

GRIC announces water conservation partnership

Agreement to work together on groundwater storage, water conservation efforts will help Lake Mead water level, drought relief strategies statewide

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

Phoenix City Mayor Greg Stanton visited the Gila River Indian Community to sign a cooperative water agreement with Gila River Governor Stephen Roe Lewis on March 15.

Stanton said the Community and the city are partners in making water accessible to urban centers and rural communities throughout the state.

The agreement is part of a collaborative effort by the Community, Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Walton Family Foundation to help alleviate declining water levels at Lake Mead.

According to a Community press release Gov. Stephen Lewis said, "[This] agreement is an important step to continue cooperative efforts to help slow the falling elevations at Lake Mead."

In adding the Community's

support to the agreement, Lewis said it is about building a conscious effort around water conservation.

Stanton expressed his appreciation for the Community's cooperation. In the agreement he said it is critical that Phoenix and the Community work together to create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

The Walton Family Foundation, which is a philanthropic organization committed to building a more sustainable environment, expressed interest in preserving Lake Mead and the Colorado River.

The foundation, which brings awareness to the health of the Colorado River, sees the agreement as an important step toward developing a sustainable water management plan for the Colorado River basin that flows into Lake Mead.

Stanton said the partnership is about Phoenix and the Community building a common interest for a more stable water future for



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Mayor of Phoenix Greg Stanton, left, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis sign a cooperative water conservation agreement.

the state of Arizona.

"It is through water system conservation that we can protect Lake Mead in the long run and to ensure resiliency of our Colorado River supplies," said Stanton.

Ultimately the goal is to help provide long-term sustainability of the Colorado River Basin,

which provides water to several municipalities throughout the Southwest.

It also is part of a broader initiative to develop a drought contingency plan to address water shortage needs through the state of Arizona.

Firefighters honored for twenty years of service



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila River Fire Department firefighters were recognized for twenty years of service on March 24 at Rawhide Western Town.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Five Gila River Fire Department firefighters were recognized for their years of service at an evening ceremony held at the Rawhide Western Town and Event Center on March 24.

GRFD firefighters Greg Mitchem, Christopher Bauer, Lysie Burke, Melvin Chischilly and Rea Miles, were among the first graduates from the all Native American Fire Academy in 1997 that was held at Mesa Community College.

Class 97-2 ushered in a new era of firefighting for the Commu-

nity, which sought to fill the ranks of the young department.

GRFD Fire Chief Thomas Knapp said when the graduates went from the academy to the fire station, there wasn't time to ease into the job, because many of them were pressed into service driving fire engines to emergency calls.

Knapp said based on their evaluations over the years, they've shown how exceptional they are at being focused hard-working individuals that are willing to take their firefighting career to the next level.

Continued on Page 5

Sacaton Middle School hosts first Robotics competition

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Sacaton Middle School hosted its first ever robotics competition in the school gymnasium on Saturday, March 25.

Students in the "maze" category huddled around "bots" connected to laptops, furiously programming new commands to make little machines navigate wooden paths on the gym floor. The goal is to make it from one end of the maze to the other, executing every turn perfectly and without rolling off the edge.

Fifth grade students Elena Mark and Maya Randal form a team from Sacaton Elementary School called Sonic. The partners

help each other plot the course, calculate turning angles, and program their bot for the maze. A computer application called Lego Mindstorms talks to the bot, telling it when to stop, how much to turn, and how far to go, according to instructions its human operators have entered.

"Go!" says the robotics competition judge. Kneeling at the start, Mark punches a button on top of the bot. It crawls along the narrow plank, pauses, makes a sharp right turn, and chases the path down another length of the maze. If the bot falls off the path even a little bit, it's a failed run

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Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Students look on as Samuel Lujan, from Gila Crossing Community School, competes in the robotics competition hosted by Sacaton Middle School.

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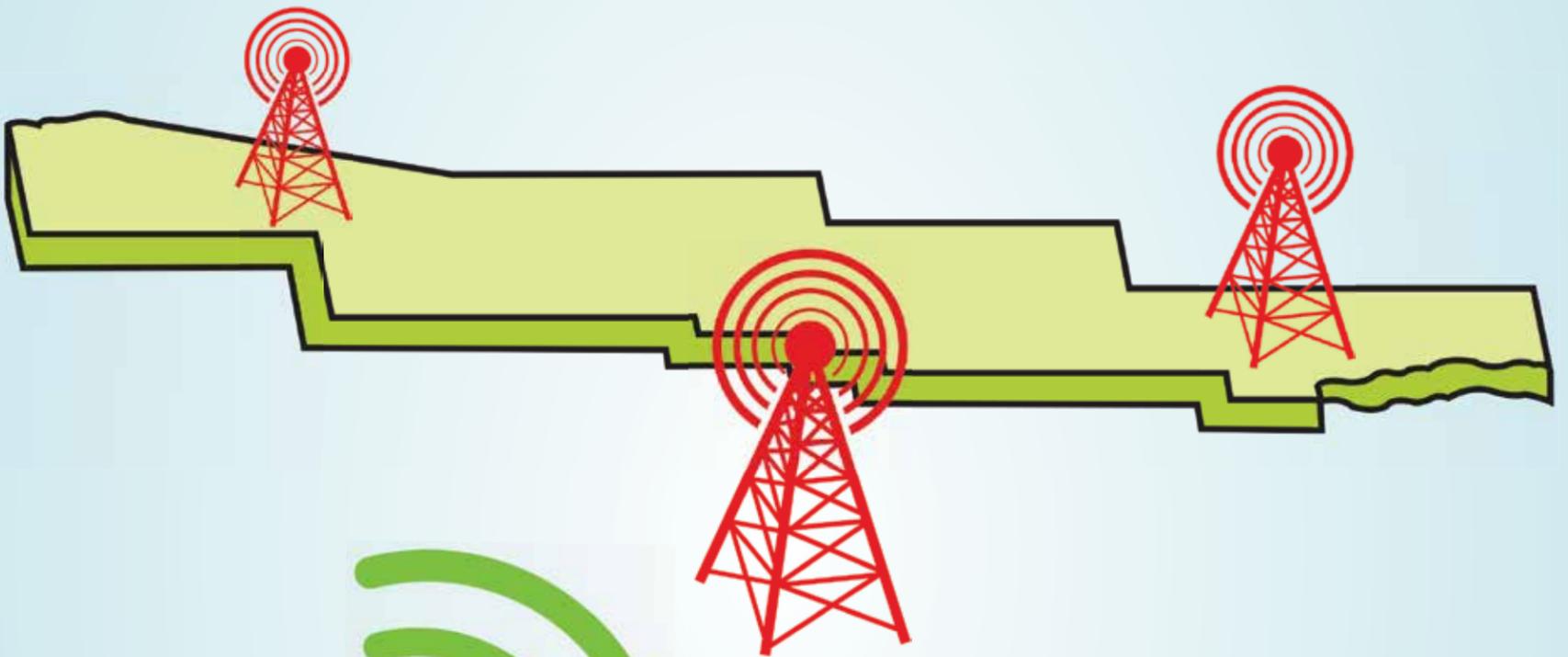


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Dialing 911 from your cellphone in Gila River



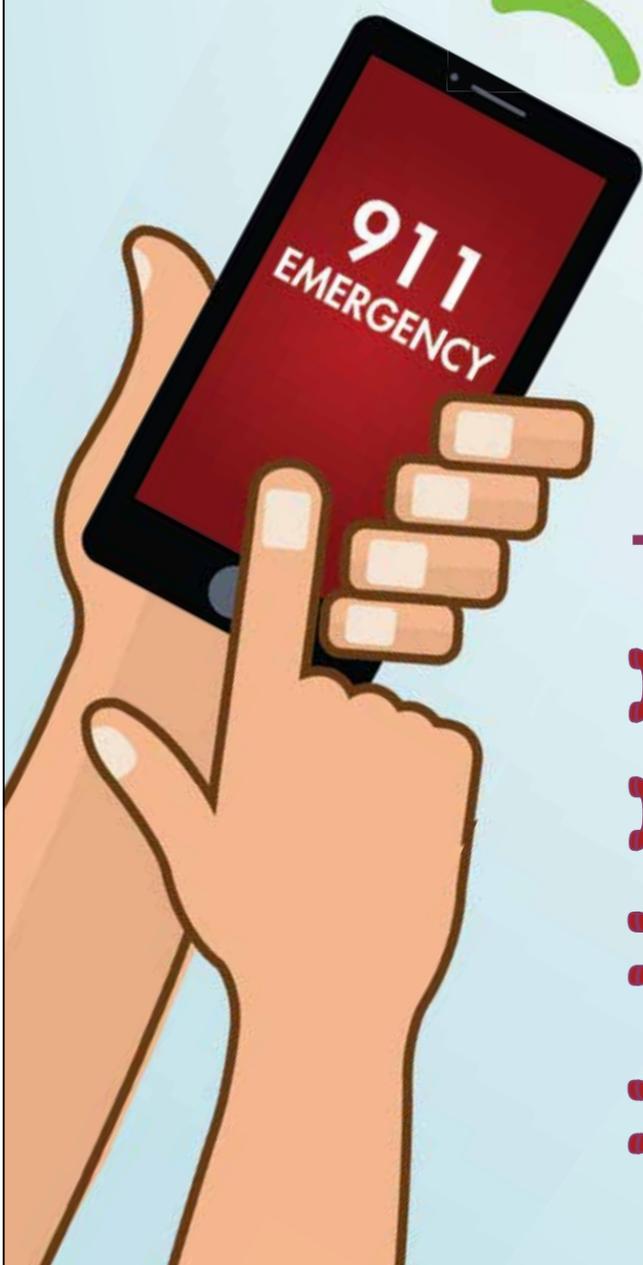
Anytime you dial 911 your call is directed to a **Public Safety Answering point (PSAP)**. A PSAP is your local dispatch center.

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- 📞 If your wireless phone is not "initialized", meaning it is not activated with a provider, and your emergency call gets disconnected, you must call the emergency operator back. The operator does not have your telephone number and cannot contact you.





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GRIC dancer gains more experience in ballet productions

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

One Community member continues to refine his craft as he progresses in the world of ballet.

On a Friday night when the average group of middle school and high school teens make plans for the evening, Richard Thomas and the rest of his ballet classmates work on their form before a group of parents at the Arizona Ballet studio in Phoenix on March 3.

Since Richard's last feature in the *Gila River Indian News*, Charity Thomas, Richards mother, said he has performed in a couple of productions organized by the school and that he continues to show commitment towards the study of ballet.

"He's more focused and has really gotten the attention of his instructors, who say that he has the form and strength to go far in ballet."

Richards grandmother, Cheryl Thomas said, "Its really good to see him involved in ballet, be-

cause it was something that he seemed to take up just for the time being, but for him, it has become something more."

She said as a youth living in the city there are many distractions that can influence their decisions, but that Richard has done very well in keeping with his ballet studies.

For Richard and the students, it is a routine process they go through as they do their best to demonstrate what they have learned in class to their parents, but most importantly to their ballet instructor.

Led by Fabian Poulis, the class's ballet instructor, they perform a series of exercises to get the students ready for their rehearsal.

The exercises focus on the upper and lower body strength to help them maintain form to ensure they have mastered each pose.

As the students go through their positions, she explains to the parents that they are showing progress and are starting to correct things they haven't done before.

When it appears the students are having trouble mastering one set of poses, Poulis said, "[You] have to attack the combination... You have to anticipate what comes before."

Like a traveling locomotive with several boxcars in tow, the students line up and move in unison, not to break the ripple effect that is created when they move together.

As they go about this, Poulis tells the students not to be too exaggerated and be more natural, emphasizing the articulation of each part of the body being used at that particular point.

She said that it's done a specific way to prevent the overusing



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Richard Thomas rehearses at the Arizona Ballet Studio in Phoenix.

of muscles, which if not executed properly can put wear on the body, leading to an injury.

In the background Richard does his best to execute every pose as Poulis examines each student as they try to master a position that is rehearsed 3 to 5 times before moving on to the next portion of the nights showing.

Charity said that a lot of conditioning is needed before each class and that the school provides classes that focus on that part of ballet.

It's a part of studying ballet Richard as grown accustomed to, as his schedule runs from Monday to Saturday and will sometimes include up to two classes per day and possibly a third one if he has to prepare for an upcoming

performance.

So far Richard has put a lot of work into his training, which has impressed his instructor, who recommended him to take summer classes to continue refining his form.

Richard said the summer classes help students stay in form so they won't forget what they have learned in the spring.

Poulis said students like Richard aren't intimidated by ballet and are always demonstrating what they have learned each time they attend class.

Recently Richard and his younger brother Isaac ran in the Unity Run, in the Gila River Indian Community portion from District 1 Blackwater to Vah Ki District 5 on March 13.

In loving memory of Louis T. Blackwater

We, the family of Louis T. Blackwater 'KuKu' would like to thank the immediate family for everything that was done to help us during our time of loss, we could not have done this without you, and we cannot thank you enough. The family came together when we needed you the most. There was so much giving and working from all of you we will be forever grateful.

And, to all those who knew our Daddy; the Community of Blackwater, those who brought us food, shared words of comfort or just came to sit and share our grief. The Blackwater Service Center staff who went beyond being helpful in the arrangements for the center and the cemetery and all the personnel who helped get us through this, thank you.

Thank you to Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 for your time and service. Our dad was a proud member of the Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 and so very proud to have served his country as a Marine. His wish was to have the Marine Corp represented during his service, you made this possible. We thank you for the Military send off, our daddy I'm sure could not have been prouder. To the Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 Auxiliary, the ladies who donated their time and came to help serve, this was a big task to undertake but you came forward and gave so willingly of your time, thank you.

To all the choirs, speakers, drummers that shared their music and words of comfort, thank you.

There are so many thank you's to give and in our hearts we know there are many more we should thank but know that we are grateful that you took the time to send our Daddy to be with his family waiting in heaven.

With love,
Blackwater Family, Beverly,
Caroline, Connie and Wayne



Federal court tosses class action lawsuit against ICWA

Communications & Public Affairs Office
Gila River Indian Community

to challenge any provisions of ICWA or the 2015 [ICWA] Guidelines.”

Dismissal of the case is the latest defeat in Goldwater’s unsuccessful nationwide campaign to deprive Native American tribes and children of federal statutory protections for Native American familial and tribal ties.

On March 16, the United States District Court for the District of Arizona threw out the Goldwater Institute’s class-action lawsuit against the Indian Child Welfare Act (“ICWA”), which governs child custody proceedings involving Indian children from federally recognized Native American tribes. Goldwater had argued that ICWA is unconstitutional, but Judge Neil Wake held that ICWA had caused no injury to the plaintiffs.

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (one of the Arizona tribes whose children were named by Goldwater as plaintiffs) was optimistic that Judge Wake’s decision signals ICWA’s enduring strength.

Goldwater had previously amended its complaint in the case to add new plaintiffs to try to keep the case alive; this time Judge Wake held that attempting to amend again would likely be futile.

“The court’s ruling underscores how beneficial ICWA is for all involved in cases where it applies. Even determined ideological opponents of Native American interests could not find anyone the slightest bit injured by the provisions of this important federal statute,” he said. “ICWA is one of the most significant federal laws expressly recognizing tribal sovereignty and, when properly applied by state courts, works well.”

The court noted that despite Goldwater having brought the case in 2015 as a class action that supposedly sought redress for a large number of unnamed plaintiffs, “they have not named any plaintiffs with standing



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	Sunday 4/9	Monday 4/10	Tuesday 4/11	Wednesday 4/12	Thursday 4/13	Friday 4/14	Saturday 4/15		
12:00pm	Mad Cow Sacred Cow <i>Food crisis and the journey of a beef-eating Hindu</i>	Australia's Shame <i>Children were taken from parents and raised by white families.</i>	People of the Beautiful River <i>Maliseets of Viger lose their ancestral lands.</i>	Kvcarts <i>Drezus</i>	IWO JIMA PARADE <i>Sacaton, AZ</i>	Cousins Across The Sea <i>Burial practices and suppressed writings, unearthing ancient artifacts</i>	Lives Around Annapurna <i>People living around the Annapurna Range. Their hardship, culture, tradition</i>		
12:30pm	<i>Terrified of his food.</i>			Peyote Man			<i>Seasoned with Spirit</i>		
1:00pm	Storytellers in Motion	Ravens and Eagles	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Fish Lake Part 2</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Spruce Root Weaver</i>		<i>Cedar Bark Weaver</i>	<i>Cuisine of the Southwest</i>		
1:30pm	Native Report	Vitality Gardening <i>Treasure Hunt</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>Gardening Therapy</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>We're Going Berry Picking</i>	MISS & JR MISS GILA RIVER CROWNING	Vitality Gardening <i>The Northern Harvest</i>	Landing		
2:00pm	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Cuisine of the Southwest</i>	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Sivummut		
2:30pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	From The Spirit <i>Joane Cardinal-Schubert</i>	From The Spirit <i>Jim Heart</i>	From The Spirit <i>Eli Nasogaluak</i>	From The Spirit <i>Jane Ash Poitras</i>	From The Spirit <i>John Farcy</i>	People of the Pines <i>Gaining Legitimacy</i>		
3:00pm	Trudell <i>The philosophy and motivations behind Trudell's work.</i>	Creative Native <i>Symbolism</i>	Creative Native <i>Quotes on a Paper</i>	SAC CITY THROWDOWN <i>Skateboard Competition</i>	Creative Native <i>The Quecha</i>	Creative Native <i>Baby It's You!</i>	Making Regalia		
3:30pm		GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS		
4:00pm	Forging Bonds: Pow Wow Stories from California	Working It Out Together	Indian Pride <i>Spirituality</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report <i>Chris Eyre</i>	Indian Pride <i>Tribal Relations w/US Govt</i>	Storytellers In Motion	The Other Side <i>Regina, the devil right?</i>		
4:30pm	Deep Time <i>Casts the ongoing boom in the context of paleo-cycles, climate change, and the dark ecology of the future.</i>	Sivummut	Aboriginal Adventures	Common Ground	Down The Mighty River	On Native Ground: Youth Report <i>Chris Eyre</i>	Indians and Aliens <i>Sandy Mastly</i>		
5:00pm		First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	Indigenous Focus <i>Resilience / The Reward</i>		
5:30pm		Native Report	People of the Pines <i>Assimilation</i>	Making Regalia	People of the Pines	Make Prayers to the Raven	Dabiyiyuu <i>Seal Hunter</i>		
6:00pm	Native Voice TV	People of the Beautiful River	Kvcarts <i>Drezus</i>	Walela <i>12 of the most beautiful and melodic songs created by Walela.</i>	Cousins Across The Sea <i>Burial practices and suppressed writings, unearthing ancient artifacts</i>	Lives Around Annapurna <i>People living around the Annapurna Range. Their hardship, culture, tradition</i>	Kvcarts <i>Drezus</i>		
6:30pm	On Native Ground: Youth Report	<i>Maliseets of Viger lose their ancestral lands.</i>	Peyote Man				Native Report		
7:00pm	Wapos Bay <i>Patients</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Time Management</i>	Wapos Bay <i>The Ways of the Quiet</i>	Wapos Bay <i>World According to Devon</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Catch The Spirit</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Partic-Inaction</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Time Management</i>		
7:30pm	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People		
8:00pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS		
8:30pm	Native Shorts	Indians and Aliens <i>Matthew Mukash</i>	Back In The Day <i>Shelter</i>	Indigenous Focus <i>Resilience / The Reward</i>	Rez Rides <i>Going National</i>	Champions of the North <i>Sisters</i>	Moose T.V. <i>Birth of a Station</i>		
9:00pm	Gold Fever <i>A powerful look at the reality of what it means when gold miners dig into the 3rd world.</i>	The Other Story of the Forgotten Slaves <i>The story of the oriental slave trade.</i>	Journey to Opportunity	Maina <i>In order to fulfill a promise MAINA has to follow the trail of her enemies Nipki, Matsii's 11-year-old son who has been captured by the Inuit.</i>	Wisdom of the Grandmothers <i>Love, community, creativity, family, faith and spirituality.</i>	Circus Without Borders <i>One is from the Arctic Tundra, the other from West Africa.</i>	<i>Kanie'keha:Ka: Living the Language</i>		
9:30pm			The Winter Bear Project				<i>What it takes to learn and maintain a language by addressing key concepts of tradition, traditional education and identity preservation.</i>		
10:00pm	Whaledreamers <i>The return of an aboriginal whale dreaming tribe from the edge of extinction and the equally, long journey of the whales, to survive the slaughter by man.</i>	First People Kumeyaay <i>The Kumeyaay share a heritage that goes back, "to the beginning of time."</i>	The Tundra Book <i>A rare glimpse into a community determined to preserve it's ancient cultures and traditions.</i>	The Human Effect <i>Geronimo takes viewers into depth with Mother Earth, and also shows the negativity that has been taking place as a result of the human effect.</i>	Choctaw Code Talkers <i>A unique perspective to these forgotten heroes and their wartime</i>	Greetings From The Colony			
10:30pm					The Medicine Game <i>The obstacles in their way are frequent and daunting.</i>	2017 WAILA FESTIVAL <i>Chandler, AZ</i>	From Badlands to Alcatraz <i>Dr. Nancy Iverson vowed to help restore the well-being of people living on Pine Ridge.</i>		
11:00pm		The Creator's Game <i>A Native American Lacrosse team faces issues travelling and competing in other countries.</i>							
11:30pm									

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GRFD 20 years of service from page 1

According to former GRFD Fire Chief Doug Jones, the idea of having a fully trained and staffed fire department in the Community was new territory for a tribal community.

Jones said having a full-time and well-staffed fire department was a new concept for the Community after having had a volunteer fire department up until 1994 and that in 1997 the graduates of class 97-2 made that transition possible.

"They labeled [this] class the backbone of the fire department, not to take anything away from the firefighters that were here, but back then this was a big deal," said Jones.

Today, GRFD has

grown into a fully functional public safety department, which has four fire engines to meet the needs of the Community in all types of hazardous scenarios.

The awardees were given a commemorative plaque and chromed fire axe bearing their name and years of service, and a video highlighting different parts of their career, which showed how much they have grown professionally and come together as a firefighter family.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, both thanked the firefighters for their service and for being able to lay the groundwork for what would be a highly qualified fire department.

Antone said that it was the goal of former Governor Mary Thomas to see Community members serving in the Community's fire department and that it took coordination between her office and the GRFD to get equipment needed to get the job done.

"You risk your lives and you are dedicated to preserving the safety of the Community and the lives of its members," said Antone.

Lewis recalled the early days of the fire department and the commitment of past fire chiefs to reach the goal of establishing a full-time fire department in the Community.

First to be recognized was Mitchem, a Community member from District One.

According to his colleagues, Mitchem has al-

ways had a passion for serving his community and can be seen educating the younger generations of Community members about careers in fire fighting.

Throughout his career with GRFD, Mitchem has served in a variety of positions from firefighter to Deputy Chief of Administration, after putting in his time of service in the field.

Bauer, a member of the Ft. Peck Reservation in Montana, has always been a hands-on professional, from Fire Engineer to Captain, he has trained new recruits on the fundamentals of firefighting.

Burke a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Ore., was happy to receive her award, signifying that taking a

chance on a dream of being a firefighter does pay off.

In 1996, when word spread that an all-Native fire academy was being organized, Burke jumped at the opportunity to attend the academy and moved to Arizona. Now a Fire Captain, Burke is a Field Fire Technician with board Battalion 421 and oversees the Personal Protective Program.

Chischilly, a member of the Navajo Nation, is also a graduate of the All Native American Fire Academy.

He started out as a Firefighter Apprentice and is now a "B" shift Captain as a Field Incident Technician for Battalion 421.

Although Chischilly could not be present at the awards ceremony, his oldest son Erik was present to

receive the awards.

Rea Miles of District 6, accepted her awards, thanking the Community for the opportunity to become a firefighter.

Previously she worked with children in education and the Boys & Girls Club, before attending the all Native American Fire Academy.

Now serving as an Engineer on one of the fire engines, Miles continues to lead by example, inspiring youth of the Community to become a firefighter.

Although it has been 20 years since the first class of all Native American Fire Academy has graduated, many of those core principals learned at the academy have built GRFD into what it has become today.

Robotics from page 1

and it's back to the beginning.

The bot turns right, then left, then left again. The wheel comes close to the edge, but stays on track. Mark kneels by the miniature rover, willing it through strained teeth to maintain course. As the bot pulls up to the finish line and stops at exactly the right spot, Team Sonic punches the air in victory, and supporters cheer them on.

"That was exciting because we reached the finish line," said Mark. It was their first timed run of the day and they already had a perfect score. The pair said they enjoy learning robotics because "it's just fun," but it takes a lot of work to get the robot to make even one successful run.

"We keep going and going and keep trying and trying," said Mark. The team has spent hours with their bot and programmed it hundreds of times to run various courses this semester. The mazes laid out for this competition was new

to all participants. Around the gym, teams of varying ages worked with their bots and mazes.

"This is the First Annual Indigenous STEM Robotics Competition," said science teacher and SMS Robotics Club advisor Jo Ellen Kinnamon. The Robotics Club has participated in state and national robotics competitions in the past, but this is the first time it has hosted an event for other students.

Students from a handful of schools from within the Community participated in the inaugural event, including Sacaton Middle School, Sacaton Elementary School, Gila Crossing Community School, Casa Blanca Community School, and St. Peter Indian Mission School. Kinnamon said she hopes the event will grow year after year to include Native American students from around the state and perhaps nationally.

The Arizona Coyotes recently donated \$5,000 to Sacaton Middle School's Robotics Club, which Kinnamon said will be used to purchase new drones and help pay for traveling and registration expenses for

various tournaments the students are scheduled to participate in, such as the national RoboRave competition in New Mexico in May.

"Putting on the first robotics competition in the Community and then heading to New Mexico in May [for RoboRave], it takes a lot of money," said Kinnamon. "Our kids work. They are out there hustling, so it's not a handout. The kids work very hard."

Gila Crossing Community School students Alexis Lopez, 13, and Vanessa Barehand, 14, are teammates in the middle school age group. The competition was Barehand's first.

"Today, it's actually pretty fun. It's not as hard as I thought it would be, but yeah, it's pretty fun," she said.

Lopez, who loves math, said she enjoys learning robotics because "I actually get to work with math. It helps me get into math more." The pair made it to the finals against another middle school team and ended up taking home first place under the team name PTV.

Winners by category,



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Arizona Coyotes president of hockey operations Gary Drummond, second from left, presents Sacaton Middle School with a \$5,000 check.

team name and school are as follows:

- Ozbots**
First: Team Vaughn, SES
Second: Roadrunner 1, CBCS
Third: Roadrunner 2, CBCS
Fourth: Roadrunner 3, CBCS
- We Do's (Parking 1)**
First: Roadrunner 3, CBCS
Second: Team Vaughn, SES
Third: Roadrunner 1, CBCS
Fourth: Roadrunner 2, CBCS

- We Do's (Parking 2)**
First: Roadrunner 3, CBCS
Second: Team Vaughn, SES
Third: Roadrunner 1, CBCS
Fourth: Roadrunner 2, CBCS
- Spheroids**
First: The Ball, SMS
Second: Just Do It!, SMS
- Line Followers**
First: Ellyse Enos
- Mazing (Fifth and Sixth Grades)**
First: Sonic, SES
Second: Scorpio, SES
Third: Rockets, GCCS
- Mazing (Seventh and Eighth Grades)**
First: PTV, GCCS
Second: Blue, SMS
Third: Parts, SMS

- Fourth: Team Pixel, St. Peter
- Mazing (High School)**
First: Simpletons, GCCS
Second: Computers, GCCS
- Drones**
First: Jacob Ochoa, SMS
Second: Josiah Ochoa, SMS
Third: Gracie Mark, SMS
Fourth: Quincy Randall, SMS
Fifth: Joyce Makil, SMS [Sacaton Elementary School = SES, Sacaton Middle School = SMS, Casa Blanca Community School = CBCS, Gila Crossing Community School = GCCS, St. Peter Indian Mission School = St. Peter.]

Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps) is considering issuing a permit for the project under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps Regulatory Program evaluates permit applications for most construction activities that occur in the nation's lakes, rivers, streams, oceans, and wetlands. The purpose of the public hearing is to gather additional public views and comments on the proposed activity. The information gathered will become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. All interested individuals are invited to attend and are encouraged to review the full Public Notice at:

<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Notices/Regulatory-Public-Notices/>

To provide an equal opportunity for all speakers and to keep the hearing from running excessively long, a time limit for speakers may be imposed and one representative from each organization in attendance may speak on behalf of their group. In addition, translators will be available at the public hearing for those wishing to provide oral comments in their Native traditional language. Comments regarding the proposed permit application can be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Oral comments can be provided directly to a court reporter, or to a panel of Corps of Engineers' representatives and the public hearing attendees at large.

Written comments will also be accepted after the hearing and should be submitted by Friday, May 19, 2017. Written comments submitted after the hearing can be mailed to the address below or sent via email to: Jesse.M.Rice@usace.army.mil. Comments received during the public review period will be considered by the Corps and will become part of the administrative record for the decision.

Should you have any questions about this project or the public hearing, please contact:

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY DIVISION
ATTN: Jesse Rice, Project Manager
3636 North Central Avenue Suite 900
Phoenix, AZ 85012-1939
Jesse.M.Rice@usace.army.mil
602-230-6854

Public Notice No.: SPL-2002-00055
Project: South Mountain Freeway, SR 202L

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Activity
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District will hold a public hearing in relation to the Department of the Army permit application received for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway project.

This Public Hearing will be held on:

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley
Gila River Branch-Komatke
5047 West Pecos Road
Laveen, Arizona



SPECIAL THANKS

The Sacaton Middle School Robotics Club would like to thank the following people and businesses for making the Indigenous Robotics Competition possible: Sacaton School Board and Administration, Honeywell Home-town Solutions, Intel, Bayer, NASA, George Gorospe from California, and Fabian Lopez from RoboRAVE. GRIC Executive Office and Community Council, Gila River Sand & Gravel, The Arizona Coyotes, Gila River Casinos, Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority, Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., Gila River Broadcasting Corp., Lone Butte Industrial Development Corp., Wild Horse Pass De-

velopment Authority, and St. Matthews Methodist Church. Casa Grande businesses Little Cesar's Pizza, Domino's, Papa John's, Geno's, and Peter Piper Pizza, Lowe's, and Home Depot. Thanks to all the volunteers from Intel, Honeywell, and Sun Lakes - David Romans, David Bluestein, Jim Ramsey, Tammy Wolfe, Matt Romans, Hebear and Jones Williams, DiAnne and John Davidsen, Ester Poolaw, Gary Anderson, Kristina Davis, and Edward and Louis Caballero, as well as Robotic Coaches Karen McQueen, Kim Franklin, Sister Carol, Sherri Dohm. Lastly, thank you to all of the parents whose children participated.

Elders enjoy a day of games and prizes at HHC's 3rd Annual Elders Appreciation Day



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

The chair volleyball tent was a favorite of elders at the HHC's 3rd Annual Elders Appreciation Day.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The sun was shining and games were aplenty at the Huhugam Heritage Center's Elders' Appreciation Day, with over 130 Gila River Indian Community members showing up to take part in the event's carnival-like atmosphere. The appreciation day was filled with a variety of games like the beanbag toss, raffle-ticket bingo,

and the always-popular chair volleyball. Lunch was provided by Bubba's BBQ and shaved-ice was also popular as Community elders lined up for the sweet and refreshing treat.

GRIC Departments also showed up to the party with informational booths, games, and prizes. The departments that participat-

ed in the appreciation day were the Caregiver Program Elderly Services, Department of Environmental Quality, GRICUA, the Gila River Fire Department, and the Communications & Public Affairs Office.

Edna Shaw, Record Specialist for the Huhugam Heritage Center, said it was the third time the center has

hosted the event and it has doubled in size since last year.

"This one is a lot busier," said Shaw. "We really had a lot of people step-up and help us run this and I think the elders really had a good time [and] I just hope that it keeps getting bigger and better all the time."



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, Brenda Kyyitan, Audrey Juan, Eileen Moore, and Daniel Williams, all from D5, enjoyed the games and food at HHC's 3rd Annual Elders Appreciation Day on March 17.

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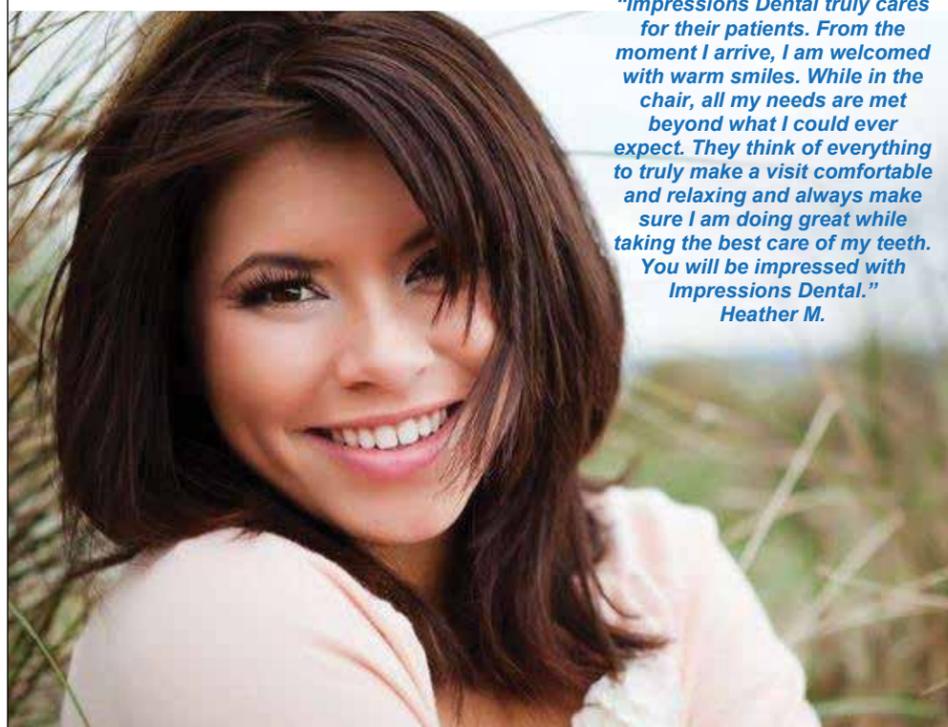
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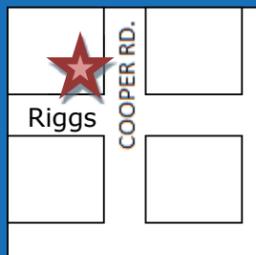
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A'AGA

Something to be told

By Billy Allen

Spring has sprung and winter's rainfall has turned our jeved green. A lot of plants are blooming, but many are not yet producing food. How did our O'odham and Piipaash peoples survive? Coaxing food from the desert was not easy. It was hard physical labor but the O'odham and Piipaash farmer was up before the sun rose, worked until noon, rested until mid-afternoon and then worked until dark. He worked slow and steady to prepare fields, clear canals, and rebuild brush dams -all while under the threat of O:b or enemy attack. A good food harvest was the reward and maybe a new field for new cleared land usually went to males who showed to be s-vagima or hard workers. Old Hohokam canals were used, but new canals were also dug. These canals were dug with sticks and a crude wooden shovel. Our ancestors survived on what they raised, stored, gathered or hunted, so laziness was not tolerated. At this time of the

year, the "savings account" of last summer and fall -- peas, tepary beans, maize and squash were almost gone. Once I heard a modern Hohokam descendant utter, "Don't plant something pretty, plant something I can eat!" O'otham and Piipaash can tolerate many things, but not hunger pangs.

Since March was Kui l'vakidag or when mesquite leaves bloom, the Akimel and Piipaash farmer watched the mesquite and when the leaves came out; this was the signal to plant maize, beans and cotton. A second crop would be planted in late July to take advantage of the summer thunderstorms. This second growing season ended with the first frost. When not doing community field work, hunters ventured from the village. But there was no guarantee anyone leaving the village would return safely. Because we owned the best farmland in this area, we had to fight constantly to keep it.

Our keli akimel or old

man river flowed down from the eastern mountains making the water heavy with alkali. To combat this, keli akimel farmers would flood fields to wash away the alkali. Individual families would prepare an oidag or field near a canal. A fence of willow or mesquite branches surrounded the oidag. Sometimes the willow and mesquite brush piled up to keep out small animals, took root and became a living fence. On nearby hills small plots were cleared to take advantage of the runoff from the rain. On these stair-like plots agave and yucca were planted. By doing this, it cut down on the distance they had to walk to gather these foods, not to mention being safer. In the Vahki or Casa Blanca area the biggest and most productive fields were on sandy islands in the middle of the keli akimel.

When the Spanish introduced pilkan or wheat, it quickly became a staple because it could be stored in large baskets to protect against starvation. Initially when the pilkan was harvested, women beat the wheat stalks

with sticks to separate the grain. Then the grain was winnowed -- gently tossed in the air so the hevel or wind could blow away the chaff. At this time of the year, the Tohono O'odham, would journey down to our jeved to help with the harvest. It was also an opportunity to strengthen ties between the tribes with new courtships. In 1775, when a Spanish military post was moved to Tucson, Akimel and Piipaash farmers supplied much of the

pilkan. By 1870, O'odham and Piipaash wheat production had reached 3 million pounds. To keep up with the volume, horses were walked over the crop to separate the grain. Wheat could be traded or sold to Americans. Flour mills were built at Vahki or Casa Blanca and Sacaton. Today wheat remains a cash crop on our jeved.

Many hardships had to be dealt with in raising a good crop. Our ancestors raised food to eat; today

we raise food to buy food. Coaxing food from the desert was a way of life for our ancestors; it was not easy for starvation was always on the minds of tribal elders. Ancient farmers lived with nature and respected nature. I want to think we still do.

Information was taken from Akimult Aw A Tham; The River People by Guy Acuff; The Pima-Maricopa by H. Dobyns and Peoples of the Middle Gila by John P. Wilson. Photo is courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society.



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Runner carry prayers in Unity Run



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Runners in the Unity Run rested in District 5 on March 13.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Carrying prayers and good thoughts across the land, the O'otham Unity Run traversed the historically inhabited lands of the Akimel O'otham and Tohono O'otham from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, through the Gila River Valley, toward the Baboquivari Mountains, across the international border, and into an O'otham village in Mexico.

District 1, Blackwater, hosted a camp for the runners and provided wood for a fire and an evening meal with traditional singers in honor of their journey. District 1 also provided break-

fast in the morning as they made the rest of the run. The runners stopped briefly for lunch in Vah Ki's District 5 ballpark on Monday, March 13. Runners pray for unity of the O'otham people and for the land and water they share. Many runners carry personal prayers for health and family in their hearts, and others simply enjoy the family-like atmosphere of spending a few days in nature with fellow O'otham.

"Most people pray for their families and the water and the land," said one elder from Blackwater in the Gila River Indian Community.

Runners preferred to remain anonymous, stating that the purpose of the

run is not to seek personal attention, but to remain focused on their mission.

"Meeting all these people, it's good," said one gentleman from San Tan in the Gila River Indian Community. "They're good people to be around. You don't have to be afraid of nobody out here. Everybody's just like your friend, like you've known them for a long time, even though you [haven't]." He and his children like to do the Unity Run together.

A lot of the runners enjoy having young children on the run. One young lady from Salt River said, "It's nice seeing the kids jump in and out of the vans and meeting all the kids."

She said, "I came

Veterans and Family Members

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last year and it felt good to be here, so I wanted to come back. [It's nice] to be around people that we don't know, but we're all the same people." She and her friend, also from Salt River, like getting to know people on the run and get prayers and good experiences out of it. She said she prays for unity of the peo-

ple on the run. Runners tend to come back year after year. One gentleman said he has done it every year for the past 11 years. "I started in '06 and I've been with them ever since," he said. But there are also new participants every year. "Every year it's different. We have new runners, new drivers.

It changes, but it has the same meaning, for all the tribes to get together and be friends with one another. That's what I see it as." He said he looks forward to the Unity Run every year because it helps him to de-stress and enjoy time with others.

Students get hands-on learning with the Gila River Close Up Program

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Close Up Program teaches students the basics of tribal government through interactive lessons and hands-on activities.

From March 13-14, students ages 12 to 18 discussed the roles and responsibilities of Council representatives and how they differ from the roles and responsibilities of the governor and lieutenant governor.

"I think it's important to learn about tribal government because it's something that most Native students...don't know, and it's something that should be learned at a young age," said Marie Soriano, District 7, a student from Chemawa Indian School in Salem,

Ore. "We don't [always] see what the Council is actually doing for us, to see that they're doing the best that they can."

Council Representative Devin Redbird, District 7, has been a key facilitator of the program every year since 2008, and has developed its curriculum based on the GRIC Constitution, Council regulations and his personal experience as a Council member.

"It's important for everyone to learn their government, because that's something that's used at the district level up to main government." He said it's also important to learn so that people are able "to participate in [government], and to exercise their rights under the constitution."

During the program, the students participate in

a mock Council meeting and elect a governor and lieutenant governor to pose in the executive positions. Enrique Holguin, 17, was elected as the Close Up Lieutenant Governor.

He said, "It's important for the community and every Community member to know, because they need to know their officers' [roles and responsibilities] and what they need to hold them accountable [to.]"

The three-day crash course covers topics like the judicial branch and court proceedings, GRIC history and culture, water rights, and students take a closer look at the tribal budget and how it is constructed each year.

"The number one thing that stood out to me most was the budget activity that we did with the seven dis-



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Students participate in a mock trial during the Gila River Close Up Program.

tricts, and then the priorities because it just showed how much...our councilmen go through, and the decisions they have to make and how

hard it is," said Haili Gonzales, Jr. Miss Gila River. She said when her generation is old enough to take office, "it's our job to know

what's going to be going on and how they run it so we can run it strong just like them in the future."

Workshops focus on translating cancer info into the O'odham language

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Native American Cancer Prevention program at the University of Arizona, in partnership with the Tohono O'odham Nation, presented their findings at the Milagritos: Small Miracles in Health, Science and Education workshop series on March 1.

The Improving Patient Care by Developing a Tribally-Driven Patient Navigation Program is about tailoring cancer information in the O'odham language.

Mary Koithan, U of A Associate Dean and Community Engagement professional, who oversaw the O'odham translation project on the TON, assisted with the project.

"We had a lot of fun working on the translation project and it was even more beneficial to learn

the cultural traditions and language of the Tohono O'odham people," said Koithan.

Project Investigator and Project Manager for the TON Cancer Program, Janelle Jensen, worked closely with the T.O. translators to develop the information videos in the O'odham language.

"We determined that a lot of cancer educational materials that we have should be translated into O'odham, so they can better understand what is happening within their body," said Jensen.

She said the process started by looking at some of the most common forms of cancer on the TON and then developing videos around topics like breast, ovarian, colon and stomach cancers.

Jensen sought out fluent O'odham speakers

from across the TON, who would want to be part of the translation project.

Jensen said, "Luckily enough, [we] found some very willing people who work within the health department that knew of speakers that would be able to volunteer as translators," she said.

Volunteer O'odham translator, Priscilla Lopez, said the groups biggest hurdle was trying to determine how to write each word in O'odham.

After searching through O'odham language books to assist in describing specific forms of cancer became difficult, the group decided to focus on a narrative approach to translating the information presented in the videos.

"We all came to the same conclusion and said 'you know what,' a lot of O'odham cannot read



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The Milagritos: Small Miracles In Health, Science and Education workshop series was held March 1 at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

O'odham, so [we] should focus on translating it by speaking it," said Lopez.

The finished product is a series of videos that average five minutes in length and cover symptoms, examinations, diagnosis and

treatment.

They explain where the cancer is located within the body and the risk factors associated with the disease.

Translator, John Havier, who grew up in a family of O'odham speakers, said he knows of various dialects used across the TON that sound different, but have the same meaning.

Getting the translators together was a challenge, because each of them were active in their community. Jensen said that a lot of weekends and after hours work was done to get the project completed.

Once the translation was recorded, it was imported to video, which covered 35 cancer overviews and required the translators to look at rough cuts of the product to ensure everything was in alignment.

The videos were shown to various focus groups and have been pilot tested through the Tohono O'odham Cancer Partnership.

Koithan said they plan to work with Tohono O'odham health care to get the videos shown on the

closed circuit television network in waiting rooms and through the TON cancer program.

Havier spoke about his experience working on the translation project and what it means to not only educate his fellow members on topics like cancer, but also the continuation of the O'odham language.

"Nobody else is doing anything of this kind out there, nobody is willing to do it, and nobody knows the language," he said,

Koithan said there are plans to distribute the DVD's through the TON cancer program and then work their way to other outlets on the Nation, and that it can be used as a template for other tribal communities to take on similar initiatives.

"I think when we did some evaluation component of the project, it demonstrated that we have taken a respectful approach in terms of language, in terms of culture, and being sensitive to people's views on using the O'odham language in improving health literacy," said Koithan.

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Debbie Yazza is Governor's Employee of the Month for March

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Senior Accountant, Debbie Yazza, who has been hard at work for the Gila River Indian Community for the past 13-years and contributed to the construction of 477 homes within the Community, was selected as Governor's Employee of the Month for March and presented with a plaque inside the Community Council Chambers on March 31.

Human Resources Training Specialist, Phillip Morris, said that because of Yazza's hard work, strength, and devotion to the Community, her nomination had been strongly encouraged by her nominator.

"[Yazza] was responsible for the accounting for [477] homes created by the Gila River Indian Community's Home Owner's Team," said Morris.

"This was the first time the Community has built so many homes at once and required [Yazza] to work with disparate groups ranging from contractors, to Community Councilmen, homeowners, department staff, and other entities within the Community," he said. "[Yazza] worked to confirm the costs for all these homes were properly tracked and ensure payments to contractors were prompt to ensure construction went along smoothly," Morris said.

GRIC Comptroller, Robert Russin, said that while Yazza's work on the large project, which affected hundreds of Community families, may have gone unnoticed by many outside of her circle of colleagues, it was finally time to make sure everyone took notice of her accomplishments.

"Her contributions to the [Home] Owners Team played a part in the con-



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

GEM March Debbie Yazza, GRIC Senior Accountant.

struction of 477 homes for the members of the Gila River Indian Community," Russin said. "A lot of people had to rely on Debbie: Community Council members, Governor, Lt. Governor, the Home Owners Team, contractors, Finance Department staff, department directors, the Gila River Indian Community

Utility Authority, Community Treasurer, and I am sure many more," he said.

"And Debbie came through. Contractors were paid on time, instructions documented and homes were built," he said.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis congratulated Yazza's hard work, saying she played a critical role in the

overall project, yet always kept a humble attitude.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone said while there were many people involved in the project, Yazza was the one who kept everyone in line and within budget.

While everyone knew Yazza was going to be the GEM for March, she had no idea, so when her name was announced as the GEM selection, she was genuinely surprised.

Yazza said that her bosses had told her to prepare a presentation for the directors meeting, and she was so nervous her eye was twitching. But after receiving the good news, she was able to relax and accept the award, not just for herself, but for everyone involved in the housing project.

"It is really truly an honor to get this [GEM] and I can't accept this for myself, I have to share it with my team, which is the finance team...they

gave me all the tools and resources and the support to help me get this project done," Yazza said.

"Most importantly, I want to thank my family," she said. "They understood this was a challenge for me, and they understood that I had to not be home sometimes. It was an enormous workload but in the end it all came together."

The GEM award is given to GRIC employees who go above and beyond the call of duty to improve the GRIC workplace and Community. The Governor's Office GEM Committee reviews nominations and those selected receive a commemorative plaque and "certgift" of \$200.

To nominate a colleague, fill out a nomination form and send it to employeevelopment@gric.nsn.us. Nomination forms are due on the 20th of each month.

CAC graduate is awarded \$25,000 scholarship from the USDA

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community member and recent Central Arizona College (CAC) graduate, Rochelle Ranger, was awarded a \$25,000 Project Puente Scholarship, which will help pay for college tuition, books, supplies, and other academic related opportunities.

According to a CAC news release, the Project Puente Scholarship, a Hispanic Serving Institutions Higher Education Grant provided by the USDA's National Institute of Food

and Agriculture (NIFA), is awarded to students who are seen as future graduates capable of improving the United State's agricultural workforce.

"Through grant funding made available to CAC from the ... USDA, the college sought out applicants for its Project Puente student scholarship opportunity this fall," said CAC Grant Coordinator, Marshall Logvin. "We received excellent applications from students for the scholarship and seven students received interviews. Though all interviewees performed well, the scholarship committee

unanimously recommended Ms. Rochelle Ranger," he said.

Ranger, who hails from Bapchule in District 5, received her Associate of General Studies Degree, Associate of Business Degree, and AGEC Business Certificate at CAC, and completed two internships with the USDA and the Arid Land Agricultural Research Center.

She is continuing her education at the University of Arizona where she will major in Agribusiness Economics and Management in the school's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"My career goal includes completing my bachelor's degree and returning to my community to help manage and improve our farming enterprise," Ranger said in the news release. "My cultural heritage, which is deeply rooted in agriculture, has inspired me to take this career path. Other inspiration comes from personal education electives as well as my previous employment at my tribe's farming enterprise."

"The USDA/NIFA scholarship is going to help me continue my education through financial means, as



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Rochelle Ranger, middle right, was awarded a \$25,000 scholarship.

well as require very high standards of me throughout my college education," said Ranger. "This scholarship is also very important to me

because it shows that others acknowledge my pursuit and dedication to education and agriculture," stated Ranger in the news release.

Winona LaDuke gives lecture on indigenous environmental issues at ASU



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

From left, Jacob Moore and Winona LaDuke, left, at ASU on March 23.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Environmentalist and Political Activist Winona LaDuke visited Arizona State University on March 23.

LaDuke was invited to ASU as part of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability lecture series to provide

her perspective on taking a stand against harmful practices on the environment.

ASU Vice President for Tribal Relations Jacob Moore said it is important to invite guests like LaDuke, who are on the front lines of issues that impact Native people.

"It's really important that we have real thinkers, that we have people who

care about the environment our communities and about our way of life," said Moore.

LaDuke, an Ojibwe from the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, brought her perspective on environmental activism and how the country's largest oil companies have shown a disregard for Native people.

Her recent efforts have been dedicated to bringing awareness about the Dakota Access Pipeline project that has drawn criticism from tribes across the nation, and international causes that promote social justice for underrepresented populations.

She said the current generation of Native Americans face an uncertain future that is being threatened by the new administration, which she believes needs to take a conscious effort to understand Native people

and their concerns.

"As I reflect on what is happening, I ask the questions some of you probably might ask, 'what's it going to be in the next 50 years...100 years from now?'" said LaDuke. "We need to put our minds together to shape what kind of future we can make for our children."

She said the responsibility rests on every Native person to use their agency in doing what is right for their community in order to survive the next 100 years.

Her stories of environmental activism include her own non-profit organization White Earth Land Recovery Project, which she created as a way of preserving the traditional practices of her people, as well as their agricultural tie to traditional lands.

She said there is a paradigm of knowledge about Native people, who have

a reputation of being misunderstood by the general public and by some educational institutions.

To bring context to the issue, LaDuke said, "When I was an undergraduate at Harvard University, if you wanted to study the art of Europe, you went to the fine art department, but if you wanted to study the art of indigenous people, you went to the department of anthropology."

From those experiences she has lead efforts to educate the public and the oil companies about what is at stake from an indigenous perspective that has taken her from the White Earth Reservation to North Dakota to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline project.

There, she witnessed incidents between the water protectors and the DAPL security brought in to guard the construction of the pipeline.

She said at the site of the protest, tear gas and rubber bullets were used to suppress the gathering of water protectors, as they sought to halt construction of the DAPL.

LaDuke compared the reliance on fossil fuels to addicts, who rationalize their behavior to satisfy their needs, which is why she believes that if people rely less on fossil fuels, then it will take away the rationale for oil companies to continue drilling or fracking for oil.

Other points of discussion were on the role of educational institutions in teaching business models that fit the current situations that are happening between tribes and the oil companies and how that impacts indigenous people.

She said many of the business models that are

Continued on Page 13

Genesis and Life Center hold “Enjoy the Taste of Eating” events

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The Genesis program in conjunction with the Gila River Health Care Life Center held two “Enjoy the Taste of Eating” events showcasing healthy food samples on March 22 at the District 6 Resource Center and on March 23 at the District 3 Emergency Services building.

Community members came out to both locations to sample a variety of tasty foods like bagel pizzas, hummus, chicken tacos, and refreshing berry smoothies. Registered dietitians and nutritionists from the Genesis program and Life Center presented how to make each meal using healthier alternative

ingredients.

“All the kids love pizza, so we have a mini pizza recipe where you can use whole-wheat bagels and [and] rather than pepperoni, we use something a little bit healthier, Canadian bacon,” said Watson.

She said another healthy meal that can be easily made with nutritious ingredients are chicken tacos. Instead of flour tortillas, use white or yellow corn tortillas, which are whole grains. The addition of avocado also adds healthy fats and makes the flavors of the chicken, cheese, and tortilla really pop.

The “Enjoy the Taste of Eating” event also covered everybody’s favorite meal of the day, snack

time. Instead of munching on spicy Cheetos or the mid-afternoon chocolate chip cookie, a healthier and just as delicious alternative is hummus, a garbanzo bean dip made with garlic, olive oil, and cumin. Carrots or celery can be dipped into the hummus, making a delicious, filling, and healthy mid-afternoon snack that won’t pack on the pounds.

For those with a bit of a sweet tooth but still looking to keep their desserts healthy, the Genesis and Life Center teams were serving up a “Razz Green MaTazz Berry Smoothie.” The smoothie is made with berries, which are high in vitamins, fiber, and antioxidants. To make the sweet cold treat even more nutri-

tious add a dose of spinach to help kids eat more green leafy vegetables.

“We have a smoothie as well, a lot of kids like to eat ice cream and candy, so the smoothie is like the dessert portion of what they can have as a healthier treat,” Watson said.

Watson said the event was held in celebration of March being National Nutrition Month and is just one of several activities the Genesis Program and Life Center are hosting.

In addition to the “Enjoy the Taste of Eating” event, the two programs have been working with Community schools on a door-decorating contest, where students decorate their classroom doors with fruits and vegetables, and



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, GRHC Registered Pediatric Dietician, Emily Perkins, makes healthy personal pizzas for Kendrick Gaines, 10, Maurize Barehand, 5, and Monica Barehand.

other nutrition related designs. During the first week of April the door designs will be judged and the winner of the contest will receive a popcorn party.

For more information

about the recipes showcased at the “Enjoy the Taste of Eating” events or to learn more about the door decoration contest, call the Genesis program a (520) 562-1237.

8th Annual Cancer Awareness Day

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

In an effort to raise cancer awareness, support those suffering from the disease, and to honor those who have lost the battle to the illness, the Westend Health Committee held the 8th Annual Cancer Awareness Day at the Huhugam Heritage Center (HHC) on March 18, with over 200 Community members and guests participating in the event.

Devin Pablo, Community Health Education Specialist for the Tribal Health Department, said the event is important because it provides an outlet for Community members and their

families who are suffering from the illness. It is an event where people can feel comfortable and supported, he said.

“We want to raise awareness and enlighten people to what different techniques they can do in order to prevent [cancer],” said Pablo. “It also provides the Community an outlet where they can feel comfortable to share their journey, that they understand they are not alone when it comes to cancer. It’s not something to be ashamed of, [cancer] doesn’t discriminate.

The day’s activities began with a 1-mile Honor Walk and 4-mile Honor Run that wound its way

from the HHC to the Wild Horse Pass Whirlwind Golf Course and back.

Westend Health Committee member, Victoria Allison, gave the welcoming address, shortly followed by presentations from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and GRIC Chief Judge Victor Antone.

Two honorary guest speakers, Beverly Miranda and Veronica Allison, also spoke about their experiences with cancer and how it affected their lives and their families’ lives.

The event ended with its trademark balloon release, where hundreds of Community members and guests released purple balloons with messages at-



Photo Courtesy of Gila River Health Care

The 8th Annual Cancer Awareness Day was held at the Huhugam Heritage Center on March 18.

tached, to honor people suffering from the disease or to those who have passed away.

Fighting Cancer with Awareness

The fight against cancer is a daily battle for many and the frontline of the war is not just made up of people suffering from the disease, or the doctors and scientists looking for the next breakthrough treatment. It is also people learning more about cancer, encouraging their friends and relatives to get screened, and taking ownership of their own health by being aware of their body’s changes and seeking treatment when something is wrong.

In many cases, people diagnosed with cancer often find out after visiting their doctor to check on a recurring issue, such as a sore that won’t go away, a body pain that keeps coming back, or even something as unassuming as a mole that seems to have changed shape or become larger.

“Everybody knows their body, everybody knows how their body functions, what is normal, what is not normal,” said Pablo. “If there is something that is not normal in your body, it is always a good idea to get it checked. Even if it is something small, it can al-

ways grow into something bigger.”

Pablo said that even yearly physicals can overlook serious health issues, which is why it is important to make a note of anything abnormal your body is doing and get it checked by a doctor.

“If there is something that is not normal about your body that you haven’t seen before or haven’t felt before, and it is constantly nagging you, go get it checked, go to your doctor, go get a screening,” he said.

How to Fight Back Against Cancer

According to the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), an estimated 1.7 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed and just under 600,000 people died from the disease in 2016.

The NCI reported cancer is among the leading causes of death worldwide and new cancer cases are expected to rise to 22 million within the next two decades.

Aside from being aware and knowledgeable of the disease and seeing a doctor for any abnormal issues that arise, what else can be done to lower the likelihood of developing cancer in the future?

Pablo said while there are a number of things suspected of leading to cancer,

there are many ways of preventing the disease.

“Just watching what you eat, eating a little bit healthier. We aren’t telling you to completely go vegan, we are saying to minimize the amount of unhealthy foods that you are eating and replace them with more vegetables and fruit,” he said.

“Exercising is a big one,” he added. “Getting at least 30-minutes of exercise a day, if you are just starting out, and gradually increasing that so you are exercising a little bit more and more.”

He said minimizing alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking are also very important because both substances have been found to cause a variety of different cancers.

While eating healthy, exercising, and cutting alcohol and cigarettes may seem like an insurmountable goal, it doesn’t mean doing it all at once.

“We aren’t telling everyone to completely just shut everything out, and just eat healthy and exercise. Just pull back a little,” said Pablo. “Moderation is key and if you moderate the less bad stuff you put in your body, the benefits you are going to get are going to be unbelievable.”



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
Department of Environmental Quality
Pesticide Control Office
PO Box 2139 • 45 S. Church Street • Sacaton, AZ 85147
Office (520) 562-2234 • Fax (520) 562-3198
GRIC.Pesticide.Office@GRIC.nsn.us • www.GRICDEQ.org



Community Applicator Certification Training

This Community Applicator certification training is:

- **Only** applicable to employees of a Community governmental entity or a GRIC Community member.
- Required within the GRIC for those applicators that use or supervise the use of **general use** pesticides and are without other recognized pesticide applicator credentials.
- A great initial training if you are interested in becoming a professional pesticide applicator.

The one day certification training is comprised of ten (10) training modules:

Pest Management & the IPM Philosophy
Pesticide Laws
Pesticide Labeling
Pesticide Formulations
Hazards, First Aid, & Response to Pesticide Emergencies
Pesticides & the Environment
Personal Protective Equipment
Transportation & Storage of Pesticides
Planning Pesticide Applications
Pesticide Applications

At the successful completion of this course, the attendee will receive their Community Applicator certification card and meet the requirements of the Community’s Pesticide Code for general use pesticide applicators within the Gila River Indian Community.

Registration:

Each attendee must submit a completed Community Applicator Certification application **and** attach a photocopy of a GRIC Government Department or Enterprise Employee ID, or GRIC tribal member ID. Priority registration will be given to those applicators who must attend to ensure compliance with GR-05-14.

Training Date:
April 25, 2017

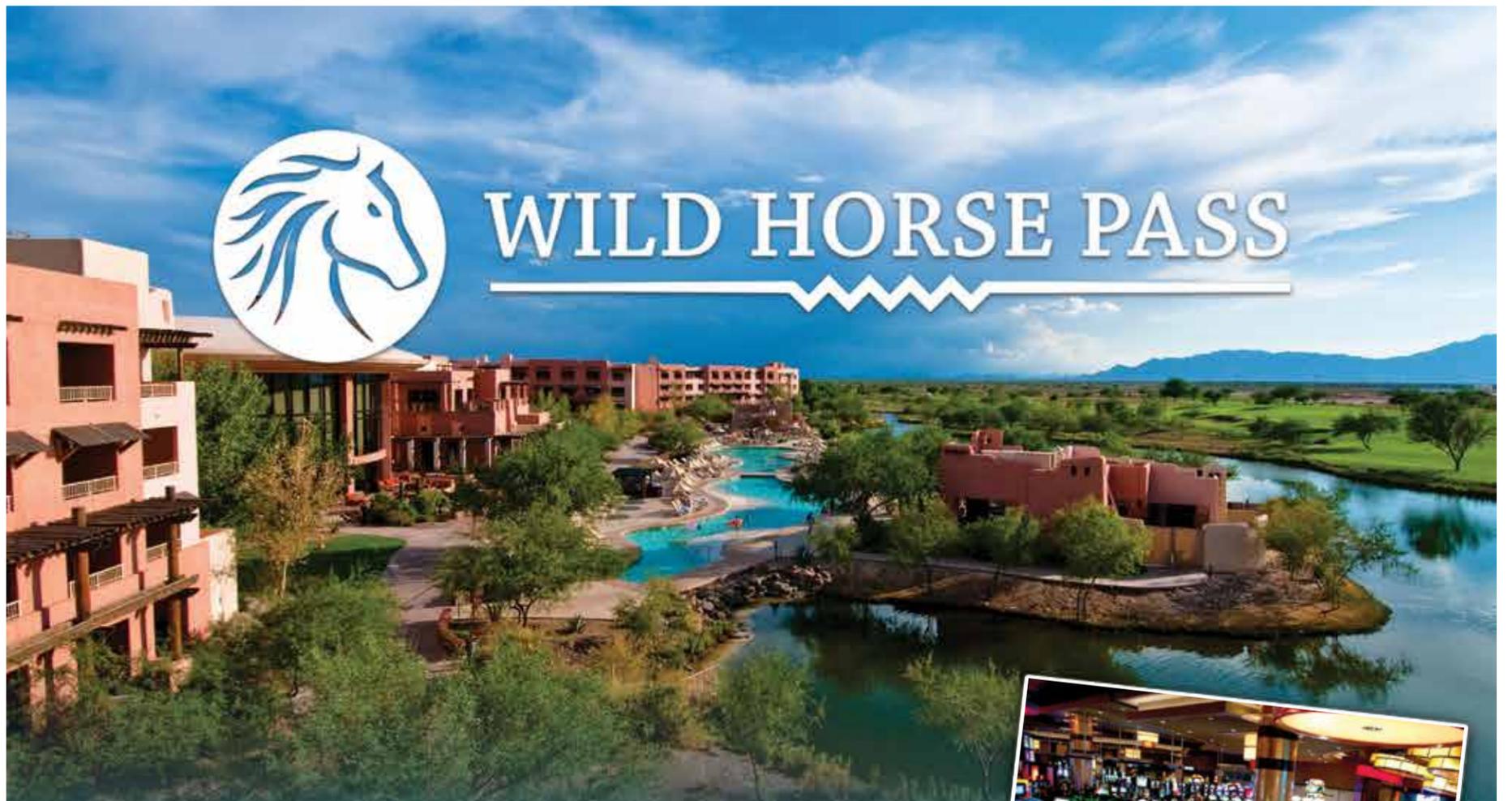
Gila River Indian Community
Lone Butte Complex
1576A South Nelson Drive
Chandler, AZ 85226



Deadline for submitting applications to the Pesticide Control Office is:
April 19, 2017

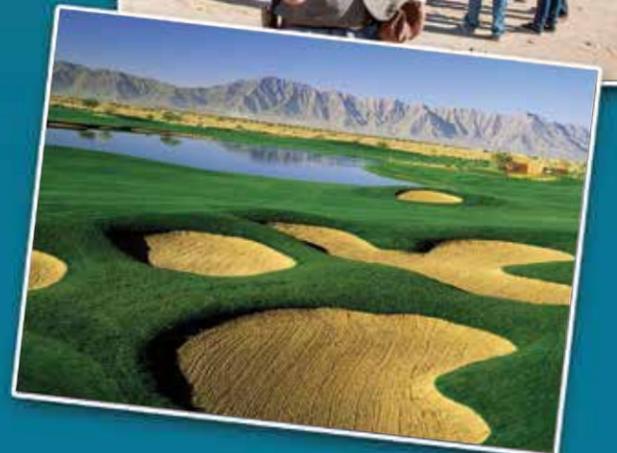


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www.wildhorsepass.com



COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 15, 2017

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday March 15, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:04 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Sandra Nasewytewa

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis (9:44)

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4-Nada Celaya, Barney Enos, Jr., Jennifer Allison; D5-Marlin Dixon,; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:53), Sandra Nasewytewa; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4- Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Charles Goldtooth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

1. Introduction of 2017 Gila River Close Up Participants

Presenter: Michael Preston

MR. MICHAEL PRESTON INTRODUCED THE CLOSE UP PARTICIPANTS. EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS PROVIDED A BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

2. Introduction of Key Water Conservation Parties To The Community Council

Presenters: Office Of General Counsel

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

AND HEAR INTRODUCTIONS AS THEY

ARRIVE

REPORTS

1. Head Start January Monthly Report

Presenter: Patricia Valenzuela

REPORT HEARD

2. GRIC Student Advisor Reporting Proposal

Presenter: Fredrick Poitra

REPORT HEARD

GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS INTRODUCED MAYOR GREG STANTON. MAYOR STANTON PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE WATER ISSUES. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. FY17 Monthly Financial Report Ending February 28, 2017 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Mike Jacobs, Suzanne Johns

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

[LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:28 A.M.]

RESOLUTIONS

*1. A Resolution Approving A Tribal Land Assignment Of 6.0601 Acres More Or Less Of Community Trust Land To Blackwater School For The Purpose Of Designing, Constructing, Operating And Maintaining The Blackwater Community School On The Land Assignment As Shown In Drawing NO. SV-1 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)

Presenter: Nona Baheshone

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Operating Budget Modification No. 1 For Fiscal Year 2017 (G&M forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Johns

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving And Designating 0.9387 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Development And Construction Of District Six Storage Yard, And 1.0999 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Land In District Six For The Development, Construction And Operation Of District Six Municipal Solid Water Transfer Station (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)

Presenter: Nona Baheshone

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

4. A Resolution Approving And Designating 64.4316 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Development And Construction Of The District Six Waste Water Treatment Facility Expansion (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)

Presenter: Nona Baheshone

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Approving And Designating 0.8998 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land In District One To The Department Of Public Works For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating, Managing And Maintaining A Public Utility Easement, 0.5424 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Land For Purpose Of Operating And Maintaining A Water Storage Tank, And 2.2759 Acres, More Or Less, For The Temporary Construction Easement As Shown In Drawing No. 40115-0802-EA-01 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Nona Baheshone

APPROVED

6. A Resolution Approving And Designating A Parcel Of Community Trust Land In District Six For The Purpose Of A Roadway And Utility Corridor And Granting The Right-Of-Way Easement To The Gila River Indian Community's Department Of Transportation For The Purpose Of Constructing, Operating Managing And Maintaining A Roadway And Utility Easement As Shown In Drawing No. 40616-0409 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)

Presenter: Nona Baheshone

APPROVED

7. A Resolution Approving A Plan Of Operations Between The State Of Arizona And The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Kathleen Elliott

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

8. A Resolution Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the Gila River Indian Community (H&SSC motions to forward to Council with recommendation for approval with noted correction; ESC concurs with changes)

Presenter: Priscilla Foote

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Update of South Mountain 202 Litigation and Construction (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under Unfinished Business in Executive Session; NRSC, CRSC & EDSC concur)

Presenters: Office Of General Counsel

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND COUNCIL

AUTHORIZES CRMP/THPO, DOT AND DEQ,

LUPZ, FIRE, PD, AND EMS TO PROVIDE

COMMENT AND INPUT ON DESIGN ISSUES;

AUTHORIZE DOT TO REVIEW AND

RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

FOR APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF

ENCROACHMENT PERMITS ON

COMMUNITY ROAD ROWS FOR THE

PURPOSE OF ADOT OR THEIR

CONTRACTOR TO PUT APPROPRIATE

SIGNAGE IN PLACE DURING CONSTRUCTION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND IN OF THE

COMMUNITY THROUGH THE DEPARTMENTS

TO PROVIDE DESIGN INPUT TO OPTIMIZE THE 40TH STREET INTERCHANGE AND ALL APPLICABLE INTERCHANGE OPTIONS FROM 51ST AVENUE WESTWARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY; WITH UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY REMAINS TO NOT CONCUR IN OR APPROVES OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 202 SOUTH MOUNTAIN FREEWAY AND DOES NOT WAIVE OUR RIGHT TO CONTINUE TO LEGALLY CHALLENGE

NEW BUSINESS

1. Blackwater Community School Tribal Allocation Amendment SY 2016-2017 (ESC forwards to Council for approval with recommended changes)

Presenter: Jagdish Sharma

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. Treasurer Mentee Progress Report (Executive Session)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

AND SUPPORT MS. JOHNS IN HER

CONTINUANCE AND DIRECT

THE TREASURER TO PROVIDE APPLICABLE

UPDATES

3. Gila River Gaming Enterprise Inc. Audit Reports

For September 30, 2016 (Executive Session)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Anthony Gerlach, REDW, Janice B.

Ponziani

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>LITIGATION TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017, 9AM, LAW LIBRARY

>LSC & G&MSC JOINT MEETING FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017, 9AM

>ELDER'S DAY FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017, 9AM-2PM, HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER

>GRIIDD MEETING FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017, 9AM

>8TH ANNUAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017, 9AM-2PM, HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER

>4 TRIBES MEETING SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017, DESERT DIAMOND CASINO

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:04 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for the issuance of the air quality operating permit for the following facility:

Facility Name: Akimel Smoke Shop
Facility Address: 4231 W. Riggs Rd., Chandler, AZ 85248

Owner Name: Akimel Enterprise LLC
Owner Address: 4231 W. Riggs Rd., Chandler, AZ 85248

Air Contaminants Emitted:

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

Public Notice Start Date: March 17, 2017

Public Notice End Date: April 17, 2017

Public comments will be accepted in writing until the public notice end date, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received.

Any person may submit a written comment or a request to the DEQ to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving oral or written comments on the proposed air quality operating permits. Such comments and requests shall be received by the DEQ 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 GRIC 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 will be available for review at the DEQ Sacaton office (during normal business hours) and on the DEQ website at: <http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/education--outreach/public-notices>. Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to: Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality Attn: Ryan Eberle Mailing Address: P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147 Physical Address: 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147 For further information, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520) 796-3781 or visit our office located at 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147. Our office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Enter for a Chance to Win a Harkins Gift Card

Gila River Indian Community Sustainable Housing Initiative Survey Opportunity

In 2016, the Gila River Indian Community (Community) through the Governor's Office entered into discussions with the Del E. Webb School of Construction at Arizona State University (ASU) regarding solutions for sustainable housing. The purpose of this initiative is to explore and identify ways to design and build sustainable homes.

ASU was invited to attend Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo 2016 as part of the Governor's initiative in exploring sustainable design. ASU and the Community hosted a booth to demonstrate how to make adobe bricks and discussed the benefits of using adobe bricks for sustainable housing. There were about 130 visitors to the booth of which approximately 60 participated in actually making an adobe brick.

ASU and the Governor's Office have continued to work on this initiative. In addition, the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) was invited to provide support as needed to the initiative. At the 2017 Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo, the Community, with the help of ASU staff, conducted a survey to ask Community members how they envisioned future housing in

their community. There were over 100 Community members that participated in taking the survey.

The Governor's Office and ASU determined that offering the survey to the entire Community could provide more insight to the surveys already received. To encourage greater survey participation, GRICUA will host the survey on the GRICUA website (www.gricua.net). In addition, GRICUA will provide copies of the survey at each district office.

The results of the online survey will be combined with the information collected at the 2017 Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo. All results will remain under the control and ownership of the Gila River Indian Community. The results from the survey will serve as an initial step in understanding housing needs, design and construction preferences, and future planning of housing developments.

This is an opportunity for you as a Community member to voice your opinion regarding future housing design and construction and you could win one of eight \$25.00 Harkins Theatre gift cards!! The taking of the survey is voluntary. The responses to the survey are anonymous; your name will be collected and used only to enter you into the drawing. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes

to complete. The sustainable housing initiative team thanks you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey.

There are two ways to enter: complete the online survey located at www.gricua.net or complete a hard copy survey that is located at your District Service Center. There will be a place at the end of the survey to provide your name and phone number so you can be entered into the raffle drawing for the Harkins Theatre gift card. One entry per person. Winners will be announced on May 10th.

Completed hard copies will need to be returned to your District Service Center or GRICUA's office by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 28, 2017.

Online survey responses will be accepted up until midnight on April 30, 2017.

Follow the progress of the ongoing sustainable housing initiative through postings on district community boards, the GRIN, the Community website (www.gilariver.org) and the GRICUA website (www.gricua.net). Questions regarding the survey can be directed to Landrea Lamey at 520-796-0600 or llamey@gricua.net. Questions regarding the sustainable housing initiative should be addressed to GRICUA Board Chairman John Lewis at 520-796-0600 or johnlewis@gricua.net.

ANNOUNCEMENT

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY UTILITY AUTHORITY Summer College Student Intern Program 2017

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for a full-time Summer College Student Intern.

The student will learn about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Student will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday
- Pay will be \$10.00 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage)
- Program for student will be developed based on his/her major course of study – for example, a

ANNOUNCEMENT

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY UTILITY AUTHORITY Summer High School Student Intern Program 2017

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for Summer High School Student Interns to learn

a little about how an electric utility operates. Three interns will be selected for summer internships.

The students will rotate through various departments at GRICUA, learning about the tasks and responsibilities of the people who provide electric service to the Community.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday

Business or Accounting major will work primarily with staff in that area; an Engineering or technical major will work primarily in the Operations areas of GRICUA

- Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse & purchasing personnel, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility

REQUIREMENTS:

- Student must be at least 18 years of age and currently enrolled as a full time student at an accredited college or university.
- Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Student should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets; clear Arizona driver's license

- Pay will be \$10.00 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage)

- Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse supervisor, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility

REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must be at least 16 years of age
- Student must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Students should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets
- Students must pass a drug screen and background check
- Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>

Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>

- Deadline for filing applications is April 28, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

- Student will be required to pass a drug screen and background check prior to employment

- Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 480-452-1429 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226.

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act. GRICUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applications will be evaluated upon receipt and interviews may be scheduled before closing date.

- Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 480-452-1429 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act. GRICUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority

SRPMIC NOTICE

Name of Person: MARCUS MICHAEL SCHURZ
Type of Notice: DEFAULT JUDGMENT

NOTICE
Case Number: C-14-0045



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
230 North First Avenue, Suite 509
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Voice: (602) 280-6001
Web: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov>

Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Natural Resources Conservation Service announces their intent to adopt the Environmental Assessment (EA) (PXA0-1500 ENV-6.00) Lining and Rehabilitation of the Casa Blanca Canal, dated May, 2013, under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR para 1506.3). The EA was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office. The NRCS has reviewed the EA and determined that it adequately addresses the environmental impacts related to the proposed action for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding of the proposed project.

As stated in the original Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Casa Blanca Canal "is a water delivery system which currently serves 6,518 acres in Districts 3 and 5 of the Gila River Indian Community (Community). The purpose of the proposed project is to improve delivery service by enhancing the efficiency of the irrigation system and by providing more flexibility in its operations to respond to changing needs and conditions. Rehabilitation of the canal will conserve water, reduce operation and maintenance costs, and improve irrigation water delivery service to the Community farmland. "Primary activities of the rehabilitation would be lining the new canal with concrete to reduce seepage, modifying the canal prism, straightening segments of the alignment, and installing modernized measurement and control devices. Throughout the length of the project, a minimum 15-foot-wide operations and maintenance road would be maintained or reconstructed on both sides of the new Casa Blanca Canal." "The final EA is tiered from the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the P-MIP completed in 1997. The PEIS addressed Community plans to construct and operate a common-use irrigation system and place up to 146,330 acres of land into agricultural production. The PEIS allowed for a programmatic-level evaluation of the P-MIP at full implementation. Rehabilitation and lining of the Casa Blanca Canal is a sub-element of the broader action that was considered in the PEIS."

The actions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are limited to improvements on established irrigated lands. EQIP funds will not be used for improvements on lands that have not established an irrigation history.

The Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) released guidance March 6, 2012 titled "Improving the Process for Preparing Efficient and Timely Environmental Reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act". The guidance directs that, if the actions covered by the original (EA) and the proposed action are substantially the same, the agency adopting the (EA) is not required to recirculate the EA as a draft for public review and comment.

A copy of the EA can be found on the NRCS web site at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/az/newsroom/pnotice> / NRCS will accept comments on our intent to adopt the Lining and Rehabilitation of Casa Blanca Canal EA, at the address below for a 30-day period from the date of this notice. For further information concerning adopting the EA, actions being taken by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to provide written comment, or obtain a hard copy of the EA contact Stu Tuttle, State Biologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1585 South Plaza Way, Suite 120, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001 or at Stu.Tuttle@az.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

COURT NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA
LINDA N. THOMAS
Petitioner/Plaintiff
CASE Number: CV-2017-0039-RO
vs.

MARLENE GARCIA
Respondent/Defendant
CIVIL SUMMONS
TO: MARLENE GARCIA
78TH AVE. 1/4 MILE S/O BASELINE
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on: Monday, May 1, 2017 at 1:30 PM in Courtroom VII, Westend Judicial Center, 4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ.
YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence

at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.

If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2017
Linda N. Thomas, Case Number: CV-2017-0039-RO
Plaintiff(s)

Vs
Marlene Garcia) CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER
Defendant(s).
(March 16, 2017- May 1, 2017)
CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER

(TEMPORARY)

THE ABOVE ENTITLED MATTER HAVING COME BEFORE THIS COURT, upon a motion for a RESTRAINING ORDER; and it appearing that a Restraining Order is needed and the Court finding good cause to issue and place into effect, this date, a Restraining Order against the named defendant, MARLENE GARCIA.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE NAMED DEFENDANT IS RESTRAINED FROM COMING ABOUT THE NAMED Linda N. Thomas, and her residence. IN ANY MANNER:
PENDING ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING ON: May 1, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at The West End Judicial Center. 4751 W. Pecos Road, Laveen, Arizona 85339. FURTHER, A WARRANT OF ARREST WILL BE ISSUED, IF DEFENDANT VIOLATES THIS RESTRAINING ORDER.

VACANCY

Casa Blanca Community School
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For additional information regarding a position, contact the Office of Human Resources at 480.403.8595 ext. 2512, or email questions to mmurphy@cbcschools.com.

LaDuke from page 9

taught fail to address the negative impacts of fossil fuels to the environment and people.

She said, "It is incumbent among enlightened schools to re-evaluate how the business is taught. The liability is when we view fossil fuels as assets given how much harm they cause to the environment."

Napoleon Marietta, A Community member from District 6, is a Justice/American Indian studies

major at ASU.

He said, LaDuke's lecture pointed out the fact that indigenous people have a voice in the issues that concern their people and to not be deterred by the challenges associated with activism.

Marrietta said entities like the large oil companies have a reputation of not acknowledging Native peoples' existence by taking the time to learn about their cultural values and what it means to them.

Equally important, he said, is for more and more Natives in his age group

to carry on the examples provided by activists like LaDuke.

Marrietta sees many similarities to the protection of South Mountain.

"The activism that [I] participate in has a lot to do with bringing awareness about what [South] Mountain means in terms that non-indigenous people understand," said Marrietta, "What we can do is build relationships with other communities and present things from an indigenous perspective."



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Holiday Closure GOOD FRIDAY

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital • Komatke Health Center • Ak-Chin Clinic

CLOSED

FRIDAY

APRIL 14, 2017

SATURDAY

APRIL 15, 2017

Pharmacy Hours Easter Weekend

Friday, April 14th **CLOSED**

Saturday, April 15th

10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 16th

10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Normal business hours will resume
Monday, April 17, 2017
If you need immediate assistance, call 911
or visit the Emergency Department at
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

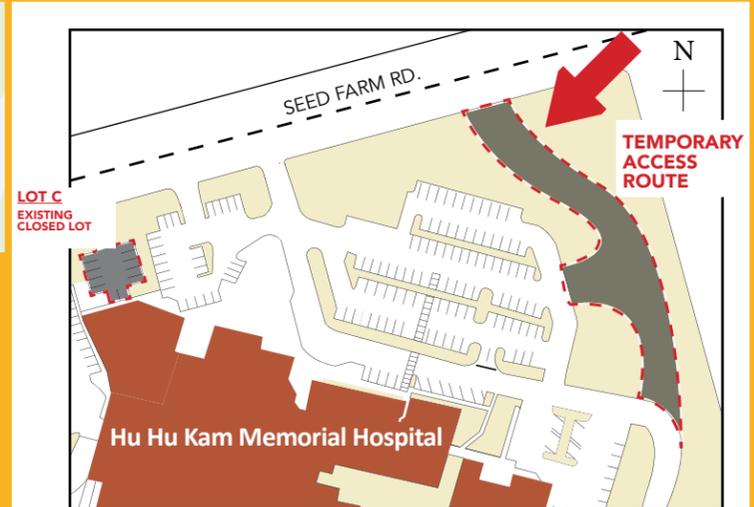
HU HU KAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

MAIN ENTRANCE & NORTH PARKING LOT PROJECT ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE

PHASE 1: CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY ACCESS ROUTE UNDERWAY

MARCH 20 - APRIL 30, 2017

- No impact on existing patient or staff parking OR Seed Farm Road access
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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY!

Don't
Forget!

ELECTION DAY

for the

2017 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017
• **DISTRICTS 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6** •

ABSENTEE VOTING PERIOD
APRIL 10 - MAY 1

To vote absentee, contact your District Judge/Tribal Elections Today!

Audrey Evans, D#1 Judge, 520-215-5949

Gaynell Lopez, D#5 Judge, 520-709-9835

Hazel Lewis, D#3 Judge, 520-610-2222

Lorina Allison, D#6 Judge, 480-318-1274

Sharon Miguel, D#4 Judge, 520-418-2142 or
520-610-0670

Tribal Elections Office, 520-562-9735

Your District Judge will be at your District Service Center, May 1st from
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm to assist you in person.



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