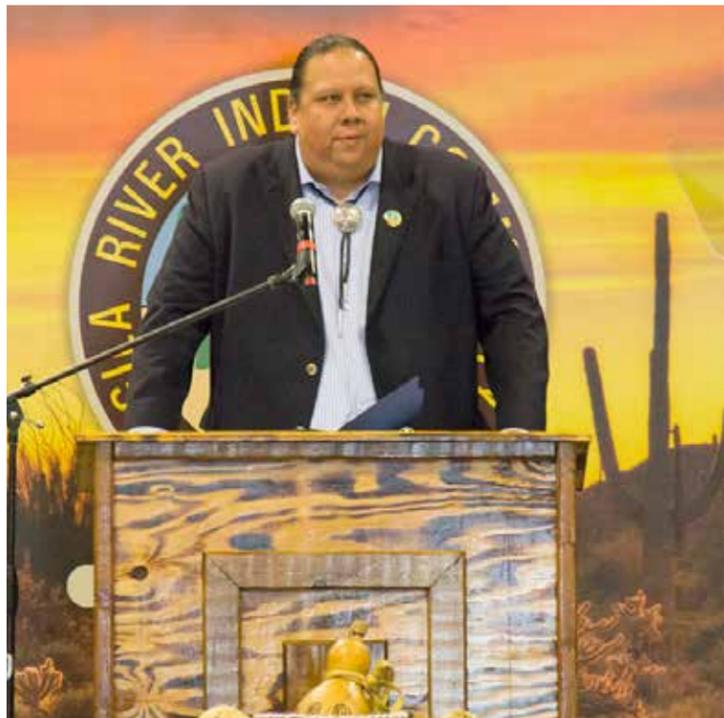


2015 Water Rights Day

GRIC Recognizes Historic Water Rights Settlement with an Anniversary Celebration for the Community



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during his formal address on the anniversary of GRIC's historic water settlement.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

former Gov. Donald Antone Sr., and water rights video presentations.

On the eleventh anniversary of the signing of the Arizona Water Settlement Act, the Gila River Indian Community honored past and present leaders at the 2015 Water Rights Celebration.

In his address, Gov. Lewis emphasized GRIC's efforts to reclaim their water rights. "It's important to talk about our story, both historical and contemporary."

At the Rawhide Western Town Frontier Hall on Dec. 10, the festivities highlighted a mixture of culture, history and the current state of GRIC's water plan.

Gov. Lewis also outlined the establishment of a permanent water fund that will allow the Community to utilize Central Arizona Project water in a financially responsible way.

Billy Allen, District 5, and Daryl Lynn Jay, District 6, facilitated the program, which included addresses from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone,

Lt Gov. Monica Antone also acknowledged past GRIC leaders who fought for water rights. "We cannot go forward, without honoring our past," said Lt. Gov. Antone.



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Students from St. Peter Indian Mission School sing the Star-Spangled Banner in English and O'otham at the 2015 Water Rights Celebration on Dec. 10.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

O'otham singers offered many songs for guests following the formal program on the lawn outside Frontier Hall.

Lt. Gov. Antone hinted at the many possibilities that are afforded to tribal members that will be the backbone of GRIC's water infrastructure as projects get underway.

"The future of the Gila River Indian Community is bright, when you look at the many benefits Community members have

Continued on Page 11

Community Council Tours Mobile Unit for Veterans



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

During a break at the Community Council meeting on Dec. 2, Council representatives, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Cheryl Pablo from the Office of Special Funding and Kim Rodriguez tour the veterans' mobile unit.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

An independent non-profit organization is offering an innovative solution to helping veterans in Pinal County obtain and receive the benefits they are entitled to and the Community is using its shared gaming revenue program to support its efforts.

"All of the veterans' services are around Pinal County, and we don't have very many services available in our communities," said Kim Rodriguez. "So our thought was to have something that would take the services to the veterans."

Rodriguez is the Chairperson of Honoring/Hiring/Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County (HOHP). The group set a goal last year to

raise money for a mobile unit that could drive around Pinal County and offer services to veterans in their neighborhoods.

HOHP's prayers were answered in a fortuitous encounter with the director of the Pinal County Health Department, Tom Schryer. "Our five-year goal was to have a mobile unit, and we had it in two months," Rodriguez said.

Pinal County purchased a mobile medical unit several years ago, but utilized it less and less as new clinics opened in the region. The mobile unit was sitting, waiting to serve a new purpose when Rodriguez mentioned her mission to Schryer.

Pinal County sold the mobile medical unit to HOHP for \$1, and

Continued on Page 6

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Organization

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Gila River Health Care Respecting People & Culture



Gila River
HEALTH CARE

Holiday Closures

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!
From your friends at Gila River Health Care

EARLY CLOSURE DATES

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Clinics
Komatke Health Center Clinics Ak-Chin Clinic
will Close At 12:00 Noon
Thursday, December 24, 2015
Thursday, December 31, 2015

CLOSED DATES

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Clinics
Komatke Health Center Clinics
Ak-Chin Clinic
Friday, December 25, 2015
Friday, January 1, 2016

SATURDAY CLINICS CLOSURE DATES

Saturday, December 26, 2015
Saturday, January 2, 2016

NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS WILL RESUME

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Clinics
Komatke Health Center Clinics
Ak-Chin Clinic
Monday, December 28, 2015
Monday, January 4, 2016

If you need medical assistance, visit the Emergency Department
at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Amputee Program

Amputee & Wheelchair Bound Support Group
Hosted by the Life Center Diabetes Counseling and Support Program
The First Tuesday of the Month

1/5/16 5:30 - 6:30 PM Chronic Pain
2/2/16 5:30 - 6:30 PM Dental
3/1/16 5:30 - 6:30 PM Stress Management
4/5/16 5:30 - 6:30 PM Optometry
5/3/16 5:30 - 6:30 PM Communications/Support
6/7/16 5:30 - 6:30 PM Wild and Native Foods

LOCATION: Life Center at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
For more information or assistance with transportation, call the
Life Center at (520) 562-7940.

GRHC NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Gila River Health Care is committed to increasing the employment of its Gila River Indian Community members by launching the Navigator Program, a program that provides upward mobility for aspiring Community members desiring career paths in health care.

Eligibility: to be considered for a Navigator Program position, you must be a member of the Gila River Indian Community and apply online at GRHC.ORG. The Navigator Program will prepare candidates to meet the minimum qualifications of designated health care positions, including: Human Resources Recruiter, Digital & Video Coordinator, Mammography Coordinator, Radiologic Technologist, RN & LPN, Eligibility Clerk, Patient Registration Clerk and Collector.

Navigators are placed with supervisors who have the capability to train and mentor and coach viable candidates. Upon completion of the six-month training period, successful Navigators will become a full time employee.

The Navigator Program training plan will: Identify how the applicant will be trained using basic skills and competencies; develop action steps taken to ensure the applicant masters the needed competencies and ensure opportunities for employee shadowing and mentoring to ensure a competency level for meeting the minimum qualifications of the position is achieved

For more information, contact Herb Clah, at (520) 562-3321 Ext.1299
or hclah@grhc.org. Or go to www.grhc.org/navigator

GRHC.ORG

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

483 W. Seed Farm Road
Sacaton, Arizona 85147

(520) 562-3321 • (602) 528-1240

Komatke Health Center

17487 S. Health Care Dr.
Laveen, Arizona 85339

(520) 550-6000

Ak-Chin Clinic

48203 W. Farrell Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85239

(520) 568-3881

Gila River Indian Community

Crisis Line

1-800-259-3449



The Komatke Area Drainage Master Study (ADMS) is currently underway. The study will:

- Identify flooding hazards within the Komatke Village of District 6,
- Prioritize flooding problems for possible mitigation that pose the greatest risks to Community members and their property,
- Develop possible options to minimize flooding hazards, and
- Recommend flood mitigation concepts and strategies.

STUDY BOUNDARIES

- The 13.6-mile study area boundaries are approximately Estrella Road to the north, Santa Cruz and Beltline intersection to the south, Gila River to the west and the reservation boundary to the east. Please see the study area map on the following page.
- Major features of the study area include the South Mountains, the Vee Quiva Casino, Community facilities and housing developments.

STUDY SCHEDULE

The study began in December 2015 and is expected to conclude in spring 2016.

REPORT FLOODING

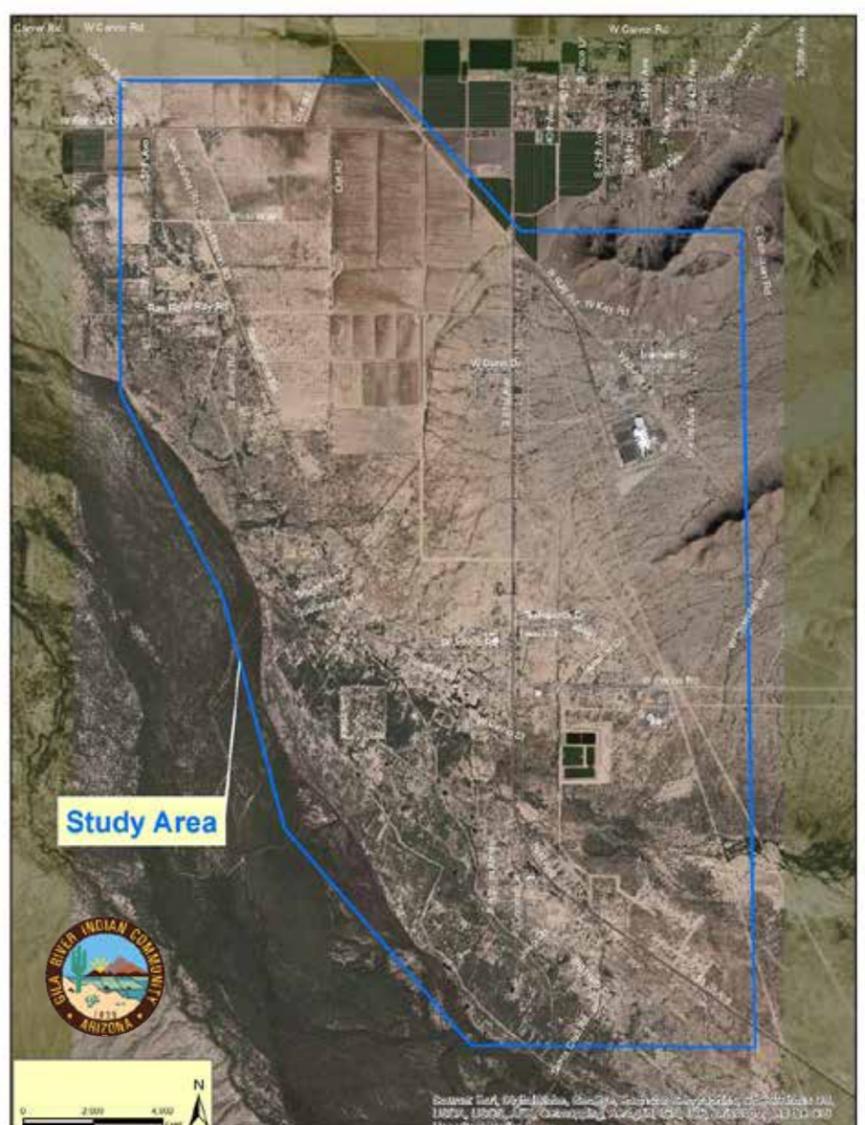
Community members are being asked to report flooding that has occurred in the study area to help confirm computer modeling results. If you have experienced flooding, please provide the date, exact location, and photos or a description of the flooding and send to Seaver Fields at the contact information listed below.



MORE INFORMATION/CONTACT US

Seaver Fields III, CFM, Project Coordinator
Gila River Indian Community
Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning
Flood Control Engineering
291 West Casa Blanca Rd - P.O. Box E
Sacaton, AZ 85147
(520) 562-6003 | seaver.fieldsiii@gric.nsn.us

Komatke Area Drainage Master Study Area





Governor

Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor

Monica L. Antone

Community Council
Representatives

District 1

Arzie Hogg
Joey Whitman

District 2

Carol Schurz

District 3

Carolyn Williams
Rodney Jackson

District 4

Jennifer Allison
Christopher Mendoza
Angelia Allison
Nada Celaya

District 5

Robert Stone
Franklin Pablo, Sr.
Brian E. Davis, Sr.

District 6

Albert Pablo
Anthony Villareal, Sr.
Sandra Nasewytewa

District 7

Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer

Shannon White,

Community Council Secretary

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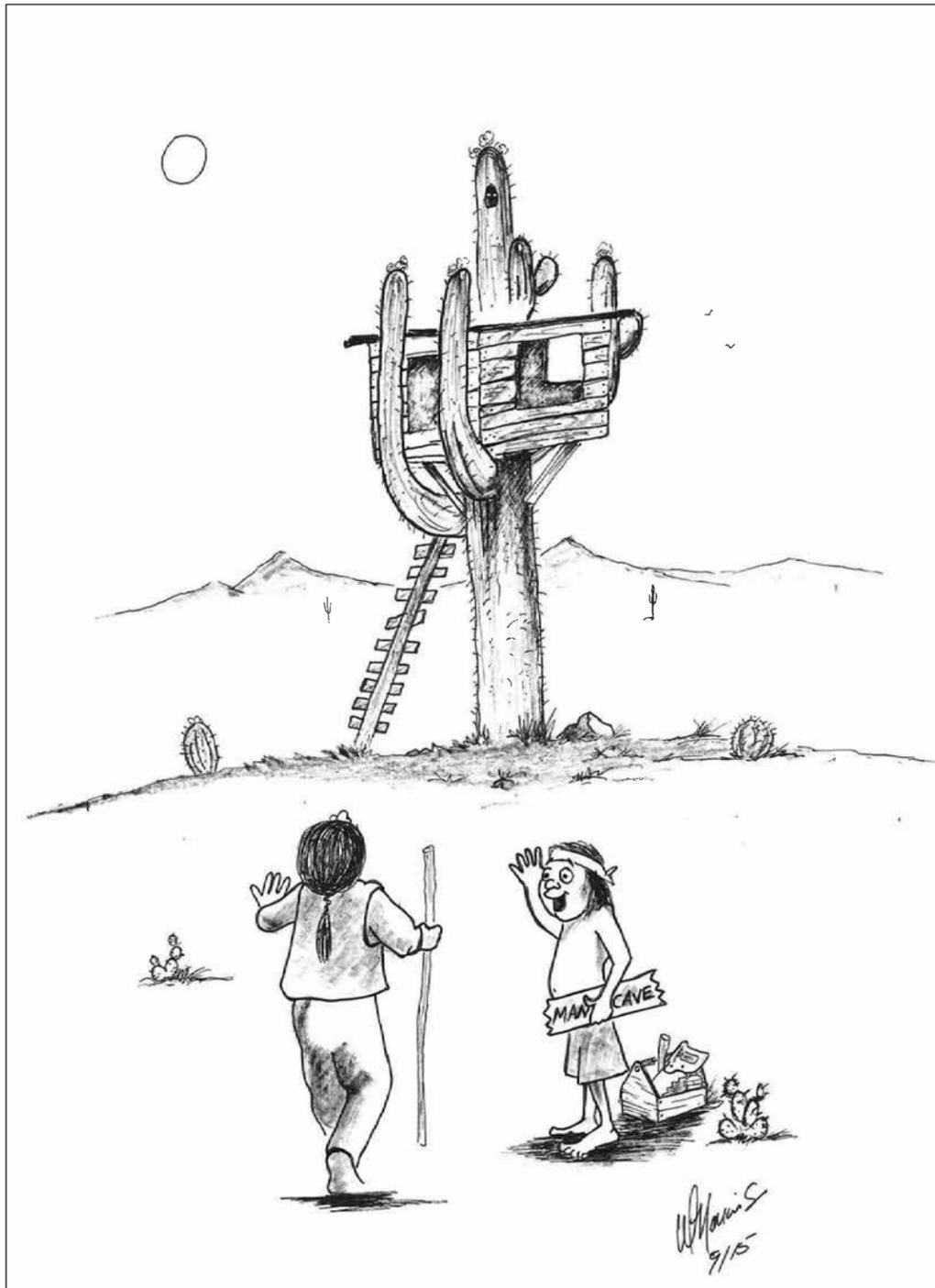
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www.gilariver.org/index.php/news

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Artwork by Wayne Narcia



Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn to Conclude Tenure

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today announced that Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn, after more than three years of leadership, will conclude his service to the Department and will return to the faculty of the University of New Mexico School of Law in January. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Lawrence “Larry” Roberts will lead Indian Affairs for the remainder of the Obama Administration.

“Kevin is a tireless change agent for Indian Country and true partner in our efforts to chart a brighter future for tribal communities through self-determination and self-governance,” Secretary Jewell said. “He is a thoughtful leader who provided a steady hand to modernize Indian Affairs to better serve tribes, which will be felt by generations to come in tribal communities across the country. It has been an honor to call him a colleague and friend, and I thank him for his selfless service.”

“The opportunity to serve Indian Country under the leadership of President Obama and Secretary Jewell, and with my colleagues in Indian Affairs at Interior, has been the highest privilege of my life,” Washburn said. “I have seen a level of trust develop with tribes in the nation-to-nation relationship under President Obama that has not existed in more than two hundred years of federal-tribal policy. It has been a very special time. I appreciate Secretary Jewell for leading with her heart and conscience on Native issues and encouraging the entire federal government to live up to its trust responsibility to tribes.”

“Larry has been centrally involved in virtually every one of the Department’s accomplishments in Indian Country the last three years and has been instrumental in developing a strong Indian Affairs team to carry the President’s work to the end of the Administration,” said Jewell. “With Larry’s leadership, I am confident we will continue the strong momentum rooted in tribal self-determination and self-governance that Kevin has helped reignite.”

Particularly meaningful to Washburn, the Department, under his guidance, has energetically executed the President’s strategy to restore tribal homelands. Shortly after he took office, Washburn improved federal land-into-trust policy with the so-called “Patchak Patch” regulatory fix and helped reverse longstanding policy against federal trust lands in Alaska. He also worked to implement the HEARTH Act, minimize state taxation of business activity on Indian reservations and helped establish the Land Buy Back Program which, in only two years of active land purchases, has invested nearly \$730 million in Indian Country to restore nearly 1.5 million acres of land to Indian tribes.

Working with Indian Country and the U.S. Department of Justice, Washburn also helped implement the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013, which now includes protections for Native American women, and he helped to implement the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, which he had helped write as a law professor.

Washburn also oversaw the establishment of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. The Council is succeeding in producing better coordination across the federal government in services to Indian Country. With his team, Washburn also helped coordinate four of the seven annual White House Tribal Nations Conferences.

IRA H. HAYES
VETERANS SOCIAL POW-WOW 2016
Hosted by: **FIRST NATIONS WARRIOR SOCIETY**
FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2016
SACATON FAIR GROUNDS

HOST NORTHERN DRUM YOUNG EAGLE CREEK	HOST SOUTHERN DRUM PUMPKIN VYNE
EMCEE CHUCK BENSON LAKOTA	ARENA DIRECTOR DONALD SABORI GILA RIVER PIMA
HEADMAN DANCER MARK ROANHORSE DINE	HEAD LADY DANCER VELMA EISENBERGER KIOWA

HEAD GOURD SOCIETY:
GRANITE MOUNTAIN GOURD SOCIETY

FRIDAY GOURD DANCE: 5:00PM GRANDE ENTRY : 7:00PM	SATURDAY GOURD DANCE: 1:00PM DINNER BREAK: 5:00PM GRANDE ENTRY: 7:00PM
---	---

All Eagle Staff and Color Guards Welcomed
Honoring all Past and Present Veterans who served Honorably

POW-WOW INFO: MARCUS SEKAYOUMA 520-610-9411
CRAFT VENDORS: BRINDA BYRES 602-973-4328
FOOD VENDORS: AARON SABORI 602-300-6626

ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR FIREARM PERMITTED
THE POW-WOW COMMITTEE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR
ACCIDENTS, THEFT, TRAVELING EXPENSES

COMMUNITY UPDATES

BY GRIN STAFF

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

Community Volunteers Are Needed to Provide Free Tax Help to the Gila River Indian Community and Employees

PHOENIX – Last year 2,296 Arizonans gave back to their communities as volunteers providing free tax services by preparing more than 86,000 Federal and state of Arizona individual income tax returns through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs.

“The IRS and its partners are looking for volunteers that are interested in taking a little time to learn about taxes and then helping others by preparing federal and state income tax returns for free,” said IRS spokesperson, Bill Brunson. “Volunteers are certified to prepare simple, non-business tax returns for people with low to moderate incomes. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to volunteer. There is a role for anyone who is inter-

ested and wants to help give back to their community.”

For residents of the East Valley, there is an opportunity to volunteer nearby to provide free tax help to the Gila River Indian Community and their employees.

Anyone can be a volunteer and volunteers are needed to help at this site as tax return preparers and quality reviewers. The site coordinators may also prepare returns.

All volunteers will be provided with free training materials on how to prepare basic individual income tax returns and how to file them electronically. Instruction will cover both federal and State of Arizona, Department of Revenue individual income tax returns.

Training is usually held in January and volunteers generally study online with Link & Learn

Taxesto obtain their volunteer certification. The Link & Learn program is an interactive course that teaches all of the basics needed to prepare simple income tax returns accurately for individuals. Classroom training may also be offered.

Once certified, volunteers generally spend three to four hours per week volunteering during the months of February, March and April. Last year, Arizona families received over 95 million dollars in federal refunds using the VITA/TCE programs to prepare their taxes.

To volunteer for the Gila River Indian Community free tax help site, send an email to william.tye@gric.nsn.us. More information about the IRS volunteer tax preparation program is available at www.irs.gov, keywords ‘Tax Volunteer’.

Community Events

Tribal Education Department

Tutoring for K-12 students
D1: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm
D2: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Casa Grande Union High School Room C109 Computer Lab Tuesday through Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 pm
For more information, contact 520-562-3662

District 4 Winter Gathering

Dec. 19 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
D4 Park
For more information, contact: 520-418-3661

District 5 Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 19 8:30 am to 10:30 am,
Vah Ki Multipurpose Building
Gymnasium
For more information, contact: 520-315-3441

District 6 Ugly Christmas Sweater and Youth Christmas Pajama Party

Dec. 22 5:00 to 8:00 pm

D6 Learning Center
For more information, please contact: 520-550-3805

Public Notice: Sacaton Road
Closure for construction
Dec. 21, 2015 to Jan. 24, 2016
For more information, please call the GRICDOT at: 520-562-0952

District 7 Christmas Party
Dec. 19 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm,
D7 Service Center Gym
For more information, contact 520-430-4780

District 7 New Years Eve Celebration

Dec. 31 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
D7 Amphitheater
For more information, contact 520-430-4780

District 4 Kickball Round Robin Tournament

Jan. 9, games start at 9:00 pm
D4 Ball Park
Deadline is Jan. 4
For more information, contact: 520-418-3661



2016 GILA RIVER ROYALTY PAGEANT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!!

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS Friday, January 15, 2016 5:00P.M.

Applications can be obtained at the GRIC Communications & Public Affairs Office, located in the Governance Center Executive Wing, Sacaton, AZ or at your local Service Center
Digital copies can be requested by e-mailing missgilariver@gric.nsn.us or calling (520) 562-9848

Miss Gila River Eligibility Criteria

- Young women between the ages of 18-24 years of age on or before: **Saturday, March 5, 2016**
- Enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Have never before held the Title of Miss Gila River
- Must be a full-time high school or college student with a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. or employed full-time and in good standing with employer
- Must be single, never married, and have no children
- Must not be cohabitating (living) with an intimate companion
- Must be willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Miss Gila River throughout the twelve month reign

Jr. Miss Gila River Eligibility Criteria

- Young women between the ages of 14-17 years of age on or before: **Friday, March 4, 2016**
- Enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Have never before held the Title of Jr. Miss Gila River
- Must be a full-time student with a minimum 2.0 G.P.A.
- Must be single, never married, and have no children
- Must not be cohabitating (living) with an intimate companion
- Must be willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Jr. Miss Gila River throughout the twelve month reign

****THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CONTESTANTS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE****

SUBMIT COMPLETED ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED MATERIALS TO THE GRIC COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ONLY. FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!

Gila River Royalty Committee

P.O. BOX 459 Sacaton, AZ 85147 • Phone: (520) 562-9848 • missgilariver@gric.nsn.us



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480-782-1555 | LasTiendasDental.com
Northeast corner of Alma School & Queen Creek

PROMENADE DENTAL GROUP AND ORTHODONTICS
623-478-1624 | PromenadeDentalGroup.com
Corner of 99th & Lower Buckeye

MARICOPA SMILES DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS
520-568-2800 | MaricopaSmilesDental.com
W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy & Porter Rd

PROMENADE SMILES DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS
520-426-3639 | PromenadeSmiles.com
Off the I-10 & Florence

FOOTHILLS SMILES DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS
480-755-4455 | FoothillsSmilesDentistry.com
Southeast corner of Ray & 48th

LAVEEN MODERN DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS
602-237-0613 | LaveenModernDentistry.com
Southeast corner of 51st Ave and Baseline

GILBERT MODERN DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS
480-457-8283 | GilbertModernDentistry.com
Corner of Chandler Heights and Higley

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a division of Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

Applications for assistance
may be made
IN PERSON

at 403 SEED FARM ROAD
Mondays through Thursdays from
9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00

By Phone: 520-562-3369
Online: sazlegalaid.org

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- Divorce/Custody
- Paternity
- Child Support
- Adult and Minor Guardianship
- Criminal Defense
- Wills and Estates
- Child in Need of Care
- Repossessions and Consumer Cases



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Ext: 4228

Habib
Pierce-Byrd, Esq.
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DEQ Hosts Annual Winter Bird Count

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

O'otham and Pee Posh culture holds birds of all types in high regard. Both tribes have passed on treasured stories and songs in celebration of birds for generations. But the Gila River Indian Community is beginning a new tradition with an annual birding event, held in conjunction with the Audubon Society.

The GRIC Department of Environmental Quality hosted its annual Winter Bird Count on Dec. 5, offering Community members a unique look at the winged wildlife in the reservation.

A handful of tour groups, led by DEQ staff and bird watching professionals, visited various nature sites across the reservation to observe birds in their natural habitats and record the different species they found.

The experts brought scopes, bird-watching guidebooks, and binoculars for everyone, and taught the guests a little bit about what kinds of birds live in or visit the region.

Charles Enos, who led a group from Komatke, said the O'otham and Pee Posh share a deep relationship with birds in their stories, traditions and songs.

With the rising sun peeking over his shoulder, Enos peered into a long-range scope for a close-up

view of dabbling ducks paddling in water. After setting the sight, he invited others in the groups to have a look.

The group in District 6 visited three sites and saw a number of ducks, quail, egrets, herons and hawks, as well as a peregrine falcon. The first bird counted was a dark red cardinal outside of Komatke Market, and near the end, a little kingfisher was spotted perched on a power line.

The GRIC Department of Environmental Quality started the bird count in 1998 and it is a unique event among tribal reservations.

At the first bird count, and at each event since, "[DEQ] made sure that every young person got a bird field guidebook, they got to use binoculars and learn how to use binoculars," said Patricia Mariella.

Mariella is the director of Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute, but she was the first director of GRIC DEQ in 1995 and helped the bird count get started.

"The Gila River Indian Community is the only tribal nation in the United States to do its own bird count, and it is a fantastic event. It is widely respected throughout the United States," said Mariella.

"The idea of the bird count was to get people

out in the environment, to connect them with the environment, and the bird count was a great way to do this," said Enos, a DEQ Aquatic Scientist.

The bird count also has scientific benefits. DEQ and Audubon members count and record the different species and quantity of each they see.

"Over the years, we track changes and trends and ... maybe relate that to some of the development or the land-use changes that are going on," said Enos.

After a few hours in the field, all the groups met up at the Huhugam Heritage Center to recognize the cultural significance of birds with songs and dances from both tribes.

Brenda Robertson, a former, long-time District 5 Council Representative, talked about the significance of birds in Akimel O'otham culture and lore.

There are a lot of birds in the desert that the O'otham communicate with and respect, "but the eagle is different," she said. "We have many stories regarding the eagle – how powerful, how helpful he is to us." She then told a tale that demonstrated the strength and kindness of the eagle, about a young man who lost his family and how the eagle helped him find them.

"The Community has deep ties to the birds from



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Two young Community member bird-watchers search for a sign of flight in the distance. The Winter Bird Count aims to get more young people involved to learn about the ecology in GRIC and the cultural significance of birds in O'otham and Pee Posh history.



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

A flock of ducks break from the trees. Birds enjoy a variety of different landscapes in the Gila River Indian Community.

thousands of years back," said Enos. "Birds, in a lot of ways, directed the life of the Akimel O'otham. ...

And we're kind of getting that connection back, here with the bird count [where] the older members can tell

their stories and connect with the younger people through birds."

Veterans Mobile Unit *From Page 1*



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

The Eagle One mobile unit will be used to provide on-site services for veterans in Pinal County, which includes most of the Gila River Indian Community.

HOHP renamed the vehicle Eagle One.

HOHP's dream had come true much more rapidly than it had expected and the group had to move quickly to get Eagle One on the road. For that, HOHP requested support from the Gila River Indian Community, who happily obliged.

At the Dec. 2 Council meeting, Rodriguez thanked the Community for its sup-

port of HOHP and invited Council members to tour the new vehicle.

"I just wanted to say thank you so very much for approving that grant," she said. "It was approved for three years to pay for fuel, tires, insurance, roadside service, Wi-Fi, and the maintenance repairs so that we can get it on the road and make sure that veterans across Pinal County are

taken care of the way they deserve to be taken care of."

As chance would have it, GRIC also funded the original purchase of the vehicle for Pinal County. In both cases the outside organizations benefited from the tribe's shared gaming revenue program.

Eagle One is a modified RV that features an exam room in the rear, space for medical equipment, a pri-

vate area for counseling sessions, and a three-station laptop workplace, where professionals can access resources or veterans can register for benefits or access their records.

The unit will serve all of Pinal County, which includes most of the Gila River reservation, and HOHP plans on delivering services to GRIC vets at events like the Iwo Jima Flag-Raising

Parade in February.

District 1 Council Representative Joey Whitman said, "This is going to really help the efforts in our Community to get the older veterans benefits...those older ones are the ones that need to get their benefits – not only for them, but for their families – because they earned it and deserve it."

Council Representative Albert Pablo (District

6) was grateful that HOHP acknowledged the need to bring services to veterans. "This is something that is really needed. ... There are quite a few veterans in Pinal County alone so this is a worthy venture, and I'm glad that the Community is a part of this."

S-ko:mag Mashath 'Gray/Brown Month'

S-ko:mag Mashath means the "gray/brown month" in our Akimel O'otham Ñeok, and refers to the desert plants that go dormant during the winter months. This annual occurrence leaves our jeved various shades of s-ko:mag (gray and brown).

As we swing into the thick of the holiday season in the days ahead, we balance work, school, home-life, secret shopping and especially decorating our homes for the big day ahead. As we travel through town we see parking lot after parking lot encouraging us to stop and buy a Christmas tree. I remember when O'otham used to think outside the box when it came to decorating for the holidays. One innovative family used a branch of ku:k chehethag (palo verde) tree that was shaped into a Christmas tree as their holiday tree. Another family used a dried hadshadkam (teddy-bear cholla) cactus plant skeleton that was spray painted white and hung with ornaments and beaded garlands.

As we travel around the valleys we see how other people have adapted to using desert plants as a base to decorate their yards. A few desert plants used for the holidays include dried vopotham sha'i (common tumbleweed), ha:shañ (saguaro cactus), melok (ocotillo), and hevhothakud (desert fan-palm). One desert cactus that is associated with the holidays is a'aj nav (Christmas cholla) this is due to the fact that it bears fruit during this time of year. This month's word match will focus on desert plants used as holiday decorations.

We encourage you to learn these words and used them in your everyday lives. We also encourage you to think outside the box when it comes to decorating for the holidays. From all of our families here at your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish everyone a S-he:kig Jios Alithag Ma:sig Thash ch heg Vechij Aithag!

HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER



S-ko:mag Mashath Match the O'otham desert plant name with its holiday picture!

i'ibai

ha:shañ

*vopotham sha'i
klishmas kwi*

a'aj nav

melok

*vopotham sha'i
gev otham*

hevhothakud



Solution on Page 12



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE EAST VALLEY
Gila River Branch – Sacaton

WINTER BREAK SCHEDULE

FREE for enrolled members of Gila River
For non-community members, cost for Winter Break is \$5 per day.

DEC 21 st	DEC 22 nd	DEC 23 rd	DEC 24 th	DEC 25 th
Free Holiday Barbershop! (Invitation Only) TEENS: DIY Snow Sled Creations!	ALL PORTABLE CLASSIC KEYSTONE Fundraiser: Polar Express (\$1.00) Hot Chocolate 25	Gingerbread Cookies Decorating TEEN Field trip to University of Arizona & Lunch Cost is \$5.00 9:30am-5:30pm Let it Snow!	CLUB CLOSED Christmas Eve	CLUB CLOSED Merry Christmas!

Winter Break Youth Hours: 8am - 5pm
Teen Hours: 10am - 6pm
Club Closed 12/24/15 - 1/3/16

For more information contact Soyeta Antone:
Tel: 520.562.3890 email: soyeta@clubzona.org

SACATON BASKETBALL IS BACK!

AGE DIVISIONS: 6-8 Years Old
9-11 Years Old
12-14 Years Old

REGISTRATION: \$15.00

REGISTRATION ENDS
DECEMBER 23RD



stay updated online: [fb.com/sacatonbranch](https://www.facebook.com/sacatonbranch)
Point of Contact: HPE Director - Daniel Acostanunes
Tel: 520.562.3890 E-mail: daniel.acosta@clubzona.org

Ho'ok A'aga

Barnaby Lewis
Himdag Ki: Storytelling Group

Hosted by Billy Allen

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016
5PM-9:30PM

DINNER SERVED FOR THE FIRST 200 PEOPLE

PLEASE NOTE: This is a outdoor event, please wear warm clothing.
No photographs or recordings will be permitted.



HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER

MORE INFO. CALL 520.796.3500 - 4759 N. MARICOPA RD, CHANDLER, AZ

Take a look back at some of our favorite moments of the year. Let's remember



Photos by the Gila River Indian News and contributors: Mikhail Sundust, Christopher Lomahquahu, Annie Gutierrez, Ashley Pasqual and Roberto A. Jackson.

2015

Year in Review



For all the wonderful things that happened in GRIC and here's to a happy 2016.



The Force Awakens at Annual River of Lights Parade in Sacaton



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Children line up at the Wellness Center in Sacaton to meet Santa Claus.

Mikhail Sundust Gila River Indian News

Santa Claus and Sith Lords joined forces on Dec. 5, bringing holiday cheer to the Gila River Indian Community at the River of Lights Parade.

With the release of the new Star Wars film just days away, the theme of the night was "The Christmas Force Awakens."

A cast of characters from the galactic empire marched down Casa Blanca Road in Sacaton, including some new characters from the upcoming movie.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis led the march and wished Community members a happy holidays from behind a mask of the new Star Wars villain Kylo Ren.

Other participating departments and groups included Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Gila River Royalty, The Boys & Girls Club, GRIC Department of Transportation, Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority, Management Information Systems, District 4 Service Center, Tribal Image Car Club, and the Gila River Police Department.

Santa brought up the rear in a Gila River Fire Department engine, presumably because there wasn't enough snow in Sacaton for his big red sleigh.

After the parade, Santa took gift requests from children at the Sacaton Wellness Center. This wasn't the last chance to see the big guy before the big day. Santa will be at the Vah-Ki Multipurpose building for breakfast on Saturday morning, Dec. 19. All are welcome!



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

The Gila River Police Department won the Governor's Award at the River of Lights Parade for best presentation of the theme, "The Christmas Force Awakens."



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Star Wars characters pose with the Grinch Who Stole Christmas.



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Gila River Royalty won the Judges Award for Best Community Entry.



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone won the Directors Award for Best Family Entry.

Early Education brings Christmas cheer to the Caring House



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The season for sharing came upon the residents at the Caring House on Dec. 15 as children from the Early Education Program in District 3 came by to sing Christmas carols. Led by the Mentor Teacher Ame Edwards, the group of children from various classrooms ranging in ages lent their voices to the residents with smiles as the little ones sang Christmas melodies like Jingle Bells, We Wish You A Merry Christmas and Silent Night, in which they joined singing in unison.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



COMMUNITY VETERANS UPDATE

Korean War Veteran: “Honored That I Could Serve My Country”



Photo Courtesy Reuben Jenkins

Early photo of Reuben Jenkins while in the Army.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Reuben Jenkins is a humble man with a heart for service, who dedicated his life to God and country.

The 85-year-old combat veteran, who over half a century ago could be seen diving into the Korean battlefield from the sky above, is a passionate supporter of veterans’ rights and spends his days honoring those others who fought for their country and for freedom.

Jenkins enlisted in the Army in 1952, during the Korean War. He was assigned to the 11th Airborne 187th Regimental Combat Team (aka “Rakkasans”) and was sent straight into battle after basic training.

“We were mostly sta-



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Reuben Jenkins at his home in Phoenix.

tioned in Japan and then when they needed us over in Korea, sort of like a punch...they’d send us over and we’d do what we had to do,” Jenkins said.

The war was brutal,

he said, but he survived by trusting God. “When you go into a combat zone, you’re always afraid about maybe you’re going to get killed. ... So, you just put everything in God’s hands. I prayed a lot...and my

prayers were answered because I came back without a scratch. So I’m thankful for that.”

Jenkins was on the front lines of the battle when he heard the sudden call for the cease-fire. It was July 27, 1953.

During his time in Korea he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. A few months after the cease-fire, Jenkins re-enlisted for another three years and was stationed for a short time in Germany. Jenkins left the service in March of 1957, but his heart continues to pour out for those who fought and died in the line of duty.

“I was proud and honored that I could serve my country when they needed me,” said Jenkins.

Life is challenging for any veteran adjusting to civilian life. When he returned home, Jenkins said, “I ended up on skid row for a while, but because of my Christian upbringing, I was able to overcome that.”

Jenkins’s grandfather, Joseph Wellington from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, was a

Presbyterian minister. When Reuben’s father passed, his mother married Joshua Porter (GRIC D4), who was also a Presbyterian minister, and he attended a Presbyterian high school.

“I was brought up in all that,” he said, “so [it] helped me out with the problems I got into when I was in the service.”

After getting out of “skid row,” he found a career in the warehouse and shipping industry. He worked in Los Angeles for nearly 40 years until he retired in 1992.

Jenkins was raised primarily in the Prescott Valley and attended the Presbyterian Indian Training School in Tucson. He graduated in 1950 and after one year at Haskell Institute (now Haskell Indian Nations University) in Lawrence, Kan. he enlisted in the Army.

Reuben is the oldest in his family. His father was Lloyd Jenkins (Hopi) and his mother was Elizabeth Bread (Pee Posh from GRIC District 7). He had a number of siblings and three of his brothers also went into the service. His brother Irvin Jenkins joined the Marine Corps and also fought in the Korean War. Brothers Danny Jenkins and the late Rob-

ert Porter fought in the Vietnam War with the Army and Marine Corps, respectively.

Today, Danny is the leader of the Pee Posh Veterans Association, of which Irvin and Reuben are members.

Jenkins has dedicated his life to honoring the memory of “those that gave their life, made the supreme sacrifice...for what they believe in.” He honors veterans through prayer and by attending ceremonies in their honor. He likes the Pee Posh Veterans Association because it is an organization as dedicated to honoring veterans as he is.

“Honoring veterans and giving them the burial that they deserve, that’s what makes me feel good because they deserve it,” said Jenkins.

The PPVA attends dozens of events each year, from parades to funerals and attend ceremonies in other tribal communities across the state. At 85, the long parades and all-night ceremonies aren’t easy, but Jenkins is happy to offer his services as long as he can and still prays every night for the country and its warriors.

2015 WATER RIGHTS CELEBRATION

“Our Water: nourishing the sacred relationship with our land, our people and our spirit”

From Page 1

because of the water rights settlement,” she said.

Former Gov. Donald Antone Sr. said there was a lot to fight for when the Community was working to obtain its water rights.

“I learned the traditional issues as well as the modern issues,” he said.

After the formal program, singers gathered outdoors on the lawn where many participated in social dances. The event closed with a chicken scratch dance provided by the Two Rivers band.

Clockwise from Top Left: Former Gov. Donald Antone Sr. speaks. GRIC veterans posted the colors. Aaron Sabori provided water gourds to commemorate the event. St. Peter school students opened the celebration. (Photos by CPAO and GRIN staff.)





GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
Office of the Community Council

Written Reprimand

On October 23, 2015, pursuant to the Special Investigator's Findings and Recommendations in the investigation of the Code of Conduct Complaint against Anthony Hill, Chief Judge of the Community's Court, Community Council approved a motion directing this firm to draft a written reprimand for publication in the Gila River Indian News and for posting at the district service centers. What follows is the proposed language for the written reprimand:

As a result of the investigation of allegations contained in a Code of Conduct complaint against Chief Judge Anthony Hill, and following a hearing on October 23, 2015, the Community Council has found that while in office Chief Judge Hill placed his personal interests before the interests of the Community, misused staff, and otherwise violated the Code of Conduct by:

- (1) Knowingly giving false testimony to a Pro Tempore Judge of the Community Court.
- (2) Improperly attempting to restrict a former employee's right to speak freely.
- (3) Misusing staff in pursuit of a restraining order for Chief Judge Hill's personal benefit.
- (4) Attempting to interfere with the outcome of investigations into the allegations against Chief Judge Hill.
- (5) Misusing the bailiff supervisor position for Chief Judge Hill's personal benefit.

This conduct amounts to improper official conduct that put at risk the best interests of the Community, and a misuse of staff. Chief Judge Hill's conduct violated the Code of Conduct, Sections 1.403(C)(1) and (I), 1.401(D)(8), and 1.402, and the Administration of Community Affairs Code Section 1.201.

Chief Judge Hill is hereby publicly reprimanded for his conduct in violation of the Gila River Indian Community Code of Conduct. Council has voted to initiate removal proceedings against Chief Judge Hill under Article XII, Section 2 of the Community Constitution. The impeachment hearing related to Chief Judge Hill's misconduct will occur on November 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Council Chambers, Governance Center, Sacaton, Arizona.

Governing Code Sections:

The intent of the Code is: "[T]o protect the Community from government decisions and actions resulting from, or affected by, undue influences or conflicts of interest, and ensure a standard of care requiring that any decision of, or action taken by, Officials shall be one that would be made with the

Written Reprimand

Page 2

degree of care that would be exercised by a reasonably prudent and competent person seeking to preserve of the Community's financial resources. Code of Conduct § 1.401(C).

The Community Affairs Code prohibits "improper official conduct," which is any action "carrying out or purporting to carry out the official duties of the office that compromise or put at risk the best interests of the Community." Community Affairs Code § 1.201(A).

"Officials shall not have a contractual, property, financial, or economic interest, or engage in any contractual, property, financial, or economic transaction, or engage in any activity that involves a conflict of interest. Officials shall seek to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to any transaction." Code of Conduct § 1.403(C)(1). A "conflict of interest" is defined in pertinent part as "using or attempting to use any official or apparent authority of one's office or duties which could reasonably be perceived as: (a) placing private economic gain . . . before those of the Community, whose paramount interests they are intended to serve; and (b) interfering with one's own disciplinary proceeding." Code of Conduct § 1.401(D)(8).

"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." Code of Conduct § 1.403(I).

525 West Gu u ki • Post Office Box 2138 • Sacaton, Arizona 85147 • Telephone: (520) 562-9720 • Fax Line: (520) 562-9729

GILA RIVER WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR SELLING METHAMPHETAMINE

PHOENIX – On Dec. 10, 2015, Delphine Corrine Morgan, 37, of Blackwater, Ariz. and a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Steven P. Logan to 92 months in prison, followed by a term of three years of supervised release. Morgan previously pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute less than 50 grams of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine. According to court documents, on March 13, 2015, Morgan sold less than 50 grams of a

mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine to an undercover officer at her residence located on the Gila River Indian Community. Morgan had sold methamphetamine to this same undercover officer on one prior occasion. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The prosecution was handled by Christina J. Reid-Moore, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

GILA RIVER MAN SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS

PHOENIX – On Dec. 7, 2015, Joseph Troy Williams, 38, of Coolidge, Ariz., a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge John Tuchi to 168 months in prison to be followed by lifetime supervised release. Williams had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor. All victims were members of varied Indian Communities and the abuse occurred on the Gila River Reservation. This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States

Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Raynette Logan, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

****NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****

SUBROGATION ORDINANCE

The Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") will be considering the Subrogation Ordinance at their regular meeting on **December 29, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.**, located in Conference Room B of the Community Council Secretary's Office. A copy of the Subrogation Ordinance in its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary's Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the Subrogation Ordinance, please attend the scheduled LSC meeting, or you may also contact your Council representative, and/or the LSC's Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Comments may also be mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147 Attn: Linda Sauer.

CHAPTER 13. SUBROGATION

8.1301. Purpose and Findings.

Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community (1960), art. XV §§ l(a)(9) and (19), the Community Council is authorized to act to promote and protect the health and general welfare of the Community and its members, and to pass ordinances necessary to the exercise of those powers. In exercising those powers and responsibilities, the Community Council finds:

A. The Gila River Indian Community is a large employer and, along with several subordinate entities and schools on the Gila River Indian Reservation, provides health care benefits to its employees by self-insuring the cost of the benefit rather than providing coverage through an outside insurance company; these benefits are provided through the Community's Health & Welfare Benefit Plan (the "Community Plan") and Community Plans which are paid for with Community funds.

B. Community Plan participants sometimes receive benefits due to injuries caused by the acts of third parties (such as in an automobile accident or other negligent act), and because they caused those injuries, those third parties or their insurers are liable for or obligated to pay for the same health care costs that are or would be otherwise borne by the Community Plan.

C. Providing employment benefits to Community employees directly affects the health, economic security, and welfare of the Community, and conduct which deprives the Community of its continued ability to fund and provide those benefits threatens the health, economic security, and welfare of the Community.

8.1302. Scope. This Chapter applies to any self-insured employment benefit plans administered by the Gila River Indian Community and the Community entities and to any individual who participates in a Community plan. This includes employees of the Community or any entity participating in a Community plan, their spouses, and dependents ("participants").

8.1303. Subrogation. A. Basic Principles. I. The laws of the Gila River Indian Community shall govern and control all disputes arising out of or related to the provision of benefits under a Community plan not otherwise preempted by federal law.

2. The Community Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes arising under this Chapter including, but not limited to, lawsuits by a Community plan seeking reimbursement for benefits paid to a Community plan participant.

S-ko:mag Mashath Match the O'otham desert plant name with its holiday picture! SOLUTION!

<p><i>i'ibai</i></p> <p><i>ha:shañ</i></p> <p><i>vopotham sha'i klishmas kwi</i></p> <p><i>a'aj nav</i></p> <p><i>melok</i></p> <p><i>vopotham sha'i gev otham</i></p> <p><i>hevhothakud</i></p>	
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Community Council Action Sheets **Wednesday, December 2, 2015**

ACTION SHEET

Community Council; PO 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, December 2, 2015, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:08 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Sandra Nasewytewa

ROLL CALL

Sign-in Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis (12:00)

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4-Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison, Angelia Allison, Christopher Mendoza; D5-Brian Davis, Sr., Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6-Anthony Villareal, Sr., Albert Pablo, Sandra Nasewytewa; D7-Devin Redbird (9:42)

Council Members Absent:

D5- Vacant,

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES)

1. New Director - June M. Shorthair, Communications And Public Affairs Office

Presenter: Pamela Thompson

MS. PAMELA THOMPSON INTRODUCED MS. JUNE M. SHORTHAI. MS. SHORTHAI PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER FIRST 30-DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LT. GOVERNOR MONICA AN-TONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

2. City Of Coolidge – Mayor Jon Thompson And Police Chief Jim Malinski

Presenters: Mayor Jon Thompson, Jim Malinski
POLICE CHIEF JIM MALINSKI PROVIDED A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF COOLIDGE AND EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE. MAYOR JON THOMPSON EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF COOLIDGE. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LT. GOVERNOR MONICA AN-TONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

REPORTS

1. Space Camp

Presenters: J. Kinnamon, Isaiah Francisco

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. The Caring House Revised Admission Process

Presenter: Rosie Abad

REPORT HEARD

3. Gila River Indian Community Head Start September Monthly Report

Presenter: Patricia Valenzuela

REPORT HEARD

[LT. GOVERNOR MONICA AN-TONE CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:04 A.M.]

LT. GOVERNOR MONICA AN-TONE CALLED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO HEAR REPORT #6 BEFORE REPORT #4.

[LT. GOVERNOR MONICA AN-TONE CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:45 A.M.]

4. Gila River Telecommunication, Inc. – 3rd. Quarter 2015 Update

Presenters: Bruce Holdridge, Peter Quam, Board Of Directors

REPORT HEARD

5. Gila River Utility Authority – Boulder Canyon Project Post 2017 Allocation

Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold

REPORT HEARD

6. Pinal County Veterans Stakeholder Forum

Presenter: Kim Rodriquez

REPORT HEARD

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REPORTS #7 & #8

7. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. – Monthly Report October 2015 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Joseph Magliarditi, Board Of Directors, Janice Ponziani

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION [GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS TOOK OVER AS CHAIR OF THE MEETING.]

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 90-MINUTE LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:27 P.M. AND REMAINED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION]

8. Gila River Gaming Commission – Monthly Report October 2015 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gaming Internal Audit – 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2015 (Executive Session)

Presenter: William Tye

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT \ REPORTS #9, #10, AND #11

10. Monthly Financial Report Ending October 2015 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #9

11. Treasurer’s Report – 4th Quarter (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs
ACCEPTED AT REPORT #9

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing GRICUA To Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Commerce Economic Development Administration Under The Investments For Public Works And Economic Development Facilities Program CFDA #11.30 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold
APPROVED

2. A Resolution Supporting The Arizona Advisory Council On Indian Health Care And Proposed Amendments To ARS 36-2902.01 And ARS 36-2902.02 (H&SSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Kim Russel

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Head Start Program To Participate In The American Indian And Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start Family And Child Experiences Survey, Known As AI/AN Faces, Conducted By Mathematica Policy Research (ESC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Patricia Valenzuela

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

*1. Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation – Newspaper Release For Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Elizabeth Bohnee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. Revenue/Internal Audit – 4th Quarter Report Fiscal

Year 2015 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council)

Presenter: William Tye

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

MINUTES

*1. July 15, 2015 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>G&M WORK SESSION THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 THRU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015

>WAILA FESTIVAL REPRESENTATION CONCERNS EXPRESSED

>REMINDER OF THE TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES SPONSORSHIP

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:34 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)



Gila River Indian News

2016

Schedule of Deadlines

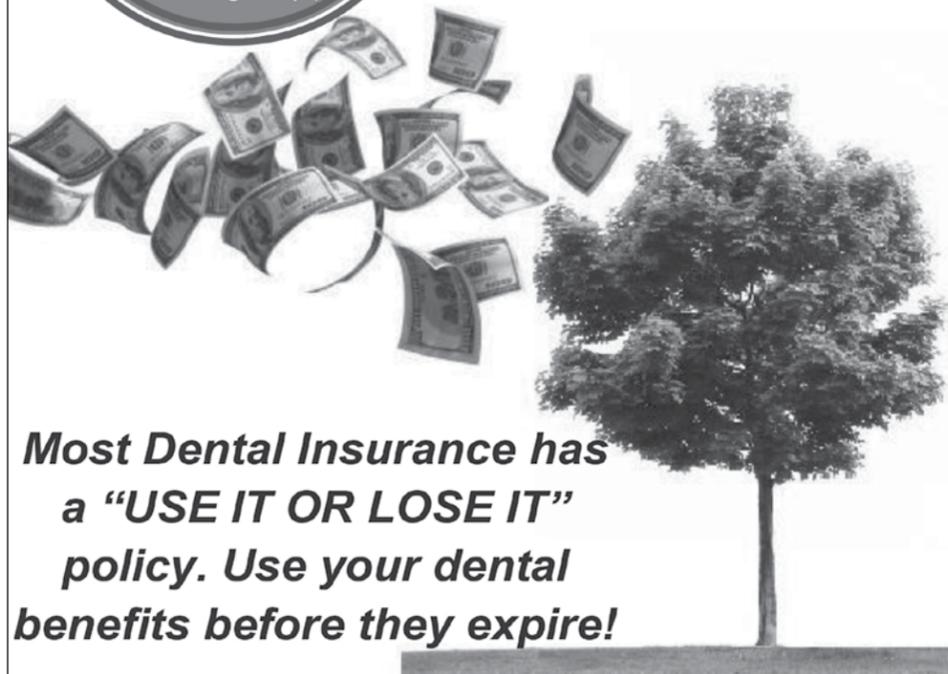
Please send all GRIN submissions to grin@gric.nsn.us

Month	Submission Deadline Dates	GRIN Deliveries
<small>Example: To get your ad in the first issue in April, the deadline is March 28. Your ad will run in the GRIN on April 1.</small> January	Submissions (ads, articles, opinions, etcetera) must be given to the GRIN by the MONDAY before the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. See dates below: <small>* indicates irregular date due to holiday/schedule conflict</small> December 28, 2015 January 11	The GRIN will be delivered twice a month on the first and third FRIDAY of each month. *Monday, January 4 January 15
February	February 1 *Tuesday, February 16	February 5 February 19
March	February 29 March 14	March 4 March 18
April	March 28 April 11	April 1 April 15
May	May 2 May 16	May 6 May 20
June	May 31 June 13	June 3 June 17
July	June 27 July 11	July 1 July 15
August	August 1 August 15	August 5 August 19
September	August 29 September 12	September 2 September 16
October	October 3 October 17	October 7 October 21
November	October 31 November 14	November 4 November 18
December	November 28 December 12	December 2 December 16

Items received after the submission deadline will not be placed in that week's edition unless previous arrangements have been made with the editor. Late submissions may be pushed to the next edition. All ads and submittals subject to print at editor's discretion. For more information, contact the Communications and Public Affairs Office at (520) 562-9715 or via email at: grin@gric.nsn.us

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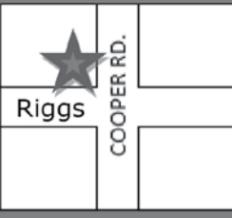
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Wherever you live... Natural gas is your neighbor.

Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere,
 even in areas that don't use natural gas, like all-electric or propane
 neighborhoods. So it's important that **EVERYONE** knows how to recognize
 and respond to a natural gas leak, wherever they are.

A leak may be present if you:

- SMELL:** An odor similar to rotten eggs, even if it's faint or momentary.
- HEAR:** A hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above-ground piping.
- SEE:** Dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or
 vegetation, or standing water continuously bubbling.



If you suspect a leak:

- Leave the area immediately.
- From a safe place, call **911** and Southwest Gas at **1-877-860-6020**, day or night, **whether you're a customer or not.**
 A Southwest Gas representative will be there as soon as possible.
- Don't smoke or use matches or lighters.
- Don't turn on or off electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls; or do anything that could cause a spark.
- Don't start or stop an engine, or use automated doors.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call **1-877-860-6020**.



Kai Restaurant at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa Named One of the Top 3 Restaurants in America by OpenTable Diners



Photo Courtesy of Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa

Kai patio over looking the Sierra Estrella Mountains and South Mountain.



Photo Courtesy of Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa

Kai dining room at the only AAA Five Diamond Restaurant in Arizona.

Phoenix, Ariz. (Dec 3, 2015) – Kai Restaurant is proud to announce that it has been named a winner of Open Table Diners’ Choice Awards for the Top 100 Best Restaurants in America. Kai was the only Arizona restaurant named to the list of the top 10 honorees, coming in at number 3 in the nation. The list of winners is derived from more than 5 million reviews submitted by OpenTable diners for more than 20,000 restaurants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

“We are thrilled to once again receive this important recognition from OpenTable diners,” said Lisa Mercer, Director of Food and Beverage. “Our dining guests are our most valued critics and we are humbled to receive their high praise and acclamation.”

“This year’s winners are elevating fine dining to delightfully dizzying heights,” said Caroline Potter, OpenTable Chief Dining Officer. “The 2015 Best Restaurants honorees have mastered the art of creating delicious experiences that

diners will remember long after their last bite.”

OpenTable, part of The Priceline Group, is the world’s leading provider of online restaurant reservations, seating more than 17 million diners per month via online bookings across more than 33,000 restaurants. The OpenTable network connects restaurants and diners, helping diners discover and book the perfect table and helping restaurants deliver personalized hospitality to keep guests coming back. The OpenTable service enables

diners to see which restaurants have available tables, select a restaurant based on verified diner reviews, menus, and other helpful information, and easily book a reservation. In addition to the company’s website and mobile apps, OpenTable powers online reservations for nearly 600 partners, including many of the Internet’s most popular global and local brands. For restaurants, the OpenTable hospitality solutions enable them to manage their reservation book, streamline their operations, and en-

hance their service levels. Since its inception in 1998, OpenTable has seated more than 940 million diners around the world. The Company is headquartered in San Francisco, California, and the OpenTable service is available throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, and the UK.

The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa is a total destination resort showcasing the heritage, culture, art and legends of the Pima and

Maricopa Tribes. The resort offerings include: 500 culturally themed rooms, Forbes Five-Star/AAA Five-Diamond Dining at Kai restaurant, the Forbes Four-Star Aji Spa; 36-holes of Troon-managed golf at Whirlwind Golf Club; the 1,000-acre Koli Equestrian Center, and several nearby attractions. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram @sheratonwildhorsepass and Twitter.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
AGRICULTURAL LEASE PAY OUT*

Friday, January 15, 2016

8:30am Seniors and Disabled **10am - 6pm** General Landowners

Round House Café
at SRPMIC Two Waters Government Campus
10,005 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale 85256 - Look for directional signs

Checks not picked up on January 15th
Pick up at Finance - Cashiers Office (Two Waters Bldg. A)
Tuesday, January 19th through Monday, February 1st
(*Please note that Monday, January 18th, is a SRPMIC Holiday**)

Checks with a valid address
Mailed out Tuesday, February 2nd

Power of Attorney (POA)
Only originals accepted
Must be verified before release of check
Verification done at pay out

Written Notes will not be accepted
Power of Attorney required to pick up someone else's check

Questions
Contact SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730

*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received and cleared through banking institutions by January 4, 2016

Wildlife Organization gets Support from GRIC



Courtesy of the Office of Special Funding

Liberty Wildlife provides a clinic and sanctuary for large birds.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Community is giving back in big ways to assist a local wildlife organization that treats animals on the path to recovery.

Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation is a non-profit organization that is in the process of getting a new home near the heart of Phoenix.

At a tour of the new facility still under construction on Nov. 5, things are coming together for the organization that swoops in when birds need urgent care or rehabilitation. A portion of the Community’s shared gaming revenue was used to fund the building of the education wing of the build-

ing through a three-year grant. The services offered by Liberty Wildlife are funded through donations, which cover the food and treatment for each of the animals in its care.

The sprawling new facility is being built on 6 and a half acres of land, a short distance east of 24th Street and the Salt River. It is an ideal place to have a sanctuary because it will allow access to some of the local wildlife in the area.

According to the GRIC Office of Special Funding Program Administrator, Cheryl Pablo, the new facility will serve a number purposes once it is completed. Currently they are located in Scottsdale, and will be making the transition in

the spring of next year. In addition to education services, Liberty Wildlife provides an expanded clinic and sanctuary area for birds to reside in.

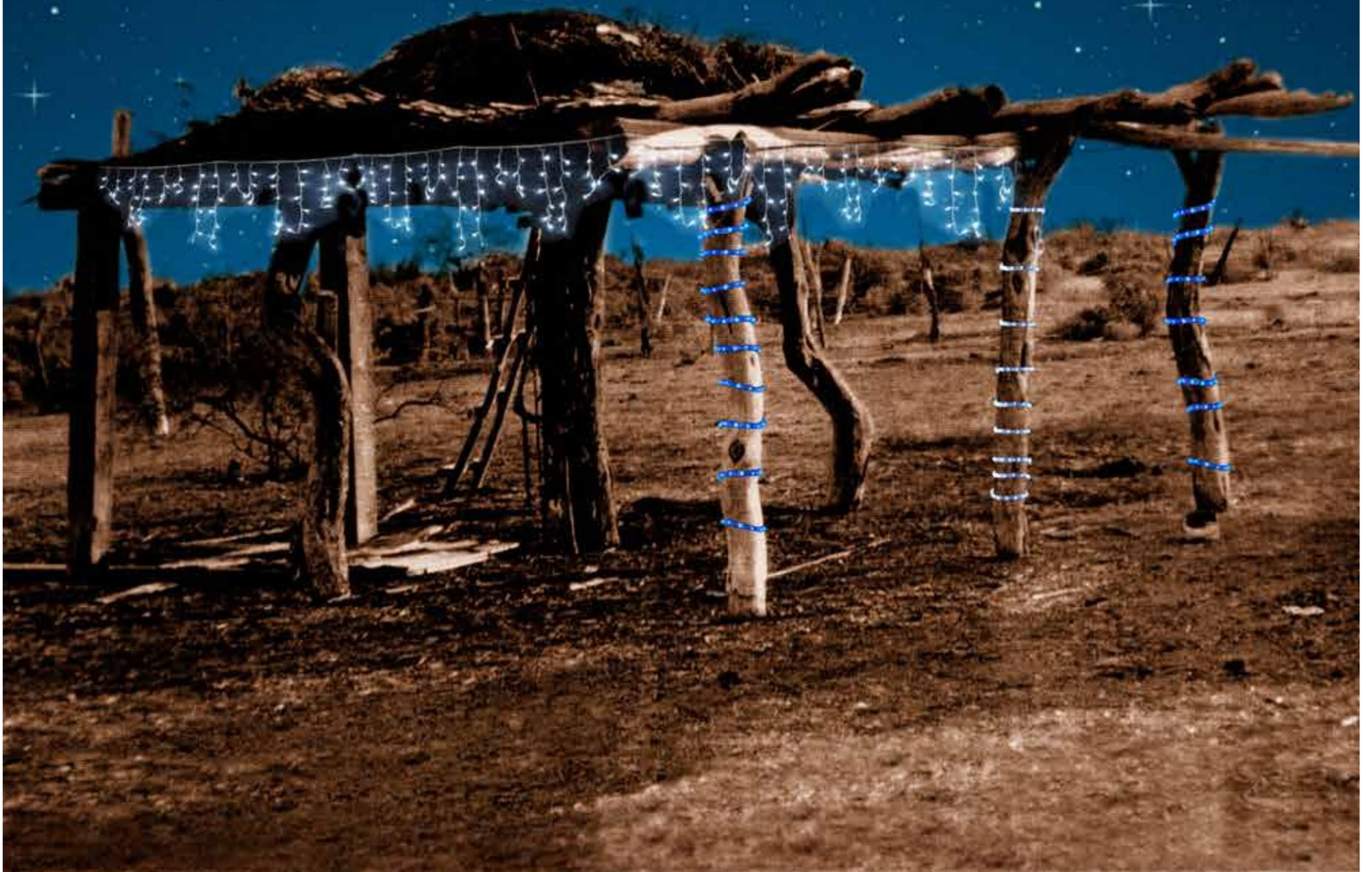
“They try to rehabilitate the larger birds to be released back into the wild,” said Pablo. Occasionally the Department of Environmental Quality staff utilizes Liberty Wildlife to transfer injured birds found in the Community to receive care. She said, “For those that aren’t able to be released back into the wild they are used for educational purposes.”

The sprawling facility is planned to have a simulated wetland for animals and will include various natural landscapes for birds native to Arizona.

Pablo said opportunities like this offer benefits for both parties. “We establish a lot of relationships with people that provide services by entities like Liberty Wildlife because they want to come out to the Community to educate people.”

GILA RIVER CASINOS

*Wishes you & your family a
Happy Holiday Season*



GILARIVER

GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.

Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community

WinGilaRiver.com
800-WIN-GILA

