

THE GRIN



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DECEMBER 21, 2021

Dem "Build Back Better" Event Highlights Tribal Innovation To Improve Infrastructure

Gila River Indian News

The Arizona Democratic Party launched their "Build Back Arizona" tour at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on Friday, Dec. 10. The press conference featured GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier, and Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel. Each leader highlighted how President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill would benefit each community locally.

"This is an historic moment and we wanted to highlight how this bill will benefit the nation and all of our tribes, because we have been underfunded for so long," said Gov. Lewis. "Our roads, water, and broadband have been underfunded for years. We're here to show that when given the resources, our tribes will

More about "Build Back Better" story on Page 3



Governor Stephen Roe Lewis; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier; and Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel at the conclusion of their remarks for the Build Back Arizona tour launch at SRPMIC. Kyle Knox/GRIN

George Carmen, State Champion Runner, Inducted **Into High School Sports Hall of Fame**

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Community member received a special honor for his lasting legacy in high school sports. George M. Carmen was inducted into the Phoenix Union High School District Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony held at Grand Canyon University basketball arena on Dec. 8.

"It's hard to put into words what this award means to me," said Carmen, who graduated from Trevor G. Browne High School in 1990, where he excelled running cross country and competing in track and field.

Carmen was named to Arizona's All-State Cross Country Teams in 1987, 1988 and 1989. He had a runner-up finish in the 1987 state Cross Country Championships before winning back-to-back championships in 1988 and 1989.

Carmen went on to graduate from Abilene Christian University

in Elementary Education. He Carmen. later earned a Master's degree State University.

"I was pretty successful in high school running track and field and cross country, but I also carried my passion for running into college," he remembered. "There I won two state championships and to come and what I went through." was regional champion on a track team and All-American at Abilene the people who helped him along Christian, which is known for their the way, and who taught him about track and field and cross country the culture and the role of running programs."

Carmen, currently traditions. teaches at two elementary schools at Maricopa High School, said his experience in competitive high school and college sports was seldom talked about until he received news he would be inducted into the Phoenix Union Hall of Fame

something that I was good to persevere through at the time,."

in Texas, where he earned a B.A. share more about with them," said

As a young runner, Carmen's in Administration from Arizona path to success wasn't easy. He grew up on the western edge of the Community without two parents, raised by a grandmother Patricia Carmen (maternal grandmother). He recalled the Komatke area as "my training grounds for what was

Carmen expressed thanks for in many of the Community's

"I was well-versed in the and coaches varsity girls basketball tradition of Akimel O'otham runners, serving as messengers and the history of our people," said Carmen, who also talked about running not only as exercise but also as a means of improving one's place in the world. "Even back when I was going through "I never really talked about a lot of hardships, I had to think it, even with my own children about my own mental state, my who were surprised, so it was own strengths that I used to



George M. Carmen, a Community member, displays the Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame plaque during his induction ceremony on Dec. 8. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Carmen said he encourages the younger generation of Native athletes to make strides in their sport, make sound choices and to think about how they too can be a role model for their community. He also spoke of running as a means of preventing sickness.

"Illnesses like diabetes are things we want to prevent in life, because there is no cure for it, so we have to take care of ourselves," he said. "The best way is to keep

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#MobileVax #CommunityImmunity

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COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ELDER FENCING PROGRAM

THE PURPOSE OF FENCING PROGRAM IS FOR SECURITY

- Applicant must be 55 years or older
- Must be legal Homesite Owner
- Must provide the following documents:
 Tribal Homesite lease, Plat map,
 Tribal ID

Frequently Asked Questions:

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 No, Elder fencing is a one-time benefit that is awarded to the elder that applies.
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- How do I find out what type of land source that I live on?
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Applications will be accepted by Appointment ONLY
Deadline: February 28, 2022





Governor

Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor **Monica Antone**

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Joey Whitman District 2

District 3 Avery White Rodney Jackson

District 4 Jennifer Allison Regina Antone-Smith Delmar Jones Christopher Mendoza

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Gila River Indian News

Roberto A. Jackson

roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us **CPAO** Director (520) 562-9719

Christopher Lomahquahu christopher.lomahquahu@gric.nsn.us

GRIN Acting Managing Editor (520) 562-9718

Emma Hughes

Emma.Hughes-Juan@gric.nsn.us Community Newsperson (520) 562-9852

Kyle Knox

Kyle.Knox@gric.nsn.us Community Newsperson (520) 562-9717

For more information grin@gric.nsn.us (520) 562-9715

> Write to: **Editor, GRIN** P.O. Box 459 Sacaton, AZ 85147

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"Build Back Better" from front page

offer innovative solutions for the benefit of our safety, education, schools, and health care."

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, signed on Nov. 15, includes extensive investment in tribal infrastructure, providing over \$11 billion to tribal communities nationwide. This funding will allow for tribal nations to make needed improvements from water systems, broadband connectivity, road improvements, and more.

"This is the largest infrastructure bill in history for Indian Country, and so we thought where better to kick it off than tribal communities in Maricopa County," said Hannah Goss, Rapid Response Director, Arizona Democratic Party. "We're really making sure people understand that this historic legislation is funding the projects that impact people's daily lives."

The event coincided with the Community's Water Rights Day. Governor Lewis highlighted his signing of GRIC's annual Funding Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. These resources, along with the new infrastructure funding, will allow the Community to complete the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project's water delivery system.

Each leader also highlighted



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis provides remarks to the gathered audience at SRPMIC, sharing how President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill will benefit GRIC. Kyle Knox/GRIN

how the additional funding will safety needs of each community. The resources provided by the measure will allow the tribes to do things like pave dirt roads Miguel thanked the President. and maintain and improve local highways, both of which constitute safety risks to drivers.

infrastructure bill will allow opportunities for tribes located in both urban and rural areas, because I know all tribal communities are

challenged with locating enough significantly impact the public resources for their much-needed infrastructure," said SRPMIC President Harvier.

Ak-Chin Chairman Robert "While the long-term benefits won't be immediately obvious, we owe a depth of gratitude "I am hopeful that the new to President Biden and his administration for making sure Indian Country was included in this legislation."

Gov. Lewis emphasized

through tribal partnerships with Washington.

"I hope that you take away from today that these projects are possible when tribal governments, Congress, and the administration work together to meet the needs of tribal communities because tribes have the answers," said Gov. Lewis. "By working together, we can improve the lives of our communities, surrounding areas and the state.'

Gila River Indian Community Agrees to Conserve over 129,000 acre-feet of its Water

Goal is to Bolster Lake Mead under the 500 + Plan

Communications & Public Affairs Office

SACATON, AZ - Today, on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, Governor Stephen Roe Lewis signed two agreements with United States Bureau of Reclamation that would conserve over 129,000 acre-feet of its Colorado River water entitlement in 2022 to keep Lake Mead from falling to critically low levels. These agreements supply a substantial portion of Arizona's 2022 contribution to the 500 + Plan that was announced today. This is a significant contribution to this regional effort, representing over twenty-five per cent (25%) of the entire amount estimated to be required to help stabilize the elevation of Lake Mead.

The 500+ Plan, agreement among Reclamation, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The plan aims to add 500,000 acre-feet of additional water to Lake Mead in both 2022 and 2023 by supporting and funding actions to conserve water across the Lower Colorado River Basin. The additional water would add about 16 feet total to the reservoir's level, which continues to reach record low levels.

"Since September, when I asked the major water policy makers in Arizona to our Reservation for an emergency meeting, the Community has been working with ADWR, CAP, SRP and the United States to help



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis signs an agreement on behalf of the Community at the 2021 Colorado River Water Users Association Conference. GRIC Photo

develop a major conservation further cuts in the next few years." plan that benefits the Community, Arizona and the entire Colorado River region," said Governor Lewis. "I commend the Lower Basin States and the United States for making so much progress so quickly to help bolster Lake Mead's elevation for next year and beyond. It is a testament to the relationships built during the DCP negotiations that we were all able to come together rapidly and take swift, decisive action. By taking this decisive action, we are hopeful that we can help keep our region from undergoing even

Tom Buschatzke, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources said, "I am very pleased that the working relationships we so painstakingly forged during DCP remain so strong and durable. The Community deserves great credit for its leadership role in making today possible and making its water supplies available for the benefit of the entire region."

Leslie Meyers, the Area Director for the Bureau of Reclamation, with whom the the 500 + Plan. Community signed its historic agreements today said, "We

appreciate very much the strong working relationship Reclamation has forged with the Community. Governor Lewis and its Council over the past years, especially in these days of intensive drought. These agreements today are a testament to that strong relationship and to our commitment to tackling the drought crisis here in the Southwest head-on."

The Community anticipates further conservation in 2023 to help Arizona meet its goals under

Culture Corner S-ko:mag Mashath – Klishmas U'uvig (Christmas Birds)

Submitted by

The Huhugam Heritage Center

This month marks the ending of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 in the coming weeks ahead, families will get together to celebrate Christmas and the New Year Holidays. This is also the time of year, when we observe the appearance of several winter birds, whom spend their winters on our community. Our Hekiu O'otham, named many birds according to how they behaved in the wilds, colorations and other characteristics. Some birds mentioned in the Story of Creation.

Sipuk is the name given to the Northern Cardinal. Sipuk refers to the bird's crest, which means "to be in a pile". It also designates a feathered headpiece worn by Chiefs, with feathers that stood up prominently. Its prominent red coloration and kuk (Birdcall) easily identified. Females are slightly smaller and gray in coloration. In fact, most female birds are gray in coloration, which aids them in hiding from predators. Most important when incubating eggs inside the

Ba:sho S-veg is the name given to the American Robin. This winter visitor arrives mid-November and departs in early spring. Our the cold winds along from up north. His red chest and birdcall are not hard to miss.

fields and the open plains. They emit a shriek-like call and rabbits. The white tuftthis Raptor easy to identify when inflight. another winter bird whom brings the cold from the Raptors.

given to the White-crowned Sparrow. Thamthol's kuk (birdcall) was heard in early October. These are the easiest birds to attract into your yards by providing a bird feeder and an open container of water for morning baths. Their white-striped crowns and kuk are easy to identify. They often share spaces with other birds, especially to our Community Elders when feeding.

name given to the Black made this article possible. Phoebe, their O'otham Additional source related name means they are "the from Wings in the Desert, whistler." These wintering Song Birds easily identified, by their black upper-parts M. Rea, University of and white bellies. They are Arizona Press, 2008. usually solitary and search for insects in pairs. They can puzzle on page 7. be found near open water,

Hekiu O'otham believed especially running irrigation that Ba:sho S-veg brought canals. Most active in early mornings and late evenings.

Chukmug is the name given to the European Vakav is the name Starling. These mediumgiven to the Northern sized Song Birds often Harrier. This Raptor often observed in very large observed gliding low over flocks. Chukmug means that they appear as if a "dark cloud in motion." that flushes its prey from They feed on insects over cover. They feed on rodents open agriculture fields. Their large group-flights patch on backsides, make are called murmations, in which the flight constantly This is changes patterns, especially noticeable when chased by

We encourage you Thamthol is the name to learn the O'otham bird names. Take some time This year and observe the birds in your areas. Speak with an Elder or Speaker and learn to say the bird names. The bird names may be slightly different between the villages. This month's word match will test your identification skills of a few wintering birds.

A special Thank You for sharing their knowledge Gikuchk'tham is the of Klishmas U'uvig that A Folk Ornithology of the Northern Pimans, Amadeo

Answers to word match



Klishmas U'uvig Word Match: Match the O'otham bird name with its Picture!

Vakav

Sipuk

Thamthol

Chukmug

Gikuch'tham

Basho S-veg

Photographs Courtesy David L. Pearson & All-About-Birds



ASU Grad Students Tour MAR 5 to Learn About GRIC Culture, Natural Resources

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

A select group of graduate students from Arizona State University had a special opportunity to visit the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5 on Dec. 6. The tour was part of a field visit by ASU Food Policy and Sustainability Leadership graduate students, who were interested in the how tribes have managed their natural resources.

The trip to MAR 5 was organized by Sharla Strong, Special Projects Coordinator for the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems (SCSFS), along with Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director SCSFS.

The tour was led by David DeJong, Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Director, who provided the backdrop for MAR 5. The tour also included presentations by Yolanda Elias, a GRIC basket P-MIP Public Involvement reinvigorate



ASU graduate students listen to a presentation about basket-making given by Yolanda Elias. Christopher Lomah-

Environmental Fuels & Restoration Crew.

name for this facility – since into the area. it is a recharge facility that Facility."

DeJong maker, Kristina Morago how MAR 5 is able to explained that . the trail's the

Specialist and Kevin Jackson restoring native vegetation from the Department of that has been absent from Quality the Community for many years. He said water is "The goal (of MAR 5) able to be delivered to the was to bring that water home MAR 5 using an existing and to begin recharging it canal that was built in the here in the Community," 1920s, which was upgraded said DeJong. "The technical to handle the flow of water

"The Community has is permitted by the Arizona three recharge facilities. Department of Water This is main one of them Resources - is the Olberg all," said DeJong. "This is she had to make trip to Dam Underground Storage the only one where we have developed an interpretive explained trail," said DeJong, who area, benches, ramada and

bridges are all made out of local materials, including mesquite trees.

DeJong added that many of the design elements were suggested by a group of Community elders, who were asked what they would like to see at the MAR 5

"Everything else that was included was at the direction of the elders, including the signs that are in O'otham, Pee Posh and English, which describe the plants here on site," said DeJong.

Elias, from District 6, has been weaving baskets since she was 13 years old. "I learned it from my parents," she explained. "When we were young, we used to go down the river to where the supplies were. When the river was gone it was really hard to find supplies."

For years, said Elias, other O'otham tribes to obtain materials. "When we created this it was a dream come true," she said, pointing out the vegetation



Kevin Jackson, a DEQ Fuels & Restoration crew member. talks about the various native vegetation at MAR 5. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Kristina Morago, P-MIP Public Involvement Specialist, explores the history of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh and their connection to the Gila River. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN at MAR 5. "I may have to know the materials I need

drive 48 or so miles, but I are there."

Gov. Lewis Recognized at Collegiate Basketball Game

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was recognized Dec. 9th on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community and Gila River Hotels & Casinos for the Community's ongoing support of athletics at Arizona State University.

Before tipoff of the men's basketball game against Grand Canyon University at

the Desert Financial Arena, Gov. Lewis made his way on the court and was presented with a basketball signed by Arizona Sun Devils head basketball coach Bobby Hurley.

The ball was presented to Gov. Lewis by in-game host Jorden Spurgeon and ASU mascot Sparky the Sun Devil. The Sun Devils took the win over the Grand Canyon Antelopes with 67-62.





GRIC Hosts Virtual Water Rights Day, Focuses on Expansion of Canal Infrastructure

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community continued its yearly celebration of the historic 2004 Arizona Water Settlement Act, holding the 17th Annual Water Rights Day event online on Dec. 10th. The celebration included a video premiere available GRIC's on Facebook page and greetings and special messages from GRIC leadership, royalty, members and U.S. Congress Representatives.

The 2004 legislation represents the largest water settlement in the history of the United States. The Act has allowed the Community to become a key leader in water policy for the state of Arizona and other tribal communities.

"I'm so happy to be celebrating this important day with you all, even in the midst of our challenging times," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who began the virtual event with opening remarks on location GRIC's MAR-6B, which has been operating successfully since it opened earlier this year.

MAR 6B is the latest addition to the GRIC's Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) sites, which helped replenish the Community's natural wildlife and environment by restoring and rehabilitating natural aquifers underground, which the Community has relied upon more frequently more due to the state's drought.

Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson and Miss Arizona Alyse



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis welcomes viewers for the 2021 Virtual Water Rights Day celebration from MAR-6B, located north of MAR-5. CPAO Photo. CPAO Photo

Marrietta, Rights Day, among youth.

rights serves as a great rights settlement, including reminder of the resiliency years of litigation. that drives us as indigenous people," said Marietta who Antone, who highlighted encouraged others to learn the challenging work and and carry on the history."Let efforts made by several their stories fill your passion past and present leadership to be protectors of our and members, said, "We do natural resources."

MAR-5 Interpretive trail in formation and negotiation." District 3, Sacaton, where a

District 1, Blackwater. Water Rights Day relay negotiation team in 1997. He included Lee and Sandra recalled several "daunting" Nasewytewa, District 6, meetings and discussions Ayala, District 1, Victoria and tribal leadership prior to Quintero, District 1 and the settlement. Clifford Lopez, Salt River.

Community's

greeted the and Language Program Community and emphasized Manager, spoke about the importance of Water the history of the River, especially the Community's fight to revitalize it and the long "The story of our water struggle to achieve the water

Lt. Gov. Monica not take our water rights The annual Water history for granted." She Rights Day Relay run also also saluted those who continued this year. The tirelessly "fought and built run began at sunrise at the the foundation to the legal

Richard Narcia, a gourd was filled with water former governor of the before being carried through Community, shared his the Community and being experience being involved added to the MAR-1 site in with the settlement. Before becoming governor, Narcia Runners for the 2021 was appointed to the water

"It was a monumental Anthony Gray, the thing for our Community



Victoria Quintero, District 1, carries the water filled gourd during the 2021 Water Rights Day relay. CPAO Photo

helped our generations down the line," Narcia explained.

Rep. Ruben Gallego joined the celebration and reiterated the importance of water rights, as being "fundamental to tribal sovereignty the across nation.'

GRIC's role in water policy remains crucial and has brought "solutions to critical negotiations that Arizona's water future" said, Rep. Greg Stanton, during his message to the Community. Stanton lauded the GRIC for the success of the several Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) sites and stated that Lewis was an irrigation infrastructure and "important driving force."

improvements. also appeared by video. Congress passing partnership with the State, Rights Settlement Act as

Culture and something that I believe Project (CAP), thanked the irrigation system (PMIP).



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone shares her gratitude for the history and celebration of Water Rights Day, at the new Casa Blanca Community School. CPAO Photo

will help shape and secure GRIC for its long continual many collaborative efforts but emphasized the work of the late Rodney B. Lewis, as the chief negotiator for

Gov. Lewis spoke Rep. Tom O'Halleran about the necessity of the Community's completion of the Water Ted Cooke, General construction of the Pima- Cudkam. Manager for Central Arizona Maricopa Irrigation Project

The Governor also partnership and honored the spoke about the key role the Community will play in curbing the Arizona drought.

"Using only our excess the settlement who Cooke water supply, we will be taking significant actions to help address drought shortages," said Gov. Lewis. He added that the GRIC's water supply is "safe and sufficient for all needs."

The 2021 Federal Government and part of the current bipartisan Water Rights Day video other tribes will be more infrastructure bill, to ensure celebration ended with a important than ever as we all federal subsidies for Central traditional performance by Tizoc, Thalia and Frank with congressmen, senators work together to combat the Arizona Project (CAP) the Akimel O'otham/Peeimpacts of climate change water supplies long into Posh Youth Council and on the southwest," he said. the future and to accelerate Keli Akimel Hua Modk

As COVID-19 Case Numbers Remain Steady, Community, **GRHC** Leaders Urge Vaccinations

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

With the holiday season upon us, leaders in the Community and with Gila River Health Care continue urge GRIC tribal members and residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

the Community slightly decreased from 91 in the prior week to 78 in the COVID-19 vaccines are current week. Even so, the now available to Community pandemic has yet to slow members 5 years old and down across the United older. All vaccines require

gatherings.

Three different

and dramatically lessen the grhc.org/vaccine/. chances of hospitalization due to COVID and its appointment by calling variants.

Gila River Health States, with some areas of a booster shot. While no Care provides COVID 35,350 COVID-19 vaccines Arizona and the country vaccine is 100% effective and flu vaccines, either by have been administered

During the week of experiencing an increase in at completely preventing appointment or on a walk- to enrolled Community Dec. 6th to 12th, the number cases that can be attributed COVID, the shots are highly in basis. A schedule of members age 5 or older. of COVID-19 infections in to the holidays and social effective in protecting upcoming vaccine events against severe infection can be found online at http://

> You can make an (602) 528-1482.

As of Dec. 16th,

Currently, 32% of GRIC members age 5 or older have been fully vaccinated. Among Community residents ages 5 and older, 53 percent have been fully vaccinated while 60 percent

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2021: A Photographic Year in Review





























Gila River Hotels & Casinos Provides Three Local Nonprofits With Funds During "Gila River Cares Week of Giving"

Submitted by

Gila River Hotels & Casinos

Chandler, Ariz. (Dec. 2, 2021) - Donned in their "Gila River Cares" t-shirts, team members from Gila River Hotels & Casinos -Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte. and Vee Quiva visited three nonprofit organizations this week with surprise check amounts during what's become one of the gaming enterprise's most popular philanthropic events: "Gila River Cares Week of Giving." More than \$84,000 of self-excluded jackpot funds were distributed to the nonprofits to enhance the lives of Arizonans through educational programs and children's welfare. Selfexcluded jackpot funds are acquired if a player is ineligible to receive their winnings on games. Earlier this year, all Arizona-based 501c3 status nonprofit organizations recognized by the IRS were eligible to apply to receive these funds, and a committee from Gila River Hotels & Casinos selected the recipients.

The Gila River Cares Week of Giving comes at a time when nonprofits are seeing a decline in donations and an increase in expenses. According to the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, last year, nonprofits statewide experienced a 52% decline in as provide them with the year-end giving.

"Gila River has always an LGBTQ+ person." had a strong culture of caring, and our team members are passionate about creating meaningful change through philanthropic efforts and volunteerism," said Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos. "We've seen how devastating this

pandemic has been to our local nonprofits, and we hope our Gila River Cares contributions help ease some of the financial burdens."

This year's recipients and distribution amounts included:

(Phoenix): \$28,218.33

one•n•ten is the largest organization in Arizona that provides comprehensive services to LGBTQ+ and allied youth ages 11-24. They enhance lives through programs that promote selfexpression, self-acceptance, and healthy life choices. The organization provides a safe space, mentally and physically, for youth of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, as well as education, workforce, housing and wellness programs both virtually and in-person at their Downtown youth center along with their 11 satellite locations throughout Arizona.

"One of the things that became increasingly apparent to us during the pandemic is the increased need for our services for not only our youth but their parents as well. This is why we started our first parents group in September of 2020 and it's quickly grown into one of our larger support groups with over 150 active parents," said Nate Rhoton, one•n•ten executive director. "However, this is a completely unfunded program so unrestricted funds like this from Gila River will help to ensure all of those families get the support they need in creating a safe and happy environment for the youth in their family as well tools to uplift who they are as

ICAN:Positive Programs for Youth (Chandler): \$28,303.07

ICAN is a free out-ofschool program in Chandler that serves youth across three sites. The organization provides free after-school programs equitable for youth living in concentrated communities of poverty. The programs include meals, academic support, STEAM programs, structured sports & recreation and a focus on social-emotional one•n•ten learning. Programs teach



Gila River Hotels & Casinos kicked off their "Week of Giving" by donating over \$84,000 to three non-profit organizations benefiting children around the Valley. Photo courtesy of Gila River Hotels & Casinos

disadvantaged youth real-life children through the Read Cares Week of Giving" skills including goal setting, positive decision making and how to avoid risky behaviors that are prevalent in the community.

have been chosen by Gila River Cares as a recipient of for learning. funding this year. The funding will ensure that efforts to serve more youth with our free afterschool programs will come to fruition," said ICAN CEO Shelby Pedersen.

"ICAN has been serving the Chandler community for 30 years, now across three sites, and we are excited to announce that we are growing into Mesa in 2022."

The Tommy Two Shoes Literacy Project for Children: \$28,218.33

The Tommy Two Shoes Literacy Project for Children's goal is to help and encourage literacy among the youth of Arizona using a free book giveaway program. There are many children who do not have books at home and struggle with reading. The organization's mission

reading skills by exciting a brighter future."

Day Event and provide represents four consecutive each student in attendance years of surprising nonprofits with their own, brand-new personal book to take home The event began in 2018 as and keep. Reading is the a cocktail chic "Gila River "ICAN is so thrilled to most crucial academic skill Night of Giving" and evolved because it is the foundation to a "Week of Giving" last

> "We are so excited Covid-19 pandemic. In the about this amazing donation from Gila River Hotels & Casinos. This will help bring our super fun and easy-to-use supplemental reading program, "Reading to Daisy & Max," to more schools across Arizona," said Thomas Womack, sponsorship coordinator of The Tommy Two Shoes Literacy Project for Children. "The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a huge academic slide for Arizona's reading scores. Schools are now desperately seeking programs to help their students recover from the academic slide. This supplemental reading program has been highly effective for schools and the children are having fun.

This award will help is to help improve many Arizona children have

This year's "Gila River

local nonprofits that enhance the lives of Arizonans through educational programs and children's welfare with contribution amounts. Gila River Hotels & Casinos is honored to be able to give back to the local Arizona community and

to come.

year, after the onset of the

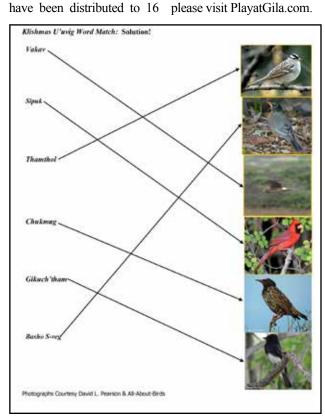
past four years, \$322,739 of

self-excluded jackpot funds

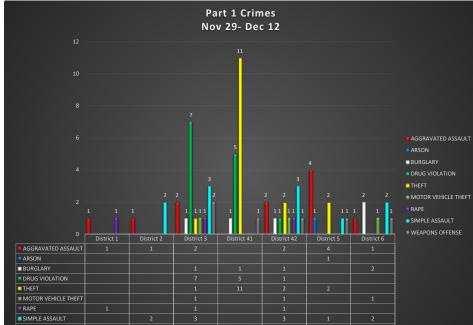
For more information, please visit PlayatGila.com.

looks forward to continuing

this initiative for many years









COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • December 1, 2021

ACTION SHEET

Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 2020-September 30, 2021) 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, December 1, 2021, by WebEx Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021) Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone **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 (9:17), Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, 2021 Annual Report October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 Delmar Jones, Regina Antone, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa (9:08), Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird (10:03)

Council Members Absent: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DISPENSE NEW BUSINESS #1 AND #2 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF **MATERIAL**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2 THROUGH #18, RESOLUTIONS #1, #3, #7, Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021) AND #8; AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #4 UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Chief Judge - Anthony J. Hill

ASSOCIATE JUDGE CHARLES **ARAGON** ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF JUDGE ANTHONY J. HILL

REPORTS

*1. GRAM Great Call Rapid Response System Report Presenters: Miane Men, Jim Myers, Board REPORT HEARD

>2. BGCGRIC 4th Quarter Report July-September 2021

Presenters: Jason Jones, Mark Clavell, Anita Leon, Soyet Antone, Tamara Peters, Travis Jack, Guru Khalsa ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Lone Butte Development LLC FY 2021 Annual Sanderson, Lydia Acosta

Presenters: Christina Waguie, Esther Manuel ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Community Technology Center 4th Quarter and October 2021 (Executive Session) Final Report FY2020/2021

Presenter: Connie Jackson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Community Services Department - District One Service Center FY'2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Alan Blackwater ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two Service Center FY'2021 Annual Report (October 1, consent agenda) 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Ralph Grajiola ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. Community Services Department - District AGENDA Three Service Center FY'2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Erma Antone ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. Community Services Department – District Four Service Center FY'2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Sandra Thayer ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. Community Services Department - District Five Service Center FY'2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Jose Gonzales ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Rebecca Carpio ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. Community Services Department - FY'2021

Presenter: Laurie Thomas

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>12. Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project FY 2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenter: David DeJong

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

13. Department of Environmental Quality FY21 Annual

Report October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Presenter: Ryan Eberle

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>14. Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District FY-Presenter: Ronald Allison

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>15. Department of Transportation FY2021 Annual

Report (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)

Presenter: Sreedevi Manthra

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>16. Head Start Monthly Report-October 2021

Presenter: Carolina B. Kelley

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>17. Employment & Training Department-FY2021

Presenters: Lana Chanda, Iwalani Andrews ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>18. Community Services Department- Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library Center FY2021 Annual Report (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas, Ramona Tecumseh ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

19. COVID-19 Update

Presenters: COVID-19 Taskforce

REPORT HEARD

20. WHPDA Monthly Report

Presenters: Elizabeth Antone, Alex Yazza, Michelle Bowman, Mark Grado

REPORT HEARD

21. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council October 2021 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gaming Commission Board, Scott

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #21 AND #22

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Tony DeMark, Richard

Strafella, Dominic Orozco, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

REPORT ACCEPTED AT REPORT #21 RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Approving The Second Amendment To The Retirement Plan For The Employees Of The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council

Presenters: Sharon Harvier, Catherine Langford, Thornburg Treasurer Robert Keller

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF

2. A Resolution Approving The Engagement Letter With Keybanc Capital Markets Inc. To Serve As Underwriter, Initial Purchaser, Placement Agent, Or Structuring Agent In Connection With The Potential Sale By The Gila River Indian Community Of Revenue Bonds Secured By Receivables On Leases Entered Into Pursuant To Section 105(L) Of The Indian Self-Determination And Education Assistance Act (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Don Pongrace, Jason Hauter

APPROVED

Six Service Center FY'2021 Annual Report (October 1, forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

> Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Don Pongrace, Jason Hauter

> ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

> 4. A Resolution Approving The Agreement Between The United States Of America And The Gila River Indian Community For The Creation Of Intentionally Created Surplus In 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Jason Hauter

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Approving The Form System Conservation Agreement To Conserve Up To 51,000 Acre-Feet Of Community CAP Water In 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Jason Hauter APPROVED

6. A Resolution Extending Prior Approval Of Gila River Health Care As The Primary Grantee On Behalf Of The Gila River Indian Community For The Special Diabetes Program For Indians Community-Directed Grant Program (H&SSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, Robert Yoder, Dr. Anthony Santiago, Dr. Vijji Muragavel

APPROVED

>7. A Resolution Approving The Appointment Of Councilmember Wahlean Riggs To The Chemawa Indian School Board And Councilmember Regina Antone As Alternate To The Chemawa Indian School Board (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Isaac Salcido

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

>8. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Arizona Board Of Regents For And On Behalf Of Arizona State University And The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Nicole Thompson

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

*1. A Cover Letter With Motion Language Approving 22. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report A Five Year Extension Of The Gila River Indian Irrigation And Drainage District And The P-MIP Engaging In Pit Reclamation Along The Southside Canal And Within The Canal Right-Of-Way Within The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards for to Council with a recommendation for approval)

> Presenters: David DeJong, Ron Allison, Ryan Eberle DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*2. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation Written Plan FY2022 (ESC forwards to Council under >6. Community Services Department – District with a recommendation for approval and placement on the New Business with a recommendation for approval with amendments) Presenters: Lillian Kim Franklin, Jeffery

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. New Property Name for Fourth Gaming Facility information) forwards to Council as Presenter: Kenneth Manuel

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION

>4. FY 2021 Lone Butte Development Audit Wrap Up/ Audit Report (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Chris Bitakis. Crystal Gutierrez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

5. Retirement (G&MSC forwards to Council with a >3. A Resolution Authorizing The Sixth General recommendation to accept the retirement of Treasurer Assistance Payment Out Of The Gila River Indian Robert G. Keller, last day being December 31, 2021; >10. Community Services Department - District Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund (G&MSC G&MSC recommends to appoint Gary Mix to assume the

Continued from Page 8

role of Community Treasurer effective January 1, 2022; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT OF TREASURER ROBERT G. KELLER EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2021 AT MIDNIGHT

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT GARY T. MIX TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF TREASURER AND COMPLETE THE REMAINING TERM VACATED BY THE

RETIREMENT OF TREASURER ROBERT G. KELLER **EFFECTIVE THE 1ST OF JANUARY 2022**

6. GRIC LOI with Arizona SB Host Committee (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a DECEMBER 2, 2021 AT 1:30 P.M. recommendation for approval in Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Bartley DECEMBER 2, 2021 AT 8:00 A.M.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE **MINUTES**

1. November 17 2021 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

~SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY,

~TOUR FOR FLORENCE COPPER THURSDAY.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:20 P.M.

- * Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
- > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Submissions & Notices

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

REVISIONS TO TITLE 5, CRIMINAL CODE, TO DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA AND TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA ON THE GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

Press Release

Office of General Council

Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") is considering proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code to decriminalize marijuana

and allow medical marijuana on the Reservation. A copy of the proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code in their entirety is available for review at each District Service Center, the Community Council Secretary's Office, or by contacting the Office of General

Counsel at Casaundra.Wallace@gric.

The Office of General Counsel will present the proposed revisions and answer questions on the proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code in a virtual Community meeting to be

held in January 2022. The date of the meeting is to be determined. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact your District Service Center to provide an email address where a "save the date" notice can be sent to you when the meeting is

scheduled. You will then receive the link for the virtual meeting at the email address you provided about two days before the meeting.

If you would like to provide written comments on the proposed revisions to Title 5 of the GRIC Code, please

provide them by email to the Office of General Counsel 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.

COVID Update from

vaccination.

rate for the U.S. is at 61% currently. In Arizona, 56% of eligible people have been fully vaccinated.

variant has become a concern, according to the symptoms or have been The deadline is January 31. Centers for Disease Control. The variant seems to spread more easily than other variants, say doctors, but it is not yet clear whether omicron is more severe than

exposed to someone who 2022. More information and may be COVID positive, applications can be found monitor your symptoms and get tested. To date, the or at any District Service Community has performed more than 341,000 tests,

members. residents, employees and Many people have been tested more than once. The positivity rate for all tests

COVID-19

the current dominant Delta including Page 5 The CDC and GRHC members of other tribes. have received at least one both suggest following safety precautions like The full vaccination wearing a face mask and keeping physical distance since March 2020 is about from others, staying in well-2.8 percent. ventilated areas, keeping The your hands clean and staying incentive program The recent Omicron home if you are sick.

still available for fully If you experience any vaccinated GRIC members. online, at mygilariver.com

athletes who had pro careers "I have been motivating in the NFL, NBA and young people for 20 years as a teacher and basketball coach, finding ways to keep (them) looking ahead. It was hard to live and get by back then, so I know what some of these kids are going

Carmen Induction from Front Page

moving. Running is a big part of people, it connects environment."

Carmen called it an honor to be inducted into a and kind every day," said Hall of Fame that includes the new Hall of Famer.

MLB. At the same time, he emphasized the importance of education and giving with the land and back to your community with all you do. "I try to be humble

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT **RESIDENT NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2022**



The Community's Residency Ordinance requires all adults (18 years of age and older) who are not enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community, but who reside within the boundaries of the Community to register their residency.



All non-member residents 18 years of age and older who reside within the boundaries of the Community must register their residency with the Enrollment Department and must update their registration by January 31st each year.



Previously registered non-member residents will receive a renewal form by mail. All other non-member residents should contact the Enrollment Department to request a registration form. Physical Address:

Governance Center 525 W Gu U Ki Sacaton, AZ 85147 Phone number: (520) 562-9790



The Registration Form maybe submitted in person at the Enrollment Office. A photo ID is required; or



Registration Forms can be submitted by email, fax or mail. Notary required.

Mailing address: **GRIC Enrollment Department** P.O. Box 97 Sacaton, AZ 85147 Fax number: (520) 562-8103 Email: Enrollment.dept@gric.nsn.us







Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning - Subdivision Administration Team

ATTENTION

MANDATORY 2021 TRIBAL LOT WAITING LIST UPDATES

Community Members currently on the Tribal Lot Waiting List who have not contacted LUPZ in 2021 to update their information must do so by December 31, 2021

Annual updates are required to ensure current data is updated for contact purposes. Members who fail to update may be required to start the process over and be placed at the end of the updated waiting list, as per GRIC Home-

site Ordinance 2018 20.208. A. 1.

Please call the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at 520-562-6003 or email at SubdivisionAdministrationTeam@gric.nsn.us for information on updating.





FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM







HAVE A BENCH WARRANT?

Get it Cleared with the Bench Warrant Clearance Initiative. You will not be arrested.

The Court has established a Bench Warrant Clearance Initiative. The initiative permits defendants to appear in Court to cancel or quash their bench warrants and receive a new hearing date, without the threat of arrest and detention.

You can pick up a **Request to Clear Bench Warrant** form at the Sacaton or Westend Courthouse locations, or you can download the form on the Court's website at: http://www.gilariver.org/index.php/government/judical-branch.

Avoid arrest. If you deliver or email the completed form to the Sacaton Court at courtpublicmailbox@gric.nsn.us before 12:00 p.m., you can have your warrant cleared on the 1:30 p.m. docket *the same day!* Contact the Westend Court for separate instructions.

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

Sacaton Court: (520) 562-9860
Westend Court: (520) 562-9862
Email: court.questions@gric.nsn.us

NOTICE: This does NOT apply to ARREST WARRANTS.



Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices and Outpatient Clinics will be

CLOSED Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th

CLOSED New Years Eve, Friday, December 31st

Saturday Clinics will be CLOSED 12/25/2021 and 1/1/2022

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Pharmacy Hours

Komatke Pharmacy and Red Tail Hawk Pharmacy CLOSED 12/24 & 12/31.

For any information on services open during the holidays, please call GRHC's main line 520.562.3321. GRHC's normal business hours will resume Monday after each holiday. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

🔆 🗸 🦫 👸 🚬 Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449 🚬 🦯





FINAL GALLY

TO SAVE THOUSANDS IN 2021

ZERO DOWN DELIVERS



HURRY BEFORE RATES GO UP!
PAYMENTS \$225/me

PUBLIC NOTICES
RESULTING
R

SAVE THOUSANDS • SPECIAL FINANCING FOR THIS SALE

2017 Ford Explorer



2018 Dodge Caravan



2014 Ram 1500



2015 Jeep Wrangler



520-836-2112

2017 Dodge Charger



2019 Ford Fusion Hybrid



2013 Dodge Durango



2016 Cadillac SRX



2016 Chevy Equinox LTZ



2019 Nissan Sentra SV



2012 Chevy Colorado



2014 Ford F150



2020 Ram 1500



2018 Chevy Malibu



2017 Mazda 6



2018 Ford Expedition



CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER

1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE

INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL www.crossroadsauto.org

*Payment based on 700 credit score, 3.87% APR @ 72 mos. with TT&L down. Not all customers qualify based on approved credit. Must present ad at time of purchase. Not all vehicles qualify. Ask manager for details.

DUELINGPIANOS



FRIDAY, DEC 31 | 8:30PM

GILA RIVER®

HOTELS & CASINOS

vee quiva • wild horse pass • lone butte





