



## Massive Storm Strikes GRIC, Leads to 24-7 Effort To Restore Power and Protect Public Health

*Utility Crews Worked Round the Clock Across the Community to Repair Storm Damaged Electrical Grid*

### GRIN Staff

The Gila River Indian Community was hit by high winds and heavy rains, as a massive monsoon storm laid a path of destruction to GRIC's power grid, leaving many Community members without power for several days. The July 9 storm's effects were felt throughout the weekend, as utility crews, emergency responders, healthcare professionals and elected leaders worked 24/7 to restore power and keep Community members safe from sweltering temperatures.

"I have been on emergency calls with our incident command, Community Council, Gila River Utility Authority and all those first responders who have been working around the clock to restore the power outages as soon as possible," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in a video address delivered on July 11.

In response to the devastation left by the storm, Gov. Lewis declared a state of emergency to activate many of the Community's emergency resources, including emergency housing options and meals provided by the Salvation Army.



Power lines along Sacaton Road between District 3 and 5 were toppled during monsoon storms on July 9 and 10. Kyle Knox/GRIN

"The immediate need was to make sure our families received shelter, which is why we opened up the District service centers," said Gov. Lewis. "We also arranged rooms at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass and

other hotels for many of our elders and those with disabilities and health conditions."

With dozens of power poles down and transmission stations and substations out of action, Gila River Utility Authority crews

deployed across the Community to repair the damage and restore electricity. The Community's Office of Emergency Management and other GRIC departments worked through the weekend and July 12 to get power fully restored

across GRIC.

"I feel your frustration regarding the uncertainty this severe storm has caused, but please be assured that every department,

**More on Page 3**

## Gov. Lewis, Tribal Leaders Meet with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on Road Needs

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and tribal leaders from across the state met for a roundtable discussion with Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on July 15. The event, organized by the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, was held at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass.

The meeting was Buttigieg's final stop in his visit to Arizona, which focused on the infrastructure needs of the state's tribal communities. "We want to know the 'who, what where, when and how,' and also share our concerns around transportation on your reservations," said Arlando Teller, Assistant Secretary of Tribal

Affairs with the U.S. Department of Transportation. "We want to encourage your communities to voice your concerns, which is sincerely appreciated by [us] and Secretary Buttigieg."

Secretary Buttigieg said he looked forward to working together with tribal communities during the session and in the future. "I want to thank the Gila River Indian Community for having me. I am very fortunate to have a conversation like this," said Buttigieg.

Buttigieg's visit is part of the Biden Administration's commitment to visit states across the nation and meet with tribal nations, offering them an opportunity to voice concerns regarding infrastructure in Indian

**More on Page 4**



Community Council Representatives, Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Antone meet with Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on July 15. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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**NARD Event on Page 7**



### COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE  
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GRHC.ORG/HUB

## COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY JULY 2021 SCHEDULE

DATE: LOCATION:

July 21 ...D3 Boys & Girls Club

July 28 ...D3 Boys & Girls Club

### 9am - 4pm

Vaccines are also available at GRHC Primary Care Department, please call (602) 528-1482 to schedule an appointment.

# No Mask No Entry

ALL PATIENTS AND VISITORS AGES 2 YRS AND ABOVE ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE MASK.



## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

6ft. Apart



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

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



## Alluvion Communications

Alluvion Communications offers a suite of mission-critical enterprise communications solutions that are always smart, fast, and reliable. Our bespoke services introduce service provider options to markets with our own unique network and local network operations center.

Alluvion Communications is a subsidiary of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. and is 100% GRIC owned. Incorporated in 2006, Alluvion began as an HPBX CLEC. Today, Alluvion has grown to become a provider of enterprise fiber, data, and voice services. Our fiber network continues to grow throughout Pinal and Maricopa Counties.

Job creation, network expansion, and 24/7 local support are among the many benefits Alluvion provides to the Gila River Indian Community. As our network grows, so does our team! We work with community entities to recruit local talent and offer training and employment to GRIC members.

To learn more, visit [www.alluvion.net/blog](http://www.alluvion.net/blog) and follow us on social media.

## Alluvion Continues Fiber Optic Network Expansion into Casa Grande



Our construction crew continues to work along Pinal Ave. where we are currently installing 4-way micro duct to house our current fiber and remain prepared for Casa Grande's future fiber capacity needs.

The latest segment of our fiber optic network build continues along Pinal

Avenue from the Casa Grande Municipal Airport down to Florence Boulevard where we will provide high-speed fiber-based internet and phone services to local businesses, schools, and government entities. This segment is part of a multi-city fiber optic ring which will offer increased dependability to our Pinal County customers.

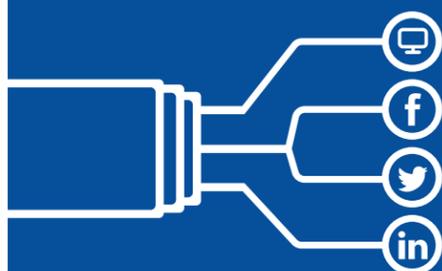
Alluvion's network will future-proof Casa Grande's broadband infrastructure and provide improved quality of service to users. In addition to improvements in speed and reliability, our subscribers will also gain access to 24/7 support from our local network operations center.

Read more at [www.alluvion.net/blog](http://www.alluvion.net/blog).

## Alluvion Provides Hands-on Tech Training for GRIC Elders



Alluvion provided a second training session for GRIC elders who received Amazon Fire Tablets. Our team provided one-on-one training with participants to help answer questions and install applications for communication. Our next training will take place on August 14th at 7:30AM at 1246 E Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85034.



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**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Monica Antone**

Community Council  
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Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Carol Schurz

**District 3**  
Avery White  
Rodney Jackson

**District 4**  
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Charles Goldtooth

**District 7**  
Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer  
Shannon White,  
Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us  
CPAO Acting 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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# Judge Jay Pedro Retires After 35 Years of Service to GRIC

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

After honorably serving the Community as a Children's Court Judge for 30 years, the Honorable Judge Jay Pedro, District 3, concluded his career with the Gila River Tribal Court on June 30. Judge Pedro appointed in February 1991, faithfully served the Community during a tenure that would last for seven consecutive GRIC Community Council terms, a time where he saw the Tribal Court "grow by leaps and bounds."

On July 1, Judge Pedro's retirement ceremony at the Shelde Building at Wild Horse Pass saw him showered with gifts and congratulatory praise from family, friends, and professional colleagues.

"Judge Pedro has been a centering, calm presence who brought respect and integrity during these last 30 years, and he leaves a foundation for our court system that will carry us forward in the future," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Gov. Lewis presented Pedro with a traditional O'otham warriors club symbolizing his "long-term legacy defending and protecting the Community's laws, sovereignty, and children."

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone commended Judge Pedro's dedication to Community youth both in and outside the courtroom. "Jay's fatherly absence will be felt because there will never be another Jay Pedro. We thank you for the 30 years you gave us, and in retirement, I hope you enjoy yourself, and I hope you will be at peace with whatever you do."

Lt. Gov. Antone presented the judge with an O'otham basket adorned with kokopellis signifying his leadership.

Judge Pedro's 30 years had

an immeasurable impact on the Community and the tribal court staff. Judge Pedro recalled his early days sharing one courtroom among three judges, including a small 9-foot-by-12-foot office for legal hearings. With the Court having grown to eight Judges, six courtrooms, and a staff of 60 – plus the new GRIC Judicial Center – Pedro says he finds the progress remarkable.

"Our goal is simple and yet complex," the Judge explained. "We strive to provide services to children and families so that they may share a life of stability, nurturance, and wellness." Pedro called ensuring each child's welfare critical to his work, saying his goal was always "to keep families together and provide opportunities for children to experience better futures."

Judge Pedro described his career as a mix of challenges and many fond memories. "I have some successes here because there have been times that adults approach me in public and thank me for helping them through some tough times during their childhood and even introduce me to their children. It is incidents like this that make me feel like all the hard work I put forth as a Judge was well worth it."

Judge Pedro credited his parents and grandparents for their supportive parenting. "I have been especially inspired by my late mother, Henrietta Pablo, who raised six children but still made time to go back to school and eventually get her teaching degree at Arizona State University," said Pedro.

His late mother's tenacity also bestowed invaluable teaching that carried him to this point in his life, he explained. "She taught me to respect others, to respect your family, to respect yourself, to respect your Community and



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (right) presented Judge Pedro with a parting gift in appreciation for his years of service. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Lt. Gov. Antone (far right) presented a traditional O'otham basket featuring a Kokopellis design to Judge Pedro. Kyle Knox/GRIN

traditions, and also that hard work will get you far in your life."

The extent to which those values and teachings carried over into his courtroom and among court staff was evident during a retirement luncheon held for him on June 30. The Judge spoke to his colleagues, many of whom sniffled and had tears in their eyes. At the close of his remarks, in his court, the court bailiff called out to everyone seated on the

courtroom benches, "All rise for the Honorable Judge Pedro" one last time.

"It does not feel like 30 years," Pedro told the courtroom. "It has been a journey. And if I had to do it all over again, I would, because I hope that people will see that my career had some merit."

**Additional photo on page 12**

## From front page

the Community Council, Lt. Governor and I will continue to work around the clock until this emergency is done," said Gov. Lewis, who praised Community members for looking out for each other, and for checking on the elderly and homebound affected by the storm.

Both Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone expressed concerns about how the storm would impact Community members financially. A financial assistance program – the Community Temporary Emergency Relief program – was immediately set up to reimburse families for out-of-pocket costs for hotel rooms and the replacement of perishable food items.

For families with one to four members, a one-time \$150 payment will be issued to the head of household to replace perishable food items. A one-time \$250 payment will be issued to the head of household to replace perishable food items for households with 5 or more members.

"It's for each head of



GRICUA crews work to repair damaged power lines along Highway 587 in District 5. Kyle Knox/CPAO

household for each of the districts that were impacted by the power outage," said Lt. Gov. Antone. "I know it has been a stressful past couple of days for all of us, but I want to thank the workers behind the scenes for putting the process together."

Lt. Gov. Antone said a check will be disbursed within 24 hours after a reimbursement application has been submitted along with necessary proof. She also talked about the lessons imparted by the storm.

"Our 'Himdag' is to work together," said Lt. Gov. Antone

"When it comes to times like this, our ancestors and past leaders that went before us pulled together to help one another."

Below is the eligibility requirement for Community members requesting assistance through the Temporary Emergency Relief Program.

- Applicants must reside within the Gila River Indian Community.
- Applicants must be affected by a power outage of over 4 hours resulting in loss of perishable food items.
- Applicants must have

incurred out-of-pocket expenses for off-site room accommodations and food expenses with supporting receipts.

- Applicants must comply with all requirements that support Client Tracking (i.e. tribal enrollment, Social Security numbers, Date of birth) for all members of the household.
  - Households consisting of a multiple members will only be eligible to receive one payout.
- Community members are encouraged to contact their District service center with questions or to apply.

# NABI Brings Native Basketball Talent Together For Tournament Including More Than 120 Teams

GRIN Staff

The Native American Basketball Invitational returned for 2021 after being cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The familiar sights and sounds of cheering families took over gymnasiums across the Valley, as 124 teams competed in this year's NABI tournament from July 12-17.

The annual invitational has become a major event for Native youth basketball players. While last year's event was sidelined for public health reasons, this year's return was marked by all involved adhering to guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control, including face masks worn at all times for those in attendance with the exception of coaches and players while on the court.

NABI had announced the launch of "NABI Network" a platform to highlight Native American student athletes.

"It's really good to be back out on the court playing basketball. I know we've been looking forward to the tournament," said Ronnie Lyons, Head coach for the 21st Natives boys' basketball team. He said due to the COVID-19 restrictions on social gatherings, the team was able to formally get together only a few weeks before the tournament. "The team we have now is all new, with the exception of two, so we are working with this fresh group as we go along."

Lyons said his focus would be on giving his team experience playing different groups from visiting tribes and gelling as a unit.

"We've always had players who are new to



**Nick Harrison drowns a three-pointer, during a game against Northern Thunder on July 12.** Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

the tournament. For some it's their first time playing here, so we want them to get used of the pace of things," said, Lyons, who added that the team will be looking to compete in future tournaments after NABI to get them inspired for the next matchup against other teams.

Edward Lucero of the Snaketown boys team also said that his team had not had many opportunities to get to know each other. Lucero was proud of the team's level of play for being in their first tournament since sporting events were reopened.

"Due to the pandemic, we didn't get a lot of practice in, so we are coming together as best we can with the time we had before the tournament," said Lucero.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was delighted to see the teams compete.

"It's been a long 15 months, bringing sports back and the Community

together and bringing teams from Indian Country together." Lewis called the tournament a testament to how Natives have been able to persevere through the pandemic.

"It's good to see our Community members in the stands rooting for our teams and being there for their son or daughter putting their heart into the game," said the Gov. Lewis.

For Community member Nick Harrison, this year's NABI was a swan song of sorts, as this will be his last year playing in the tournament. "Sadly, this is my last high school tournament. After this weekend, I'll be going to college and I am trying to make the best of it in the tournament," he said. Harrison, who plays for the PHX Native Hot Boyz, has been a on a roll this summer after competing in a tournament in Las Vegas two weeks ago.

In years past, the NABI championship games are



**A player from the Snaketown boys basketball team makes a drive to the basket, during a game against Apache Boyz team on July 13.** Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

held at the Phoenix Suns Arena to allow players the opportunity to play on an NBA court. But with the Phoenix Suns reaching the NBA finals, NABI announced that the championship game would be moved to Camelback High School on Saturday, July 17. In addition, winning

teams in the championship received tickets to attend game 5 of the NBA finals between the Phoenix Suns and Milwaukee Bucks. The Suns lost that game to the Bucks in a nail-biter, 123-119.

The opening ceremonies for the NABI championship game included the Haskell

Osife-Antone American Legion Post #51 from District 1 and Tim Terry, who conducted the opening prayer. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was presented the Phil Homeratha Leadership Award during a halftime ceremony.



**A member of the 21st Natives Boys Basketball team makes a free throw during a game against the War Scouts on July 12.** Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

## From front page

Country. Roads across tribal communities are in disrepair and need major improvements, a situation that has long plagued tribes across the U.S.

Gov. Lewis impressed upon Buttigieg the need to expand federal funding for use to build transportation and road improvement projects. "I know [you] have been a champion for inclusion of tribal nations in infrastructure packages that will be considered before Congress," said Gov. Lewis. "My request to you and President Biden is simple. Allow tribes to utilize the American Rescue Plan Act funding to invest in the range of infrastructure needs due to the pandemic and to prevent future emergency events."

Gov. Lewis urged

Buttigieg to request that President Biden issue a memorandum allowing tribal nations immediate access to ARPA funding for use to improve roads and other transportation projects. "I know that you and the President have a chance to revise the funding to address this unprecedented crisis, Mr. Secretary," said Gov. Lewis.

Secretary Buttigieg called his tour an eye-opener. "Several things of what we saw today are unique: the rate of growth in communities, the close coordination and collaboration between tribal leadership, federal leadership and local leadership, along with the unique conditions in Indian Country," said Buttigieg.

Buttigieg added that the rate of growth in a community such as GRIC

and cities like Maricopa offer special cases where major transportation thoroughways intersect and pass through the Community.

"What is special about today, is that I am literally able to be at the table with tribal leaders and literally come out and 'kick the dust' on the physical needs," said Buttigieg.

Gov. Lewis stressed the importance of Interstate 10. He cited the Community's partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Maricopa Association of Governments on solving transportation issues. Lewis added that I-10 represents a critical element not only for the Community but for the state and for interstate economic activity.

"Twenty miles (of

I-10) go right through the Community and you can see there are two lanes on both sides," said Lewis. "This is one of the last stretches of

the I-10 to be developed."

He said I-10, like many

of the major thoroughways

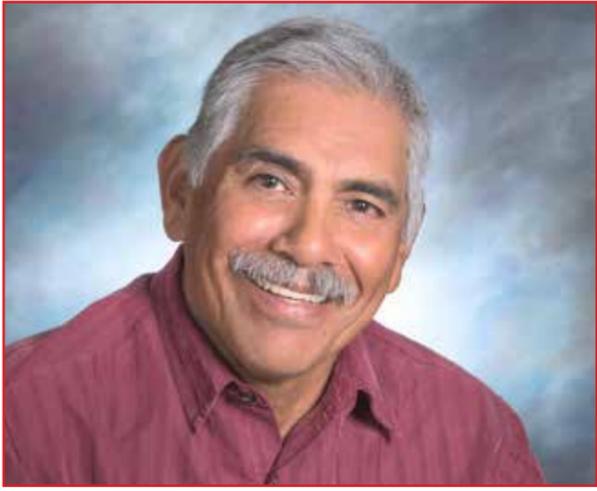
on the Community, need

improvements in order

to make them safe for all travelers, both from and to the Community.



**Gov. Lewis speaks with Secretary Buttigieg at the intersection of Highway 347 and Riggs Road, which is one of the many busy roadways on the Community.** Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



By Billy Allen

Being cooped up during this pandemic gave me lots of time to read. An enjoyable and very informative hardcover is, We Had a Little Real Estate Problem, The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy by Kliph Nesteroff. Native Oneida comic Charlie Hill had this go-to joke: "My people are from Wisconsin. We used to be from New York. We had a little real estate problem." All tribes have "had a little real estate problem." Humor is one way to handle setbacks so comedians can help smooth out rough spots. The observations of these O'odham are "kinda goot."

Multi-talented Teresa Choyghua has made us laugh as a mistress of ceremonies, comedienne, actress, and podcaster. "Kekel (elders) would call me "Payasa" and tell me funny stuff all the time, THEY should be on stage. Thinking of them still makes me laugh and I

enjoy their O'odham humor. Humor has always been a part of my life. I have a friend who says I'm silly because of the crop dusting that went on. I must have inhaled too much!" In grade school, she was often told to pay attention. Outside the classroom, she and her friends would put on plays with Teresa narrating the story along. She loved to be around people and talking. As she got older, "I also had to speak for my parents as English was not their first language. This was scary, but I got used to it." After high school she found herself being sought out to MC tribal events, pageants, parades, conferences, Waila Festivals, etc. "I enjoyed speaking to the audience and keeping the event going. I'd throw in a joke here and there and they were always well received." Teresa's professional career began when she took the stage at a Native Comedy event/contest in Tucson and won \$50 for her joke about an O'odham dog named Husi. The bright lights beckoned

# A'AGA

and the next year she was invited to open another comedy fundraiser. "That's how I got my start." The rest is herstory.

Many O'odham and Hollywood know Teresa as Sharmayne in More Than Frybread, released in 2012. The "mockumentary" is about the World Wide Frybread Association Arizona Chapter State Championship. When I asked Teresa if there is a difference between Akimel and Tohono humor, she responded, "Humor is universal. I don't know if there is a big difference. Native humor can be tweaked to work across tribes. For example, I have had good success turning my Husi joke into a Yaqui joke or an Apache joke." Such is her appeal in crossing tribal boundaries, she was "adopted" by the San Carlos Apache.

Teresa shares an insight about the creative process. "I'll have a concept and just use it. Maybe it will work and maybe it won't. I may have to modify it and/or build upon it, whether it's the delivery or content. My family used to critique my work in the early days. I just spoke with the "Ladies," we have an upcoming virtual show and we just agreed to meet and run through our material, we never really

did that before. I'm looking forward to that." [The Ladies of Native Comedy currently are comprised of Teresa Choyghua, Adrienne Chalepah, and Deanna M.A.D.]

A 5th grade talent show with extra credit offered lured this O'otham comedian on the comedy road. "I wasn't the best student in the classroom, lol," admits Tony Davis. But that extra credit was like gold, so on stage he went. "Peers knew me to be a class clown, so I don't think it was a surprise to them seeing me become a "performer." A respected D5 elder bestowed "Gohk" upon Tony. Later that elder would explain to Gohk, O'otham like to poke fun at each other-all the time! His debut performance was during the Ge'e Ki O'otham Thash (District 3 Indian Day) Celebration, "I can't remember exactly what I said, but I know I utilized my whole body to tell the story especially my chin (lips). It felt amazing to hear the laughter of a gym full of people. I don't know if it was a packed house." Gohk began sharing his humorous stories with "O'otham communities because for me it's a really natural and unique style of comedy. When you're on stage and you want to make people

laugh and have a good time, everything feels much more intense." To someone interested in performing, Gohk offers some advice, "stage fright is real, it can be frightening," and becoming really nervous is "very natural when you are going to be on a stage in front of a microphone."

Experience has made Gohk aware of nuances within O'otham humor. Using local slang and happenings for different locations is a plus. "Districts vary in the use of slang and expressions, including the names of their districts and areas," he has noticed. "Kids from Kuiva (West End) would have to go home earlier when the sun went down because they were close to Komatk (Thick Mountain aka Estrella Mountain). It's like a different time zone over there." Gohk goes on how O'otham is spoken very slowly at the east end, while at the west end, it is spoken very fast, but, "in Vah Ki/ Casa Blanca we speak perfect and very smooth sounding..." Ha'o. Pegi. Heu'u.

Gohk is not standing still, "I think some topics could be relatable and funny within Natives universally. For example, Charlie Hill would have a lot of jokes that I thought were funny when

he joked about treaty rights and "real estate" problems amongst the Eastern Native Tribes. Folks were surprised when the videos came out. I always keep the audience in mind, because I know... all ages watch our video or they are present at the events that I am hosting/MC'ing. I am looking to expand and do a little bit more mature material, nothing really crazy or raunchy, but in my opinion I think in some circumstances swear/curse words are necessary. I was able to do a virtual open mic with various Native Comedians via Instagram during the pandemic, probably the biggest platform that I performed on. I have been wanting to challenge myself with developing new material especially during the pandemic to provide comic relief."

The pandemic "isolated" us to avoid being around contagious individuals, it was a rough spot. From A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, this line really fits in with O'odham thought, "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor." O'odham please continue to make laughter contagious. Ha'o. Pegi. Heu'u.



## Jukbig Mashath, Jegos Haichu Ñeo'ok

The name for this month translates to 'the rainy moon' and refers to the arrival of the summer rains. Our Hekiu O'otham named everything in our O'otham Universe relating to the natural elements. The naming process includes weather patterns and elements. First to arrive is the s-vathagama, which is a sharp rise in humidity, or dampness, that makes the desert smell like rain. Today, we can observe this rise in humidity by noticing a vapor mist when we open our freezers, or observe how droplets form on a glass of chilled water. We can observe the distant storm clouds approaching from the south and getting closer every day. When a jegos (dust storm) appears from the south carrying a high

wall of dust, we know it's time to shut the windows and secure objects that might blow away in the fast approaching strong hevel (winds). Often we can hear mo 'am bebethk, which is the sound of thunder off in the distance accompanied by vep'gi which is red lightning observed with the thunder. We know when the ju:k is upon us by the very loud thathañk, which is a thunder clap directly overhead that makes us jump. With the thathañk we can expect to witness wi:hiom, which is bright, white lightning directly overhead that can strike something and is considered very dangerous. The ju:k then announces its arrival by pattering on our roofs. Sometimes we hear a loud sound like pebbles dropping

on our roofs and we know its cha' (hail). We all know when the storm has past, since the hevel will slow down and the rain turns into si:bañ (light drizzle). If the sun is still up after the ju:k has passed, we might be able to see a kiohoq (rainbow). Children get happy when the temperature drops 25 degrees and they go out and play in the rain puddles. After the first good rainfall, Babaith (desert toads) emerge from underground, and we can hear them singing into the night until the land dries out in a month or two.

We encourage you to speak O'otham in your everyday lives. Speak with an Elder or Speaker and learn to say the weather element terms. Terms may be slightly different between

the villages.

A special Thank You for the Vah-ki: Kekel for

sharing their knowledge of Jegos Haichu Ñeo'ok. Answers to word matchi

puzzle can be found on page. 11.

### Jukbig Mashath: Match the Weather Element with its Picture!

hevel

kiohoq

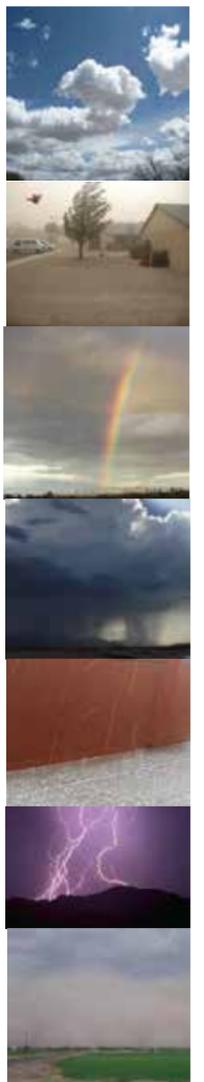
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thathañk 'ep vep'gi

jegos

ju:k



Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING NON-EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Public Health Nursing Main Line:  
(520) 550-6042

Rema Metts, Director  
(520) 610-9528

Erica Kalis, Program Manager  
(520) 610-5239

Veronica Rivers, Office Coordinator  
(520) 610-2131



## EMERGENCY RESOURCES

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DISTRICT 3 - (520) 610-1331

DISTRICT 4 - (520) 610-8456

DISTRICT 5 - (520) 610-1339

DISTRICT 6 - (520) 610-4110

DISTRICT 7 - (520) 610-6180

PUBLIC HEALTH: (520) 550-6042

ANIMAL CONTROL: (520) 610-0657



# Arizona Diamondbacks

## NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY

### SUNDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2021



# MVU Events Help Community Members Get Vaccines, as Cases of Delta Variants Rise in U.S.

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

As the Gila River Indian Community continues its fight against COVID-19, the Mobile Vaccine Unit program continues to gain momentum as a key resource for those not yet vaccinated. During a June 27 vaccination event in District 4, 38 Community members received a COVID-19 vaccine.

The MVU stops have helped hundreds of Community members age 12 and up get vaccinated over the past several months. With the new Delta variant sweeping across the U.S., the Community continues to promote its efforts to make vaccines accessible to GRIC members – including through a social media campaign called “What’s Your Why” and by giving away prizes to bring more people to each MVU event.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis highlighted the GRIC vaccination rates and concerns over the Delta variant in a recent video address.

“Together ... we kept our community from becoming a hotspot despite what was occurring across the state and nation,” said Gov. Lewis. “Six months into our vax program, we are at a 41 percent vaccination rate for our community.”

Gov. Lewis thanked Community members and GRIC employees for getting the COVID-19 vaccine, in turn allowing GRIC to relax certain COVID-19 restrictions and allowing many tribal workers to return to work. Gov. Lewis said that although the

Community’s 41 percent vaccination rate is good, there needs to be an ongoing effort to get every Community member fully vaccinated.

The Community’s vaccination efforts have been hailed as an example by local and federal partners, including Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, First Lady Jill Biden and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, said Gov. Lewis. The President’s wife and the Vice President’s husband both encouraged Community members to get the vaccine, with an emphasis on the youth population.

While the COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective against the Delta variant, said Lewis, he explained that this form of COVID-19 is 60 percent more transmissible and highly contagious for individuals who have not received a vaccine or their booster shot. Lewis urged young people about to return to schools to get vaccinated.

“As we plan for in person learning in our Community schools, my personal plea to our members is to make a plan to get vaccinated,” said Gov. Lewis. “As you can see there are vaccination events being planned in the Community and our mobile units are still out in the Community.”

Gov. Lewis also promoted the “What’s Your Why” campaign, encouraging Community members to think about their “why” to get vaccinated.

“My own ‘why’ is to protect our Community,”

said Lewis. “It’s been a long and difficult pandemic and I am eager to see each of us gathering together at events throughout our community.”

Gemini Valenzuela, a District 4 resident, came to get her booster shot along with her sister. She cited her grandmother as her reason for getting the shot.

“I wanted to visit her ... but I wanted to be safe for her and the whole family,” said Valenzuela, who pleaded with others to get vaccinated. “I encourage everyone to come out and get their vaccine. Especially for those going off to school, you will do a lot of good for yourself and the family.”

District 4 member Landen Martinez said the vaccine provides protection against others who may not be following social distancing protocols and not wearing a mask while in school. “I’m glad I got it,” said Martinez, a student at Mountain Pointe High School. “I am going to be back to school and I feel great, because I know I’ll have protection against the virus and for everyone around me.”



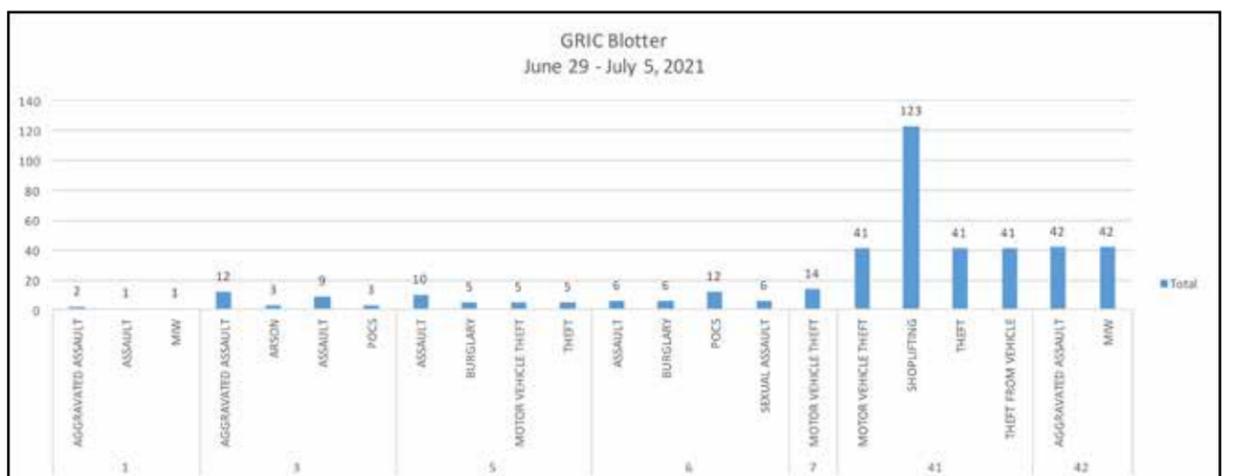
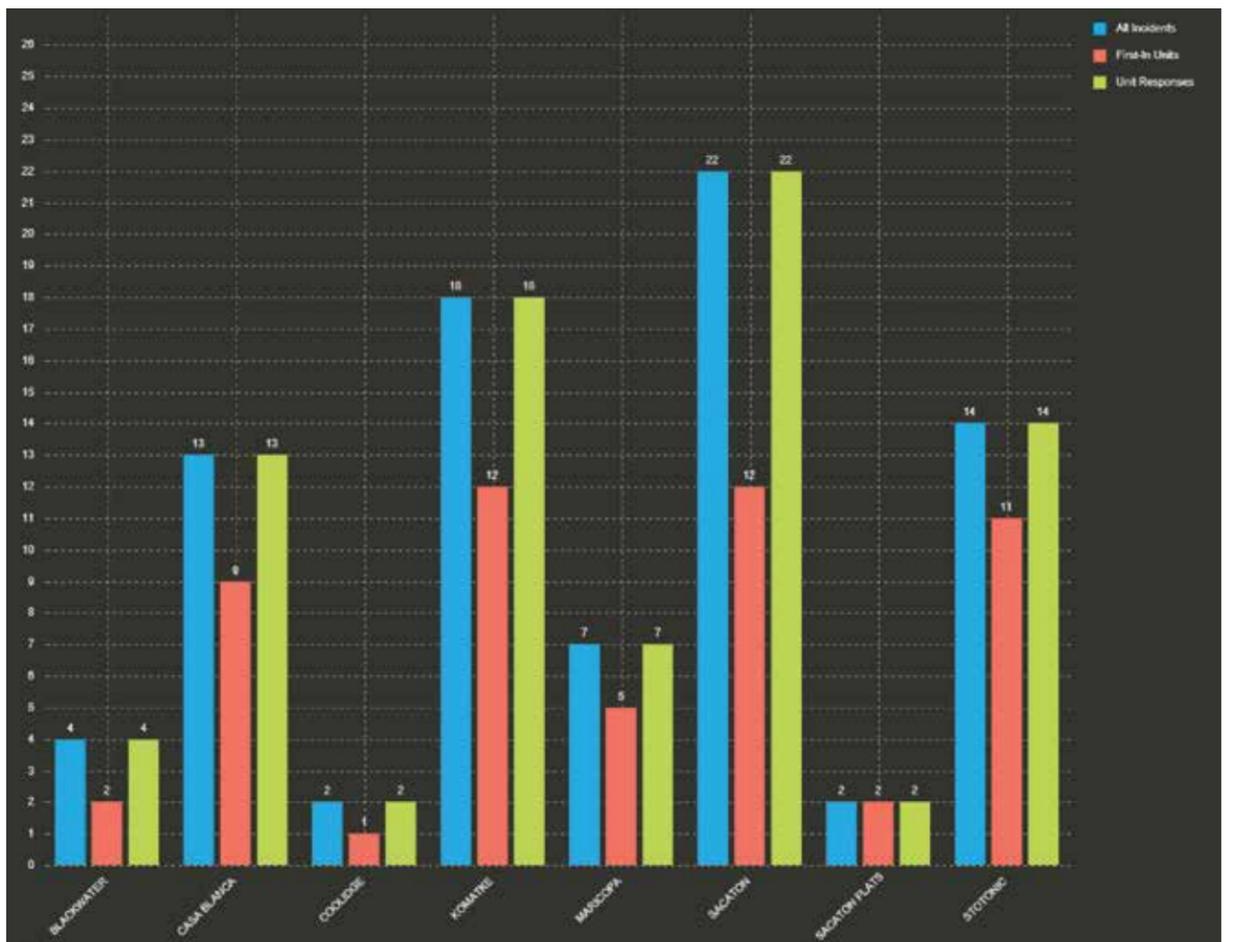
**GRIC youth Landen Martinez** came out to the MVU stop in District 4 on June 27. Zachary Redbird/CPAO

Natasha Juan, a Coolidge High School student, who lives in District 3, said her “why” centers on playing sports and helping protect her friends against COVID-19. “I feel a lot better getting vaccinated,” said Juan. “I think about being able to hang out with my friends, but also playing softball, because it can get hot wearing a mask and it’ll be easier to breathe.”



**Natasha Juan** a Community youth, came out to get her vaccination. Zachary Redbird/CPAO

## Gila River Police Department Incident Logs



# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • July 7, 2021

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

**CALL TO ORDER**  
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, July 7, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

**INVOCATION**  
Provided by Councilman Terrance Evans

**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, Christopher Mendoza; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Wahlean Riggs; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird  
Council Members Absent:  
**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORTS #2 AND #3, RESOLUTION #7, AND NEW BUSINESS #11  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #4; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 - #6, AND #8 - #13; ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1 AND #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED  
**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**  
**REPORTS**  
1. COVID 19 Update  
Presenter: COVID-19 Task Force  
**ITEM HEARD**  
>2. Head Start Monthly Report – May 2021  
Presenter: Carolina Kelley  
**ITEM TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>3. Gila River Indian Community Head Start Self-Assessment School Year 20-21  
Presenter: Carolina Kelley  
**ITEM TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>4. Gila River Sand & Gravel Quarterly Report FY-21 Q-2  
Presenters: Michael Morago, Donna Stowell, Darin White  
**ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
5. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council May 2021 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Dale Enos; Melvin S. Sanderson; Gaming Commission Board  
**REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
6. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report for May 2021 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel; Richard Strafella; Dominic Orozco, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee  
**REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
>1. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And REDW, LLC For Fiscal Year 2022 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>2. A Resolution Approving An Amendment To The Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Capital Projects Budget For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>3. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The October 1, 2020 Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for

approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #2 To The October 1, 2020 Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Peter Mock Groundwater Consulting, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>5. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The October 1, 2020 Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Keller-Bliesner Engineering, LLC For Fiscal Year 2021 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Linus Everling; Thomas Murphy  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #2 To The Agreement Of October 1, 2020 Between The Gila River Indian Community And Lippes Mathias Wexler & Friedman, LLP (G&MSC forwards to Council with a commendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Naomi Bebo; Willard Antone III  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>7. A Resolution Authorizing The Use Of FY 2020 And FY 2021 105(L) Indian Health Service And Casa Blanca School Leasing Revenue As The Initial Capital In The Community Infrastructure Fund To Cover The Debt Service Associated With Tax Exempt Or Taxable Bond Financing To Finance Certain Community Infrastructure Projects Within Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller  
**TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>8. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Indian Community Department Of Transportation To Apply For Fiscal Year 2021 Road Maintenance Funds From The Bureau Of Indian Affairs Western Regional Office Division Of Transportation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenter: Gregory McDowell  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>9. A Resolution Approving The Operation Of A Business In Addition To A Residence On Santan Subdivision No. 3 Lot 26 Known As Morningstar Apparel Located In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and EDSC concur)  
Presenters: Kimberly Antone; Amberly Rivers; Lynette Johns; Anisha Ortega  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>10. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Melanie Rene Villegas Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>11. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Xavier Marcus Villegas Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>12. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Matthew Isiah Villegas Into The Gila River Indian

approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
>13. A Resolution Incorporating The 2020 Constitutional Amendments And Previously Adopted Amendments Into The 1960 Gila River Indian Community Constitution And Bylaws And Codifying Them As The 2021 Gila River Indian Community Constitution And Bylaws (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Javier Ramos  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
**ORDINANCES**  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
1. Cultural Resource Standing Committee Appointment One (1) Council Seat  
Presenter: Community Council  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT COUNCILWOMAN JENNIFER ALLISON**  
2. Gila River Utility Authority Board of Directors Two (2) Appointments  
Presenter: Community Council  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT FELICIA KAUFMAN AND BELINDA NELSON**  
3. Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Board of Directors Two (2) Appointments  
Presenter: Community Council  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT ELIZABETH ANTONE AND PAMELA THOMAS**  
4. Investigative Report /Chief Judge (Executive Session) (LSC forwards to Council)  
Presenters: Brian Schulman; Leigh Ann Ciccarelli  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND FOR 90 DAYS WITHOUT PAY**  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO PUBLISH COUNCIL ACTION SHEET IN THE GRIN**  
**NEW BUSINESS**  
>1. BGCGRIC Reopening Programming Plan (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Jason Jones, Mark Clavell, Anita Leon, Jocelyn Young, Soyet Antone, Tamara Peters  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
2. G&M Work Session – FY2022 Operating and Capital Budget (G&MSC Work Session to be held on July 29th – August 1, 2021 at the We-Ko-Pa Resort in Ft. McDowell and G&MSC forwards to Council for any interested Council to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE**  
3. Draft Communications Plan (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Barney Enos, Jr., Dale Gutenson, Ron Rosier, Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE**  
4. Request to Re-Program FY21 Tribal Budget Funds (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Stephanie Saucedo-Manuel; Cletus Shirley; GRF Board of Directors  
**MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE**  
>5. Application Submission for American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Native Language Funding Opportunity (G&MSC forwards to Council as information only and for placement on the consent agenda; ESC and CRSC concur)  
Presenter: Anthony Gray  
**ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
6. Authorization for The Department of Environmental Quality to Establish A Surface Water Quality Ordinance to Protect and maintain the Quality of the Surface Waters Located

**Continued on Page 10**

## From Page 9

within Community Lands (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Willard Antone III; Naomi Bebo; Ian Shavitz  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

7. Gila River Indian Community Department of Tribal Programs and Administration Audit Reporting Package ending September 30, 2021 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Chris Tyhurst, Wesley Benally, Elizabeth Bohnee, Mike Jacobs  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

8. Gila River Health Care & The Caring House FY20 External Audit Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept; HSSC concurs

Presenters: Chris Tyhurst, Colaine Curtis, Pauline Tang, Board of Directors, Judith Roth, Max Haake, Dr. Anthony Santiago

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

9. Letter of Resignation (ESC accepts the letter of resignation and forwards to Council to declare the vacancy and to fill the vacancy at the next Council meeting)

Presenter: James De La Rosa

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION, DECLARE THE VACANCY AND APPOINT AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

10. Governor's 6th Annual Education Summit Report (ESC motioned to forward to Council under New Business as FYI)

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Chas Damo, Sienna Whittington, Jeffery Thornburg, Anthony Gray, Jennifer Hinton  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

11. FYI - Loan Product - COVID Mortgage Catchup Loan (EDSC forwards to Council as FYI)

Presenter: Teresa Mandelini

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA MINUTES

1. June 4, 2021 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. June 18, 2021 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. June 25, 2021 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ Special Employee Benefit Trust Meeting Thursday July 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

~Special Education Standing Committee Meeting Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

## Submissions

### Submission

Anika Evans

#### LOCAL STUDENT EVELYN J ENOS RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

Desert Vista High School student recognized for superior academic achievement by The National Society of High School Scholars

ATLANTA, GA-June 28, 2021 - The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) today announced student Evelyn J Enos from Sacaton, AZ, has been selected to become a member of the esteemed organization. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. The announcement was made by NSHSS Co-founder and President James W. Lewis.

"On behalf of NSHSS and our co-founder Claes Nobel, a member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes, I am honored to recognize the hard work, passion and commitment that Evelyn has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Lewis. "Evelyn is now a member of a unique community of scholars - a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

"We are proud to provide lifetime membership to young scholars to support their growth and development," stated Lewis. "We help students like Evelyn build on their academic success by connecting them with learning experiences and resources to help prepare them for college and meaningful careers."

NSHSS members automatically become lifetime members at the time of their initial membership. Each step along the way - from high school to

college to career - NSHSS connects outstanding young scholars with the resources they need to develop their strengths and pursue their passions.

Formed in 2002 by James W. Lewis and Claes Nobel, member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes, the National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and helps to advance the goals and aspirations of high-achieving students through unique learning experiences, scholarships, internships, international study, and peer networks. Currently there are more than 1,700,000 members in over 170 countries. To help us further efforts that provide students with continued opportunity, please acknowledge NSHSS in any press release mentions by providing a resource link to [www.nshss.org](http://www.nshss.org). For more information about NSHSS visit [www.nshss.org](http://www.nshss.org).

#### Gila Crossing Community School 4665 W. Pecos Rd. Laveen, AZ 85339

Available Positions:

#### Bus Driver Applicants must:

Possess a High School Diploma or the equivalency Certificate  
Possess current CDL and a Student Transportation Certification.

Pass a regular physical, visual, and hearing examination.

Must be alert, careful, and possess the ability to maintain emotional calm in periods of emergency. Be First Aid/ CPR Certified.

Possess a valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (IVP Card)

Must possess a valid food handler's card when necessary

#### Bus Monitor Applicants Must:

Possess a High School Diploma

or the equivalency Certificate  
Demonstrate working knowledge of monitoring children

Be First Aid/CPR Certified

Possess a valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (IVP Card)

#### Cultural Assistant Applicants Must:

Possess a High School Diploma or the equivalency Certificate

Be First Aid/CPR Certified

Possess a valid Arizona Driver's License

Possess a valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (IVP Card) Knowledge of Language and Gila River Indian Community is preferred

#### Agricultural Assistant:

Possess a High School Diploma or the equivalency Certificate Be First Aid/ CPR Certified

Possess a Valid Arizona Driver's

License

Possess a Valid IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card

#### Food Service Worker:

Possess a High School Diploma or the equivalency Certificate Be First Aid/ CPR Certified

Possess a valid Arizona Driver's License

Possess a valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (IVP Card) Possess a valid Food handler's card

\*\* All applicants must have the Ability to successfully pass a pre employment drug test and extensive FBI background check.

Contact: Karen McQueen, Human Resources (520) 550-4834 Ext. 246 or (602) 738-0505



#### Submitted by Rolinda Perez & Family

Amira L. Perez  
Arizona Virtual Academy  
Continuing to 9th grade at AVA.  
Amira has gone from 4th grade to 8th grade with AVA 9K-12). She loves

it so much, that she wants to continue through high school. I'm so proud of her. I've been her learning coach along side her for years. And I too, am going back to school. - Rolinda Perez.

## Court Notices

In the Matter of: J.A.  
Docket Number: JC-2020-0205-JC

Parent(s): DESTINY DAVIS; ARNOLDO RICARDO MANUEL; RICK MANUEL

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.

Answer/Response Hearing: -  
father DATE: September 9, 2021  
TIME: 11:00 AM

Answer/Response Hearing: -  
mother DATE: August 3, 2021  
TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION:  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA  
KUD KI  
721 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

In the Matter of: A. Minors  
Docket Number: JC-2020-0047-JC, JC-2020-0048-JC

Parent: LARISSA AMAVISCA AND MELVIN NATANI

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.

Answer/Response Hearing:-  
mother DATE: August 17, 2021  
TIME: 9:00 AM

Answer/Response Hearing:-  
father DATE: September 9, 2021  
TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION:  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA  
KUD KI  
721 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

In the Matter of: D.H.  
Docket Number: JC-2020-0093-JC

Parents: CYNDELL JACKSON

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.

Answer/Response Hearing:  
DATE: September 21, 2021  
TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION:  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA  
KUD KI  
721 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

In the Matter of: L.B.  
Docket Number: JC-2019-0142-JC

Parent(s): ANTHONY THOMAS  
This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU

FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.

Answer/Response Hearing:  
- DATE: October 14, 2021  
TIME: 11:00 AM

Answer/Response Hearing: -  
JC-2019--0142 DATE: September 9,  
2021 TIME: 11:30 AM

LOCATION:  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA  
KUD KI 721 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

In the Matter of: Nish  
Docket Number: JC-2020-0001-JC, JC-2020-0002-JC, JC-2020-0003-JC

Parent(s): TARA NISH and REGGIE LEWIS

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.

Answer/Response Hearing:  
DATE: September 21, 2021  
TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION:  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA  
KUD KI 721 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, AZ 85147



The Arizona Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, announces July 16, 2021 as the publication date for the Interstate 11 Final Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement and Preliminary Section 4(f) Evaluation (Final Tier 1 EIS), beginning a 30-day public review period.

The Final Tier 1 EIS process, conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, identifies a Preferred Corridor Alternative for the proposed I-11 corridor between Nogales and Wickenburg.

#### REVIEW THE FINAL TIER 1 EIS DOCUMENT

The Final Tier 1 EIS is available for review on the study website at [i11study.com/Arizona](http://i11study.com/Arizona). Hard copies of the Final Tier 1 EIS are also available for review during normal business hours at the following repository locations:

- **Wickenburg** – Wickenburg Town Hall, 155 N. Tegner Street, Ste. A
  - **Wickenburg** – Wickenburg Public Library, 164 E. Apache Street
  - **Surprise** – Northwest Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Avenue
  - **Buckeye** – Buckeye Public Library/ Downtown Branch, 310 N. 6th Street
  - **Buckeye** – Buckeye City Hall, 530 E. Monroe Avenue
  - **Phoenix** – Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue
  - **Goodyear** – Goodyear Library, 14455 W. Van Buren Street, C-101
  - **Rainbow Valley** – Buckeye Valley Fire District/Station 326, 19937 W. Arlington Road
  - **Hidden Valley/Maricopa** – Thunderbird Fire Station, 12356 N. Ralston Road
  - **Maricopa** – Maricopa Public Library (Pinal County Library District), 18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive
  - **Casa Grande** – Main Library, 449 N. Drylake Street
  - **Gila Bend** – Gila Bend Library, 777 N. Logan Avenue
  - **Eloy** – Eloy Santa Cruz Library, 1000 N. Main Street
  - **Marana** – Picture Rocks Fire District/ Station 121, 7341 N. Sandario Road
  - **Marana** – Town of Marana Municipal Complex, 11555 W. Civic Center Drive
  - **Tucson** – Flowing Wells Library, 1730 W. Wetmore Road
  - **Tucson** – Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Avenue
  - **Tucson** – Richard Elias-Mission Public Library, 3770 S. Mission Road
  - **Sahuarita** – Sahuarita Town Offices, 375 W. Sahuarita Center Way
  - **Green Valley** – Joyner-Green Valley Library, 601 N. La Cañada Drive
  - **Nogales** – Nogales-Rochlin Library, 518 N. Grand Avenue
- You can order and purchase a printed hard copy version of all or part of the Final Tier 1 EIS at:**
- **Wickenburg** – Wickenburg Kwikprint, 177 W. Wickenburg Way, Ste. B | 928.684.7229
  - **Buckeye** – To The Limit Printing Solutions, Inc., 108 N. 4th Street | 623.374.4303
  - **Phoenix** – AlphaGraphics, 2120 E. Camelback Road | 602.263.0122\*
  - **Phoenix** – Graphic Ideals, 4631 E. Thomas Road | 602.318.4084\*
  - **Maricopa** – Impressive Imaging, 44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Ste. 102 | 520.568.3098\*
  - **Casa Grande** – International Minute Press, 973 E. Cottonwood Lane, Ste. 105 | 520.208.2516\*
  - **Marana** – FedEx, 8150 N. Cortaro Road | 520.572.8345\*
  - **Tucson** – FedEx, 2607 E. Speedway Boulevard | 520.795.7796\*
  - **Green Valley** – UPS Store, 190 W. Continental Road, Ste. 216 | 520.625.9311\*
- \* Offers delivery to your location. Contact the vendor for details.
- Submit any review comments by **Monday, August 16, 2021** via:  
**Online:** [i11study.com/Arizona](http://i11study.com/Arizona)  
**Phone:** 1.844.544.8049 (bilingüe)  
**Email:** [i11study@azdot.gov](mailto:i11study@azdot.gov)  
**Mail:** I-11 Tier 1 EIS Study Team  
c/o ADOT Communications  
1655 W. Jackson Street, Mail Drop 126F  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Draft Tier 1 EIS was published on April 5, 2019, and made available for review and comment from April 5 through July 8, 2019. Six public hearings were held in April and May of 2019 in Nogales, Tucson, Marana, Casa Grande, Buckeye and Wickenburg.

The Record of Decision (ROD), the final decision-making document prepared by the Federal Highway Administration, is expected to be published later in 2021 after the public review of the Final Tier 1 EIS. This document will include the Selected Corridor Alternative.

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, ADOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons who require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact Laura Douglas, ADOT Community Relations Project Manager, at 602.568.7721 or [ldouglas@azdot.gov](mailto:ldouglas@azdot.gov). Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the State has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

De acuerdo con El Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA por sus siglas en inglés), el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT por sus siglas en inglés) no discrimina por raza, color, nacionalidad, o discapacidad. Personas que requieren asistencia (dentro de lo razonable) ya sea por el idioma o por discapacidad deben ponerse en contacto con la Laura Douglas al 602.568.7721 o [ldouglas@azdot.gov](mailto:ldouglas@azdot.gov). Las solicitudes deben hacerse lo más pronto posible para asegurar que el equipo encargado del proyecto tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.

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# District 6 Member Organizes Sock Drive for Homeless Population

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

While most of us put our socks on one foot at a time, many homeless people and transients throughout Phoenix have no socks at all. Thanks to the efforts of the Community's Danielle Mercado, District 6, many of those in need will receive socks this summer as beneficiaries of her annual Sock Drive. During Mercado's inaugural sock drive, she collected over 1,030 pairs of sock donations. This year, she has her goal set at 2,000 or more pairs.

"People are people, we are all the same, and we should all be treated with human kindness regardless of our circumstances," said Mercado when asked about her philanthropic venture. The donation drive is also part of her desire to instill goodwill to the less fortunate throughout the year rather than mainly during the winter holidays. For Mercado, summer giving only makes sense given the harsh heat of the Valley's summers.

Born and raised in a mud house in District 6 for most of her life, today Mercado is an urban member residing in Phoenix. Outside of work, she continuously shares her time among Phoenix's homeless population, regularly volunteering at the Andre House, where many Native Americans receive services.



Danielle Mercado holds a bundle of socks from her donation drive, that started in July of this year. Kyle Knox/GRIN

Mercado's sock drive grew organically from her time volunteering and her love of running. Passionate about her health, she runs daily. During her runs throughout Phoenix, she became familiar with the city's less fortunate residents.

"During my summer runs, I realized that my socks matter because my feet would get hot," said Mercado. "I would get

blisters, but I am fortunate enough to go home to an A/C and a shower, rest my feet and mend. But the people I pass do not have that luxury. Instead, they have to live on that hot street and sleep on the pavement year-round."

This realization led Mercado to the concept of donated socks. Her volunteer work had taught her that most donations for the homeless are older used



In 2019, Mercado delivered over a 1,000 socks during that year's sock donation drive. This year, she plans donate 2,000 pairs of socks. Photo courtesy of Danielle Mercado

items people want to throw out. However, socks are affordable items that many can donate new, clean and packaged.

Mercado organized her inaugural sock drive in 2019 with an initial goal of 300 pairs. She quickly found support among her network. Through social media, additional donations soon followed thanks to marketing support from her colleague Kevin Nunez, Taino from

New York City.

"I thought that 300 pairs were a lot, but before I knew it, I had over 1,000 pairs donated," said Mercado.

She hopes to build upon that success and reach or exceed her goal of 2,000 pairs this year. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, she could not organize the sock drive last year, so she is excited for what is to come this year.

If you're interested in donating new, packaged male and female adult socks to Danielle's sock drive, you can do so by e-mailing her at [danielle7mercado@gmail.com](mailto:danielle7mercado@gmail.com). She is collecting socks and accepting cash payments to go towards the purchase of socks. Donations will be accepted online until July 31. All socks will be purchased and donated to the Andre House in Phoenix by Aug 7.

**WIOA Adult Program**

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## Food Safety after Power Outage

- **Never taste food to determine if it is safe to eat. When in doubt, throw it out.**
- Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator (meat, fish, cut fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, and leftovers) after 4 hours without power or a cold source like dry ice. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color, or texture.
- Check temperatures of food kept in coolers or your refrigerator with an added cold source. Throw out food above 40°.
- If you have an appliance thermometer in your freezer, check to see if it is still at 40 °F or below.
- You can safely cook thawed frozen food that still contains ice crystals or is at 40 °F or below.

**For more information please contact**  
Environmental Health Services  
at (520) 562-5100

433 West Seedfarm Road, Sacaton, Arizona 85147



**Lyanna Gomez, a Community member signed-on to play for Feather River College in Quincy California.** Photo courtesy of Melissa Gomez

**Submitted by**  
Marv Bradley

**GRIC High School Basketball Player from Reno, NV Signs with Feather River College**

Lyanna Desbah Gomez is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community along with her mother, Melissa (Bradley) Gomez, and her grandmother, Jacque (McAfee) Bradley. She is also part Navajo and Hispanic. She was born and lived in Mesa, AZ until 2017 when her family moved to Reno, Nevada. She attended Salt River Elementary School on the SRPMIC, Freemont Junior High School in Mesa, then McQueen High School in Reno where she graduated in June with a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 system. McQueen High School is a Nevada 4a division high school in sports, equivalent to the Arizona 6a division.

Lyanna was recruited by the women's basketball coach, Keshawn Johnson, at Feather River College in Quincy, CA, and she committed. Her coach is very excited to have her play for him. She was a starter in all her years at McQueen High School and with the Reno AAU Elite travel teams at the shooting guard and point guard positions. Lyanna did not get an opportunity to play basketball during her senior year because Nevada cancelled all winter sports. In 2021, she made the highest Elite

AAU basketball team and played in tournaments in Nevada, Idaho, Utah, California, and Arizona. Lyanna is 5 feet 7 inches tall and is not only a very accurate shooter, but she also gets many assists, deflections, steals, and rebounds. She also played for Pyramid Lake Paiute Nevada reservation team in the 2nd Annual Native American Jr Nationals in Las Vegas, NV two weeks ago. She is also going to play for an Arizona team, AZ Lady Warriors, in the NABI tournament.

Lyanna had generated much interest nationwide because of her outstanding high school basketball career, AAU basketball tournaments, and having profiles with AAU CaptainU recruiting and National College Student Athlete recruiting. Her basketball awards started when she played for SRPMIC High School JV team as a Sixth Grader earning the MVP award. In her sophomore year, she received the Best Offensive Player Award. In her junior year, she made first team all-tourney in a California high school tournament, she made the Reno All League Honorable Mention team, she won the Sniper Award for being the best three point shooter, and she made the MaxPreps Player of the Game several times.

Academically, Lyanna had always been interested in biology and sea life. She had originally thought about majoring in ocean bio-sciences, but found that very few colleges offered this type of major. Then since she had been involved in sports her whole life,

she decided that she would major in Sports Medicine and then eventually get involved in physical therapy. She is very excited to get the opportunity to advance her education and basketball to the next level.

Lyanna's family is very proud of all her accomplishments. She is a very intelligent, athletic, and beautiful young lady who will succeed in all her



**Gomez wears a graduation stole provided by the GRIC Student Services Department during her graduation ceremony.** Photo courtesy of Marv Bradley



*Continued from Judge Pedro Retirement article on page 3*

**Judge Pedro was joined family members during his retirement luncheon held in his honor.** Kyle Knox/GRIN

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Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

"GILA RIVER STRONG"

STEPHEN ROE LEWIS GOVERNOR  
MONICA LYNN ANTONE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 13, 2021

Gila River Indian Community:

The quarterly per capita amount has been calculated by the Office of the Treasurer and approved by the Community Treasurer and the Governor. The following are the distribution amounts to be paid out on Monday, August 2, 2021, (July 31, 2021 falls on Saturday), for quarter ending June 30, 2021.

Minor Trust	\$452.24
Adult Per Capita	\$462.76

The following is an overview of the steps used in calculating the per capita amount:

- 11% of net gaming revenues
- Less administrative costs for:
  - Finance/Enrollment/Trust Administration
  - Third Party Vendors (Providence First Trust)
  - Office Supplies (e.g., Check stock, postage, envelopes, paper)
- Plus/minus adjustments (e.g., disputes paid out or refunds deposited)
- Divided by eligible members (adults & minors)
- Equals per capita amount.

**There will be no check pickups for Per Capita Distributions; all checks will be mailed. Please ensure your address is up-to-date to avoid delays in receiving your check.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Per Capita Office as (520) 562-5222.

Sincerely,  
  
Stephen R. Lewis, Governor  
Gila River Indian Community

525 WEST GU U KI · P.O. BOX 97 · SACATON, ARIZONA 85147  
TELEPHONE: 520-562-9841 · FAX: 520-562-9849 · EMAIL: EXECUTIVEMAIL@GRIC.NSNUS

**How Are you Feeling Today?**

During COVID-19, there have been many who have dealt with grief, from losing a loved one, or dealing with stress from social isolation or even financial problems. Many behavioral and emotional issues have increased since the beginning of 2020 such as domestic violence, substance use, depression and anxiety. But how have you been feeling? Here are some ways to help you live a healthy lifestyle, mind and body.

Any questions, Contact Community Health Education Program, 520-562-5100

**1 Acknowledge how you're feeling**  
Take time to care for yourself.

**2 Exercise at least 10 minutes a day and create healthy eating habits**  
Exercising improves your brain function and mood.

**3 Create a daily routine to increase feelings of control**  
Do 3 things that you love every day. As a result, gratitude will help you sleep better.

**4 Take breaks**  
Take a calming breath. A five-minute break can make a difference and prevent burnouts.

**5 Seek help from a professional if you are feeling overwhelmed**  
GRIC CRISIS HOTLINE 1-800-259-3449  
COVID Anxiety and Stress Helpline (602) 528-7122  
GRIC Behavioral Health (602)528-7100

Source CDC.GOV

# GRIC Launches ‘What’s Your Why’ Campaign

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

As the Community continues to work towards getting everyone vaccinated against COVID-19, a new marketing campaign – What’s Your Why? – is encouraging members to think through the benefits of vaccinations and how they can make a difference personally and for others.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis unveiled the campaign – launched by the GRIC Communication and Public Affairs Office – in a video message last week.

“Each Community member who’s vaccinated gets us one step closer to getting back to our prior activities, cultural events, our ceremonies and our celebrations,” said Gov. Lewis, who challenged members to “think about ‘what’s your why?’” in regards to getting a vaccine.

The goal of the campaign is to bring the pandemic back to a personal level rather than dwelling on the sickness and death that have been part of many messages and news stories. Instead, the campaign allows everyone to consider their stake in the fight against COVID and how they can help protect the Community.

At every Mobile Vaccination Unit event, individuals have been asked that question: What’s your



*“My “WHY” to getting my COVID-19 vaccine shot is to protect my family, especially now because my 4-year old little brother is the only one unable to be vaccinated”*

**- Jr. Miss Gila River Sineca Jackson**

**#MobileVax**

THIS IS YOUR SHOT

why? While responses vary, many include attending music festivals, traveling, holding family graduations, parties, or even holding a traditional funeral without

limiting attendees. Currently, the Community’s vaccination rate stands at 41 percent, according to health statistics. “Community

Immunity” will be achieved when enough adults and children are vaccinated to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19. According to health care officials, group



**Gov. Lewis introduces the “What’s Your Why” campaign in a video message to Community members. GRIN**

immunity at this level would also protect those who cannot be vaccinated, such as newborns, some elders, youth 11 years and younger, and those with medical conditions.

In order to reach Community Immunity, 70% of the GRIC population must be vaccinated.

During the initial phases of the vaccination rollout, many Community members reported getting their vaccinations to protect themselves and family members. However, with public spaces reopening and many members still reluctant to get the vaccine, the risk of spreading COVID-19 remains, especially among the unvaccinated.

According to GRIC leaders and public health

officials, until Community Immunity has been reached and infections decrease, restrictions will remain in place. This includes the cancellation of annual hallmark events like graduation and promotions, the Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration, O’otham New Year Celebration, and the holiday gatherings each district hosts annually.

For vaccination information and MVU scheduling, please visit <http://www.mygilariver.com/index.php/vaccine-information> or call the GRHC COVID Hotline at (520) 550-6079 or visit [mygilariver.com](http://mygilariver.com) for regular COVID-19 updates.

**PLEASE**

**Use the correct color bin for recycling and trash on the designated day. If a blue bin is set out on trash day or vice versa, the bin will not be collected and emptied. It is crucial to keep the materials separate in their proper bins – too many contaminated recyclables can ruin the whole truckload. The DPW driver has no way of knowing the contents of the bin if the wrong color is out on the wrong day. If an additional trash or recycling receptacle is needed, one can be purchased at the Department of Public Works.**



Trash only

A small number of blue recycling bins have “trash” in white lettering written on the top and side of the bin. Those may be used as a trash receptacle only if the lettering is present!



Recycling only

**Questions?**

Contact the Department of Public Works at (520) 562-3343 or the Department of Environmental Quality at (520) 562-2234

## Keep Your Pet Safe and Healthy

**Keeping your dogs within a confined area and walking your dog on a leash prevents your dog from wondering and keeps them safe. Pet owners should be aware of viruses such as distemper and parvo that causes illness.**

**What is Canine Parvovirus and Canine Distemper?**  
Canine parvovirus (CPV), also known as parvo, is a very contagious and serious infectious virus that affects the gastrointestinal tract. Canine distemper virus (CDV) also causes gastrointestinal and respiratory illness, and affects the neurological system. Both viruses can be preventable through a series of core vaccines which need to be updated every year.

**Symptoms and how the viruses are spread**  
Parvo is spread through contact with contaminated feces or contact with an infected dog. The virus can live in the ground, surfaces, peoples’ hands, clothing and shoes. Animals can carry the virus on their fur or paws. The virus can live in the environment for months if areas are not disinfected. Diluting bleach with water will help kill the virus. Some signs of parvovirus include lethargy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain and bloating, fever or low body temperature (hypothermia), vomiting, and severe, often bloody, and diarrhea.  
Distemper is an airborne virus. Dogs may become infected with the virus through sneezing or coughing or can be transmitted by sharing food and water bowls. Other items such as bedding and toys can also be contaminated. Animals can shed the virus for months and the mother can pass the virus to the pups. Animals infected with distemper may develop watery to pus-like discharge from their eyes. Later they may develop fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, and vomiting. As the virus attacks the nervous system, infected dogs develop circling behavior, head tilt, muscle twitches, convulsions with jaw chewing movements and salivation (“chewing gum fits”), seizures, and partial or complete paralysis. The virus may also cause the footpads to thicken and harden.

**Diagnosis and treatment:**  
Veterinarians diagnose canine distemper and parvo through clinical appearance and laboratory testing. Treatment typically consists of supportive care and efforts to prevent secondary infections. Dogs infected should be separated from other dogs to minimize the risk of further infection. Infected dogs should be kept isolated.

**Vaccination and good hygiene are the best methods to prevention**  
For more information about parvo and distemper, visit <https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/petcare/canine-distemper>; and <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/canine-parvovirus>

**COVID-19 in Animals**  
Primary domestic animals that have been diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 are dogs and cats when the virus is transmitted via close contact with a COVID-19-positive person. It should be noted that these species are not easily infected under natural conditions, and there is no evidence that infected cats or dogs spread the virus to other animals or to people. Owners that become infected with COVID-19 should isolate and not have close contact with their pets until isolation ends.



For more information, contact the **Animal Control/Spay & Neuter Program**  
433 W Seed Farm Rd  
Sacaton, AZ 85147  
Phone: (520) 562-5100 or 5177



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For more information, call the Communications & Public Affairs Office

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