**, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received.

Any person may submit a written comment or a request to the Department to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving oral or written comments on the proposed air quality operating permits. Such comments and request shall be received by the Department within 30 days of the date of the first publication notice. A written comment shall state the name and mailing address of the person, shall be signed by the person, his agent or his attorney and shall clearly set forth reasons why the permit should or should not be issued. Grounds for comment are limited to whether the proposed permit meets the criteria for issuance prescribed in the Gila River Indian Community Code: Title 17, Chapter 9 of the Air Quality Management Plan. Only persons who submit written comments may appeal a permit decision. Copies of the permit application, the proposed permit, and relevant background material may be reviewed during normal business hours at the Department offices. Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to:

For further information, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520)796-3781 or visit our offices located at 1576A S. Nelson Dr., Chandler, AZ 85226. Our office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

News Release

American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org

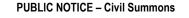
Media contact: Kimberly Houk, 801-505-8956, @RedCrossBloodLC

Severe winter weather affects Red Cross blood, platelet donations Donors urgently needed after nearly 1,000 blood drives canceled since Feb. 1

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Mar. 9) — Following round after round of snow, freezing rain and arctic cold in many parts of the country, the American Red Cross has an urgent need for eligible blood and platelet donors to give now to help restock its shelves.

March storms forced the cancellation of more than 200 blood drives, resulting in nearly 7,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations. This shortfall follows more than 26,400 uncollected blood and platelet donations in February due to severe weather across 27 states. Despite the weather, hospital patients still rely on transfusion.

"Blood products are being delivered to hospitals almost as quickly as they come in," said Julia Wulf, CEO of the Lewis and Clark and Arizona Blood Services Region. "Donors who give now aren't just restocking our shelves, they are making sure hope continues to be available for patients in need."



From the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Courts

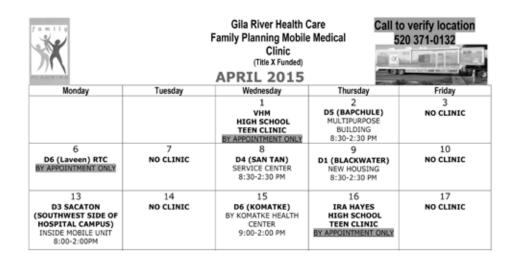
Chris Allen

Guardianship Review Hearing Case: J-13-0016/0017/0018/0019/0020 Court Date: April 16, 2015 at 11:00 am, Court room #2, 1st Floor FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS Location: Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, Building #23 Address: 10005 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256

Anthony Allen

Guardianship Review Hearing Case: J-13-0016/0017/0018/0019/0020 Court Date: April 16, 2015 at 11:00 am, Court room #2, 1st Floor FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS Location: Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, Building #23 Address: 10005 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale. AZ 85256

Faith Seota Probate Hearing Case: P-13-0060 Court Date: April 14, 2015 at 11:00 am, Court room #4, 2nd Floor FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS Location: Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Court, Building #23 Address: 10005 E. Osborn Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256



FORMAL WRITTEN REPRIMAND

As a result of an external investigation by an outside law firm of allegations contained in a Code of Conduct complaint filed by the former Tribal Education Department ("TED") Director against former Governor Gregory Mendoza, and following a Special Meeting on March 2, 2015, the Community Council has found that while in office Mr. Mendoza placed his personal political interests before the interests of the Community and violated the Code of Conduct by: 1) asking TED staff to help him prepare for political events to support his campaign; 2) asking the former TED Director to discipline TED employees for their protected political activities undertaken on their own time; 3) retaliating against the former TED Director when he failed to comply; and 4) ultimately terminating the former TED Director at least in part for Mr. Mendoza's perception that the TED Director and his staff had not supported Mr. Mendoza politically. This conduct amounts to a misuse of staff, improper official conduct that put at risk the best interests of the Community, and an attempt to prohibit, limit or restrict the political activities of Community member employees. Mr. Mendoza's conduct violated the Code of Conduct, Sections 1.403(I) and 1.402. Mr. Mendoza declined to be a part of the investigation that resulted in these findings. Section 1.502(A) of the Code of Conduct provides for various disciplinary sanctions for violations, including public reprimands.

Mr. Mendoza is hereby publicly reprimanded for his conduct in violation of the Gila River Indian Community Code of Conduct.

In addition, the Community Council also found that Mr. Mendoza may have violated provisions of the Community's Election Code. At the Special Meeting on March 2, 2015, the Community Council also motioned to refer any civil or criminal violations of the Elections Code to the Office of General Counsel and the Office of the Prosecutor for consideration of criminal or civil charges against Mr. Mendoza.

Section 1.403(I) of the Code of Conduct provides:

Staff Misuse. No Official shall employ, with funds of the Community, any unauthorized person(s) who do not perform duties commensurate with such compensation, and shall use authorized employees and staff only for the official purposes for which they are employed or otherwise retained.

Section 1.402 of the Code of Conduct provides:

General Standards of Conduct.

All Officials shall comply with the standards of Article XII § 2 of the Constitution as codified in GRIC Code Sections 1.201.A. and 1.201.C. Convictions for crime of moral turpitude under GRIC Code Section 1.201.B. will be handled separately by the Community Council and are not actionable under this Code of Conduct. The Community Council retains the power to move any matter to removal proceedings outside of the Code of Conduct at any time.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Post Office Box 2138 Sacaton, Arizona 85147 (520) 562-9720 FAX: (520) 562-9729

~ OFFICIAL MOTION ~

I, Shannon White, Secretary of the Gila River Indian Community Council, hereby attest to the following Motion passed by the Gila River Indian Community Council at a SPECIAL Meeting held Monday, March 02, 2015, in the Community Council Chambers, Governance Center, Sacaton, Arizona.

SUBJECT: NEW BUSINESS

1. Code Of Conduct

MOTION: Councilwoman Jennifer Allison stated, my motion is to recognize that Mr. Mendoza has violated the Code of Conduct and finds Mr. Mendoza, per this Code of Conduct, the following sanctions be applied 1) a publication of a written reprimand in the Gila River

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Residents in unaffected areas can help the Red Cross restock its shelves immediately. As a national network, the Red Cross can help ensure blood products are available for patients at local hospitals as well as hospitals throughout the country.

The Red Cross urges donors of all blood types to make and keep appointments in the coming days. Platelet donors, as well as blood donors with the most in-demand blood types – O negative, A negative and B negative – are particularly encouraged to give now to help replenish the blood supply.

Platelets help prevent massive blood loss and are a vital part of cancer and organ transplant treatments. With a shelf life of just five days, platelet donations are especially needed. Eligible donors with types O negative, A negative and B negative blood are encouraged to donate double red cells where available. During a double red cell donation, two units of red cells are collected while most of the plasma and platelets are returned to the donor.

To find a convenient donation opportunity and schedule an appointment, donors can download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit <u>redcrossblood.org</u> or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

- News for a period of 60-days; 2) a posting of a written reprimand at the district service centers for 60-days; and that the publication and written postings will be written by Osborn Maledon and reviewed by Legislative Standing Committee prior to posting; second by Councilman Joey Whitman
- Vote: 11 Council Members Present 11 For; 0 Oppose; 0 Abstain; 5 Absent; 1 Vacancy; MOTION CARRIED
- MOTION: Councilwoman Jennifer Allison stated, I make a motion to refer any criminal or civil violations of the Election Code to the Office of General Counsel or the Office of Prosecutors to file against Mr. Mendoza and that is recommended to have this matter heard by an outside judge; second by Councilman Joey Whitman
- Vote: 11 Council Members Present 10 For; 1 Oppose; 0 Abstain; 5 Absent; 1 Vacancy; MOTION CARRIED



ATTEST:

Shannon White Community Council Secretary

03.02.15; 11:19:13, 11:20:20

GRBC

GILA RIVER BROADCASTING CORP.

Mark Your Calender

The GRBC Grand Opening is getting closer! The Gila River Broadcasting Corporation is very excited to share with you the future of broadcasting in the community!

To commemorate our big leap into broadcasting, we invite you to please join us for the GRBC Grand Opening. Entertainment and lunch will be provided! For more information please go to **www.grbc.tv**.

> When: Monday, April 6, 2015
> Time: 9 am - 1 1 am
> Where: GRTI Main Office 7065 W. Allison Road Chandler, AZ 85226





Reservations are highly recommended





Visit Rawhide.com to make your reservations or call 480.502.5600. 18% Gratuity will be included for parties of 8 or more



*No Alcohol, Drugs, Weapons

THIS IS A FREE ADMISSION, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT WITH SOMETHING TO DO FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

General information please call District 7 Recreation at (520) 430-4780

Gila River Indian Community's District 7 Park 8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen AZ 85339 (83rd Avenue, South of Baseline)

Gila River Indian Community, District Seven, Gila River Commissioners, and Event Committee & Volunteers shall not be held responsible for bodily injury, or theft, or damages incurred during the Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration.



WinGilaRiver.com 800-WIN-GILA



GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.

Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community

