



THE GRIN



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APRIL 1, 2021

GRIC Members Receive Booster Shot at COVID-19 Vaccination Event

We are in a race to save lives, every shot in the arm saves lives.” - Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis



Cars line-up at the large vaccination event for Community members and Gila River Casino employees, who came out to receive their second COVID-19 vaccination. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis addresses health care workers and volunteers on Mar. 20. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community members and employees of the Gila River Hotels & Casinos received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination on Mar. 20 at the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park. The event marked the third large-scale vaccination event organized by the Community at the venue in the past two months.

“We are a model for the country, what we are doing [here],” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis on the Community’s ability to

coordinate the mass vaccination events. “It’s important not to let our guard down. We are getting shots in the arm and vaccinated, which is good, but we need more Community members who have not gotten vaccinated to do so. We are in a race to save lives, every shot in the arm saves lives.”

Lewis said that as more Community members get vaccinated, “We will get closer and closer to ‘Community Immunity’ which will lead us out of the pandemic.” Gov. Lewis commended the Community’s

partners for their help in the coordinating the events, saying the vaccination program would not be possible without the help of first responders, volunteers, state and federal partners including the Arizona National Guard, the Biden Administration, the Indian Health Service, and the Arizona Congressional delegation.

The roll-out of the vaccination has been well received by many Community members, who appreciate GRIC’s efforts to get the vaccine out to its members.

“It’s good to know the

Community is doing [this] for us,” said District 1 member Audrey Evans, who cares for elders.

District 6 member Kristal Zelenak also received a vaccination at the March 20th event. “I’m getting the vaccine to stay safe, for my family and especially my mother.”

At first Zelenak was hesitant to get the vaccine, but after careful research and trusting the information of local health officials, she chose to get vaccinated.

She urged Community members who may still be hesitant

about the COVID-19 vaccine to do their research. “Look into the vaccine,” said Zelenak, “trust the healthcare professionals with what they are saying and do your homework.”

Dr. Antony Santiago, the Chief Executive Officer of Gila River Healthcare (GRHC) said the Community largely has been receptive to the COVID-19 vaccine. Santiago assured the Community that the vaccine is completely safe.

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Sesame Street and the Community Team Up to Host Virtual Summit



Special guests from Sesame Street joined Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Gila River Royalty, during a virtual session on resiliency. Gila River Broadcasting Corp.

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Saturday, Mar. 27, the Public Broadcasting Service of Arizona aired the Sesame Street in Communities Virtual Summit, highlighting the Community. The theme for the summit was “Building Resilient Kids,” featuring programming

that addressed this and critical insights for teachers, parents, and caregivers for children.

Addressing the theme, Governor Stephen Roe Lewis said, “Resiliency is one of the characteristics hallmarking the experience and survival of our people, the Akimel O’otham and Pee-Posh.” Gov. Lewis further

stated, “During challenging times in our history, we have adjusted, adapted, and maintained our Community values and come up with solutions that carried us forward while we remained anchored to our past.”

Miss Gila River Alysse Marrietta hosted the summit along with numerous on-air cameos from Jr. Miss Gila

River Sineca Jackson, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, in addition to everyone’s favorite Sesame Street characters.

Isaac Salcido, Director of Tribal Education Department, worked with GRIC Executive Office, CPAO, Arizona PBS, and Arizona State University to plan the summit. In January, Mr. Salcido learned that GRIC was one of twenty sites chosen for the Sesame Street in Communities project this year.

Salcido said, “We are proud of the departments that came together and represented the Community to put everything together.” Salcido also mentioned that he found the “Bounce Back” song performance the most entertaining. Gov. Lewis, Miss Gila River Alysse Marrietta, Jr., Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson, and Sesame Street characters Rosita, Karli, Elmo, and Alan all performed the song together.

Kimberly Flack, Director, Education & Community Impact at Arizona PBS, helped designate GRIC as a site. She said, “Gila River has such a rich Community, culture, and unique broadcast

opportunity. So, we wanted to highlight the Community, its resources, and share Sesame Street resources with the Community too.”

As part of this effort, Arizona PBS and Sesame Street will be providing professional development resources to teachers working in Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care, and Preschools throughout the Community. These resources are also available for parents/guardians. Additionally, they will also provide 1,000 books to local schools, preschools through Kindergarten, including backpacks and other materials.

The Sesame Street in Communities was made possible by The GRIC Executive Office, Communications and Public Affairs Office, GRIC Tribal Education Department, Gila River Broadcasting Corporation, Arizona State University, and Arizona PBS. Readers who would like to watch the summit can do so through Facebook on the Gila River Broadcasting Corporation page.

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Community Youth Shines on the Basketball Court.

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NEW COVID VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

16 YEARS AND OLDER

Eligible 16 and 17 year olds can now receive the Pfizer vaccine with the consent of a parent or guardian.



All tribal enrolled members of the GRIC and Ak-Chin communities, 16 years old and older, and residents of their households are eligible for the vaccine. This includes GRIC and Ak-Chin tribal enrolled urban members and residents of their household.

As of, March 29, 2021. Appointments ONLY at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital and Komatke Health Center Primary Care Department

- Eligible 16 and 17 year olds can now receive the Pfizer vaccine with the consent of a parent or guardian.

Please provide proof of tribal membership or residency i.e. mail with name and address indicated.

- Coming soon! Look for additional Pfizer vaccine clinics in the Community.

For more information, call the COVID-19 Hotline at (520) 550-6079 or visit [GRHC.ORG/VaccineEligibility](https://www.grhc.org/VaccineEligibility)



Schedule an Appointment:

- During hours of Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, call the Covid-19 Hotline to schedule an appointment at: (520) 550-6079 and press Option 1 for the vaccine scheduling team to make appointment.
- Patients can also contact the Vaccine Scheduling Line at 602-528-1482 (Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm).
- During afterhours and weekend call: Covid-19 Hotline to leave message with Hotline staff requesting a call back for vaccine appointment.
- Patients/parents may also email: C19schedulingbox@grhc.org to request appointment and one of the schedulers will call back.



FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT CORONAVIRUS, GO TO [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://www.grhc.org/hub) OR CALL THE GRHC CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079

What is a SANE or Forensic Nurse?

SANE stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. This title is a little deceiving, as SANE's also do medical forensic exams for victims of domestic or interpersonal violence, strangulation, abuse, neglect, and trafficking, as well as suspect exams. Our SANE team does acute as well as delayed disclosure medical forensic exams. Even if it has been several years, we still want to see all victims!

We also provide services for adults who do not want law enforcement involved. We have many options available to help victims of these crimes even if they don't want to make a formal report. We can provide an exam, STI prophylaxis. The exception to this obviously, is any case that would be a mandatory report. (Minors, children.)

Potential Indicators of Sexual Abuse

Physical indications:

- Sleep disturbances
- Bedwetting
- Pain or irritation in genital area
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Difficulty urinating
- Pregnancy
- Positive testing for sexually transmitted infection or HIV
- Excessive or injurious masturbation
- Excessive fear of being touched
- Refusal to go to a certain place or be with a certain person
- Clinging, whining
- Increase in physical complaints
- Excessive bathing
- Reluctance to undress for physical education classes

A SANE or Forensic Nurse is a Registered Nurse who is specially trained to provide comprehensive care to victims of trauma / violence and who demonstrates competency in performing a medical forensic exam. A SANE/Forensic Nurse is specifically trained to identify and document injuries caused by trauma. A SANE has knowledge of the neurobiology of trauma – basically the effects of trauma on the brain. This allows the SANE to provide quality trauma informed care for each patient.

In order to become a forensic nurse, an RN must complete a 40 hour didactic course and be signed off on a preceptorship to do medical forensic exams. This process must be done for the adult/adolescent population, and again for pediatrics.

To become certified, the Forensic Nurse Examiner must complete 300 hours of practice (for adult/adolescent and again for pediatric) to sit for the exam. Once they have passed one or both exams, they can use the credentials SANE-A and/or SANE-P.

Behavioral indications:

- Sexually promiscuous, or inappropriate sexual behavior
- Developmental age-inappropriate sexual play and/or drawings
- Fear of being alone
- Regression to more infantile behavior such as wetting, thumb-sucking, fecal soiling
- Change in appetite, eating disorders
- Cruelty to others
- Cruelty to animals
- Acting out and attention getting behavior such as shoplifting, stealing, fire setting
- Anxious
- Withdrawn, isolation from peers – or other changes in behavior
- Grades in school may drop, difficulty concentrating & learning
- Alcohol / drug abuse
- Attraction to older men or dislike of men
- Chronic running away
- Poor self-image – reflected in dress, cleanliness, appearance
- Depression, physical self-abuse, suicide attempts / threats



For more information, please contact us at: SANE Clinic at 520-562-5151 or email sane@grhc.org

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449



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Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Monica Antone

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Joey Whitman

District 2
Carol Schurz

District 3
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High School Basketball Player Shines on the Court in 6A State Championship Playoffs while Promoting an Importance Cause

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

One of the players at the heart of Hamilton High School's terrific 2021 girls' basketball season is senior guard Haili Trevino Gonzales, who helped the Huskies make it to the AIA 6A State Championship final game this year. The Huskies lost to Valley Vista 49-41 on Mar. 20.

Gonzales, who resides in District 3, has been actively involved in the Community through sports for years. She also served as Jr. Miss Gila River in 2017-2018 and has been part of the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council for the past four years.

Gonzales began competing in sports while attending elementary school. As a softball player and a coed basketball player, she moved on to playing for teams outside the Community during high school. Gonzales played in the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) tournament during her freshman and sophomore years of high school while playing with a team from the Ak-Chin Indian Community because GRIC did not have a girls team.

"I just had to represent the girls from Gila River," said Gonzales. "I was just blessed Ak-Chin gave me the opportunity to play with them."

During her senior year with the Hamilton Huskies, some of the team's practice time was instead spent in a "basketball class" due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team's head coach, Trevor Neider, organized the class as a chance for the team to meet and discuss topics and issues they'd like to share, giving them time to bond. Gonzales helped to initiate topics such as Missing



Haili Gonzales wears a traditional Akimel O'otham dress, which has been her way of expressing the culture among her teammates. Photo courtesy Haili Gonzales

and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), creating team shirts that helped raise awareness on the issue. Other topics included self-confidence and mental health.

According to a Sports360AZ article on Gonzales and the Lady Huskies team, she actively promotes the MMIW movement by wearing a t-shirt, with symbols that represents the plight of indigenous women, who fall victim to violence.

The Huskies, ranked Number One in the state, finished the season with a record of 19-1. The lone loss came in the state finals against Valley Vista High School.. It was the second time in two years the two teams competed against each other for the state championship.

Gonzales is working to obtain her pharmacy technician certificate with the state before graduation. She said she plans to pursue her education in biology of medicine before returning to work for the Community as a Pharmacist.

In reverting back to her advocacy for MMIW Gonzales



Lady Huskies Gaurd Haili Gonzales prepares to shoot a freethrow during a regular season girls basketball teams game. Photo courtesy of Robert Knox

said, "When we're on the court not only do we play for ourselves but we play for everyone out there, we play for the girls who can't play, we play for these movements to show awareness for them," in the article posted by Sports360AZ.

MMIW is a topic Gonzales feels passionate about and was one of her platforms during her reign as Jr. Miss Gila River, to advocate for awareness on violence against indigenous women and children.

At right, Gonzales plays in a game against Liberty High School from Peoria, where they won 65-19 on Feb. 16 of this year. Photo courtesy of Robert Knox.





Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

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Current GRTI Lobby Guidelines

We are taking all of the necessary precautions when you visit the GRTI lobby. Our customer service representatives will be following all safety protocols including wearing masks and gloves during business hours.

- Maximum lobby capacity - 6 people at a time.
- Only 2 people per account may enter.
- Facial masks are required at all times.
- Restrooms are unavailable to the public.
- Each station will be disinfected after every customer interaction.

Don't forget, for convenience and to promote social distancing you can still pay your bill over the phone, on-line or mail drop.

A'AGA

Something to be told or talked about

By Billy Allen

It's now over a year since the pandemic changed life. Most of us follow advice from health professionals and orders of tribal leadership. Our GRIC government assisted with provisions and took steps to try and protect the community. March 2021 came and went without the Mul-Chu-Tha, disappointing many Native runners. As a former runner who has run urban byways, canal banks, and the dusty roads of our community, I sympathize. March was National Women's History Month, so I asked five women runners—like a cross country team—to share thoughts about running.

Pain can be constant while running. The body feels it cannot go on; the mind seeks reasons to stop. Carolyn Thompson described when she pushed through such a moment. "Come on, Gila River, you can do this! I am bewildered, I hear ladies talking—Gila River ladies. All of us O'odham women sure got to the top of that Hopi mesa! It was great! We all laughed about the climb because all we know is running on flat ground, none of us could

have imagined we would be rock climbing that day." She goes on to credit her husband for keeping them motivated. "We trained and over the next couple of years, we got better and better. Overall, I have trained and completed 11 half marathons to date. I had an ACL reconstruction in 2000, and I could have easily used this past injury as my excuse not to get started at all. But I had several good trainers who helped me understand that strength training and strong legs would help me avoid injury and keep me active in my "older" age. I was excited to hear that I am considered a "runner. I am grateful to be considered a part of the running Community."

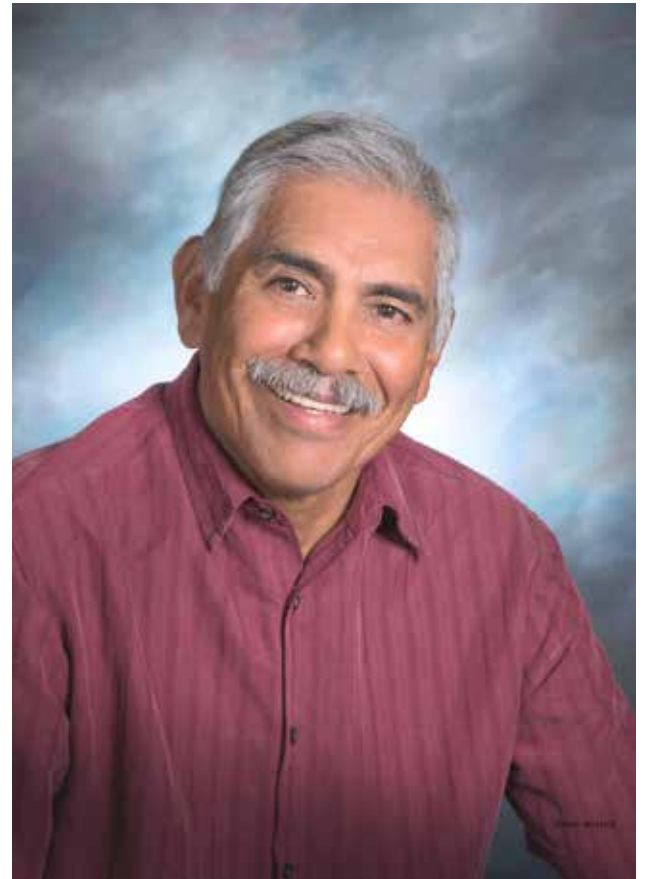
Raina "Burrito" Lewis was another contributor. "I started running with my brother in 2015 and have been walking/jogging/running since. Dirt is the preferred surface; paved roads can be hard on my knees and feet. Diabetes has affected my family and running has me stay active and fit, thankfully I am not diabetic. Motivation comes from my children. I try to lead by example for I want

to be around to be a grandma. It is always comforting to see familiar faces at the starting line." Similar to what Carolyn went through, Burrito was just about to stop during a race but "from outta nowhere," a runner interlocked her arm and pulled her to keep on running. A sisterhood was born. "The support given by the many runners I have met throughout the years really helps."

Running can provide a type of strength beyond the physical. Raquel Romero contributed her thoughts: "I fell in love with running when I started to run to rediscover who I was. Running has given meaning, depth and a feeling of being a part of something greater, making me grateful. The most supportive people are other female runners. I work with a few runners and we always talk about upcoming races, getting together for prayer runs, along with our fears, accomplishments, and memories when it comes to our training. I used to run before sunrise, so no one would see me." Her advice to those thinking about it: "Just start! No distance is too small. No pace is too slow. Do what your body allows and

be patient, because running is a life-long journey." Hopefully you may feel "the jeved supporting you." Completing a half-marathon was indescribable. "I am a runner—confident, but still in disbelief how far I had come in just a few years."

"I started running in high school, one mile from our house and back." These are the words of Danielle Mercado. "But I did not become consistent until my 30s. Running is medicine for me. It's healing, it's life, and it's prayer all in one for me. If I'm upset, I can run it out. If I'm happy, I can run and be lifted higher. It is definitely mental, spiritual, and physical. It centers me. When I lace up, I am accountable to myself. I think it is super cool when I get random phone calls and messages from people who saw me running. My family has been very supportive ... friends will send music to add to my playlist as I train. I love running with their energy, love, and spirit. I carry them with me. I run in the city which has a different energy and vibe—I can come up on and pass other runners! Just start. It will not be easy or perfect, but lace up and go.



Have fun!"

Samantha Tashquinth echoed some of the previous comments. "Running is a part of our himdag on the Gila River Indian Community. I run using physical movement as a prayer and a voice for strength and healing. In this physical sacrifice, I also like to think I am helping my family and community towards a healthier way of life. I also want to be a healthy mother for my daughters. I run the same land of my ancestors as an act of prayer. Running goes beyond time, people ran in the past, people run today, and someone will be running tomorrow. S-apu."

I appreciate the five runners who shared their experiences with me, and now you, GRIN readers. An Olympic marathoner of the 60s and 70s, Ron Hill, offered this: "Get going ... walk if you have to, but finish the damned race." It has an O'odham ring to it, which this O'odham coach would have worn out. Can't wait to hear "Do: vai! / Go" at the starting line.

Whether you go out solo or in a group, you and that shadow keeping pace are probably running in footprints left by our ancestors. As sung by Neil Young, "Long may you run."

New Training Simulation System at GRPD Makes for Service Improvements



GRPD Sgt. Perez takes part in a training simulation where she confronts an armed suspect. These simulations help officers in developing appropriate reaction skills during these types of incidents. Kyle Knox/GRIN



GRPD officers discuss a practice scenario using the Virtra training system. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

After years of use, The Gila River Police Department has seen countless benefits of their new training system, Virtra. Virtra is an innovative simulation training system for GRPD Police and Rangers. Virtra has numerous applications for

local law enforcement and is used regularly by GRPD since acquiring the system.

Located in Tempe Ariz., Virtra provides a realistic approach to scenarios they may encounter while on patrol. In return, officers are better equipped to react in situations where deescalating the incident can make the difference in

outcomes.

Ricardo Alvarado, GRPD Public Information Officer, said, "The goal of using Virtra is to provide the ability for officers to become better aware of their surroundings, interact with scenarios in real-time, practice de-escalation strategies and reduce the need for a 'use of force'

encounter."

The Virtra system is both software and hardware and creates "real world" environments and scenarios for GRPD to train. The system has many officer benefits, such as improving marksmanship, practicing de-escalation strategies, and using verbal commands. Officers must use all tactics

at their disposal in training while training officers program scenario outcomes.

Virtra technology provides an inclusive setting, that uses a 300-degree projector system. Moreover, officers and rangers enter armed with a gas blowback pistol. These pistols include a laser tracker so that every shot fired can be traced and will show whether the use of force was safe and if the officer hit the intended target.

Training officers observe and debrief after every scenario with officers to walk-thru their performance, provide critiques, and replay the scenario with officers to show where improvements

are needed.

With this technology readily available, officers like GRPD Sergeant Perez understand the benefits of having the system in place. Sergeant Perez said, "I am proud that our community is moving towards an improved virtual direction for officer training."

With such a local system in place, more officers can train effectively and minimize travel and time away from work at other facilities. Also, the Virtra allows for officers to prepare and test for required training certifications.

Native American Connections Opens New Wellness Center and Housing Units

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Native American families and veterans in need of help have two new options for assistance after Native American Connections held its grand opening ceremony to the public on March 24th. The grassroots organization opened its newly completed Patina Mountain Preserve Wellness Center and its Dunlap Pointe Housing Community, both located in North Phoenix.

The sprawling facility, a multi-year project, included financial backing from the Gila River Indian Community, which contributed \$500,000 to fund part of the construction through the Community's state shared gaming revenue. Additional backing came from the City of Phoenix and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

"One of the keys to supporting the health and wellness of Gila River community members is addressing mental health and substance use issues," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. "The Patina Mountain Preserve Wellness Center



Native American Connections recently opened the Patina Mountain Preserve Wellness Center and Dunlap Pointe Housing Community in North Phoenix on Mar. 24. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

incorporates traditional Native healing ceremonies with best practices for promoting good health. This is important work, and we are proud to support this project."

NAC President and CEO Diana Yazzie Devine said the new facility is much needed at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many Native families and individuals facing homelessness and substance abuse. "We really have to understand how important it is to have a safe place to live and also for people recover from their substance abuse," said Yazzie Devine

The wellness center has 48 beds for individuals,

including accommodations for traditional ceremonial and healing practices. Across from the wellness center is a 54-unit housing area dedicated to homeless veterans, who will have access to Veterans Administration case managers and services during their stays.

"With this new campus, Native American Connections is providing critical support to mitigate housing and mental health issues, while helping the City of Phoenix reach its goal to reduce homelessness by providing affordable housing and treatment resources," said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego.



NAC opened a new 54 unit housing unit for homeless veterans and individuals, which is adjacent to the Petina Mountain Preserve wellness center in Northern Phoenix. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



The Patina Mountain Wellness Center as a large talking circle room, where clients can meet during a treatment session. Other amenities located within the wellness center include art rooms, a recreation center and counseling rooms. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Press Release

Native Seeds/SEARCH

For immediate release:

With Spring and Summer plantings right around the corner, Tucson based non-profit Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S) is working to better spread the word about their seed programs so that more Native gardeners and

farmers may access seeds that are traditional to their own and neighboring communities. Seeds can be obtained through the NS/S website nativeseeds.org/getseeds, or by phone 520-622-0830 xt113, through the following programs:

Native American Seed Request: Indigenous individuals and families in the region can receive up to

10 free seed packets of their choice per year.

Partner Farmer Program: Experienced farmers can access larger quantities by agreeing to return a small portion of their harvest to NS/S to help maintain seed stocks while increasing the food and seed available to themselves and their communities. We are

also interested in paying experienced Native farmers to grow out larger quantities to increase seed stocks.

Community Seed Grant: schools, senior centers and other community-focused organizations can receive 30 seed packets of their choosing for community gardens; requests for seeds can be made twice per year

Information about all programs is online at nativeseeds.org/getseeds.

For those interested in NASR and without internet access, you can request a catalog and/or place an order by calling (520) 622-0830 xt.113

For those interested in PFP and without internet access, call 520-622-0830 xt115

We are honored to be stewarding the seeds in the NS/S Seed Bank, some of which come from your community. We hope to be of service by making seeds more available to those in your community who need them. We appreciate your help in spreading the word!

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for the air quality operating permits for the following facilities: Kaiser Aluminum-Alexco and Kaiser Aluminum-Chandler. Both facilities perform aluminum extrusion and are located in the Lone Butte Industrial Park in District 4.

Air Contaminants Emitted: Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Oxides (SOx), Particulate Matter (PM), Particulate Matter <10 Microns (PM10), and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

Public Notice Start Date: **April 3, 2021**
Public Notice End Date: **May 3, 2021**

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

Any person may submit a written comment or a request to the DEQ to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving oral or written comments on the proposed air quality operating permits. Such comments and requests shall be received by the DEQ within 30 days of the date of the first publication notice. A written comment shall state the name and mailing address of the person, shall be signed by the person, his agent or his attorney and shall clearly set forth reasons why the permit should or should not be issued. Grounds for comment are limited to whether the proposed permit meets the criteria for issuance prescribed in the GRIC Code: Title 17, Chapter 9 of the Air Quality Management Plan. Only persons who submit written comments may appeal a permit decision.

Copies of the permit application, the proposed permit, and relevant background material will be available for review on the AQP website at:

<http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/education--outreach/public-notice>.

Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to:

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Ryan Eberle
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147

For further information or to schedule an in-person review, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520) 796-3781 / ryan.eberle@gric.nsn.us.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
DISTRICT 2 PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF GRIC!

We want to hear from you!

What: District 2 Community Visioning Meeting
When: 9:00 - 11:00 AM
 Saturday April 10, 2021
Where: Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84416531354>)
 or dial in at 929-205-6099
Why: Your participation matters. Land use is changing, and the Community is getting more impacted by outside development pressures.
Help us strategize the best uses for the Community's land and your future.

What will happen?
 Review current status of land uses in the Community, identify planning considerations for future land uses, and develop a future vision for the Community Land Use Plan. **Raffle drawings will occur during the event!**

JOIN US:
 Join the Meeting online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84416531354>
 OR
 Dial In at (1) 929-205-6099 (Meeting ID 844 1653 1354)
 For more info please visit:
<http://www.mygilariver.com/index.php/gila-river-indian-community-land-use-plan>

From the front page

“Right now, we all need to be vaccinated to get past this critical moment,” said Santiago. “We need people [now] to do their part, because not only does the vaccine save your life, but also someone else. (By getting the vaccine), you lessen the risk of transmitting it to someone else. That’s what gets us to community immunity.”

Santiago described GRHC’s efforts of getting more Community members vaccinated as “critically important.” Governor Lewis explained how efforts are underway to acquire mobile vaccination units that will allow vaccines to be taken out into the Community. Lewis said “If the people



Gov. Lewis greets Community members, who came out to get their booster shot at the COVID-19 vaccination event on Mar. 20. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

can’t come out to receive the vaccines, we will bring the vaccines to the people.”

Santiago added, “Ultimately, we will go door-to-door for those Community members that are homebound, even out into the district communities themselves with mobile units to administer the vaccines.”

Candalerian Preston, Director of the Tribal Health Department, said that while COVID-19 cases are on the downswing in the Community, they are still occurring. Preston also described the vaccine as an important step for all Community members. Current eligibility guidelines

have opened the vaccine to Community members and their spouse, including the spouse of an enrolled member who lives off the Community. Eligibility also extends to Ak-Chin Indian Community members who reside on and off of their community, spouses and members of the household who are age 18 years and older.

Preston said the updates are all part of the Community’s effort to reach herd immunity and to save lives.

“It is important for adults to come out and get vaccinated,” said Preston. “Especially 20-to-44-year-old individuals, who are most effected by the virus. (They should) come out and



A member of the Arizona National Guard administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a Community on Mar. 20. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

get vaccinated, not only for them, but for their families and children.”

With the recent changes in eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine, youth 16 and 17 year olds can now receive the Pfizer vaccine with permission from their parent or guardian. Parents and guardians can contact

GRHC COVID Hotline at 520-550-6079, or schedule an appointment at 520-550-1482 between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm.

Appointments are only being taken at the Huhukam Memorial Hospital and Komtake Health Center Primary Care Departments.

AOPPYC Goes Virtual with Annual Event that Focuses on Tribal Government and History

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

On Mar. 27, the Akimel O’odham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC) hosted its annual “Close Up” event, staging it online for the first time. Normally, Close Up – which educates young GRIC members about the inner workings of the Community – happens in person for three days during Spring Break. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Close Up was canceled, so the AOPPYC was excited to see its return in a one-day virtual session this year.

“[Our youth] need to know what their Constitution is and how it affects them on a daily basis,” said Michael Preston, the Community’s Youth Council Coordinator.

“The youth need to know how powerful their involvement is and how it extends further than a vote every three years.”

Preston facilitates Close Up along with guest speakers and members of the GRIC Community Council. Preston sees Close Up as a means of deepening the youth’s knowledge of the Community to serve as leaders in the future.

The curriculum provides an in-depth look at establishing the Community’s government as a sovereign nation, including forming its “reservation” land base and Community court system. During the presentation, youth demonstrate what they know about their Community.

Many leave with an improved understanding, as evidenced by an assessment at the end.

First-time participant Jada Young said she learned a great deal during the session. “It is so important to at least have a basic understanding of how our government works while also educating yourself about our history,” said Young. “Close Up was so useful and helpful, and it deepened my own understanding of every concept we were taught, and it made me smarter.”

Clarice Johnson described the lesson on the history of the Water Rights Settlement Act of 2004 as especially interesting. “Close Up is important because we take in new information



AOPPYC take part in the annual Close-up workshop, which was held veritually for participants this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

and review information we already know and still learn more,” said Johnson. “And even if you know the information, it helps you remember and keeps it fresh inside your head.”

All Close Up participants complete a pre and post-assessment

analysis to gauge the amount of information they acquire through the program. All participants regularly show comprehensive improvement on their post-assessment thus indicating the success of the program.

“I was so surprised to see how much my

knowledge increased in just a short amount of time,” said Jada Young. “At the end of the session, I got a 20 out of 20 on my test.”

CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL
FACE Program Still Holding Enrollment
Totally Virtual

Home Base Services are looking for new families from Prenatal to 3 yrs old. Parent Educators have weekly virtual classes teaching positive Parenting and educating families in Employment & Family Goals. There are Monthly Family Circles with Guest Speakers.

Center Base Services have Preschool for ages 3 – 5 yrs old with Parent preparing students for Kindergarten. Virtual classes are weekly Monday thru Thursday, based on family schedule from 8 – 11 AM.

Adult Education Services provide Adult Parents with Penn Foster High School courses and Career readiness. Other additional classes are provided like Beading, Sewing, Gardening & Art Classes.

Phone: (520) 315-3489
Address: 3455 W. Casa Blanca Rd.
Team – Kim Franklin, Principal/Coordinator
Pamela Ahmsaty, Parent Educator
Elizabeth Young, Parent Educator
Pearlene Wilson, Adult Education
Harrietta Boy, Early Childhood Teacher

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
 DISTRICT 3 PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF GRIC!

We want to hear from you!

What: District 3 Community Visioning Meeting
When: 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 Saturday April 10, 2021
Where: Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88342847038>) or dial in at 929-205-6099
Why: Your participation matters. Land use is changing, and the Community is getting more impacted by outside development pressures. **Help us strategize the best uses for the Community's land and your future.**

What will happen?
 Review current status of land uses in the Community, identify planning considerations for future land uses, and develop a future vision for the Community Land Use Plan. **Raffle drawings will occur during the event!**

JOIN US:
 Join the Meeting online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88342847038>
 OR
 Dial In at (1) 929-205-6099 (Meeting ID 883 4284 7038)
 For more info please visit:
<http://www.mygilariver.com/index.php/gila-river-indian-community-land-use-plan>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 17, 2021

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, March 17, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:04 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Carol Schurz

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll
Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1-Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4-Vacant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

REPORT #1

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2, #3, AND #5; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #3 AND #5, UNFINISHED BUSINESS #3, NEW BUSINESS #1 AND #2; AND DISPENSE NEW BUSINESS #6

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

REPORTS

>1. Gila Crossing Community School – School Protection Prog. Final Report SY 2020-2021

Presenter: Jim Mosley

ITEM TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Casino Expansion Owner's Team Project Update

Presenters: Dale Gutenson; Barney Enos, Jr.

ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Blackwater Community School Expenses Report for CARES Act Funding from GRIC

Presenters: Jagdish Sharma; Wendell Joe

ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. COVID-19 Update

Presenters: Bruce Harvey; Candalerian Preston; Laurie Thomas; Roberto Jackson; Chief Timothy Chavez; Dr. Anthony Santiago

REPORT HEARD

>5. GRSG FY 2020 Annual Report

Presenter: Michael H. Morago; Donna Stowell; Darin White

ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. FY21 Monthly Activity Report ending January 31, 2021 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving An Amendment To The Fleet Management Services Section V. Vehicle And Equipment Acquisition And Disposal Procedure, G. Executive Vehicle Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Javier Ramos

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-166-

19 Regarding Establishing A Housing Owner's Team And Approving Bylaws (G&MSC forwards to Council with corrections and with a recommendation to add District Six, District Seven, and District Two to the composition of the Housing Owner's Team, with the representative for District Six – Charles Goldtooth, District Two – Carol Schurz, and District Seven – Devin Redbird)

Presenters: Housing Owner's Team; Javier Ramos

APPROVED

>3. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Chandler And The Gila River Indian Community For Mutual Aid Response For Fire Protection And Other Emergency Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Kathy Garcia; Rebecca Hall

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Through The Tribal Social Services Department And Gila River Health Care Corporation Through The Behavioral Health Services Department For The Behavioral Health Services (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Trina Hart

APPROVED

>5. A Resolution Approving The Appointment Of Kami Hart As A Children's Court Judge For The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Stephen R. Lewis; Thomas Murphy

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gila River Sand & Gravel One (1) Board of Director Appointment

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MR. GORDON DOMINGO

2. Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District One (1) Board of Director Appointment

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MS. GWENDOLYN THOMAS

>3. Native Nations Institute Request (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Danielle Hiraldo

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

>1. Gila River Farms FY21 1st 8 Quarter Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Stephanie Sauced-Manuel

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Report Gila River Farms (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Stephanie Sauced-Manuel

ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

{GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10

MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:33 A.M.}

3. Gila River Indian Community Return to Work Plan (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business; H&SSC concurs)

Presenters: Stephen Lewis; Monica Antone; Suzanne Jones; Laurie Thomas; Elizabeth Bohnee; Kimberly Antone; Candalerian Preston; Bruce Harvey; Joyce White; Layla Cisneros

ITEM HEARD

4. Certification of Qualifications For the Gila River Indian Community 2021 Community Council Candidates (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation to Certify District 1 Candidates Cruz Yucupisio, Arzie T. Hogg, Cynthia Ruth Antone, Lynelle Blackwater, Carlos Moreno, and Keith A. Williams Sr.; LSC forwards to Council with recommendation to Certify District 4 Candidates Christopher Mendoza, John A. Antone, and Jayson Andrew Michael Enos; LSC forwards to Council with recommendation to Certify District 5 Candidates Wahlean J. Riggs, Serena M. Joaquin, Pamela Vega, and Franklin Pablo Sr.; LSC forwards to Council with recommendation to Certify District 6 Candidates Anthony C. Villareal, Sr. and Rhonda Whempner)

Presenter: Nadine Shelde

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1: CRUZ YUCUPISIO, ARZIE T. HOGG, CYNTHIA RUTH ANTONE, LYNELLE BLACKWATER, CARLOS MORENO, AND KEITH A. WILLIAMS, SR.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 4: CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA, JOHN A. ANTONE, AND JAYSON ANDREW MICHAEL ENOS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 5: WAHLEAN J. RIGGS, SERENA M. JOAQUIN, PAMELA VEGA, AND FRANKLIN PABLO, SR.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 6: ANTHONY C. VILLAREAL, SR. AND RHONDA WHEMPNER

5. GRIC v. Mahoney – Approval of Settlement (Executive Session) (G&MSC approves entering into the Settlement Agreement and Release, subject to any minor changes, or edits that do not affect the substance of the agreement and forwards to Council under New Business; HSSC concurs)

Presenters: Thomas Murphy; Robert Yoder

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

6. Exclusion Order Update (Executive Session) (LSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with additional material)

Presenters: Mandy Cisneros; Kimberly Antone; Wayne Allison; Michael Lando Voyles; Chief Timothy Chavez

DISPENSED AT THE APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MINUTES

1. March 3, 2021 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:12 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Give Your Child a

HEAD START

Gila River Indian Community

is now Enrolling for School Year 2021-2022

Head Start and Early Head Start is a comprehensive program currently providing virtual services through distance learning in the Community for ages 0-5

What we offer:


Children's Services	Family Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Quality Education ◆ Health Screenings ◆ Dental Screenings ◆ Nutritious Food ◆ Culture Activities ◆ Independence ◆ Engaging Activities ◆ Structured Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Parent Activities ◆ Parent Education ◆ Community Resources ◆ Fatherhood Activities ◆ Enrollment intake conducted via phone, zoom video or in person.

For more information please call the Head Start Center in the district where you reside:


<p>Sacaton Head Start Family Advocate 520 610-5293</p> <p>Komatke Head Start Family Advocate 520 610-7014 EHS 520 610-4976 HS</p>	<p>San Tan Head Start Family Advocate 520 610-5432 EHS 520 610-5533 HS</p> <p>Child Care Center Family Advocate 520 562-3640</p>	<p>Vah ki Head Start Family Advocate 520 610-5537</p> 
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Make the Right Choice



While continuing to wear a mask, practicing social distancing and washing your hands frequently, the GRIC Injury Prevention Program wants you to make the right choice when using a child safety seat. Below are following recommendations from the National Institute of Highway Safety.



Recommended car seats based on your child's age and size

Birth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13+
(YEARS)													
													

If you have any questions, please call the Injury Prevention Program at 520-562-5091. Child Safety Seat Classes are available by appointment only.

** information was taken from the following: www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#find-right-car-seat-process


IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
 Taralyn Docelyn Sanchez
 Petitioner/Plaintiff
 VS.
 Justin Jose Sanchez
 Respondent/Defendant
 Case: FM-2021-0002-DV
 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:
 Court Date: April 21, 2021 at 10:30 am in Courtroom 1.
 AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.
 YOU may respond in writing. However,

even if you do so, your presence at ANSWER/RESPONSE hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, 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.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice Is Hereby Given that the Directors of Casa Blanca Middle School, Inc. an Arizona non-profit corporation with an address of P.O. Box 10885, Bapchule, Arizona 85121, have approved that the corporation voluntarily dissolve, and that the Board of Directors is now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the corporation as provided by Arizona law. On December 21, 2020, the Arizona Corporation Commission approved the filing of the Articles of Dissolution.

By: 
 Delila Thompson, Board Secretary

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

PROPOSED REVISION TO TITLE 19 OF THE GRIC CODE ADOPTING 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODES

The Legislative Standing Committee (“LSC”) will be considering the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code adopting the 2018 Editions of the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Residential Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the Energy Conservation Code, the Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities, the Green Building Code, and the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code at their regular meeting on **April 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.** A copy of the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code in its entirety is available for review at the Community Council Secretary’s Office or by contacting Casaundra Wallace, Senior Assistant General Counsel, at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us.

If you are interested in providing comments on the proposed revision of Title 19 of the GRIC Code, please attend the scheduled LSC meeting, your Council representative or the LSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720, or provide written comments by email to Casaundra Wallace at casaundra.wallace@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Casaundra Wallace.

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4 Oil Changes for \$40 / 4 Synthetic Oil Changes for \$70

Valid Monday-Saturday Offer expires May 1, 2021. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

PREMIER MITSUBISHI

Tires at dealer cost

*must be installed at dealership

Valid Monday-Saturday Offer expires May 1, 2021. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

PREMIER MITSUBISHI

4 Alignments for the price of 1

*some specialty vehicles may not qualify
*adjustment and parts needed above
factory alignment adjustments
not included
*good for 3 years after purchase.

Valid Monday-Saturday Offer expires May 1, 2021. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

For more details contact
520-800-1084
or visit

www.premiermitsubishi.com/service/

1648 N Pinal Ave Casa Grande, AZ 85122

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2019 Chrysler 300



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Super Clean!

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2018 Toyota Rav 4



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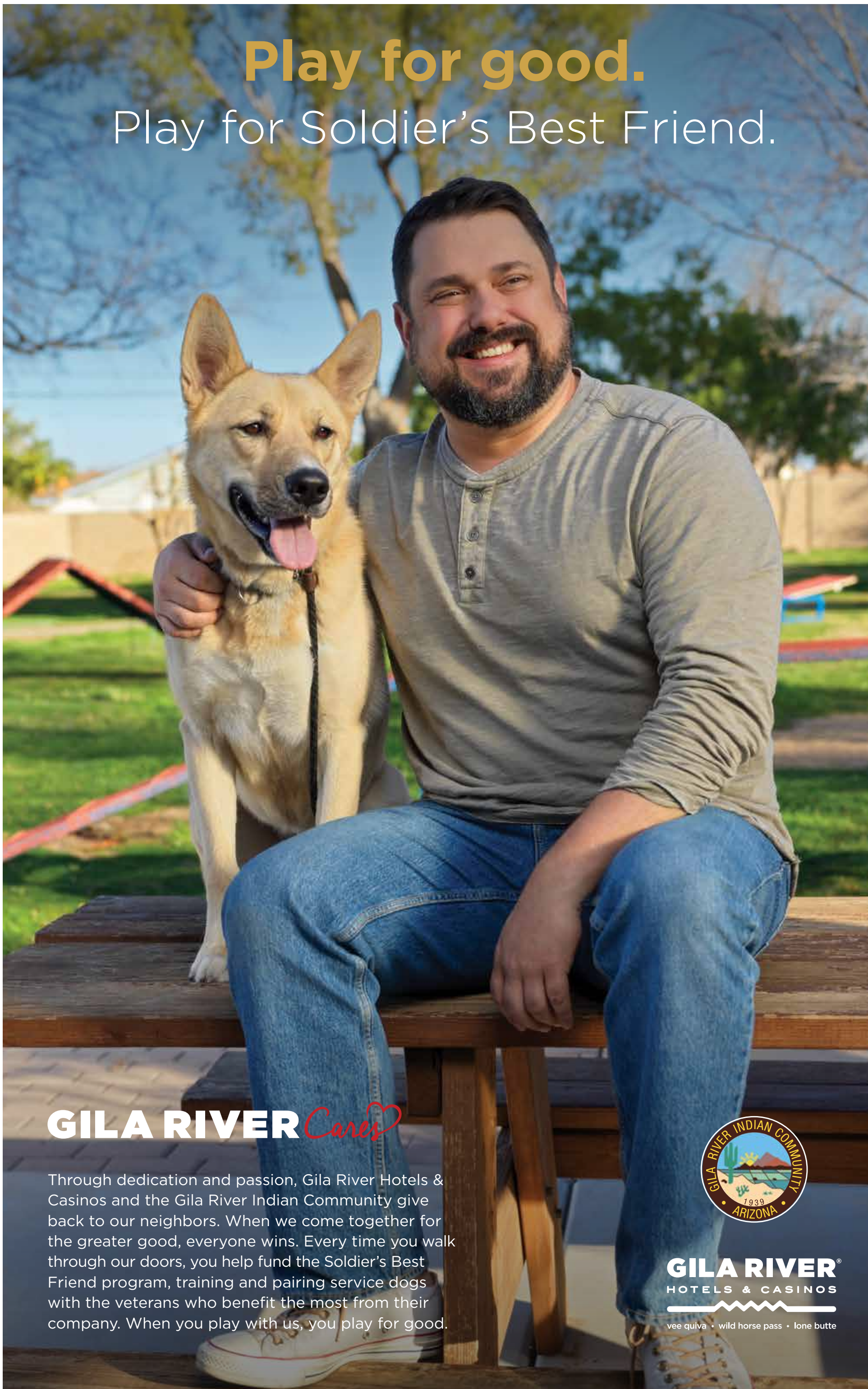
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Through dedication and passion, Gila River Hotels & Casinos and the Gila River Indian Community give back to our neighbors. When we come together for the greater good, everyone wins. Every time you walk through our doors, you help fund the Soldier's Best Friend program, training and pairing service dogs with the veterans who benefit the most from their company. When you play with us, you play for good.



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