

## Huge crowds attend the 72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade

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

On February 23, 1945, just five days after the invasion of Iwo Jima, six United States Marines made their way to the top of Mount Suribachi and were photographed raising the American flag, capturing one of World War II's most iconic images and making the six men war heroes. In recognition of those six soldiers and the service of all U.S. veterans, the 72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising was held in Sacaton, Ariz. on Feb. 25, bringing out over 2,000 spectators from across the United States and Canada.

Tony McDaniel, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 Adjutant, said that members of the post worked hard over the past seven months organizing the annual event, and were glad to see it finally come to fruition.

"We have veterans from approximately 16 different states," said McDaniel. "They come down here for our weather and to honor the World War II veterans, especially Ira Hayes."

"Seven months of putting this together, today, it is all worth it, this is what it is all about," McDaniel said motioning towards the long line of parade floats.

Thousands of spectators lined the sides of Casa Blanca Road from Skill Center Road all the way down to the Matthew B. Juan - Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park where the grandstand was located.

The rumble of a chrome four-engine propeller driven B-17 Flying Fortress caught the attention of spectators as it performed four separate flyovers, signaling the beginning of the parade and flag-raising ceremony.

The spectacle was filled to

the brim with 119 floats led by a Post 84 Color Guard and three parade Grand Marshalls: 102-year-old World War II Navajo veteran Sophie Yazzie, Ira Hayes's brother and Korean War veteran Kenneth G. Hayes, and Rene Gagnon Jr., son of Iwo Jima flag-raiser Rene Gagnon.

Spectators cheered and applauded passing floats filled with veteran dignitaries from across North America and a variety of tribal nations, including Iwo Jima survivors, Oliver Babbitts, Navajo Code Talker Thomas H. Begay, the Puyallup Tribal Veterans Color Guard, Canadian veteran and member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation Graham Murdoch, and World War II Army veteran Rev. Monsignor Edward Meulemans.

Representing the Gila River Indian Community in the parade were Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, a large group of St. Peter Indian Mission School students carrying a U.S. flag, the Pee Posh Veterans Association, Pee Posh-O'otham Veterans Association, the Gila River Fire Department Honor Guard, Achem A'al Indigenous Pima Basket Dancers, the Gila River Basket Dancers, and much more.

As the parade wound down, the large crowd of spectators made their way to the veterans' memorial park where keynote speaker Gov. Lewis welcomed the audience to the Community.

"Each of our families has its stories of a son who went off to war and a daughter for who the service meant more than self, a relative we never got the chance to know well, but who we regard with deep pride every single time we hear their name," said Lewis. "In my family, that man is Corporal Richard Lewis."



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN  
**Spectators catch a glimpse of a B-17 Flying Fortress at the 72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade in Sacaton on Feb. 25.**

Lewis said that while he had never met his grandfather's brother, he was an inspiration to him throughout his life.

"My granddad's brother enlisted [during] World War II... [and] served as a member of the First Marine Division Reinforced," said Lewis. "[He] was also a dear friend of Ira Hayes."

"Richard Lewis fought until a mid-January day in 1943 when he was killed in action," he said.

"His death marked the first time a Pima Indian was killed in the Pacific Theatre in World War II."

Lewis said that several months later in a letter to his own family, Ira Hayes said he had been moved by Lewis's willingness to give his own life to protect the country. Just two years later, on Feb. 23, 1945, Hayes, along with Harold Schultz, Michael

**Continued on Page 8**

## Gila River Royalty says farewell to 2016-2017 term



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN  
**Miss Gila River Oriana Apkaw gives an address at her farewell event in District 5 on Feb. 18.**

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

Miss Gila River said it's been an extraordinary year representing the Community, as she and the Jr. Miss Gila River court see their title reign coming to a close.

Oriana Apkaw stood dressed in her traditional attire before a packed hall, reflecting on the past year of holding the title of Miss Gila River at the District 5 Multipurpose Building on Feb. 18.

Apkaw's reflection on the many memories and accomplishments were one of many instances shared throughout the afternoon.

Her remarks echoed similar joy as the current Jr. Miss Gila River Deidre Copperfield, First Attendant Lehua Lani Dosela and Second Attendant Karissa Mark came together to thank their supporters.

"[They] are like the three sis-

ters I never had...actually three other sisters I never had," said a cheerful Apkaw.

She said being MGR made her stronger and that it brought her closer to learning more about the Community through the teachings handed down by her grandmother Eugenia Apkaw.

Copperfield said that while serving as Jr. Miss, there were many high points during her reign.

Of all the accomplishments, Copperfield said the credit was due in part to her family, who supported her choice to run for the title.

They summarized their term as a year of personal growth and bonding, as they learned to overcome the pressures of being titleholders.

Mark said, "This has been an

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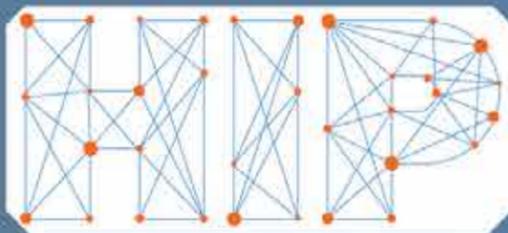
## INTRODUCING EZ LIFT PATIENT TRANSFER EQUIPMENT

Gila River Health Care is dedicated to providing high-quality healthcare for Native Americans. Along with major healthcare organizations across the country, we have unveiled a safe and secure solution for transferring our patients from one place to another.

This EZ Lift is designed to keep patients safe during transfer from a chair to an exam table or from a chair to another chair.

We respectfully ask that patients work with us as we introduce new and safe equipment for our patients. We will always make every effort to make your transfer as safe and comfortable as possible. We appreciate your trust and confidence in us.

Should you have any questions or would like to see an informational video, please contact the Cultural Customer Service Department at (602) 528-1424 or visit [GRHC.ORG](http://GRHC.ORG).



## HEALTH INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (HIP) WEEK MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 2017

Health information management or HIM (formerly known as Medical Records) is an allied health profession responsible for ensuring:

- The availability, accuracy, and protection of your clinical information for healthcare-related decisions.
- HIM plays a key role in the effective management of health data and medical records needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public.
- The work HIM professionals do benefits everyone from the exchange and use of health information that is accurate, accessible, secure, and available to the right person at the right time.

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) invites all health information professionals (HIP) to join the celebration and be recognized during the 28th annual HIP Week. This year's theme is Health Informational Professionals - leading the way to quality data.

If you have questions about your medical record, call the Health Information Management Department today at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1256 or 1376.

**8TH ANNUAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017 • HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER**  
21359 SOUTH MARICOPA ROAD, CHANDLER, AZ 85226

**HONOR WALK: 7:00 A.M. MAIN EVENT: 9:00 A.M.**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL DEVIN PABLO (520) 550-8000**





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Lt. Governor  
**Monica L. Antone**

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# Harlan Bohnee, farmer, community leader, passes away at 81



Photo courtesy of Bohnee family

Harlan Bohnee (Paákhoya - Little Frog), 81, a resident of Tempe, AZ, O'odham/Hopi, and a member of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) was called to his heavenly home on February 14, 2017. He was born October 8, 1935 in Blackwater, AZ.

As a U.S. Air Force veteran, farmer, consultant, community leader and educator, Harlan led a dynamic and impressive life, and touched many people on his journey. He was a generous man who had a passion for sharing his culture, and teaching Native people throughout Canada and the U.S. about economic development

and governance. Harlan was always an advocate for the success of Native people. He created the first tribal management degree program at Scottsdale Community College where he worked for 17 years, and built a successful agri-business on the Gila River Indian Community. He was an active community leader serving on numerous nation building initiatives for the Gila River Indian Community including the Tribe's water settlement, industrial park, gaming enterprises, irrigation district, marina, heritage center and raceway. He is known to be the first member of the GRIC to earn

a Master of Business Administration (MBA), graduating from the University of Massachusetts. Throughout his life he learned, he led, and he inspired many lives. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth; son, Gary (Patty); and three daughters, Liz and Jean Bohnee and Kay Seven; a sister, Delores (Alfred) Flores; daughter-in-law, Josie Gaisthea; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and many nephews, nieces and relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruth and Eugene Bohnee; and a son, Gene Harlan Bohnee.

## Gila Crossing Community School students hear presentation from Kaity's Way

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

Seventh and eighth grade students at Gila Crossing Community School were given a look into the tragic story of a Tucson girl who was slain at the hands of an ex-boyfriend.

At the GCCS assembly hall, students gathered to hear a presentation provided by Bobbi Sudberry on teen dating violence on Feb 9.

Sudberry's daughter, Kaity, was shot and killed in 2008 by her abusive ex-boyfriend Daniel Byrd. Sudberry started Kaity's Way in her daughter's memory to raise awareness on teen dating violence.

Kaity's story has been told many times, but the message still is as important each time Sudber-

ry travels to schools and communities across the country to talk about teen dating violence and the organization she started in her daughter's name.

Her story made headlines across the country and led to the passing of Senate Bill 1088 "Kaity's Law," in 2009 in the state of Arizona

It is a provision made to provide protections for teens caught in an abusive relationship.

Sudberry said Kaity's Way is about getting teens and adults more aware about abusive relationships.

The victim of an abusive relationship herself, Sudberry said it's not always easy to walk away from an abuser.

She said a lot of people tend to think it is an easy transition, but in the tragic circumstance of



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

**Bobbi Sudberry talks to Gila Crossing Community School students on teen dating violence on Feb. 9.**

her daughter, it ultimately cost Kaity, her life.

"Some people think abuse is just physical harm, hitting, punching and slapping. It's ac-

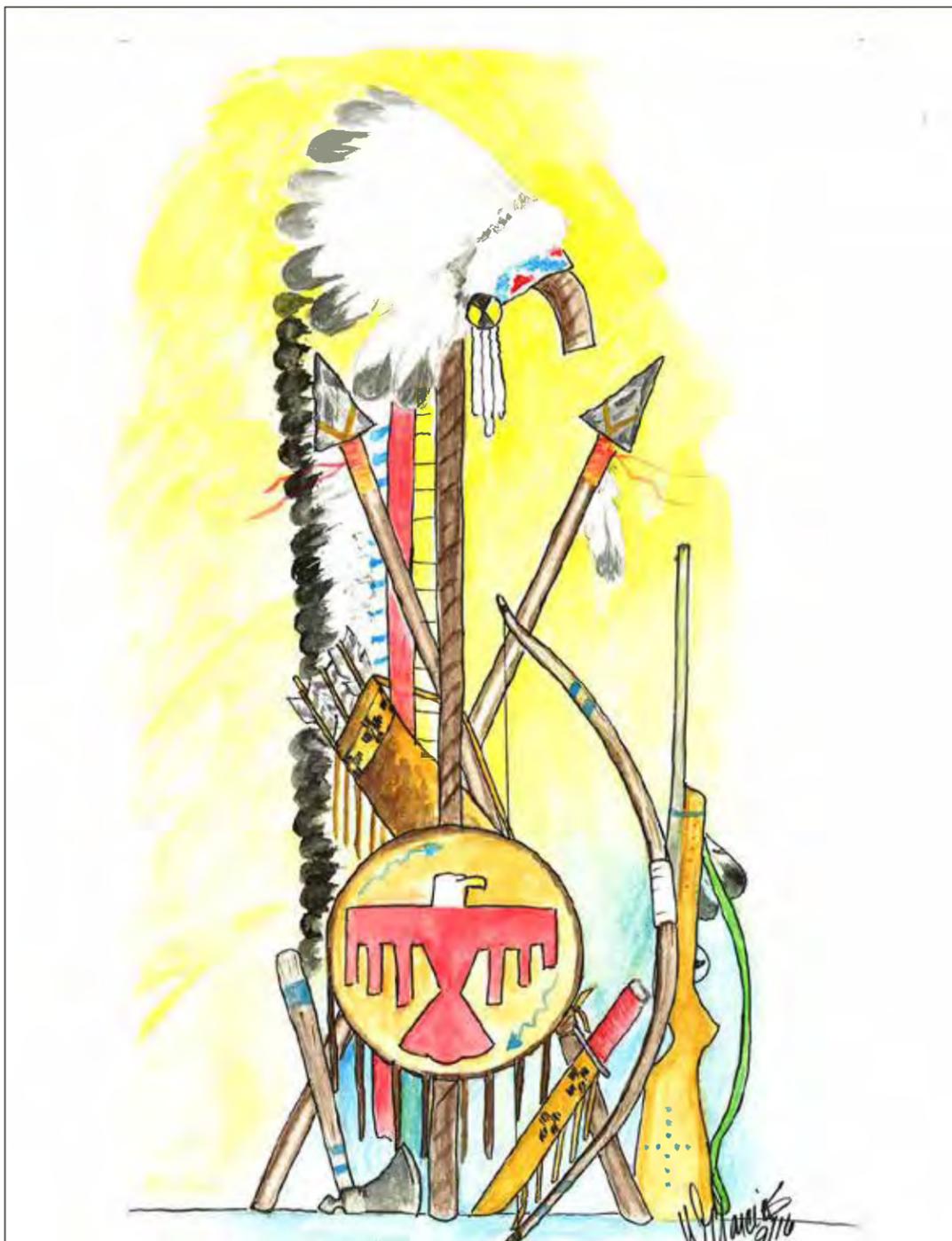
tually verbal and psychological, emotional and a lot of manipulation that goes on," said Sudberry.

**Continued on Page 13**

## Reynold Apodaca



In loving memory of Mr. Reynold "Tony" Apodaca, 10/3/46 - 2/26/15. It has been 2 years now since you passed. I hope you are still continuing to watch and bless us with your gentle spirit. I'm sure a lot of friends & family miss those encouraging texts and silly jokes. Also kind words the heavenly father put upon your heart. A day hasn't gone by, without hearing those morning blessings. Don't worry I'm always careful getting in and out of the shower, my Love. Just missing your craziness, jokes, laughter, and most of all love.. So rest in peace my Peggle King and thank you for being so wonderful to me for 22 years. With much love and respect, your wife Elizabeth Apodaca.





Getty Images

GRIC will argue before the Arizona Supreme Court on the transfer provisions of ICWA.

# GRIC will argue before AZ Supreme Court in ICWA case

**GRIN Staff**  
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community is fighting to determine the future of a 2-year-old child known only as A.D.

According to a press release, A.D. was born off of the Gila River Indian Reservation to a GRIC mother who lived on the reservation for most of her life. After birth, A.D. was placed into the Arizona foster care system.

The Community initially "sought transfer of the state court case to its Children's Court under the Indian Child Welfare Act,

but its motion was denied," read the press release.

After an appeal, the Arizona Supreme Court has granted a petition for review. Community attorneys argue that the "case is significant to Arizona's Indian tribes and tribal families and that the Arizona Court of Appeals' decision was contrary to the plain language of the Indian Child Welfare Act."

According to the release, "the case will be the first of its kind argued before the Arizona Supreme Court focused on the transfer provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act."

"The Gila River In-

dian Community will do everything in our power to protect our Community members and their families, every Indian child and every Indian family," said GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "We will not stand idly by when our children are at risk of losing their tribal roots, their culture and their families, and when the Indian Child Welfare Act is at risk."

"Since 1978, ICWA and the tribal court system have worked as intended to keep Indian families together. This landmark law should not be stripped of its key role in protecting our people."

# Community Council election is May 2, candidates must declare by March 6



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Candidates must declare by March 6 for the May 2 election.

**Mikhail Sundust**  
Gila River Indian News

The Community Council Election is May 2. Community members seeking to run for Community Council have until Monday, March 6 to declare their candidacy. Members nominated to run for Council have five days after their district has made the nomi-

nation official to notify the Tribal Elections Office.

Voters are encouraged to register as soon as possible and make sure all their information is correct – name, address, et cetera. April 3 is the voter registration deadline. 17-year-olds turning 18 years of age on May 2 or before that date are eligible to register to vote in this election. Call

the Tribal Elections Office at (520) 562-9735 for information on how to get registered.

Absentee voting begins April 10, and will close May 1. May 2 is Election Day. Council seats are open in Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6, but not in 2 or 7. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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 3/5	Monday 3/6	Tuesday 3/7	Wednesday 3/8	Thursday 3/9	Friday 3/10	Saturday 3/11	
12:00pm	Creative Native <i>Walk A Mile In My Mukluks</i>	Creative Native <i>The Navajo</i>	Creative Native <i>Symbolism</i>	Creative Native <i>Quotes on a Paper</i>	Creative Native <i>Eye for the White Guy</i>	Creative Native <i>The Quechua</i>	Creative Native <i>Baby Its You!</i>	
12:30pm	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	Trudell <i>Combining images and archival footage.</i>	
1:00pm	Our Spirits Don't Speak English <i>Dark history of Indian Boarding Schools.</i>	Horse Tribe <i>Connections of human to animal, values to action.</i>	The Winter Bear Project <i>The Native Mascot Issue</i>	<b>BARNABY LEWIS</b> <i>GRIC Cultural Presentation</i>	<b>O'ODHAM VETERANS CELEBRATION</b>	Finding My Talk <i>Journey to revive First Nations languages.</i>	Forging Bonds: Pow Wow	
1:30pm								
2:00pm	Storytellers in Motion <i>Wapos Bay: Behind The</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Eagle of the Dawn</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Remembering Celilo Part 1</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Paradox of Attribution</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Remembering Celilo Part 2</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Stone Carver</i>	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Desert Southwest</i>	
2:30pm	Native Report	Vitality Gardening <i>Gardening Therapy</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>We're Going Berry Picking</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>The Warehouse Garden</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>The Northern Harvest</i>	Vitality Gardening <i>The Harvest Feast</i>	Landing	
3:00pm	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Cuisine of the Desert</i>	Vitality Health <i>Fitness Day</i>	Vitality Health <i>Living with Diabetes Day</i>	Vitality Health <i>Spirituality Day</i>	Vitality Health <i>Nutrition Day</i>	Vitality Health <i>Health/Stress Management</i>	Sivummut	
3:30pm	<b>GRTV NEWS WEEKLY &amp; GRIC EVENTS</b>	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>	From The Spirit <i>Rocky Barstad</i>	People of the Pines <i>World of the Serrano</i>	
4:00pm	Heavy Metal <i>Mining Disaster caused by toxic mining waste and its impact on a community.</i>	Creative Native <i>Symbolism</i>	Creative Native <i>Quotes on a Paper</i>	Creative Native <i>Eye for the White Guy</i>	Creative Native <i>The Quechua</i>	Creative Native <i>Baby Its You!</i>	Making Regalia	
4:30pm		<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>	
5:00pm	The Winter Bear Project	Working It Out Together	Indian Pride <i>Tribal Relations with US</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report	Indian Pride <i>Culture &amp; Traditions</i>	Storytellers in Motion	The Other Side <i>"A Loaf of Bread"</i>	
5:30pm	Legends from the Sky <i>Veteran, burdened by survivor's guilt after a disastrous military tour, is forced to search for his missing grandfather.</i>	Sivummut	Oskayak Down Under	Common Ground	Down The Mighty River <i>More Power</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report <i>Standing Rock Special</i>	Indians and Aliens <i>Harry Snowboy</i>	
6:00pm		First Talk	First Talk	First Talk	First Talk		Indigenous Focus <i>Clouds of Autumn</i>	
6:30pm		Native Report	People of the Pines <i>The World of the Serrano</i>	Making Regalia	People of the Pines <i>Invasion and Response</i>	Make Prayers to the Raven	Dabiyiyuu <i>Charlie Makes A Drum</i>	
7:00pm	Native Voice TV	The Winter Bear Project	<b>2017 WAILA FEST @ RAWHIDE CHANDLER, AZ</b>	Amazonia Eterna <i>Analysis of how the world's largest tropical rainforest is utilized.</i>	Finding My Talk <i>Journey of language roots across Canada to revive First Nations languages.</i>	Trudell <i>Philosophy behind his work relating to Indian history.</i>	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee Native Report	
7:30pm	On Native Ground: Youth Report	The Native Mascot Issue						
8:00pm	Wapos Bay <i>The Wapos Falcon</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Journey Through Fear</i>	Wapos Bay <i>They Dance at Night</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Something to Remember</i>	Wapos Bay <i>A Time to Learn</i>	Wapos Bay <i>The Elements</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Journey Through Fear</i>	
8:30pm	Fish Out of Water <i>Kokomville Academy</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Wanuskewin Heritage Park</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Brokenhead Ojibway</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Tseycum Canoe Tours</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Nk Mip Desert Cultural</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Ojibway Cree Cultural</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Wanuskewin Heritage Park</i>	
9:00pm	<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>	
9:30pm	Native Shorts	Indians and Aliens <i>Sandy Masty</i>	Back In The Day <i>Performing</i>	Indigenous Focus <i>Clouds of Autumn</i>	<b>2016 JR MISS GILA RIVER PAGEANT</b>	Champions of the North <i>Sisters</i>	Moose T.V. <i>Surviving Moose</i>	
10:00pm	Finding My Talk <i>Journey across Canada to revive First Nations languages.</i>	The Activist <i>Circumstances surround the arrest and imprisonment of two activists.</i>	<b>HUA'PAI - RED TAIL HAWK OPENING @ HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER</b>	One More River <i>Part 1 Decision making process, split notions of how decisions are made.</i>		Maina <i>Maina finds herself on a mission that will change the course of her life. She is taken captive while trying to fulfill a promise.</i>	Rising Voices/Hothaninpi <i>Experts say that by the year 2050, just 20 indigenous American languages will exist.</i>	
10:30pm					<b>2016 MISS GILA RIVER PAGEANT</b>			
11:00pm	Behind The Blue Veil <i>Sets out on a journey to save culture and exposes the government corruption and neglect.</i>		Sacred Stick <i>Historical aspects of lacrosse, this program explores the cultural diffusion of a unique sport.</i>	One More River <i>Part 2 Decision making process, split notions of how decisions are made.</i>				
11:30pm		Forging Bonds: Pow Wow Stories from California					Buffy St. Marie <i>Wrote hundreds of song and numerous films.</i>	

# Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department reserves the right to restrict the release of certain reports which may not be available or are currently under investigation. Gila River Police officers responded to 464 calls for service and made 56 arrests.

## Reports from 2/12-2/18

District One (Blackwater):

**Aggravated Assault** - A verbal altercation occurred between the suspect and girlfriend but then became physical. The suspect punched the female three times in the face and squeezed her throat with his right hand. The victim stated she could not breathe but added the suspect was only a friend. The victim was transported to Chandler Regional for further medical attention.

Status: Suspect was arrested and later released due to medical conditions.

District Two (Sacaton Flats):

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Three (Sacaton):

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Four (Stotonic):

**Aggravated Assault** - A verbal altercation between brother and sister resulted in a physical fight. The sister picked up a hammer and hit the brother causing injury to his arm. The sister was gone prior to officer arrival but was later located and booked into DRS after admitting to hitting her brother with the hammer.

Status: Suspect was arrested

**Aggravated Assault** - The victim requested officers to her residence after the suspect placed his hands around the victim's neck and applied pressure during an altercation. The victim was able to free herself and the suspect but he then placed his arm around her neck and applied pressure again. During the altercation the victim's one year old daughter was pushed

down by the suspect and began to cry. The suspect was gone prior to officer arrival but was located and taken into custody.

Status: Suspect was arrested

**Theft** - The victim reported that a license plate was taken from a non working vehicle that was on her property. The victim was asked if she had an idea as to whom may have taken the plate and she did not. The plate was entered into the system as stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

District 4 (Lone Butte Area):

**Aggravated Assault** - Officers responded to a call regarding a suspect that pulled out a gun on the victim while driving in the Lone Butte area. GRPD and Chandler PD were given the description of the suspect and the vehicle he was driving but were unable to locate.

Status: Under Investigation

**Theft** - A wallet was stolen at the Phoenix Premium Outlet which was later recovered by the maintenance crew in a garbage can; the money that was in the wallet at the time was taken and not recovered.

Status: Under Investigation

**Theft** - Officers responded to Lone Butte Casino in reference to a gunshot wound to the hand. Investigation revealed that a patron had shot himself in the hand while in his vehicle. The weapon came back stolen out of Phoenix PD.

Status: Charges long formed due to medical reasons

**Theft** - A patron requested officers to the casino in regards to her wallet and cell phone being taken at the Lone Butte Casino.

Status: Under Investigation

**Theft** - The victim stated that his wallet was taken from one of the roulette machine when he returned back to the machine it was gone. Security was alert-

ed; a male suspect was observed on the surveillance footage sitting at the machine then taking the wallet and entering the restroom. The suspect leaves a short time later and is contacted by security. The suspect runs from security and is observed running towards the Phoenix Premium Outlet where the pursuit was stopped. The wallet was located in the restroom but all cash had been removed from the wallet.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca):

**Burglary** - The victim reported that upon returning home she found that her television that sits in her living room was gone. The television was a 55 inch Vizio television; all doors and windows were locked when she left and were still locked when she returned home.

Status: Under Investigation

District Six (Komatke):

**Aggravated Assault** - The victim stated that a verbal altercation with the two suspects ensued when they accused the victim of infidelity on their niece. The altercation became physical and the victim was hit multiple times in the upper portion of his body. While being assaulted the victim felt a sharp pain in his arm area when he was struck with an aluminum base ball bat. The victim was medically evaluated and released.

Status: Under Investigation

**Aggravated Assault** - The victim stated that he was assaulted while at the bus stop near the Komatke Market. During the assault the victim stated he was struck with a pipe in the abdomen area. EMS arrived to evaluate the victim and transported to an area hospital for further medical attention. It was later discovered that the victim suffered a fractured rib and A.C. joint separation.

Status: Under Investigation

**Weapons** - The suspect was stopped for multiple traffic violations. During the investigation the suspect was found to have methamphetamines as well as drug paraphernalia and an Aero Precision A.R.15 in his vehicle. The suspect is prohibited possessor due to many felony convictions; he was taken into custody.

Status: Suspect was arrested

District Seven (Maricopa):

No incidents regarding part I crime

## Reports from 2/19-2/25

**Community Events** - Citizen Police academy.

Gila River Police officers responded to 651 calls for service and made 46 arrests.

District One (Blackwater):

**Aggravated Assault** - Officers responded to a residence in reference to a domestic altercation. Investigation revealed the suspect had placed the victim in a "chokehold" and dragged them into the residence.

Status: Suspect was taken into custody

**Aggravated Assault** - The victim was taken to HuHuKam Memorial Emergency Room for medical evaluation after being assaulted. The victim stated they had no recollection of what occurred but was found with their face swollen and covered in blood. The victim sustained broken ribs and multiple lacerations in the facial area.

Status: Under Investigation

District Two (Sacaton Flats):

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Three (Sacaton):

**Aggravated Assault** - Officers were called to a residence in reference to a fight in progress along with screams coming from the location. Investigation revealed that two suspects were fighting with the vic-

tim attempting to get her to leave the residence. During the incident the victim was pulled to the ground by her hair, kicked, punched and was stabbed. The victim was able to give a description of the weapon along with the suspects.

Status: Suspects were arrested

**Aggravated Assault** - Officers responded to a call for service when the victim reported she had been hit in the head and was bleeding. Once on scene, the victim stated the suspect was intoxicated and arguing with her. The suspect had told the victim to leave but when she attempted to he placed his hands on her throat and began to squeeze. The victim was able to free herself but was quickly grabbed by the suspect where he then began to bang her head against the dresser.

Status: Suspect was arrested

**Theft** - Department of Public Works employee reported a work cell phone was stolen from one of their work trucks while at the 76 gas station.

Status: Under Investigation

**Theft** - Items were taken from the front yard of a residence on Barberry without permission

Status: Under Investigation

District Four (Stotonic Area)

**Auto Theft** - A concrete mixer truck was reported missing from a (temporary location) job site.

Status: Under Investigation

**Auto Theft** - Officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to an intoxicated suspect taking off with the victim's vehicle without permission. While on scene officers learned the suspect was allowed into the residence to sleep for the night. During the course of the night the victim heard his vehicle start and leave the residence. A couple of hours later, a family member observed the stolen vehicle, off the Community, and called dis-

patch. A neighboring police department was made aware of the vehicle's location and a traffic stop was conducted. Gila River Police Department was notified the suspect was in custody and the vehicle was returned to the owner.

Status: Suspect was arrested

**Theft** - The victim reported a suspect had damaged the back fence to her residence and took her granddaughters beach cruiser bicycle.

Status: Under Investigation

District 4 (Lone Butte Area)

**Shoplifting** - A male subject left the store without paying for a car charger. The suspect was located and taken back to the store location and taken into custody for the incident.

Status: Suspect was arrested

**Theft** - While parked at the Love's Truck Stop the victim reported that someone stole mud flaps from his Semi trailer.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca)

**Weapons** - The victim reported that while driving along Nelson Rd and SR 587 they were forced off the road and stopped near Sweetwater housing. A white male Suspect brandished a weapon at them then fled the scene.

Status: Under Investigation

District Six (Komatke)

**Auto Theft** - Officers responded to the Vee Quiva Casino in reference to an auto theft. Officers arrived and spoke to the victim who stated that they came to enjoy the entertainment and to gamble. As they attempted to leave the casino they could not locate their 1997 red Nissan.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven (Maricopa)

No incidents regarding part I crime

## Price Change - GRIN Subscription \$20/year

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Questions? Call

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Payments accepted at the Governance Center Cashier's Office.

# Relatives celebrate bond between flag raisers Hayes and Gagnon

**Mikhail Sundust**  
Gila River Indian News

Rene Gagnon Jr. and Wayne Allison live on opposite ends of the country, but are linked by a photograph taken generations ago on the other side of the world.

Gagnon Jr. of New Hampshire is the son of Rene Gagnon Sr. (1925-1979), one of the soldiers captured in the iconic World War II photo by Joe Rosenthal: Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima, which includes Ira H. Hayes (1923-1955) and four other soldiers.

Allison, from the Gila River Indian Community, is Hayes's first cousin, twice removed – Hayes is Allison's great grandmother's nephew.

The flag raising took only a few seconds, but the snap of a camera shutter froze the moment in time forever. Seventy-two years later, Allison and Gagnon Jr. met in Gila River to talk about their relatives in the photo, who were friends and comrades.

On the Mountain

The Battle of Iwo Jima lasted more than a month and wrought more than 6,800 American deaths. U.S. forces landed on the island on Feb. 19, 1945 and the American flag was raised on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, but it did not mark its end; fighting



AP Photo

**Rene Gagnon Sr. consoles Nancy Hayes, Ira Hayes's mother, in Washington, D.C. after his passing in 1955.**

continued on the island for more than a month.

"I would have to say that the battle of Iwo Jima was valiantly fought," said Gagnon Jr. "It was a horrific battle, and somehow people like Ira Hayes and my dad were able to stand out as heroes – not so much in their own eyes – [but] for everybody who fought and died on that island."

The photograph meant hope to a nation on edge, but to the men who raised the flag, it was just a small part of a long day in a vicious, weeks-long battle.

"You have to understand, it wasn't a posed photograph," said Gagnon Jr. The American forces raised another U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi earlier that day, but it was deemed too small and was taken down. "My father went up with the [new]

flag, and said, 'Hey we've got to put this flag up.'"

They did, and photographer Joe Rosenthal was there to capture it.

"Who was actually involved?" said Gagnon, "They really didn't [immediately] know because they were still under fire. They were still fearful for their lives."

By the time Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt asked for the names of the men in the photo, three of them, Sgt. Michael Strank, PFC Franklin Sousley, and Cpl. Harlon Block, had been killed in action.

There has been some controversy and confusion recently over who exactly is in the Rosenthal photo. In June 2016, the Marine Corps confirmed that while Navy corpsman John Bradley was involved in the first flag raising earlier that day,



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

**Relatives of flag raisers Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon Sr. at the Huhugam Heritage Center. Wayne Allison (back row, left) invited Rene Gagnon Jr. (middle row, right) and his wife Judy to the Iwo Jima remembrance ceremonies in Gila River Feb. 23-25.**

he was not in the Rosenthal photo of the second flag raising.

Thanks to some detailed photographic investigation, names assigned to figures in the photo have shifted slightly and the name of Howard Schultz was added to the photo. Schultz replaced Sousley, whose name was assigned to the figure once believed to be Bradley.

Bonds of War

Gagnon Jr. said it wasn't until after the flag raising that Hayes and Gagnon Sr. got to know one another.

"When it came to Ira, there was a bond that was formed between [him and

Rene]," said Gagnon Jr., "although one of the first comments that Ira made to him was, 'If you tell them I was in that photograph, I'm going to beat the crap out of you.'"

Three of the men initially identified in the photo were asked to go on a tour to sell war bonds and raise money for the war. Hayes did not want to be identified as one of the soldiers in the photo, but after a direct order from Pres. Roosevelt, Gagnon identified Hayes as one of the flag raisers.

"Going on the war bond tour, my father and Ira got to be close," said Gagnon Jr. "They would go town-to-town and they got to recount their story, so he kind of took an affinity to him."

But, he said, "There were a lot of towns... where, unfortunately, Native Americans were not welcomed into open society, so to speak." Ira was lauded as a war hero in the national spotlight, but seen as just an Indian in the streetlight.

"He did what everybody else did, yet, got shunned in some way," said Gagnon Jr. "And my father took to that because my father was always one to try to stand up for individuals that might have been getting put down."

It's sad, said Gagnon Jr., that "Ira had to die at too young an age, had done too much living. He should have been alive a lot longer."

Gagnon Sr. respected his O'otham friend, and mourned with Hayes's family in Washington, D.C. after his death in 1955.

Reunited

Allison has a binder full of news clippings, photos, and memorabilia relating to Ira Hayes. Gagnon Jr. has been researching his father and the other flag raisers his whole life. Both grew up hearing how their relative was an important figure in American history.

Another photo that

links the Hayes and Gagnon families features Nancy Hayes, Ira's mother, and Rene Gagnon Sr. at Ira's funeral.

"This is one of the pictures that I really was enthused by as a child," said Allison, with a copy of the photo blown up to poster size. To him, the photo was a reminder that, like Ira, who had a family and an entire community behind him, the men in the flag raising photo had relatives and lives that stretched beyond one particular moment in history.

After his mother passed in August of 2016, Allison took the initiative to learn more about the other soldiers.

He first learned of Rene Gagnon Jr. from a documentary on the flag raising. After some online research, he was able to contact Gagnon through a journalist in New Hampshire. In November of 2016, near the end of their first phone call, Allison invited Gagnon Jr. to Gila River for the annual Iwo Jima remembrance festivities in February 2017.

"I told him that we have this event every year, that I wanted to invite him to come down and join us, that we would talk to some people to see if we could get him down here for this year's event," said Allison.

On Feb. 23, 2017, exactly 72 years after the raising of the flag – Gagnon Jr. visited the Gila River Indian Community, where a number of Ira Hayes's relatives welcomed him, first at a morning press conference at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, and later at an evening gathering at the Huhugam Heritage Center.

Knowing that Ira had never married or had children, Gagnon Jr. didn't realize he had any living relatives, said Allison. Ira's mother, Nancy, was a Whitaker before she married into the Hayes family. She had a brother and a sis-

Continued on Page 13

# A'AGA

## Something to be told

By Billy Allen

The O'otham area, here in Gila River and also with our sister tribes, has been piast central during these cool months. The Ak Chin community celebrated Masik Tas in December, and then late January had the Tohono O'odham Rodeo and Fair. Rain / ju:k stayed in Casa Grande for O'odham Tash. Now in March / Kui I'vakidag Masad it is our turn with the Mul Chu Tha. In June, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will keep the piasts going. Each celebration is unique, but offer parades, rodeos, contemporary and old time athletic contests, food booths and music. For many O'otham music means vaila, now a part of the culture.

The Christian missionaries who journeyed to our land arrived with many European things: cattle,

wheat, and music, to name a few. When O'odham learned how to play the violin, guitar, and bass drum, they quickly put a tribal spin on the Mexican interpretation of European dances like the mazurka, the waltz, and the polka. Explaining European origins, the Waila Festival, Inc. website states waila is similar to a polka, the cho:di is from Scotland and/or Germany, the mazurka is Polish, and the cumbia came to us from Columbia by way of Mexico. Cumbia usually gets everyone on the dance floor. Don't worry about the footwork – it's all upper arm and body style while floating around—with or without a partner!

An older dance was the quadrille/kwariya, which for the O'odham is more of a circle dance. Pahko

o'ola is the Yaqui/Hiakim term for "Old Man of the Fiesta" which is a dance we also borrowed. Entering the "global village" brings a lot of new music to all cultures.

An earlier polka move had dancers kick up their heels when turning. It reminded people of chickens scratching the ground, hence the term "chicken scratch." Musician Philip Miguel took exception and remarked, "We are not chickens; we're O'odham, and this is O'odham waila music."

Boarding school introduced different instruments and with inter-tribal and Mexican influences, the "the voices of vaila," the accordion and saxophone were added. Rock and roll and electricity ushered in amplifiers, electric guitars and microphones. O'odham musicians didn't skip a beat. It's said that the Lawrence Welk Show was popular for the polka music with urban O'odham away from the reservations. In the mid 1950's, a large O'odham community exist-

ed in Los Angeles due to the Relocation program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Angelo Joaquin, Sr. and family formed an orchestra to fill the O'odham need to dance in LA. The popularity of the Joaquin Brothers band would extend nationwide, performing at the National Folk Festival in Wolf Trap in 1980 and New York City's Carnegie Hall in 1992.

Vaila music seems to have stood the test of time by changing with the times. Old time dancers remember the practice of specific songs being played at certain times of the night and the retuning of instruments at midnight to a higher pitch. Singing in O'odham has a religious aspect and is reserved for special occasions. Traditional songs don't translate well into vaila music. Vaila bands do sing Mexican favorites, but with an O'odham flavor. However in the 1970's, The Molinas recorded an O'odham cult classic, The Oik Oik Oik Polka. The band earned the title of Super Scratch Kings, won in

1974 at Salt River during the National Indian Trade Fair. Today bands have women musicians with one band of renown led by a woman. Our himdag is constantly changing and so has vaila. Both have endured by being able to keep pace with the changing world. Attend the Mul Chu Tha and listen to survival. Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, University of Arizona professor of linguistics and Tohono O'odham language, puts it best with a poem, "Waila Music."

It is 1:30 am.  
Sleep won't come.  
She listens to music.  
O'odham waila music.  
San Antonio Rose,  
a wild saxophone and  
accordion.  
In her mind she dances.  
She dances with a handsome cowboy.  
His hat is white, his boots  
are dusty.  
They turn in rhythm  
together.  
They don't miss a beat.  
Their hearts beat in sync.  
Their sweat is mixed as  
one.

The earthen dance floor  
beneath them,  
the stars and moon above  
them.  
That rhythm, that rhythm,  
it makes them one.

Information was taken from the following sources. Ocean Power, Poems of the Desert by Ofelia Zepeda, 1995 the University of Arizona.

The Accordion in the Americas, edited by Helena Simonett. University of Illinois Press; The Music of Multicultural America, edited by Kip Lornell and Anne K. Rasmussen. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

<http://www.all-aroundthisworld.com/learn/u-s-and-canada-2/the-u-s-and-canada-conjuntotajano-music-overview/waila/#.WKn3ADs-rLIU>

<http://www.all-aroundthisworld.com/learn/u-s-and-canada-2/the-u-s-and-canada-conjuntotajano-music-overview/waila/#.WKOBlfnyuyJ>  
The Tucson Citizen and the Arizona Daily Star.

## Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 hosts banquet to honor Iwo Jima veterans



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

WWII Veteran Sophie Yazzie was recognized at the banquet.

Christopher Lomahquahu  
Gila River Indian News

On the eve of one of the largest gatherings of Native veterans in the Gila River Indian Community, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 hosted a banquet at the Boys & Girls Club on Feb. 24, a day before their annual parade.

The banquet marks the beginning of festivities that are held to commemorate the heroic actions of the six soldiers, who raised the United States flag on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

"It seems like it's grown every year and always for the better. It's amazing to see how far each of these events have come," said Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 Commander Chesley Juan Jr.

Former Post 84 Commander Urban Giff said, it is a responsibility for

the Post and the Women's Auxiliary Unit 84 to pay tribute to fallen or deceased service members for their selfless service.

Auxiliary Unit 84 President Carletta McDaniel said, "Welcome everyone, welcome back. It's good to see familiar faces that have come out to celebrate with us every year. It is so special to see the family of Ira H. Hayes and Rene Gagnon Sr. present tonight."

Among the distinguished guests in attendance was the relative of Cpl. Ira H. Hayes, Wayne Allison and the son of another flag raiser, Rene Gagnon Jr., who's father Cpl. Rene Gagnon Sr., was in the famous photo of the flag raising.

The two representing family members of the flag raisers each received a remembrance flag, presented by American Legion Post Commander 140 and District 8 representative Sean

Kriner and the Arizona Department of American Legion Executive Committeeman Judi Beischel.

The remembrance flag represents the service and sacrifice given by members of the armed forces and is given to the next of kin or family member of that fallen service member.

Gagnon said, "I'd like to thank everyone [here] tonight. My dad loved being out here in Arizona. He held a good kinship with Ira and became really good friends."

Allison said it was a great honor to receive the remembrance flag on behalf of Hayes and the family.

Kriner said, "With this flag, we honor these patriots' unwavering dedication to sacrifice. By displaying this symbol collectively as a nation we humbly recognize the enormity of [your] loss and respectfully say 'thank you.'"



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone congratulate essay winners Celestial Estes and Adrian Thomas.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said the Community's veterans and families deserve the up most recognition for the sacrifices they have made to ensure freedom for all.

Lewis spoke of the impact of the flag raising and why it is important to continue recognizing the service of Hayes and the veterans that have put on the uniform to defend the nation.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone said the banquet is one of the most honorable things the Community can do to remember its veterans for their service and continues to attract veterans groups from all over the country each year.

"I think it is very exciting to see all of the veterans come out and celebrate with our warriors."

She said Ira H. Hayes always maintained that fellow Marine Cpl. Harland Block was one of the flag



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Chesley Juan Jr. holds a remembrance flag given to Rene Gagnon Jr.

raisers, even though it was long believed that Hank Hanson was one of the flag raisers.

Veterans recognized at the banquet were WWII Woman's Army Air Force veteran Sgt. Sophia Yazzie and WWII U.S. Army Chaplin and Post 84 Chaplin Monsignor Edward Meulmans.

Women's Auxiliary Unit 84 member Doris Jackson said every year an essay contest is advertised to all of the local high

schools that surround the Community.

Three GRIC youth, from Casa Grande Union High School were awarded a certificate and gift card for their submissions. The students are Adrian Thomas, Celestial Estes, and Elisha Colt.

Each wrote an essay on the theme, "How to honor a veteran," in which the students wrote about the dedication and the sacrifices made by veterans in putting themselves in harms way.

# Iwo Jima parade from page 1

Strank, Franklin Sousley, Rene Gagnon, and Harlon Block, would raise the U.S. flag over the island of Iwo Jima, he said.

“Ira Hayes stands as a giant to generation upon generation of Gila River

Indian Community members,” said Lewis. “We, the fortunate many, who have the chance to stand here today because of the service of men and women like Ira Hayes, who fought courageously, who risked

everything so that we can be free.”

“To each of you veterans here today, to the members of the Ira Hayes family, and my family, and all the many Community families who send loved ones off to...war let me close by saying this,” said Lewis. “We stand in awe of what

you have accomplished and your commitment, and each of us working in our own way to bring honor to your service and to continue on in your footsteps. Our community will never forget you and we will do everything in our power to support our veterans and to live up to your example.”

The ceremony continued with greetings brought on behalf of Arizona Governor Doug Ducey by Director of Arizona Veterans Services, Wanda Wright, who briefly spoke about the importance of celebrating the military legacy of Ira Hayes and the legacy of all U.S. veterans.

After the event’s dignitaries concluded their speeches, five wreaths were blessed and placed at each of the veterans memorial park’s monuments; the Iwo Jima, Matthew B. Juan, Purple Heart, Women veterans, and P.O.W./M.I.A. monuments.

Photography by Thomas R. Throssell



Veterans participate at the 15th Annual Ira H. Hayes Veterans Social Powwow.



Pee Posh Veterans Association march in the parade.



The Keli Akimel Hua Cudkdam.



Singers perform at the powwow.



St. Peter Indian Mission School students carry the U.S. Flag.



Ira H. Hayes Post 84 perform the 21-Gun Salute at the Veterans Memorial Park.



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone.



Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 leads the parade.



From left, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Graham Murdock, retired Canadian veteran and Tohono O’odham Vice-Chairman Verlon Jose.



Blackwater Community School Color Guard.

# More scenes from the 72nd Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising parade



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Students re-enact the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Father Edward Meulemans is assisted to his seat.

# Over 200 participate in Iwo Jima 8K & 2 Mile Walk

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

In the cold and early morning hours of Feb. 25, before large crowds of

spectators descended upon Sacaton to take part in the 72nd Annual Iwo Jima Flag Raising, over 200 runners and walkers of all ages traveled to the Sacaton

Fairgrounds to participate in the Iwo Jima 8K & 2 Mile Walk.

The run was held to honor and remember World War II veterans and all veterans who have served. One veteran in particular was honored during the run, Ira H. Hayes, who's relative Wayne Michael Allison was on-site with a special piece of family memorabilia, Hayes's military identification tag.

Allison said that he came out to the run to help Community members better understand what the whole event was about, and bringing Hayes's I.D. tag

was a way for people to really connect with the World War II hero.

The event, which was sponsored by Gila River Indian Community's Communications and Public Affairs Office, began with the 8K runners taking off from the Sacaton Fairgrounds and making their way west down Seedfarm Road, shortly followed by the 2-mile walkers and runners.

In the 8K run, Lee Nasewytewa, 15, of District 6, took first place overall with a quick run clocked in at 34:08. Nicole Watson came in second place with

a time just over 38 minutes. Sequoia Lucero, 14, of Snaketown, came in first place overall and Lee

Enos, 17, of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community came in second place.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Nicole Watson came in 1st place for women in the 8K run.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, Sequoia Lucero, 14, came in first overall for the 2 mile run and Lee Nasewytewa, 17, came in 2nd place overall for the 2-mile run.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Lee Nasewytewa, 15, came in 1st place overall for the 8K run with a time of 34.08.

# 120 Sacaton Middle School students graduate from G.R.E.A.T. program

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

Over the past thirteen weeks, Sacaton Middle School (SMS) students learned the importance of making responsible decisions in difficult circumstances and how to navigate the pitfalls of drugs, gangs, and violence through the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program taught by Gila River Police Department School Resource Officers.

On Feb. 23, middle school students of the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades, making up around 120 pupils in total, celebrated their graduation from the program in the school's gymnasium and were treated to slices of cake and pizza.

GRPD SRO James Milano, who taught the program at SMS, said the program is all about teaching youth how to make the right choices in difficult situations.

"The program focuses on making good choices and not letting people dissuade you," he said. "When you do make good choices, you have the world open to you."

He added that even though the students have completed the 13-week program, they will continue to use the knowledge they learned to create a better school campus.

"The idea is that now, they are going to try to improve the school," said Milano. "Report if you see bullying, if you see somebody that is doing gang behavior, try to talk them out of it, if not, tell an adult," he said.

Also in attendance at the SMS G.R.E.A.T. graduation were GRPD Sgt. Manuel, who congratulated the students on their accomplishment, and GRPD Officer Esther Poolaw, who helped hand out generous portions of cake and slices of cheese pizza.

The graduation's special guest speaker was USMC veteran Roland Enos, who congratulated the students on finishing the program. He told students that receiving an education was an effective way to improve one's life.

Enos said in his own life experience, he learned that taking chances, learning new skills, and even leaving home for better opportunities, were all important steps towards a happier life.

"Enjoy your life," said Enos. "Yes, there will be bumps in the road, but learn from them and move forward."

G.R.E.A.T. is a gang and violence prevention program used to teach chil-



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

**SMS students sit during their GRPD G.R.E.A.T. graduation celebration on the morning of Feb. 23.**

dren to stay away from violence, gangs, and delinquency, all-the-while building trust between law enforcement officers and the

community. The program is taught at four schools in the Community, Sacaton Middle School, Sacaton Elementary School,

Gila Crossing Community School, and Blackwater Community School.

The program was created by the Phoenix Police

Department in April of 1991 and due to its effectiveness was adopted nationally when the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-

arms and Explosives agency helped expand the program throughout the United States.



## Pesticide Control Office

### Pest Identification

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	<b>BEDBUG</b>	
	<b>COCKROACH</b>	
	<b>CRICKET</b>	
	<b>MOSQUITO</b>	
	<b>MOUSE</b>	
	<b>SCORPION</b>	
	<b>SPIDER</b>	
	<b>TERMITE</b>	
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## MGR farewell from page 1



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

From left, Miss Gila River Oriana Apkaw, Jr. Miss Gila River Dierdre Copperfield, Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant Lehua Lani Dosela and Jr. Miss Gila River Second Attendant Karissa Mark.

amazing year for all of us. At the beginning of the year I thought I was never going to do this, but after it all, I'm glad I did."

She said the experience has made her a stronger individual and with the support of her mother, it was an even more special reason to run for one of the Jr. Miss.

Apkaw said the loss of

her paternal grandparents last year had a profound impact on her emotions, but she knew it would be better to honor their teachings, by fulfilling her term as Miss Gila River.

Miss Gila River Chairperson, April Crawford said the titles require personal commitment to carry the responsibilities of the crown.

She said the commitment includes being able to immerse oneself in the traditions of the Community, which is a major mainstay.

"The girls can get out of it and they get a lot of exposure to the culture and knowledge of the Community," said Crawford, which includes being able to speak and perform traditional dances or songs in either the O'otham or Pee Posh languages.

The pageant itself is going on 54 years and prides itself on being able to attract young and talented girls from the Community in years past.

This year's contestants for Miss and Jr. Miss are Annissa Garcia and Haili Gonzales, respectively.

Crawford encouraged the members of the audience to consider their daughters, granddaughters, nieces and even goddaughters, to see if they would like to run for one of the titles.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis gave an address to the young ladies and said Apkaw, Copperfield and the attendants epitomized the qualities of cultural awareness, leadership and serve as role models for the next generation of contestants.

He said, "These young ladies reflect the best values of the Community and

what it has to offer, not just for themselves, but for their peers and siblings, who look up to them."

As a token of appreciation Copperfield presented tribal leaders, members of her family and Johnson O'Malley advisor Gene

Manuel with gifts for their guidance and support during her time as Jr. Miss.

Apkaw presented the MGR royalty committee the second place trophy that was awarded to the MGR and Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council entry

at the Tohono O'odham Parade last month.

The afternoon was concluded by the distribution of giveaways, which segued to a special musical performance by Gertie & the T.O. Boyz.

## AmeriCorps office opens at Hu Hu Kam Memorial



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

AmeriCorps Veteran volunteers stand in front of Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital's temporary entrance where their new office is located. From left, Stan Holmes, Ken Madrid, and Wesley Rhodes.

**Leonard Bruce**  
AmeriCorps Program

Greetings from your Gila River AmeriCorps! This year we have a new service site location at the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital. Three of our AmeriCorps members are placed in a new office near the temporary entrance.

Just to get to know your AmeriCorps Members a little better: Wesley Rhodes is a proud Marine Veteran from District 4. He

has been a member of the AmeriCorps program since it began in 2014. Stanson Holmes is also a proud Marine Corps Veteran from District 4 who is just beginning with the AmeriCorps program. Finally, Kenneth Madrid is an Army Veteran with nearly a decade of experience as a Service Officer with the American Legion in Casa Grande.

We will be stationed in the hospital to provide assistance with locating resources, obtaining

DD214's, headstones, and answering questions about becoming service connected with the VA regional and medical centers. We also have a service office there that can answer your questions about benefits and assist you in getting the paperwork done. The office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Service Officer Hours are from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We look forward to seeing you!

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

# SAC CITY THROWDOWN

D3 Skatepark  
Sacaton, AZ  
**FREE EVENT!**

Age Divisions:  
7-10, 11-15, 16-UP!

## Skateboard Competition!

Friday, March 10th 2017

Registration Starts: 3pm  
Contest Starts: 4pm

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

### Veteran & Family Members Coffee Club and Breakfast

March 18, 2017  
8:30AM - 12PM  
District 4 Service Center

- Come share your story
- Voice your concerns
- Meet new faces
- Gather new Veteran's event information
- Share ideas for future events

**For more information contact:**

AmeriCorps Office  
(520) 562-6221  
291 W. Casa Blanca Rd.  
Sacaton, Az 85147

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • February 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 February 15, 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 9:12 a.m.

## INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Carol Schurz

## ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

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. (11:10), Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (9:30), Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Sandra Nasewytewa; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Charles Goldtooth

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

1. GRHC Introduction of Judith Roth, Chief Financial Officer

Presenter: Ginger Fligger

MS. GINGER FLIGGER INTRODUCED MS. JUDITH ROTH. MS. ROTH PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HER BACKGROUND. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR EXPRESSED WORDS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND CONCERNS

## REPORTS

\*1. Family Advocacy Center

Presenter: Sunshine Whitehair

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

\*2. Protective Service Office

Presenters: Curtis Slatina, Sunshine Whitehair

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

\*3. Gila River Indian Irrigation Drainage District (GRID) Annual Report

Presenter: Ronald Allison

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

\*4. Gila River Sand & Gravel Quarterly Report FY-16 Qtr 4

Presenter: Michael H. Morago

REPORT HEARD

5. Gila River AmeriCorps Program Report

Presenters: Leonard Bruce, Lana Chanda, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12:05 P.M.]

6. Judicial Department FY16 Annual Report Update

Presenter: Victor Antone

REPORT HEARD

7. Blackwater Community School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Jagdish Sharma

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

REPORTS #7 THRU #14

8. Casa Blanca Community School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Patricia Avalos

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

9. Gila Crossing Community School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Dr. Gregory Sackos

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

10. Sacaton Elementary School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Leslie Rychel

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

11. St. Peter Indian Mission School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Sister Martha

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

12. Skyline Gila River School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Vaughn Flannigan

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

13. Maricopa Village Christian School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Larisa Quijano

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

14. Sacaton Middle School Quarter 1 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Philip Bonds

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #7

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 1-HOUR LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:08 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. Office Of General Counsel CY 2016 Annual Report (Executive Session)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. Quarterly Treasurer's Report Ending December 31, 2016 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Johns

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. Monthly Financial Activity Report Ending January 31, 2017, FY17 MOD 38 Capital Projects Review & Update-01/31/2017 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Suzanne Johns, Kelly Gomez

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

## RESOLUTIONS

\*1. A Resolution Approving The General Location For Gila River Sand & Gravel Corporation To Develop And Operate A New Sand And Gravel Plant In District One (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, EDSC concurs)

Presenter: Michael H. Morago

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The October 1, 2016 Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Greenberg Traurig, LLP (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving A Sublease Between The Sun Valley Marina Development Corporation And The Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, Inc. (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation

for approval, EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Dale Gutenson, Jason Croxton

APPROVED

## ORDINANCES

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Compact Negotiation (Executive Session)

Presenter: Linus Everling

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 5:38 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO (1) REJECT PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE'S PROPOSAL; (2) REAFFIRMING THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION OPPOSING OFF-RESERVATION GAMING; AND (3) DIRECTING COMMUNITY'S NEGOTIATING TEAM TO ATTEND THE PLENARY SESSION AND MAINTAIN THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies – Subject to the Code of Conduct

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS

2. Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Board of Directors Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies – Subject to the Code of Conduct

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS

3. GRICUA FY16 Audited Financial Statements (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business to accept)

Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold, Adam Cavin

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

4. Housing Concerns

Presenter: Governor Stephen R. Lewis

ITEM DISCUSSED

## MINUTES

1. January 6, 2017 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. January 18, 2017 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

WITH CORRECTION

3. February 3, 2017 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR MR. LOUIE BLACKWATER'S FAMILY

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR MR. HARLAN BOHNEE'S FAMILY

>LITIGATION TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017, 9AM, LAW OFFICE

>G&M REGULAR MEETING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017, 9AM

>IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING EVENT, FEBRUARY 24 & 25, 2017

## ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:29 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

## Flag raisers from page 6

ter named Clinton Whitaker and Emma Cook (née Whitaker) whose descendants attended the evening reception at the HHC.

Kenneth Hayes, Ira's brother, is the only living relative of the Hayes family line from their parents Joe and Nancy. In an especially touching meeting, Kenneth and Rene Jr. met for the first time Feb. 23. For Allison, reuniting the Hayes and Gagnon fami-

lies was a special moment that brought the image of Nancy and Gagnon Sr. full circle.

### More than Heroes

The soldiers on the bond tour were hailed as heroes, but Gagnon Jr. said his father, like Hayes, was uncomfortable with the label and disliked touring the country raising money while fellow soldiers were still fighting in the Pacific.

"My father represented something to an entire na-

tion through a photograph that's going to live forever in the hearts and souls of Marines," said Rene Jr., but to a boy growing up in New Hampshire, Gagnon Sr. wasn't just a national hero, "He was my dad. He taught me how to live, how to love, how to talk, how to work. ... In my eyes, he was the only hero in the world."

He said it took him a while to understand "how he can be a hero to the world, [without] taking anything away from me

and the fact that he was my father."

Likewise, Hayes was more than a figure in a photograph to his family back home on the Gila River reservation. He was a son, a brother, a cousin, and a friend.

Allison said the story of Hayes has helped people from Gila River feel a sense of pride and inspired young men and women to join the Armed Forces.

"I think it was very fortunate for us to have [his story] and to cherish that

and to carry it on," he said.

Every year around Feb. 23, the day the flag was raised atop Mount Iwo Jima, the Gila River Indian Community unites as one family under the memory of Ira Hayes. The people of Gila River come together to uplift one family who lost a son who was a hero to the nation.

Gagnon Jr. was impressed by the Community's commitment to honoring the memory of Ira Hayes and remembering the Iwo Jima Flag Raising.

"I find it amazing that when I come here, Ira has family, friends, relatives that go out of their way annually to remember him," said Gagnon Jr.

Thousands of American sons and daughters have been lost to war, but not many fallen soldiers have an entire community to remember them and honor their memory when they are gone. Hayes does. Gagnon Sr., Shultz, Strank, Sausley and Block are a part of that legacy.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

**Gila River Police Department Officer Rochelle Rodriguez presents to students at Gila Crossing.**

## CIVIL SUMMONS

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT STATE OF ARIZONA IN THE MATTER OF: MELVIN SEKAYOUMA TO: CANDACE SEKAYOUMA CASE Number: PB-2016-0008-DE 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 the following date and time at the place set forth below: Sacaton Community Court 721 West Seed Farm Road Sacaton, Arizona 85147 (520)562-9860 DATE: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Time: 09:30 AM 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.

## Kaity's Way from page 3

She wants the students to understand that victims are not to blame and that there is hope in getting out of an abusive relationship by speaking out about it.

The purpose of the presentation is not to scare the students away from relationships or to give them the impression that every relationship has the potential to become abusive.

The message is that abuse is not part of a healthy relationship and they have the ability to stop it from happening.

A video was played

reenacting Kaity's relationship with Daniel and the events that escalated into a violent situation.

The students then broke up into groups to share ideas about abuse and what they can do to stop a similar situation from happening.

They then shared their answers with rest of the groups stating how they would address an abusive relationship.

One of the responses was to speak up about it and talk to an adult, as well as having a direct line of

communication on how a relationship is going.

Another response was to listen to the victim and hear them out before passing judgment or blaming them for being abused.

Sudberry said that blaming the victim is the least effective way someone can help them out, because it creates the idea that the victim has somehow done something wrong to deserve being abused.

She said for those who are exposed to violence, if it is at home or elsewhere, the cycle of abuse is a pattern that can be broken.

## LAVEEN MAN SENTENCED FOR ASSAULT RESULTING IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

PHOENIX – On Feb. 21, 2017, James Flippen Lewis, 28, of Laveen, Ariz., and a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Neil V. Wake to 84 months in prison, followed by a term of three years of supervised release. Lewis had previously pleaded

guilty to three counts of assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

During 2013, 2014, and 2015, within the Gila River Indian Community, Lewis assaulted three different female victims causing them to sustain serious bodily injuries. All three victims were members of the Gila River Indian

Community.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Christina J. Reid-Moore, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

## NOTICE of PUBLIC SCOPING

Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Gila River Sand & Gravel Blackwater Mine in District 1 of the Gila River Indian Community

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Pima Agency (Agency) and the Gila River Indian Community (Community) are releasing this notice in support of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed

Gila River Sand & Gravel (GRSG) Blackwater Mine in District 1 of the Community. This project would be a new sand and gravel mining operation, on approximately 426 acres of Community lands that would support growth in adjacent communities and provide employment opportunities for up to 28 years.

### Project Description

The proposed project would be a new sand and gravel mining operation on Community lands approximately 1.5 miles north of Coolidge, Arizona (Figure 1). The project would construct processing plants at two locations above the active Gila River floodplain; one (Site A) would produce crushed material for aggregate base and also include a "wet plant"; the other plant location (Site B) would produce ready-mix concrete. The master lease area would be approximately 426 acres, including 273 acres set aside for mining and 74 acres for materials processing. Other land uses would include access routes and buffer areas. No work would be planned in the low flow channel of the Gila River. Maximum exca-

vation depths are expected to be 40 feet.

Primary site access would be via Kenworthy Road, with secondary truck access and associated road and bridge improvements on Chin Road.

Project operations are expected to acquire water from nearby wells operated by Gila River Irrigation District (GRID) or develop new groundwater wells as needed.

Primary site access is anticipated to be along Kenworthy Road to reduce potential impacts to members of the Community. A truck access and necessary improvements would also be made to Chin road and the Gila River Bridge.

Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer or Fall of 2017, and would be expected to last approximately 90 days. Future phases of development would include construction of the wet plant at Plant Site A and construction of the ready-mix concrete facility at Plant Site B, when they become economically feasible.

Over the 25-year life of the mine, some areas would be abandoned as they are "mined-out." These areas would be reclaimed incrementally over time as they become available. Reclamation activities would consist of establishing a permanent low flow channel; stabilization and reconfiguration of abandoned pits; removal of roads, berms, and equipment; revegetation and riparian/wetland enhancement.

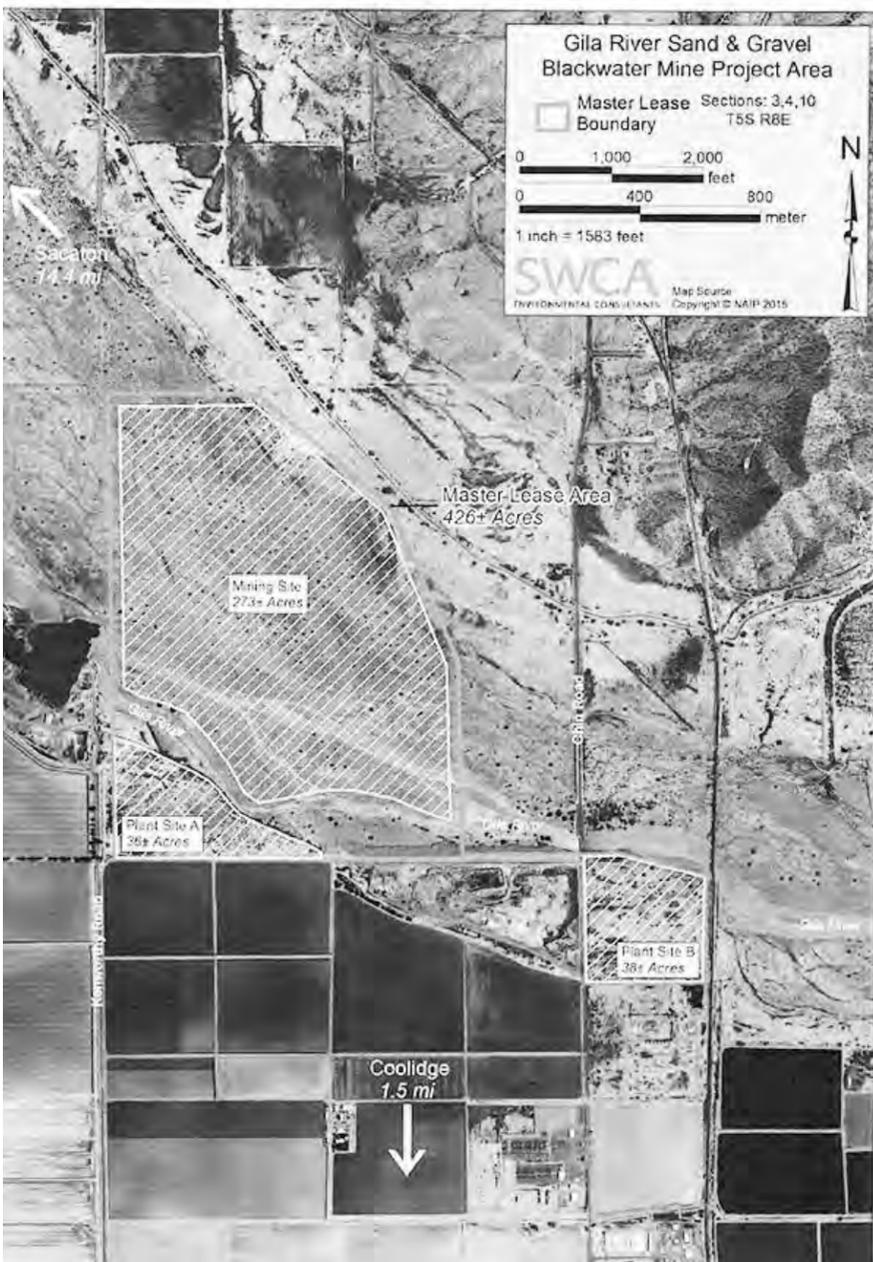
Construction of a new mining facility on Community lands administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is considered a federal ac-

tion, and as such would be subject to the National Environmental Policy Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a new sand and gravel extraction operation within the Gila River floodplain. The proposed project is needed to meet the existing and expected future demand in sand and gravel products due to the growth in the nearby communities of Florence, Coolidge, and Apache Junction.

### Scoping Period

As part of NEPA, federal agencies are required to consider the potential social and environmental impacts of proposed actions. This letter serves as the BIA's invitation to your agency to submit comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed action. All comments received become part of the public record associated with this proposed action. Accordingly, your comments (including name and address) will be available for review by any person that wishes to view the record. At your request, we will withhold your name and address to the extent allowed by the Freedom of Information Act or any other law. Please submit your comments by April 3, 2017, by mail or fax to: Cecilia Martinez-Baker, Superintendent Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85147 Telephone: (520) 562-3326 Fax: (520) 562-3543 Thank you for your interest in this project.





## 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](http://www.gilarivertel.com) • fax (520)796-7534

# Interested in taking a trip to Washington DC?



GRTI wants to send two Gila River member youth to Washington, D.C. for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour. To apply contact Melanya Pasqual at 520-796-8808.

### FRS Youth Tour 2017

June 3–7 Washington, D.C.

Deadline to register is Thursday, March 16, 2017

#### Requirements

- Must be 16 or 17 years of age
- Provide two personal references (i.e. teacher, counselor)
- Submit an essay related to the telecommunications industry
- Must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
  - Submit a biography
  - Must submit a current photo



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 Learn more at [www.gilarivertel.com/FTTH](http://www.gilarivertel.com/FTTH)

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# FIVE TRIBES TREATY OF PEACE

SATURDAY, APRIL 08, 2017



**Multi Purpose Building & Park**  
Gila River Indian Community  
District 7  
8035 S. 83rd Avenue  
Laveen AZ 85339  
(83rd Avenue, South of Baseline Rd.)

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

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