

## P-MIP constructing Sacaton siphon, just the beginning of larger Casa Blanca Canal Lining and Rehabilitation project

Thomas R. Throssell  
Gila River Indian News

In the hot and dry climate of the Sonoran Desert, water is life.

With this in mind, the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project has been on a mission to make sure the Gila River Indian Community's water resources are used in the best way to benefit its people.

Part of that mission is to make sure Central Arizona Project water, Gila River natural flow water from sporadic rainfall, and groundwater all make their way to Community farmlands in an efficient manner.

Which is why just south of the District 3 Service Center, excavators, cranes, and an army of workers have been hard at work for the past several months constructing a 3,000-foot-long, 8-foot diameter underground siphon pipeline.

The construction of this pipeline is just the beginning of a much larger project called the Casa Blanca Canal Lining and Rehabilitation project.

This project will build four new siphon pipelines and a new



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Excavators remove large sections of dirt in preparation of laying siphon pipeline just south of the District 3 Service Center on Jan. 23.

Casa Blanca Canal, which will help deliver more water, more efficiently, to GRIC's farmlands.

Construction of four siphon pipelines

The Sacaton siphon pipeline

is the first of four pipelines being built. The pipeline begins just east of the District 3 Service Center and runs underground for 3,000 feet ending just west of Sacaton Road. Construction of the Sacaton

siphon is expected to be finished sometime in March 2017.

The second siphon will be

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## Huhugam Heritage Center hosts Winter Storytelling event



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Over 300 Community members and guests attended the Winter Storytelling event held at the Huhugam Heritage Center on the evening of Jan. 27.

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Bundled in jackets, sweaters, and scarves, hundreds of Community members and guests huddled around crackling mesquite wood fires clutching steaming cups of hot cocoa for the chance to hear local storytellers tell tales and legends of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh at Huhugam Heritage Center's Ho'ok A:ga Winter Storytelling on the evening of Jan. 27.

HHC's Winter Storytelling made its debut last year, making a big splash within the Gila River Indian Community with over 300 guests attending the evening event.

Luis Barragan, HHC Museum Aide, said the idea behind the storytelling night was for it to be a special evening of O'otham and Pee Posh legends and tales geared towards families where Community members can come together to have a good time.

"We have hot chocolate, S'mores for the kids and coffee for the adults," said Barragan. "We serve a meal so people don't have to worry about dinner and we really want it to be a nice evening for families to get together and hear the stories, the legends, [and] hear the language. That's what it is all about," he said.

This year's Winter Storytelling was no different, with hundreds of guests braving the cold and breezy weather to hear a va-

riety of legends told by four storytellers.

Billy Allen began the night of storytelling with a welcoming and introduced the evening's speakers: Kelly Washington, a Xalchidom Pee Posh from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Akimel O'otham Joyce Hughes and Barnaby Lewis.

Barragan said of this year's speakers that he was happy to have Washington be part of the event and include Pee Posh stories and culture to the evening.

"We are really glad that he is [here] because last year when we had the first event, it was all O'otham stories, [and] we wanted to make [the event] more inclusive of the whole Community."

Kelly Washington was the first speaker, telling his story at the front of the ball court in both English and Pee Posh languages. He told a variety of stories including the creation of mankind, how the snake was given fangs, and how cremation came to be used by the Pee Posh peoples.

Joyce Hughes, of District 6, told the story of Ban ch Nui, or Coyote's trip to the Land Above. Hughes told her stories in the O'otham language while standing before a cloth screen that depicted the events of her tale.

In Hughes's story, Coyote gets a ride from buzzard up to the land above located in the clouds.

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## 79th Annual TON Rodeo & Fair page 9



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The Gila River Indian Community tribal representatives, dancers, and veterans groups attended the 79th Annual Tohono O'odham Rodeo & Fair in Sells, Ariz., on Jan. 28.

**Gila River Indian Community  
CRISIS LINE  
1-800-259-3449**



Follow GRHC on social media:



## GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE WILL LAUNCH A NEW SOFTWARE SYSTEM

Beginning early summer of 2017, Gila River Health Care will launch a new electronic health records software system across all facilities.

### **BENEFITS TO MAKING THE CHANGE:**

This new software will replace an outdated system to improve compliance, communication, reporting, and billing throughout Gila River Health Care.

### **WHAT THIS MEANS TO PATIENTS:**

You may temporarily experience longer than expected wait times while transitioning to the new software.

We respectfully ask that patients work with us as we improve this process. We will make every effort to make this transition period as brief as possible. We appreciate your patience.

**Should you have any questions, please contact the Cultural Customer Service Department at 602 528-1424 or visit GRHC.ORG**

Your Friends across the Gila River Health Care System: Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Campus, Komatke Health Center Campus, and Ak-Chin Clinic.

## GRHC BHS Prevention Program Upcoming Events

We would like to extend our invitation to all professionals, tribal departments, schools and community members. We offer community education sessions on Marijuana, Alcohol, Meth, Tobacco, Rx Prescription Drug Abuse, Suicide Prevention, Parenting Skills, Mental Health Awareness and Other emerging trends.

- **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASISiT) dates:** (2/22/17 thru 2/23/17), (3/22/17 thru 3/23/17), (5/3/17 thru 5/4/17)
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training dates:** (2/9/2017), (3/7/2017) and (4/11/2017)
- **Mental Health First Aid Training dates:** (2/9/2017), (3/7/2017) and (4/11/2017)
- **Active Parenting classes:** (3 Day session 2/13, 2/15, 2/17) and (1 Day session 2/20/2017)
- **SafeTALK Training dates:** (2/8/2017) and (3/15/2017)
- **BabySmarts**
- **Gila River Prevention Coalition dates:** (2/24/2017), (3/24/2017) and (4/21/2017)
- **Gila River Trail Riders Club dates:** (2/4/2017)
- **Prevention Suicide Fact Sheet: *IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW ARE HAVING THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE: Call 911 or 1-800-273-TALK***
- **Rx Take Back Day dates:** (5/1/2017) and (7/31/2017)
- **Building a Trauma Informed Community dates:** (2/9/2017)

For more online information on BHS and Life Center flyers visit: [grhc.org/bhs\\_lifecenter\\_info/](http://grhc.org/bhs_lifecenter_info/)

## FALL IN LOVE With Exercise!

GRHC, the Diabetes Prevention Program, and FitnessFest want you to fall in love with exercise! View our calendar of events going on throughout the month of February for exciting and fun sessions at several District Service Centers. Choose one, two, five, or ALL twelve! Receive information, equipment, and support at EACH session. Also be sure to pick up your Passport to Wellness at your first Heart Month session for a chance to win a FitBit, gift cards, and more. All sessions are FREE and all health/fitness levels are welcome!

For more information, call (480) 461-3888 or visit [fitnessfest.org/grhc](http://fitnessfest.org/grhc). Prefer to email us? Send your email to [info@fitnessfest.org](mailto:info@fitnessfest.org).



### **New Specialty Coffee and Smoothies**

Just in time for Valentine's Day , new specialty coffee flavors and smoothie sales will begin on February 13, 2017. Select vanilla, hazelnut, caramel, and mocha! The new smoothie flavors will be arctic lemonade, peach, cherry, and strawberry banana.

Small Latte/Cappuccino 12 oz.	\$3.60
Large Latte/Cappuccino 16 oz.	\$3.90
Extra Espresso Shot	\$.75
Syrup Flavors	\$.35
Smoothie with Whip Cream	\$3.90
Smoothie without Whip Cream	\$3.60





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# Agricultural conference highlights traditional and mod-

**Mikhail Sundust**  
Gila River Indian News

Farmers and ranchers took a break from working the land to learn more about agriculture at the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association's annual conference held Jan. 17-19 at the Aquarius Casino Resort in Laughlin, Nev.

"The main objective is to promote education to Native American ranchers on agriculture and natural resources," said SWIAA President Homer Marks Sr., "and to try to advocate for Native American farmers and ranchers."

The conference invited speakers from a diversity of backgrounds so guests could learn about a variety of topics related to agriculture.

It included presentations on the STAR School in northern Arizona, which teaches both modern and traditional methods of farming to Navajo youth, a discussion on the impact of global climate change on fruit trees, federal agriculture insurance programs, record-keeping, rainwater harvesting, livestock production, and bringing 4-H Programs to Indian Country.

Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone was impressed with the variety of science and technical presentations at SWIAA. She said Gila River will continue to be a proponent of agricultural innovation in the future, and she would like to see a 4-H Program in the Community.

"Definitely there are talented youth in our Community," she said. "One of the greatest things I've seen in the presenters [at SWIAA] is every one of them has talked about youth. If we don't educate the youth and we don't get them in tune with agriculture, farming, livestock, then we're missing the boat."

One youth already on the boat and sailing away is Enrique Holguin.

"My experience with agriculture? I don't have a lot yet," he said. "I grew up in the city, but recently I've been trying [to learn], and it's not really hard."

The Chandler High School junior originally wanted to be a computer programmer, but after discovering the science that goes into agriculture at a conference a couple years ago, he became enthralled.

"I figured we needed it and it was cool to study, you know. And then after that I got into FFA," he said.

Holguin, who is originally from District 5, is taking agriculture science classes at Chandler High. He is aiming to study agri-business at the University of Arizona after he graduates in 2018. For now, he's learning all he can and using every tool at his disposal.

"You just go on the internet, look up a couple things, learn how to do it, and if you get stuck, the internet's always there," he said. "Or you have your other resources. I go to the [District 5] Ag Committee sometimes if I need the help or ask questions here and there. I'm still in the learning process, but it's not rocket science."

Holguin appreciates the cul-



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

**Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and representatives from the Gila River Indian Community attended the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association's annual conference in Laughlin, Nev.**

tural connection the O'otham have with agriculture and his homeland. He has started a garden at the Casa Blanca Community School and is looking for opportunities to plant more gardens in his community in the future.

Ramona Farms, run by Terry and Ramona Button in Gila River, presented at SWIAA. They talked about the value growing traditional crops to bring back heritage foods, and acquiring U.S. Department of Agriculture Organic certification.

"It is an exciting time right now for Native peoples because we're starting to turn our health around," said Velvet Button, daughter of Terry and Ramona.

The Buttons place an emphasis on growing traditional crops such as bavi (teparty beans), huñ (corn), kalvash (garbanzo beans) and pilkan (wheat). Restoring traditional foods is their way of combatting poor health.

"My mom has been feeding us healthy, pure, natural foods our whole lives," said Velvet. She said eating healthful foods is becoming popular across the country. "People finally care what we're putting in our bodies. And there's a lot of awareness through our healthcare community on obesity, diabetes, heart disease. ... They could have been prevented if we just never went off of our traditional way of eating, which

is respecting and knowing where your food comes from."

Velvet does public outreach for Ramona Farms, including cooking demonstrations in which she prepares tasty, modern dishes using traditional ingredients. She says blending the contemporary and classic dishes gives old foods new life.

"We're people, and people are innovative. ... I take our traditional foods and put them on today's table using the foods that we have available to us now," she said. "We have all this accessibility. Why should we [say], 'Okay, you only cook beans in a pot with water.' What that does, I think, is it takes the imagination, it takes the life out of your food. Changing it up, adding a little of this or that...it has given that food new life."

The 2017 SWIAA Awards went to Jeanne Benally, Dr. Terry Clark, Carl Etsitty, Dr. Russell Tronstad, Santos "Sonny" Nieto, Stotz Equipment, and SWIAA President Homer Marks Sr.

Nieto is the Agricultural Specialist for the Gila River Indian Irrigation and Drainage District. As a former agricultural scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nieto experimented with different plants in the Arizona desert climate. SWIAA Pres. Marks said Nieto contributed greatly to SWIAA through shar-

ing his knowledge and experience. The award was given to him "in appreciation for what he did," said Marks.

Later, SWIAA awarded the Dr. Roe B. Lewis Scholarship to Rayanna Benally, a student at the University of Arizona, and Joyce Miguel, a student at Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC).

Miguel became interested in learning more about agriculture through her science classes at TOCC, which took her to the San Xavier Co-Op Farm.

"A lot of these elements that we receive could be used...in the ways that the O'otham used to do. Part of it's being lost and so to me it felt important that we start up again."

Miguel said for her, agriculture combines her interests in business, science and O'otham culture.

She said the \$1,000 scholarship award will help her pay for school materials. Right now she's learning the essentials of everything that goes into agriculture, but one day she wants to start her own garden and focus on traditional crops.

"I want to bring back the agriculture, the traditional foods for the people. That's my main purpose for learning agriculture."



# Woman sentenced for stealing scholarship funds from GRIC

**Mikhail Sundust**  
Gila River Indian News

A Gila River woman has reportedly stolen approximately \$200,000 from the Gila River Indian Community Student Services

Scholarship Fund. According to a press release from the Office of the United States Attorney – District of Arizona, Betty Nora Anderson, 56 and a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced to 15 months in

prison and three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit theft from an Indian Tribal Organization.

The press release, which was made public Jan. 31, 2017, indicates that

Anderson stole the money by “submitting altered and forged transcripts that made it appear she had completed certain course work and thus remained eligible for financial support. The scheme continued from 2007 through 2010.”

Acting United States Attorney Elizabeth A. Strange said, “Through deceit, Anderson stole money that would otherwise have gone to deserving members of the Gila River Indian Community. We will vigorously pursue and bring

to justice those who would defraud the public.”

The Gila River Police Department conducted the investigation into the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin M. Rapp handled the prosecution.

Complete guide at <a href="http://www.grbc.tv">www.grbc.tv</a>		GRBC TV GUIDE						*Schedule may be subject to change.
*** GRTV News Weekly and GRIC Events Showing at 7:00am, 11:30am, 4:30pm & 9:00pm. ***								
	Sunday 2/5	Monday 2/6	Tuesday 2/7	Wednesday 2/8	Thursday 2/9	Friday 2/10	Saturday 2/11	
12:00pm	Creative Native <i>The Hopi</i>	Creative Native <i>Baby It's You</i>	Creative Native <i>Indigenous Prophecies</i>	Creative Native <i>Havasupai</i>	Creative Native <i>Domestic Face Lift</i>	Creative Native <i>We Are What We Eat Pt.1</i>	Creative Native <i>We Are What We Eat Pt. 2</i>	
12:30pm	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	
1:00pm	<b>SNAKETOWN</b> <i>History of the Snaketown excavation in 1965.</i>	Inukshuk <i>The Inuits face challenges with new technology.</i>	<b>WAILA FEST 2017</b> <i>Rawhide Frontier Hall, Chandler, AZ</i>	Birch Bark Canoe <i>Authenticity and sensitivity toward the canoe.</i>	Heavy Metal <i>The environmental devastation caused by</i>	Amazonia Eterna <i>A critical analysis of how the world's largest tropical</i>	The Winter Bear Project  Oreland C. Joe	
1:30pm	Storytellers in Motion	Ravens and Eagles <i>Giiahl Galang Stories</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Posonut - Baskets</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Defining Haida Art</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Sacred Head Waters</i>	Ravens and Eagles	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Return of the Buffalo</i>	
2:00pm	Native Report	Vitality Gardening <i>The Spring Fest</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>Fertilizer</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>Tomatoes Part 1</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>Tomatoes Part 2</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>Treasure Hunt</i>	Landing	
2:30pm	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Return of the Buffalo</i>	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Sivummut	
3:00pm	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	From The Spirit <i>Fred McDonald</i>	From The Spirit <i>Terry McCue</i>	From The Spirit <i>Dale Auger</i>	From The Spirit <i>Tim Paul</i>	From The Spirit <i>Sean Couchie</i>	People of the Pines <i>American California</i>	
3:30pm	Pete & Cleo <i>2 Navajo bros reconnect, pestering one another about their life choices.</i>	Creative Native <i>Indigenous Prophecies</i>	Creative Native <i>Havasupai</i>	Creative Native <i>Domestic Face Lift</i>	Creative Native <i>We Are What We Eat Pt.1</i>	Creative Native <i>We Are What We Eat Pt.2</i>	Making Regalia	
4:00pm	<i>Plenty of comedy.</i>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	
4:30pm		Working It Out Together	Indian Pride <i>Economic Development</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report	Indian Pride <i>Health and Healing</i>	Storytellers in Motion	The Other Side <i>"Love More"</i>	
5:00pm	When I Hear Thunder <i>Finds the tradition of boxing intact on reservations across Arizona.</i>	Sivummut	Oskayak Down Under	Common Ground	Down The Mighty River <i>The Great Divide</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report	Indians and Aliens <i>Henry Atsynia</i>	
6:00pm		First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	Indigenous Focus <i>Bert Seabourn</i>	
6:30pm		Native Report	People of the Pines <i>Uncharted Territory</i>	Making Regalia	People of the Pines <i>Gaining Legitimacy</i>	Make Prayers to the Raven	Dabiyiyuu	
7:00pm	Native Voice TV	<b>WAILA FEST 2017</b> <i>Rawhide Frontier Hall, Chandler, AZ</i>	Birch Bark Canoe <i>Authenticity and sensitivity toward the cultural context of the canoe.</i>	Heavy Metal <i>The environmental devastation caused by toxic mining waste.</i>	Amazonia Eterna <i>A critical analysis of how the world's largest tropical rainforest is utilized.</i>	The Winter Bear Project  Oreland C. Joe	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee  Native Report	
7:30pm	On Native Ground: Youth Report	Wapos Bay <i>Raven Power</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Lights, Camera, Action!</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Dance Dance</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Raiders of the Lost Art</i>	Wapos Bay <i>The Hardest Lesson</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Raven Power</i>	
8:00pm	Fish Out of Water <i>Great River Journeys</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Oconaluftee Indian Village</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Seminole Tribe</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>The Hawaiian Village</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>The Samoan Village Tribe</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Umatilla Band of Indians</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Oconaluftee Indian Village</i>	
8:30pm	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	
9:00pm	Native Shorts <i>Sikumi</i>	Indians and Aliens <i>Mabel Sam</i>	Back In The Day <i>A Look Back</i>	Indigenous Focus <i>Chickasaw Cultural Center</i>	Rez Rides <i>Chasing the Dream</i>	Champions of the North <i>Mothers and Babies</i>	Moose T.V. <i>Jack Sprat</i>	
9:30pm	Mad Cow Sacred Cow <i>Farm crisis, food crisis and bizarre journey of a Hindu terrified of eating his food.</i>	Deep Time <i>Settlers team up with oil corporations in western North Dakota to produce the most prolific oil boom on the planet.</i>	LaDonna Harris: Indian 101 <i>Best known for introducing landmark legislation.</i>	<b>WAILA FEST 2017</b> <i>Rawhide Frontier Hall, Chandler, AZ</i>	The Tundra Book <i>A rare glimpse into a community determined to preserve it's ancient cultures and traditions.</i>	American Outrage <i>Why has US Gov't has spent millions prosecuting two elderly women.</i>	After The Gold Rush <i>Another example of man's damaging behaviour on the environment.</i>	
10:00pm	Kanie'keha:Ka: Living the Language <i>Examines aspects to learn and maintain a language.</i>	The Activist	<b>Nasqually Canoe Journey</b> <i>A sober journey canoeing along the coast of Washington.</i>	From Badlands to Alcatraz <i>Dr. Nancy Iverson vowed to help restore the well-being of people living on Pine Ridge.</i>		Spirit In Glass: Plateau Native Beadwork	We Are The Indians <i>Their ancient way of life has shielded them, but modernity is slowly encroaching.</i>	
10:30pm						The Native Mascot Issue		
11:00pm								
11:30pm								
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Questions? Call  
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# Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

January 8th – January 14th, 2017

Gila River Police Department reserves the right to restrict the release of certain reports which may not be available or are currently under investigation.

Calls for services this week: 652

Arrest made: 44

District One – (Blackwater):

No incidents regarding part 1 crime

District Two – (Sacaton Flats):

Aggravated Assault – The suspect and victim were intoxicated and involved in a verbal argument. The suspect then grabbed a knife threatening to stab the victim in front of their children. The suspect was taken into custody and booked into jail.

Status: Suspect was arrested

District Three – (Sacaton):

Auto Theft – The suspect's vehicle was taken without permission while she was sleeping. The vehicle was entered into the system as stolen and several minutes later the vehicle was found by Phoenix Police Department as it had been involved in a non injury accident with the driver fleeing the scene.

Status: Recovered

Burglary – A local hay barn entrance gate was damaged by suspects when they gained entry and stole approximately fifteen bales of hay.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – The victim reported the license plate belonging to his vehicle was stolen. The license plate was entered as stolen into the system.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft- The victim reported that ten bales of hay was taken from their property.

Status: Under Investigation

District Four – (Stotonic):

Aggravated Assault – The suspect assaulted his girlfriend when he hit and kicked her several times causing a swollen eye and bruised ribs. The suspect was transported to a medical facility for further medical treatment and the suspect was taken into custody.

Status: Suspect was arrested

District Four – (Lone Butte Area):

Shoplifting – The suspect took a pair of black shoes while walking a store at Phoenix Premium Outlet and concealed them in his jacket. The suspect left the store without making a purchase and was contacted in the parking lot by loss prevention staff.

Status: Suspect was long formed for the theft.

District Five – (Casa Blanca):

Aggravated Assault– The victim, while walking with her son, reported that she was tackled, strangled,

and assaulted by a male suspect. The suspect was located but due to injuries sustained the suspect was transported to a medical facility. The victim and her son were evaluated and refused any further medical evaluations.

Status: Charges Pending

District Six – (Komatke):

Theft– A new black mountain bike was taken from the storage area of the victim's carport. The victim stated that the door to the storage was unlocked.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven – (Maricopa):

No incidents regarding part 1 crime

January 15th ~ January 21st, 2017

- We will be hosting our "Coffee with a Cop" scheduled for February 22, 2017 from 08:30 am to 10:00 am at the District 5 Service Center.

- Next months' PD Comp Stat community meeting will be held Thursday February 2, 2017 at the Gila River Police Department from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Gila River Police officers responded to 593 calls for service and made 36 arrests.

District One: No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Two: No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Three:

Theft – A theft of a cell phone occurred from an employee's office at the Land Use Planning and Zoning department. The victim also reported that her cell phone contained credit cards inside of the phone case. All items were recovered and returned to the victim.

Status: The suspect has been identified and contacted.

District Four: (Stotonic Area)

Aggravated Assault – Officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance. Once on scene, officers discovered the victim had sustained a laceration to her ear that required stitches. The victim was transported to an area hospital for treatment of her non-life threatening injury.

Status: Under investigation.

Aggravated Assault – A victim was assaulted while walking in the area of Saint Road and Levee Road. The victim was transported to a local area trauma hospital by Gila River Emergency Services where he underwent surgery and was later reported as being in a stable condition.

Status: Under investigation.

Auto Theft – The victim reported a subject known to her entered her home, grabbed her car keys and stole her vehicle. The

vehicle was later located on the side of the road as it had run out of gas. The vehicle was returned to the victim without further incident.

Status: Charges submitted

District Four: (Lone Butte / WHP Area)

Shoplifting – Saks Fifth Ave off Fifth Store Loss Prevention reported a female suspect exited the store with purses without paying. The reporting party followed the suspect but was unable to detain her though the merchandise was recovered.

Status: Under investigation.

Theft – A bicycle was stolen from the Wild Horse Pass Casino parking garage. Casino security provided a copy of video surveillance to officers.

Status: Under investigation.

Theft – A male subject entered the Famous Footwear Outlet store and concealed two pairs of Nike brand sandals on his person. The subject then passed the point of sale and left the area.

Status: Under Investigation.

Shoplifting – A male suspect entered Saks Fifth Ave off Fifth Store placed two pairs of sunglasses into a bag he was carrying and then exited the store without paying for the merchandise

Status: Under investigation.

gation

Shoplifting - Saks Fifth Ave off Fifth Store Loss Prevention reported a female suspect had been detained after being observed on surveillance shoplifting two pairs of sunglasses. Officers responded and took the suspect into custody and received a copy of surveillance security footage.

Status: Suspect was arrested and booked.

District Five: No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

District Six: Aggravated Assault – The suspect pushed and strangled his girlfriend after a verbal altercation. The victim was seen by Gila River Emergency Services but declined medical attention.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Theft – The victim reported his cell phone stolen while at the Vee Quiva Hotel and Casino. Due to the cellular phone's connection to a bank account the suspect was able to fraudulently transfer money from the victim's account via Facebook Messenger. The suspect was known to the victim and has been identified.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven: No incidents regarding Part 1 crime.

Community members and residents may be eligible for

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Jeffrey Thomas, TCA  
Ext: 4222

Rebecca Webb  
Ext: 4225

Fred Pinsky, Esq.  
Ext: 4228

Habib Pierce-Byrd, Esq.  
Ext: 4223



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Construction workers lower a section of siphon pipeline just south of District 3 Service Center.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

A welder works on a section of the pipeline.

# Sacaton Siphon

## from page 1

built at the Little Gila River crossing with construction starting in February and will take around 3 months to finish. The third siphon will be constructed where Casa Blanca Road crosses the Casa Blanca Canal, with construction starting in early summer. The fourth siphon will be built west of the I-10 at Old State Route 93 within the Gila River Farms area.

David DeJong, P-MIP Director, said he antici-

pates all four siphons will be built by November or December 2017, which will lead to the construction of the new Casa Blanca Canal.

### Where will the new canal be built?

While all four siphons are being completed, work will begin on constructing a new Casa Blanca Canal which will include installing modernized measurement and control devices, straightening segments of the canal's alignment, lin-

ing the canal with concrete to reduce water seepage, and building the canal at a higher elevation allowing more turnouts to Community farmlands.

The existing Casa Blanca Canal, known as Canal 11 (CBC11), begins where the channel branches off from the Pima Lateral along Olberg Road in District 3 and continues 16 miles west into District 5, where it ends at the 960 Sump near Gila River Farms.

Just east of Sacaton an offshoot of CBC11 called Canal 12 (C-12), branches off and travels parallel to

CBC11 for about 5 miles before returning to CBC11. The new Casa Blanca Canal will be constructed slightly north and parallel to C-12, largely within C-12's alignment.

The new canal will improve efficiency of the irrigation system, increase water conservation, and reduce operation and maintenance costs. While the current Casa Blanca Canal system serves 6,518 acres of farmland, the new canal will be able to serve more than 3 times as many acres, with the new Casa Blanca Canal able to serve over 21,000 acres of farmland.

DeJong said the old Casa Blanca Canal system is inefficient and has water losses. "It is oversized and this canal, like all of the original canals, was constructed, by and large, to convey water through the Community. There are few turnouts," he said.

"What we are doing is elevating the canal up, so we can bring the water up and turn water directly into grower's fields, giving them a much more efficient delivery system," he said. Because the new canal will be built at a higher elevation, there will be irrigation turnouts east of Sacaton, he

added. DeJong said that out of all of P-MIP's construction projects, the Casa Blanca Canal is one of the most important.

"The Casa Blanca Canal is perhaps the most significant because the Casa Blanca area has always been the bread basket of the Community. If you go back a millennia [to the] ancient Hohokam, [they] farmed in this area, historic O'otham farmed in these areas," said DeJong. "This is the hotbed of agriculture."

# Storytelling

## from page 1

Coyote misses his return trip and ends up falling back down to earth, burning up in the atmosphere and dying in the process.

After Hughes's vibrant story, an amply sized dinner of chili, beans, potato salad and chumuth were served.

As the evening continued and the temperature continued to drop, Billy Allen took to the stage at the front of the ball court speaking of the Akimel O'otham Creation Story and the origin story of the stars in the night sky.

Shortly after, while guests listened intently wrapped in blankets, Barn-

aby Lewis told the story of Ho'ok A:ga, a tale of a witch who causes havoc for the O'otham people and ended his presentation with the tale of Eagle Man. Both legends, which were presented in the O'otham and English languages, were brought alive by Lewis's lively gesticulations and voice acting skills.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, Kristen Dosela, Anissa Garcia, and Larry Jackson were among 300 guests who took part in the HHC's Winter Storytelling held on the evening of Jan. 27.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Guests wrapped in blankets against the night's cold weather enjoyed tales and legends of the O'otham and Pee- Posh during the Winter Storytelling at the HHC on Jan. 27.



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# Community member Pamela Pasqual retires after 18 years working for GRIC

**Thomas R. Throssell**  
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community members and tribal leadership came out in force, Jan. 27, to thank Pamela Pasqual for 18 years of service and give congratulations on retiring from the workforce.

In a show of thanks for Pasqual's service to the Community, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis made a surprise visit to her office at the Land Use Planning and Zoning Department and presented her with a gift and words of congratulations.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also thanked Pasqual for her hard work, congratulating the retiree at a luncheon held at the District 2 Service Center gymnasium. The gym was filled with



**Pamela Pasqual, left, receives a retirement gift from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who stopped by the LUPZ offices for a surprise visit.**

work colleagues, friends, and family members, including her 89-year-old father Leslie Pasqual, who were all treated to a steak

lunch. Pamela, who most recently worked as the Subdivision Assistant for LUPZ, said that her main focus

while working in GRIC was delivering the best service possible to Community members.

"I always harp on the

quality of services being delivered to our Community members, she said. "That [was] my utmost responsibility and concern; delivering not satisfactory, not good, but excellent services to our Community members."

While Pamela did spend the last years of her working career with GRIC, she spent decades in the medical field working for the Native community with the Indian Health Services, Phoenix Indian Medical Center's Sacaton Diabetes program, the Tohono O'odham Nation's San Xavier Clinic, and the San Carlos Apache tribes Service Unit.

Her parting message to her GRIC work colleagues is to remember their work ethic and represent the Community in the best way

they can.

"Remember that you are representing the Community, whether it is at a meeting, whether you are on Council, whether you are in a department, whether you are traveling to a conference, remember who you work for and carry yourself [with] confidence," she said. Adding that it is important for Community members working for the tribe to have respect for others, themselves, and their families.

Pamela said that working for the Community was a rewarding experience and she looks forward to spending time on her father. She also plans on staying involved with the Community, especially within her home of District 4.

## A'AGA Something to be told

By Billy Allen

Traveling on the freeway and crossing the Gila, it seems that our river bed is filling up with sand and silt, just like a lot of historical canals on our land did back in the late 1800s. It's a blessing to see water under the bridge, but sad to see the actual river's trail eroding.

1886 was a crucial year for our akimel. Eight miles upstream from Florence canal construction began to deliver water to Pinal County area farms. Indian Agent Roswell Wheeler complained to Washington that the canal would "greatly damage or destroy the Pimas' farms, and render the Indians helpless and destitute." The Florence Canal did deliver some water, but silt clogged sections of the canal and other high costs caused the project to go bankrupt in 1893. A hydrographic engineer of the day said, "...the simple diversion of water from the Gila River and its tributaries is impossible." No one wanted to hear that, everyone wanted more water, so studies were made to come up with options.

One proposal called for a 200 foot high water storage dam to be built on the Gila. As early as 1899, it was referred to as the San Carlos Dam. Walter Graves, working for Interior Secretary, had a plan for "buried and open-channel seepage ditches" to deliver water downriver. Water would be allowed to seep into the riverbed and emerge downstream. A third plan which was done, drilled five wells to irrigate the farms at the Pima

Boarding School. By 1904, the wells were considered a success, but Antonio Azul and followers felt pumped water would ruin the land.

In 1904, Superintendent of Irrigation, J. R. Meskimons, drew up plans to "allow half of the Indians dependent upon the Gila River to become self-supporting again..." He produced a map showing land that had been abandoned 15 to 20 years earlier. He identified old Gila Crossing area canals named after village leaders: Oscar Walker, John Thomas, and Joseph Head, John Hoover, and Simon Webb canals. Without water from the akimel, many of these canals quickly filled with sand, so food crops withered. Our future looked dim. In the fall of 1904, the Board of Indian Commissioners came to the reservation for a "fact-finding" trip. They learned the last viable crop was in 1898. Many livestock owners had their herds depleted. Villagers could name individuals who passed from starvation. But our great grandfathers and mothers didn't just accept that "helpless and destitute" predicament of the 20th century cash economy. They went to work chopping mesquite and selling firewood. They began hauling wood to neighboring towns and trading posts to make a living. Half a cord could be sold in Tempe or Florence for 75¢ up to \$1.25. (A cord of wood is 8 feet long by 4 feet high and 4 feet wide. Currently, a Tucson firewood supplier charges \$349 for a cord!)

Robert Hack Enberg

of the Bureau of Ethnic Research wrote, "In 1895, 462 cords of mesquite wood were cut and sold for firewood by Indians whose crops had failed. By 1905, nearly 12,000 cords a year were being cut and sold in Phoenix." During World War I, a wagon load of

wood was \$6.00. When Chandler began to grow and needed fence posts, individuals at Snaketown grew rich by selling mesquite fence posts for 25¢. Some O'odham women sold baskets for two to three dollars. Because of the hard work of O'odham

and Piipaash who came before us, we exist. We were their future - we continued in their busy hands - while they were chopping wood, making baskets --turning to the desert land when the river was taken. When you travel on the freeway and see all those mesquite

stumps, you are seeing our history.

*Information was taken from Peoples of the Middle Gila by John P. Wilson and Alicia: The History of a Piman Homestead by Glen E. Rice, Steadman Upham, and Linda Nicholas (Editors).*



**District Three Recreation  
Gila River Indian Community**

# O'odham Legends

**District Three Service Center  
North Ramada next to the Service Center  
Monday's 6:00PM-7:00PM  
February 6,  
February 13,  
& February 27**

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# Gila Crossing Community School students graduate from D.A.R.E. program



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Students from Ms. Karen Scott's class learned about the dangers of drugs and alcohol with the help of the GRPD School Resource Officers.

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

Students at a Gila River Indian Community School learned the importance of saying "no" to harmful substances that could endanger their lives and those around them.

In front of a crowd of parents and faculty members, the fifth grade Gila Crossing Community School students received a certificate of completion for their participation in Drug Abuse Resistance Education program on Jan. 26.

Over 70 children dressed in black shirts with the words D.A.R.E. written across the front were also rewarded with cake for their hard work and commitment to say no to drugs.

Principal Jeremy Copenhaver said, "The students participation in the D.A.R.E. program has been exemplary, because it allows them to make healthy choices, if they ever encounter a harmful situation."

Sergeant Joaquin Manuel praised the school and students for their participation in the D.A.R.E. program and for the partnership with the Gila River

Police Department that has grown over the programs existence at the school.

He said, "It's 11 weeks of work and knowledge that you will carry on for the rest of your life."

Officer Rochelle Rodriguez said the time working with the students has been a very rewarding experience, being able to see them gain the knowledge that will benefit them beyond the program.

"I am very proud of [you] guys. You have worked very hard in the more than ten weeks [we] have been doing this," said Rodriguez, "We had a lot of conversations and discussion. You guys are very smart and you have all proven yourselves."

Officer Rodriguez introduced three students, Richard Francisco, Diego Rhodes and Danyen Alapizco, who were picked as the three finalists for an essay contest that was put on through the D.A.R.E. program at the school.

The essay contest required each of the students to submit an essay that described how they would resist drugs through the D.A.R.E. decision model.

The model provides prevention strategies on

how to resist using drugs, if a friend, family member or stranger offers the students drugs to them.

The three students, who won the essay contest, were treated to lunch at a Barros Pizza the day before the graduation.

Before students could indulge in a tasty reward, former GRIC Chief Judge Antony Hill said the students are capable of accomplishing many things in their lives.

"[We] want you to become great sons and daughters. We want you to be great citizens," said Hill, "In order to do that we want your minds to be great."

He said the foundation to being someone of great influence could be achieved through active participation in school.

Hill said, "We want [you] to keep learning and learning until you eventually graduate from the eighth grade, high school and college."



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Ms. Sherri Miller's students hold up their certificates after successfully completing the D.A.R.E. program.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila Crossing Community school students from Ms. Tabitha Molina's class received black D.A.R.E. shirts for participating in the D.A.R.E. program.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila Crossing Community School students, District 6, pose by their art projects depicting what they learned in the D.A.R.E. program.

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# 79th Annual Tohono O'odham Nation Rodeo & Fair

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

In a sharing of cultures and relations between the two O'otham sister tribes,

representatives from the Gila River Indian Community came out for the 79th Annual Tohono O'odham Nation Fair & Rodeo Parade.

Members from the

Community's veterans groups like the Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 and Pee-Posh veterans association marched down the main parade route.

Traditional O'otham

basket dancers and the Akimel O'otham/Pee-Posh Youth Council joined Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone in celebrating the Nation's annual rodeo and fair.

Gov. Lewis said it was an honor to be part of this year's parade and that both GRIC and the Nation are related through family and culture.

Lt. Gov. Monica An-

tone said it is an important day to be able to celebrate with their Tohono O'odham neighbors, the long history of the T.O. Nation's parade.

*Photos by Christopher Lomahquahu*



# Pacific Northwest artist paints mural in District 6 honoring O’otham and Apache

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

In a small housing development on the west side of the Gila River Indian Community, an artistic display can be seen at one Community member’s home.

For the residents of the housing development located off of 51st Avenue and Judum Drive, on the side of a house, one of Andrew Morrison’s signature works of art has got the attention of passers-by.

Morrison, a well-known artist from the Northwest Pacific coast has painted murals of Native life from the perspective of culture, history and nature, and now his art has found a place to exhibit his trademark style on the home of Leslie Marrietta in District 6.

Morrison, who is a long time friend of Marrietta, said the idea came from a conversation about how to represent her family’s heritage.

Born in Seattle, Wash., with family ties to the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Haida Indians of Alaska, Morrison has established himself as a visionary who creates works of art that tell the stories of the American Indians he has befriended over the years.

His talent has captured the attention of private, public and corporate collections. He works with a variety of mediums, which allows him the freedom to use just about any surface to exhibit his talents, but can mainly be seen on walled surfaces of public spaces and galleries.

Marrietta spoke about the particular work of art done on her home.

She said Morrison incorporated several key elements drawn from her children’s Akimel O’otham and White Mountain Apache heritage.

According to Morrison’s website, some of the inspiration for his style of art comes from prominent artists in Native art history like Terrance Guardipee and George Flett, who are known for their colorful two dimensional work on ledger paper.

The practice of using ledger paper as an art surface dates back to the mid-1800’s, which depict the stories of many Plains Indian tribes.

Morrison said that he used images of an Apache Crown Dancer, O’otham basketry, and pottery, which represents their respective cultures.

“I slowly incorporated [these] little two-dimensional designs throughout the mural, that are used sparingly,” said Morrison, “[They] bring life, which



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Leslie Marrietta’s home in District 6 was recently painted by muralist Andrew Morrison.

can be interpreted as offerings from the Creator.”

Other traditional O’otham elements that can be found is a traditional Olas Ki: (round house), which he compared to the traditional Apache home called a Wikiup.

The addition of two traditional runners also represents the athleticism and cultural role it plays in each tribe’s society.

Some of Morrison’s recent projects and exhibitions can be seen on his Instagram account ziplok30.

He said one of his current projects involved the removal and reinstallation of four murals that were painted on sections of wall at the Indian Heritage School in Seattle.

The school, which opened its doors in 1989, served as an education center for Native students from tribes around the Seattle area.

According to Morrison the murals honor tribal leaders and culture of the area’s Native population.

One of the leaders depicted is Chief Si’ahl, a leader of the Duwamish-Suquamish people, which the city of Seattle is named after.

In 2015 the school was demolished, but the murals will have a place at the new Robert Eagle Staff Middle School, that was named after the late Eagle Staff, who was a principal at IHS from 1989 to 1996

“Rather than destroying the murals, they asked me to work with the architect of the new school to cut out the concrete walls and remove them from the old school and then build them into the two new schools, that will be opening this spring,” said Morrison.

**Ricky Lopez** **John Bailey**  
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# Community members can help keep GRIC safe through GRPD's new volunteer program

**Thomas R. Throssell**  
Gila River Indian News

Ever wonder what goes on inside the hallways of the Gila River Police Department and what it takes to keep the streets of the Community safe? Now is the chance to find out through GRPD's new Volunteers In Policing (VIPs) program.

The GRPD is primarily looking for Community members, but also non-members as well, to take part in a variety of the department's daily duties through their VIPs program, which allows eligible volunteers, who pass a preliminary background check, to take part in various policing activities.

GRPD Sgt. Paul Maroney said the activities volunteers will be asked to participate in are safe and will consist of duties like traffic control, parking assistance, funeral escorts, answering telephones, foot patrols, and administrative duties.

"These positions... are activities in the public, they are non-confrontational," he said. "Let's say they want to do a foot patrol in the elderly community in District 1 or 2...it [will be] walking around meeting and greeting, saying hello, and creating awareness."

The basis of the program is to help Community members take ownership of their community and assist the police department by working side by side with GRPD officers, all-the-while helping the department by assisting with the community orientated side of law enforcement.

While the VIPs program is looking for participants of GRPD's Citizens Police Academy to sign up for volunteer service, the program is open primarily to Community members then to the general public.

"It is open to anybody, in or outside of the Community," said Maroney. "We want people to come...and see what it is that we do. [We want] for them to get

involved in our activities." Maroney added that the program is also open to volunteers of all backgrounds and career fields. Recently three volunteers of the program helped GRPD with administrative duties, and their reasons for volunteering were very different.

One of the volunteers, said Maroney, was studying to become a doctor and instead of going the typical route of volunteering at a doctor's office, they wanted to experience what it was like to work in public safety, so they joined the program.

Another volunteer joined the program because they were interested in police work and now are looking to become part of GRPD, he said.

And lastly, a recent volunteer, who is going to school for a bachelors degree in forensics, is volunteering their time with the GRPD to learn more about working in public safety, he said.

Officer Caroline Brown, GRPD Public Information Officer, added that the VIPs program is especially beneficial to people who are interested in helping the Community by donating their time to the police department but aren't looking to become a full-fledged police officer.

"We have groups within the Community that want to work in conjunction with the police department," said Brown. "They want to come out and volunteer and the [VIPs] program would be one of the great ways they can do that, [to] come out and help us with things...[like] funeral escorts or department sponsored events," she said.

For more information about the Volunteers In Policing program or to apply as a volunteer, contact Officer Caroline Brown at (520) 562-7197 or email [Caroline.Brown@gric.nsn.us.us](mailto:Caroline.Brown@gric.nsn.us.us).



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

GRPD Sgt. Paul Maroney.

# Obama presidency brought 'renewed era of feder-

**Mikhail Sundust**  
Gila River Indian News

The White House has called the Obama administration "a renewed era of federal-tribal relations."

In a January 2, 2017 report, the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA) outlined a number of successes the Obama administration has had working with and for tribes.

"Historic progress has been made during the Obama Administration to improve the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and federally recognized Tribes," reads the WHCNA report. "The Obama Administration and Tribal Nations have worked together to accomplish shared goals and achieve milestones that upheld self-governance and self-determination - the foundation for prosperous and resilient Tribal nations."

The WHCNA is a creation of the Obama administration.

"While the Administration and Tribes have partnered for historic achievements, there is still much more to do. President Obama signed Executive Order 13647 on June 26, 2013, establishing the WHCNA, which represents a path to a more effective federal government for Indian Country," says the report.

One of the administration's most notable accomplishments is the creation of the White House Tribal

Nations Conferences.

"President Obama created a new tradition by inviting elected Tribal leaders from each of the now 567 federally-recognized Indian Tribes across the country to attend the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference. Each year during his Administration, the President and his Cabinet officials met with Tribes to discuss Tribal priorities and to chart the next course of action to address the many needs across Indian Country," reads the report.

The Obama administration will be remembered for the \$3.4 billion Cobell Settlement, which included \$1.5 billion in direct payments to members of the class action lawsuit and created the National Commission on Indian Trust Reform, the Indian Education Scholarship Fund, and the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.

In 2015, the Obama administration created the Generations Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative.

As the report details, "Gen-I is an...initiative seeking to improve the lives of Native youth through new investments and increased engagement. Gen-I improves the lives of Native youth by promoting a national dialogue and policies and programs to mobilize and cultivate the next generation of Native leaders."

The Gila River Indian Community was one of the first Native communities to respond to the Gen-I call. The Akimel O'odham/Pee

Posh Youth Council has been active in the Community since 1988, and in 2015 a handful of its youth representatives attended the White House Tribal Youth Gathering.

"Thousands of Native youth and organizations have accepted the Gen-I challenge by joining the Native Youth Network to give back in a positive way to their communities," says the report. "Together in partnership with the federal government, Gen-I is building a nationwide commitment to ensure that our Native youth have the tools they need to thrive."

President Obama promoted self-determination and empowered tribes to manage their land and criminal enforcement through the passage of a

number of legislative acts, including the Tribal Law and Order Act, the Violence Against Women Act and the HEARTH (Helping Expedite and Advance

Responsible Tribal Homeownership) Act.

The Obama administration has supported tribal communities in a number of ways. The full WHC-

NAA report is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/01/02/renewed-era-federal-tribal-relations>.

*He:kiu A'aga am Hu'hu'u Vecho*

**STORYTELLING UNDER THE STARS**

**February 11, 2017**  
**6 P.M. - 10 P.M.**

*Location:*  
*Hashen Kehk Village*  
D #2 Multipurpose Building  
West of the Baseball Field  
Gila River Indian Community

**Meal Served at 6 P.M.**

*He:kiu A'aga starts at sundown*

*\*Please remember to dress warm\**

**CONTACTS:**  
**Pamela Thompson (480) 721-0939; Ann Lucas-Stewart (520) 610-0589;**  
**Leland Thomas (520) 858-6189; Anthony Gray (520) 560-6302**

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • January 4, 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 January 18, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:11 a.m.

### INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Sandra Nasewytewa

### ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Executive Officers Absent:

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4-Nada Celaya, Jennifer Allison (9:34), Christopher Mendoza; D5-Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Sandra Nasewytewa, Charles Goldtooth

Council Members Absent:

D4- Barney Enos, Jr.; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone; D7- Devin Redbird

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

### NEW BUSINESS

3. Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and DCP Plus (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business; NRSC & EDSC concur)

Presenter: Jason Hauter

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

### RESOLUTION

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

### REPORTS

\*1. Casa Blanca Area Drainage Master Study Finalizing and Reporting Results

Presenters: Seaver Fields, Yichun Xu

### REPORT HEARD

2. Gaming Commission Annual Report To The Community Council For Calendar Year 2016

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah

### REPORT HEARD

3. Pee-Posh Veterans Association Fourth Quarter FY2016 Report

Presenter: Arnie Bread Sr.

### REPORT HEARD

4. Travel Report, 4th Quarter-Fiscal Year 2016

Presenters: Suzanne Johns, Treasurer Robert G. Keller

### REPORT HEARD

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Monthly Financial Activity Report Ending December 31, 2016 FY17 Mod 38 Capital Projects Review And Update-12/31/2016 (Executive Session)

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

### REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:36 A.M.]

6. Gila River Gaming Enterprise, Inc Monthly Report November 2016 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Carolyn Thompson, Oversight Planning Committee

### REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. Gaming Commission General Report To Community Council For November 2016 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah

### REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

### MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directing

The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Suzanne Johns, Neomi Martinez

### APPROVED

2. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Indian Community To Apply For A Grant To Assist In Implementation Of Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with

recommendation for approval, LSC concurs)

Presenter: Michael Carter

### APPROVED

3. A Resolution Designating Komatke Do'ag/Vii Alhà Also Known As The Sierra Estrella Mountain Range, As A Sacred Place And Traditional Cultural Property Of The Gila River Indian Community (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; CRSC concurs)

Presenter: Barnaby V. Lewis

### APPROVED

### ORDINANCES

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation Gila River Gaming Commission Board of Directors

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

### THE RESIGNATION

2. Declaration of One (1) Vacancy – Gila River Gaming Commission Board of Directors

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE

### VACANCY FOR 60-DAYS

3. Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and DCP Plus (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business; NRSC & EDSC concur)

Presenter: Jason Hauter

ITEM MOVED UP AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. District Six LECAB Representative (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval to appoint Michaela Ortiz as District Six LECAB Representative)

Presenter: Darren Pedro-Martinez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

5. District Seven LECAB Representative (LSC

forwards to Council with the recommendation for approval to appoint

Wayne Nelson Jr. as District Seven LECAB Representative)

Presenter: Darren Pedro-Martinez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AP-

## POINT

WAYNE NELSON JR.

6. Sacaton Middle School Written Plan SY2016-17 Amendment (ESC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with additional information)

Presenter: Philip Bonds

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

7. Skyline Gila River School Written Plan SY2016-17 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval with additional information)

Presenter: Vaughn Flannigan

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

8. 36th Native American Child and Family Conference 2017 (ESC opens up conference to any interested council representative to attend, and to be taken out of the appropriate standing committee or council budget)

Presenters: Education Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TO ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL

9. National RES 2017 Conference March 13-16, 2017 Las Vegas, Nevada (EDSC motions to forward to Council for consideration)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TO ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL

10. Governor's Education Summit 2016 (ESC forwards to council with recommendation for possible action)

Presenter: Isaac Salcido

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATION TO COMMUNICATE THE REPORT WITH ALL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND SCHOOL BOARDS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND REQUEST THEIR RESPONSES, ACTION PLANS AND VISIONS; REPORT BACK WITHIN 60 DAYS MINUTES

1. September 7, 2016 (Regular)

APPROVED

2. October 5, 2016 (Regular)

APPROVED

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

> LITIGATION TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

>CEOT MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017, 9AM CORPORATE CENTER

### ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:59 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)




**Call for Volunteers**  
**"EVENT MONITORS"**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Indigenous Sacaton School District**  
**STEM ROBOTIC COMPETITION**  
**March 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**MS/HS division (5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>)**

- Mazing
- Jousting
- EV3/NXT/Sumo
- Alpine
- Spheroids
- Ping Pong (line following)
- Drones

**ELEMENTARY division (2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>)**

- Mazing
- Jousting
- EV3/NXT/ Sumo
- Lego We Do's
- Spheroids
- Ozobots






**TRAINING DAY FOR EVENT MONITORS**  
**Feb.25<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 9:30 - 12:30**  
**Lunch will be served**  
**Contact Email: [jkinnamon@sacatonschools.org](mailto:jkinnamon@sacatonschools.org)**  
**Phone: 520-280-6656 ext. 2048**

# AZ State Legislators Support Environmental Protections, Oppose Oil Pipelines



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

**Representative Eric Descheenie speaks about the risks of contamination due to mining and drilling.**

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

With the recent endorsement of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipeline projects by Pres. Donald Trump, groups opposed to the projects have expressed an urgency to protect other federal and state lands from future development. Recently, Arizona State legislators have moved to establish the "Greater Grand Canyon National Monument" as a way to protect lands in and near the Grand Canyon from contamination by uranium mining.

Last year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ordered a halt to construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) until further consultation and an environmental review could be completed. Former Pres. Barack Obama denied the permit to the Keystone XL Pipeline in 2015.

On Jan. 24 of this year, Trump signed two Presidential Memoranda (PMs) expressing his support of the oil pipeline projects, and authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the review and approval process.

Since then, activists and legislators have reiterated their opposition to both projects.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, which is at the center of efforts to stop the pipeline, said that it would continue to fight the pipeline project in the courts, but also asked many protestors to leave the area, like the Oceti Sakowin Camp, because of liability reasons.

Here in Arizona opposition to the recent developments out of the nations capitol gave way to a response from members of the Arizona Democratic Party's Native American Caucus, who held a press conference at the State Capitol Senate Lawn on Jan 25.

According to an Arizona House of Democratic Caucus press release, Descheenie said, "Protecting water as a thing makes us environmentalists. Protecting water as a person, whom we embrace as family, makes us good relatives, and that's what it means to be indigenous."

Arizona Senator Jamescita Peshlakai expressed her displeasure at Trump's recent moves, "The president's decision allows a corporate takeover that neglects tribal consideration, fails to honor historical or sacred sites and prioritizes profit above people," said the press release.

Other statements by representatives Sally Ann Gonzales and Wenona Benally echoed the same sentiment's opposing the pipe-

line projects.

Rep. Gonzales said, "As an indigenous grandmother and great-grandmother, I believe we need to protect our environment, not only for our grandchildren but for the generations yet to be born."

Rep. Benally said, "Allowing these projects to once again move forward without meaningful tribal consultation is a direct violation of tribal treaty rights and a threat to America's land, air and water."

Uranium mining at the Grand Canyon

Representative Eric Descheenie, who brought attention to the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument last month, spoke about the natural resources that are

at risk of contamination due to uranium mining and drilling for oil after President Trump made the reinstatements of the pipeline projects.

At a press conference on Jan 11, prior to the reinstatements of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipeline, a similar press conference was held at the State Capitol, where state representatives voiced concerns over the protection of lands at risk of being contaminated by uranium mining near the Grand Canyon National Park.

The press conference was on the proposed "Greater Grand Canyon National Monument," which was an initiative supported by several Arizona representatives, many

of them from the Native American Caucus and over 20 tribal communities, outdoor businesses and conservation groups.

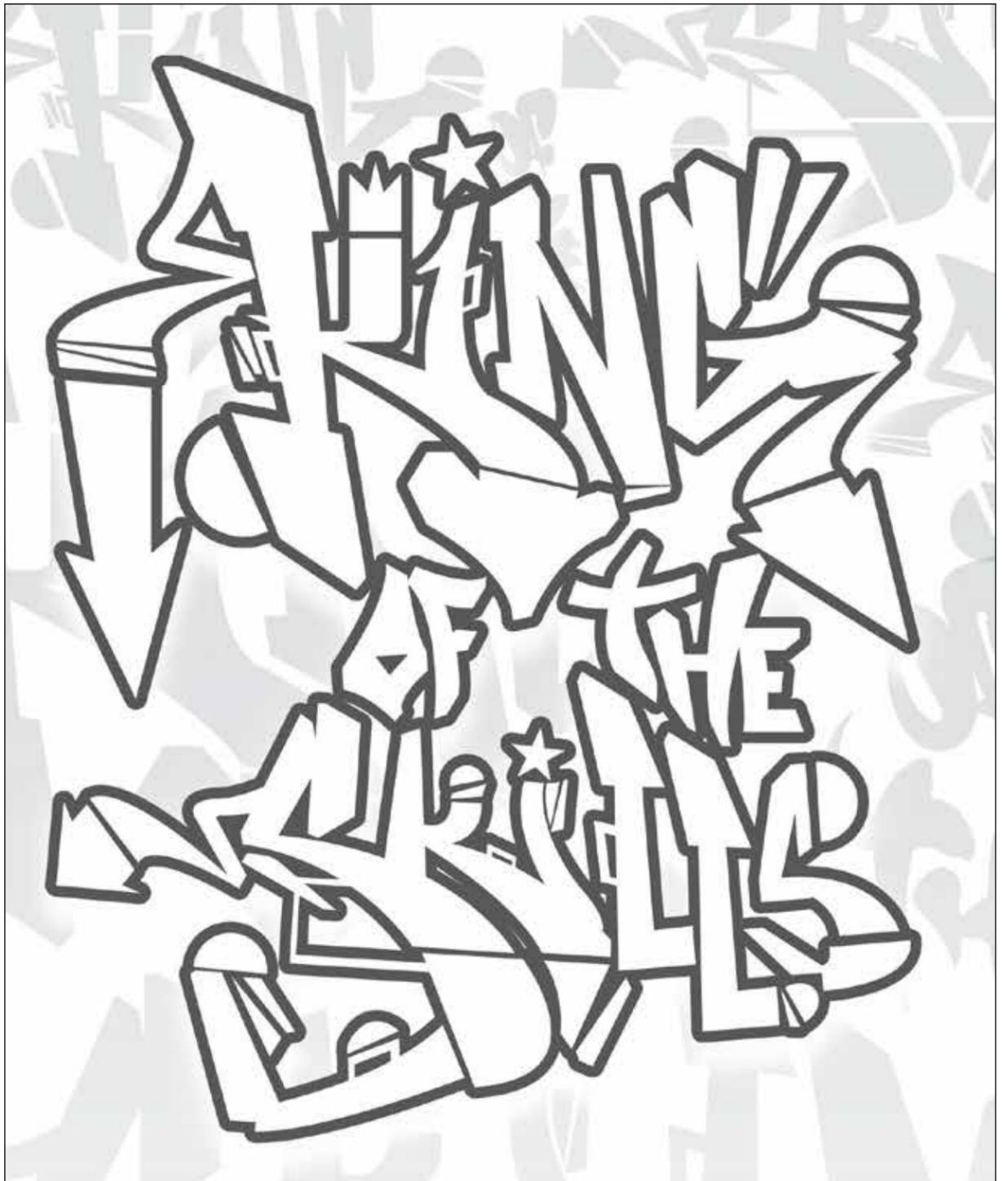
According to the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument organization, said "There are more than 3,000 ancient Native American archaeological sites that have been documented in the region."

Rep. Descheenie had made a plea to outgoing President Barack Obama to designate the area as a national monument before his term ended on Jan 20. Ultimately the effort fell short of getting Obama to sign the bill and makes any further efforts to preserve the land around the Grand Canyon difficult under the new administration.

Currently there is a 20-year moratorium to suspend uranium mining on the land around the Grand Canyon, which was enacted by Obama in 2012.

Hailed as a victory by many Arizona Indian tribes, it has drawn support from environmentalists and criticism from opponents, who say it hinders the states economy.

Descheenie said, "The actions of the new administration to move forward with utter disregard for what it means to be family and disregard for lawful tribal treaties and federal environmental law are an offense to a viable future. Despite this, we will endure, we have to. Our future depends on it."



**Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

District 5 Baseball Fields - Address: 3456 W Casa Blanca Rd, Bapchule, AZ 85121

**Art Vendors • Music • Food Vendors**

Registration begins February 6th  
Register by calling District 5 Recreation at (520) 315-3441  
\*\*\*Limited to first 50 participants / Musical performers encouraged to call also

**CIVIL SUMMONS**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA  
TERRY LYNN MARRIETTA  
Petitioner/Plaintiff  
vs.  
MARSHALL ALVIN WHITMAN JR.  
Respondent/Defendant  
TO: MARSHALL ALVIN WHITMAN JR.  
25 AZULE ST  
SACATON, AZ 85147  
CASE Number: FM-2016-0003-PT  
CIVIL SUMMONS  
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, March 13, 2017 ut 9:00AM in Courtroom 1, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA

KUD KI,  
721 West Seedfarm Road,  
Sacaton, 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 the State of Arizona. DATED this 24th day of January, 2017



# Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

"Proudly serving the Gila River Indian Community since 1988"

Box 5015, 7065 West Allison Road, Chandler, Arizona 85226-5135  
(520) 796-3333 • www.gilarivertel.com • fax (520)796-7534

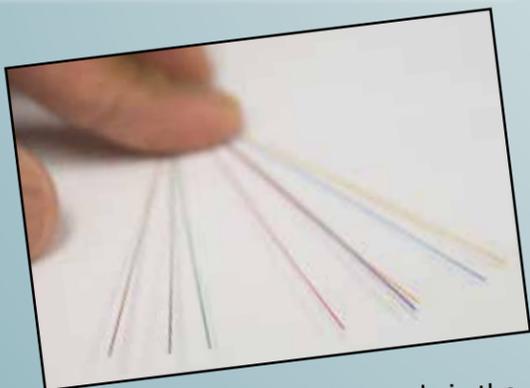
## JOIN US IN 2019

*Fiber facts: Fiber optic cables send data using pulses of light.*

### **Fiber to the home**

Fiber to the home (FTTH) is a technology used to deliver a communications signal over fiber optics to your home or business.

GRTI will replace older copper cables in the community with this technology. Our goal is to have every home in Gila River connected by 2019!



Inside these colored strands is the fiber optic cable.

### **GigaCenter**

Customers currently operating on fiber will be contacted by GRTI to schedule an appointment to update equipment in your home. Current modems will be replaced with a new unit called a GigaCenter. It will be installed in your home to protect it from the elements.

The GigaCenter works hand in hand with your fiber connection to deliver the best possible service. This means higher internet speeds, better video streaming, quicker downloads and lower maintenance.



Here is what the GigaCenter looks like.

### **How you can help**

1. When we contact you schedule an appointment.
2. Have an adult 18 years or older present during the installation.
3. If you need to cancel the appointment contact GRTI immediately to reschedule.
4. Failure to reschedule your appointment may interrupt your phone service.

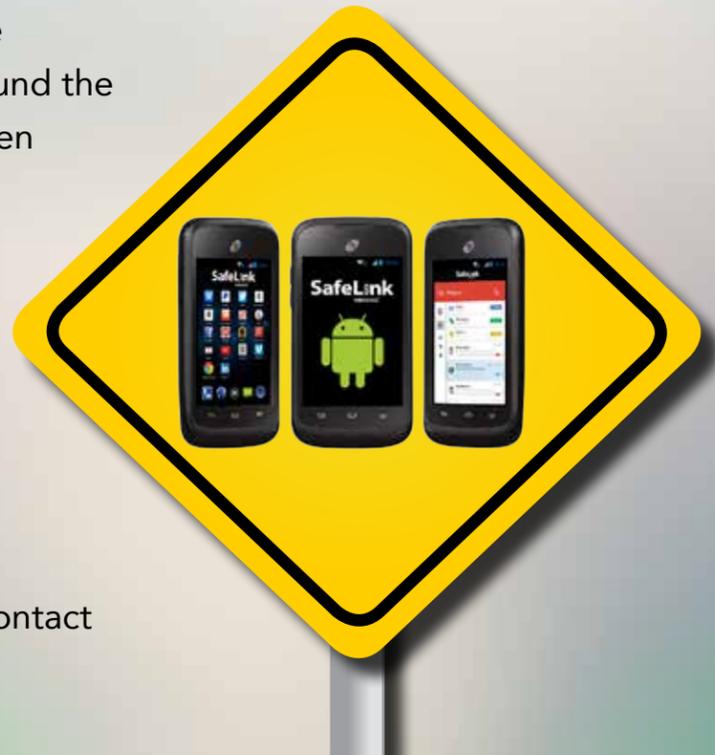
*Fiber facts: Did you know fiber optic cable is as thin as a strand of human hair?*

## "Attention Enhanced Lifeline Customers"

Roadside booths advertising free cellphones under the name **Safelink**, owned by **TracFone**, have been spotted in and around the community. Be warned, TracFone and its companies have been operating illegally within Gila River under the name **Safelink**.

These cellphones are provided through the FCC's Enhanced lifeline Program. Enhanced Lifeline credits can only be utilized on one line per household. Be aware, if you sign up for a free cellphone you may lose your lifeline credits with GRTI.

For questions or to check enhanced lifeline status you may contact GRTI's Lifeline specialist, Nicole Baptisto at 520-796-8816.



# New Year Resolutions

**SAVE MONEY**

**Improve My Credit**

**GET RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION**

## shop **CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER**

**2012 GMC Sierra**  
**\$307/mo.**



**2013 Chevy 1500**  
**\$290/mo.**



**2010 GMC Sierra**  
**\$389/mo.**



**2011 Chevy 1500**  
**\$324/mo.**



**2010 Ford F-150**  
**\$385/mo.**



**2012 Ford Edge**  
**\$256/mo.**



**2013 Ford Explorer**  
**\$375/mo.**



**2011 GMC Terrain**  
Leather, Moon Roof, Navigation **\$245/mo.**



**2014 Chrysler Town & Country**  
**\$307/mo.**



**2012 Chrysler 200**  
**\$175/mo.**



**2005 Pontiac GTO**  
52,000 Miles **\$235/mo.**



**2013 Chrysler 300**  
**\$305/mo.**



**2007 GMC Yukon**  
**\$299/mo.**



**2014 Toyota Camry**  
**\$275/mo.**



**Don't Wait Until Tomorrow**

**2014 Mazda CX5**  
**\$256/mo.**



**2012 Honda Civic**  
**\$205/mo.**



**SALE HELD OVER**  
**Jan. 31st**

**2012 Nissan Titan**  
**\$289/mo.**



**2015 Buick Verano**  
**\$222/mo.**



**2011 Infiniti G37**  
**\$239/mo.**



**2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee**  
**\$16,999**



**2012 Dodge Challenger**  
**\$238/mo.**



**2015 Dodge Caravan**  
**\$288/mo.**



**2016 Dodge Journey**  
**\$269/mo.**



**2017 GMC Yukon**  
**\$317/mo.**



**CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER**  
**1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE**  
**520-836-2112**

**INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL • [www.crossroadsauto.org](http://www.crossroadsauto.org)**

\*Payment based on 700 credit score, 4.5% APR @ 72 mos. with TT&L down. Not all customers qualify based on approved credit.

55th Annual  
**MUL-CHU-THA**  
Fair & Rodeo



MARCH 10-12, 2017 • SACATON, AZ 85147

*"Celebrating 55 years of Culture, Strength & Unity"*



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD • ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS • THOKA  
HALF MARATHON & 2 MILE WALK • SKATE COMPETITION • CONTESTS  
GILA RIVER ROYALTY PAGEANT • ALL INDIAN RODEO • JR. ALL INDIAN RODEO  
MASTERS ALL INDIAN RODEO • PARADE • CARNIVAL RIDES  
CAR SHOW • SPORTING EVENTS • COMPETITION POW-WOW • CHICKEN  
SCRATCH • BATTLE OF THE BANDS • CULTURAL PERFORMANCES • SONGIVU'L

For more information please contact 520-562-9713  
or email [muichutha@gric.nsn.us](mailto:muichutha@gric.nsn.us)

[www.mul-chu-tha.com](http://www.mul-chu-tha.com)

Gila River Indian Community shall not be held responsible for bodily injury, theft, or damages incurred during the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo.

**GILARIVER**

GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.

WinGilaRiver.com • 800-WIN-GILA • Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc.  
Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community