



## GRIC celebrates 19th Annual Water Rights Day

### GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

Hundreds gathered at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass on Friday, Dec. 8, in celebration of the Gila River Indian Community's 19th annual Water Rights Day honoring the landmark 2004 Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act. The official GRIC holiday commemorating the day is on Dec. 10.

"The Community's Water Rights: It means not just one day, it means dedicating yourself and celebrating our ongoing connection to our water, to the Gila River, every day," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Veterans from posts throughout GRIC — including the First Nations Warriors Society, Ira. H. Hayes Post 84, Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 and the Pee Posh Veterans Association — started off the event with the posting of colors.

Miss Gila River 2023-24 Mavis Thomas and Jr. Miss Gila River Eleanor Lynch recited the pledge of allegiance followed by a traditional song and blessing by



Veterans from posts throughout the Community post colors at the 2023 Water Rights Day Celebration, along with Miss Gila River Mavis Thomas and Jr. Miss Gila River Eleanor Lynch. Velia Moncada/GRIN

former Lt. Gov. Robert Stone.

Guest speakers included U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael L. Connor and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton.

Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (PMIP) Public Involvement Specialist Kristina Morago gave a presentation on PMIP and

the water rights history.

Morago urged everyone to embrace that history and "appreciate what we have every day: the shudag, the water." She added that as "good stewards of our shudagi, our land, our jeved," people should know and recognize the holiday.

The celebration acknowledged GRIC leaders and the ne-

gotiating team for their hard work and legacy that contributed to the settlement, including former Lt. Gov. Cecil Antone; the families of late former governors Dana Norris Sr., William R. Rhodes and Mary V. Thomas; and the late Rodney B. Lewis, former GRIC general counsel.

Gov. Lewis and District 4 Council Representatives Jennifer

Allison and Nada Celaya presented the honorees and family members gifts of artwork created by Community artists Paul Molina and Aaron Sabori.

"It's my honor to be here as I've been coming to the Water Rights Day every year, just because it's a great time for us to rejoice and understand our cultural history," said former Lt. Gov. Antone. "Our water [rights] settlement day, it says a lot because of our culture and our history and the people that fought so valiantly and hard to continue our culture and to preserve all the necessary things that we need for our future generations."

Gov. Lewis concluded the event by sharing the continued work and success of the Community.

"We've had some incredibly major accomplishments in protecting and advancing our water rights," he said. "We've developed the Community's first five-year water plan, which ensures that we are looking forward and

*Continued on Page 3*

## Community Breaks Ground on Phase 2 of History-Making Solar Energy Project

### Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Community Breaks Ground on Phase 2 of History-Making Solar Energy Project

The Gila River Indian Community took an historic step forward in the effort to conserve water on Dec. 8, breaking ground on Phase Two of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Renewal Energy Pilot Project at the Casa Blanca Canal

This phase of the project — the first of its kind anywhere in the Western Hemisphere — will be built in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and paid for by \$5.65 million in federal funding provided by the Biden Administration's Invest in America Agenda. Phase 2 of the project will cover about 3,000 feet of irrigation canals on both sides of Interstate 10 with more than 2,500 solar panels.

"Today's groundbreaking is significant and it's historic," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who pointed to the solar-over-canal project as a significant element in the Community's evolving "blue-

green" economy. "This project will generate renewable energy for our irrigation system and it will conserve water at the same time."

Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Camille Touton, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior Laura Daniel-Davis, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Assistant Secretary of Civil Works Michael Connor joined Gov. Lewis and members of the Community Council for the groundbreaking ceremony.

"We look forward to working with the Gila River Indian Community on this novel idea to conserve water and generate renewable energy with funding from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act," said Reclamation Commissioner Touton. "This project will help inform similar projects ... so that we can all understand the scale and corresponding benefits they provide."

The first phase of the Renewable Energy Pilot Project was unveiled in November, but will begin construction after the second phase. Phase 1 will install

about 1,000 feet of solar panels over the Community's Level Top canal. That phase of the project will leverage \$6.7 million in federal funding and is expected to produce about 1 megawatt of renewable energy for the community and its farmers. Phase 1, built in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is expected to be finished in 2025.

The Community "will be the first to implement this technology, resulting in significant reduction in evaporative water loss, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by electrical power production," said Assistant Secretary of the Corps Connor, an enrolled member of the Taos Pueblo tribe.

The solar panels for Phase 2 are expected to be installed by the end of January 2024. Its solar panels are predicted to generate about 1.31 megawatts of clean energy, providing about 2.26 million kilowatt-hours of electricity to the Community annually.

"It's not going to take long to see the results," said Gov. Lewis.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis displays the solar panels that will be installed over the Casa Blanca canal. Miyana Manus/CPAO



Assistant Secretary of the Army of Civil Works Michael Connor, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior Laura Daniel-Davis, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Camille Calimlim Touton, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during the groundbreaking at Casa Blanca canal. Miyana Manus/CPAO

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INAUGURATION 2024



LEWIS | ANTONIO

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**Water Rights Day Cont.**

being proactive rather than reacting.”

Gov. Lewis also highlighted the Community’s Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) program which has provided innovative ways for the water to be used and restored.

“The MAR program is a nod

to our history and highlights that innovation that made us the first irrigators of these lands thousands of years ago since time immemorial,” he said, adding, “The waters have brought back an ecosystem... to our Community that has been lacking for so many years.”

This year, the GRIC broke ground on many water conserva-

tion projects funded by the bipartisan infrastructure law including the reclaimed water pipeline project that will allow the Community to use a portion of water more flexibly while conserving water in Lake Mead during the historic drought.

“None of these projects would have been possible with-

out those who negotiated our water settlement, without our federal partners,” said Gov. Lewis. “We have made great strides in these last 19 years. So today, I remain grateful for our ancestors, those leaders before us.”



**Former GRIC Lt. Gov. Cecil Antone shares remarks during the 19th annual Water Rights Day Celebration on Dec. 8. Emma Hughes/GRIN**



**Attendees of the 19th annual Water Rights Day Celebration, stand for the posting of colors and blessing. Emma Hughes/GRIN**



**Family of the late William R. Rhodes, former GRIC Governor is presented with a gift. L-R: Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Miss Gila River Mavis Thomas, Jr. Miss Gila River Eleanor Lynch, Donna Rhodes, Ruby Rhodes, Council member Nada Celaya and Council member Jennifer Allison. Emma Hughes/GRIN**



**Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis closes out the 19th annual Water Rights Day celebration. Emma Hughes/GRIN**



# Sacaton Market Breaks Ground in District 3

**Velia Moncada**  
Gila River Indian News

More than 120 people — including staff from the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority (WHPDA), tribal dignitaries, construction partners and Gila River Indian Community members — gathered for the groundbreaking of the highly anticipated Sacaton Market at the southeast corner of South Ocotillo Drive and Bluebird Road in District 3 at 10 a.m. Dec. 5.

The 24,000-square-foot Sacaton Market, created and built by RSP Architects and Alcorn Construction, will sell produce and other groceries from local distributors. It also will include a fueling station, laundromat, and seating within a desert-inspired design.

However, the new market will offer more than food to nourish the Community.

“This market will not only serve as a hub for commerce but will also be a



**Tribal dignitaries and construction partners break the ground for the Sacaton Market on Dec 5, 2023, located on the southeast corner of S. Ocotillo Dr. and Bluebird Rd in District 3.** Velia Moncada/GRIN

catalyst for social cohesion fostering a sense of unity and pride in our Community,” said WHPDA Director of Operations Suzanne King, District 6.

King extended a warm welcome to fellow Community members and lead-

ers and recognized the commitment of council members who helped bring the Sacaton Market to fruition.

“This is something that’s been needed here,” said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, adding that she re-

called when the Sacaton Market was just an idea in the minds of former council members.

Lt. Gov. Antone thanked everyone who contributed to the project for setting aside their differences for the benefit of

the Community. Because of their hard work and persistence, the new grocery store and fuel station is expected to open by the end of 2024.

“It is the start of something that has been long-awaited,” said Kristin

Herrera, District 6. “I am really proud and really appreciate how the Community has grown.”

She explained that as a child growing up in District 6, she witnessed fellow Community members struggling with transportation to gather groceries. Herrera added she’s excited for the new market and the fact that the Community is expanding its resources.

“I’m looking forward to seeing the items they will have in there,” said LaQuinta Allison, District 4. She said that currently, the GRIC Market in District 3 has a limited selection of groceries and she still must drive outside of the Community to purchase the items she is looking for. She added, “I hope this one has a deli.”

For more information about the Sacaton Market, please contact the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority at <https://wildhorsepass.com/development/>.

# St. Peter Celebrates Centennial with Mass, Food, Games and More

**Velia Moncada**  
Gila River Indian News

St. Peter Indian Mission Catholic School’s and church celebrated its centennial providing Catholic education to the Gila River Indian Community with mass, food, games, chicken scratch music and dancing from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Dec. 9. More than 100 people attended the event.

The school was founded in 1923, by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, which continues to oversee the school and parish. The integration of the O’otham culture with Catholic education is what makes St. Peter Indian Mission Catholic School unique, as it incorporates the O’otham Himdag (way of life) of respect, reverence and responsibility into prayer and liturgy.

“We are gathering to thank God for a century of blessings,” said the school’s principal, Sister

Martha May Carpenter, who has spent 38 years as a principal and teacher.

She explained the history of the school’s foundation and how it developed from a small school and church to what it is today. Sister Carpenter thanks to the support of God and the Community, they are expecting a new high school building to be approved soon.

“I’ve been a student here since kindergarten; I like this school because they are kind and helpful,” said Makayla Lewis, District 5. Lewis attended the celebration and volunteered at the booths. Her friend Zayeda Valdez, District 5, added that the teachers are nice to the students and make them feel valued.

“It’s really awesome that this institution has been serving the people for a hundred years,” said Brother Lawrence Hoag with the Franciscan Friars



**St. Peter Indian Mission Church standing tall since 1923.** Velia Moncada/GRIN

of the Holy Spirit. Hoag is in his first year of training as a priest, teaching algebra and carpentry to freshman students.

“Just to think about all the kids who have gone to school here and who have

been prepared for life here is really amazing,” said Hoag. When he finishes school and returns as a priest, he plans to make St. Peter Indian Mission School and Church his place of service for the rest of his priesthood.

The centennial celebration began with mass and the feast house opened for lunch. Kids enjoyed inflatable jumping castles and rode a mechanical bull while others played chair volleyball, tug-of-war and kickball. Prize drawings

were held for items such as two flat-screen TVs and a single-cab truck. The festivities lasted into the evening, as the O’otham people danced to bands playing traditional chicken scratch music.



**Attendees of the St. Peter Indian Mission School 100 year celebration play chair volleyball on the school’s field on Dec. 08.** Velia Moncada/GRIN



**Sister Martha receives a gift from a Community member in honor of her birthday and as she celebrated the centennial of the St. Peter Indian Mission Church.** Velia Moncada/GRIN

# GRRC Employee Completes Third Mentorship

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

When Norma Perez, District 4, started working for Gila River Resorts & Casinos, she planned to stay for a year. That turned into a 15-year career during which she completed two degrees and a certificate along with three rounds of the Pathways Mentorship Program, which helped her further her career.

On Dec. 8, Perez gathered with friends, family and colleagues at Gila River Resorts & Casinos — Wild Horse Pass to celebrate finishing the latest mentorship, which is designed specifically for members of the Gila River Indian Community. It allows an employee to rotate through various departments for two years to get an in-depth education about several aspects of the business, and only one member is selected at a time for the program.

“The Pathways Mentorship Program really gives opportunities to Community members to get into areas that they might not have been exposed to in the past,” said GRRC CEO Kenneth Manuel.

He explained, “The individual gets to spend, whether it be several weeks, maybe even up to a month, in different departments within the gaming enterprise—departments like food and beverage, slot

department, cage marketing, security, surveillance, entertainment, hotel.”

Manuel added that the program has grown over the years and attracted more interest.

“I’m very happy to say that as of this last round of candidates, we probably had over 50 members of the Community who were who were seeking the opportunity,” he noted.

Perez shared that her initial goal was to become a juvenile probation officer for the Community. But she was inspired by an experience on the other side of the law.

“I had my time where I had my fun and I ended up getting assigned to a juvenile probation officer,” she said, “and it was that probation officer that inspired me—that really gave me the reality check—and said, ‘You know, if you don’t get it together, you’re going to dig yourself in a deeper hole that you won’t be able to get out of...’”

Perez started working in security for GRRC in October 2008, spending five years in positions including parking lot patrol and security dispatch. In 2012, she started her first Pathways mentorship as an assistant security supervisor.

The following year, she transitioned to a mentorship as a human resources trainer. She decided to



L-R: GRRC Strategic Chief & Marketing Officer Dominic Orozco, Vee Quiva General Manager Myron Sundust, GRRC Councilman Avery White, GRRC CEO Kenneth Manuel, GRRC Asst. Director of Food & Beverage Norma Perez, GRIC Councilman Charles Goldtooth, GRRC CIO Robin Villareal, GRRC Corporate VP of Food & Beverage Majdi Kayyali, GRRC Wild Horse Pass General Manager Scott O’Gorman, GRRC Corporate VP of Gaming Operations Joseph Young and GRRC Chief Financial Officer Tony DeMark. Emma Hughes/GRIN

apply so she could encourage fellow tribal members and show them it’s possible to earn an income and provide for a family.

After that mentorship, Perez went on to the Human Resources department as a trainer. But just before hitting her 10-year anniversary with GRRC, she left to join the Community’s Tribal Education Department as a student advisor.

“Not long after, I felt that the investment that casino made in my personal and professional growth

wasn’t being used as much as I hoped it would,” said Perez.

Six months later, she re-applied for her old job, which was still open, and went back to being a trainer. She didn’t regret leaving, however, because she said it made her appreciate GRRC.

Since returning, Perez has served as a recruitment coordinator, training supervisor, recruitment coordinator, wellness recognition manager and talent acquisition manager.

Meanwhile, she earned an associate’s degree in criminal justice, a bachelor’s degree in human services from Ottawa University in 2015 and a graduate certificate in human resources management from DeVry University in 2021.

Being able to wear many hats “helped me grow a lot and helped me overcome challenges,” Perez related, adding that attending a women’s conference hosted by GRRC inspired her to apply for her third mentorship.

“They just pretty much encourage you,” she said, adding that she credits GRRC senior leadership for creating a safe, comfortable environment.

“I’ve had many people along the way encourage me, motivate me, inspire me,” Perez said. “I don’t know what’s next, but I do know that I’ll be here for the next 25-plus years, still helping the Community.”

## DECEMBER 2023

| MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   | Behavioral Health Services<br>GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|  | <b>Month-long Recovery Awareness Reindeer Run/Walk</b><br><a href="#">Register Here</a>   | <b>CALL OR TEXT 988 FOR THE SUICIDE &amp; CRISIS LIFELINE</b><br>Gila River Indian Community<br><b>CRISIS HOTLINE:</b><br>1 (800) 259-3449  |   | <b>Stomp Out The Stigma 1 Mile Walk/Run</b><br>Sacaton Fairgrounds<br>11am - 1pm<br><br>Narcan Education Drive-Thru<br>District 6 Pecos Rd. & 51st Ave.<br>12pm - 2pm                               | <b>Winter Bird Count</b><br><a href="#">Click here to learn more!</a>  | Access our monthly calendar at <a href="http://www.GRHC.org/BHS">www.GRHC.org/BHS</a><br>(520) 610-3445<br>BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG<br><br>COVID Anxiety and Stress Helpline:<br>(602) 528-7122 |
| <b>4 Active Parenting (0-5 Yrs)</b><br>9am - 12pm<br><br>Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru<br>District 2<br>MishKi Rd. & Park St.<br>11am - 1pm | <b>5 Active Parenting (0-5 Yrs)</b><br>9am - 12pm<br>Narcan Education Drive-Thru<br>District 3<br>Ocotillo & Seed Farm Road<br>11am - 2pm<br><br>QPR Suicide Prevention Training<br>District 3 New Beginnings Building<br>3pm - 4pm | <b>6 Self-Care</b><br>12pm - 1pm<br><br>Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru<br>DI Blackwater Community School<br>1:30pm - 3:30pm<br><br>Alcohol Prevention<br>Cookies & Lego Family Night<br>District 3 New Beginnings Building<br>6pm - 8pm | <b>7 Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru</b><br>District 3<br>Ocotillo & Seed Farm Road<br>10am - 12pm   | <b>8 Self-Care Jingle Rock</b><br>District 3 Service Center<br>5pm - 8pm  | <b>9 Do a random act of kindness</b>   | = In-person<br>= Online<br>= Mobile RV  |
| <b>11 Active Parenting (General)</b><br>District 3<br>New Beginnings Building<br>9am - 12pm  | <b>12 Active Parenting (General)</b><br>District 3<br>New Beginnings Building<br>9am - 12pm<br><br><b>Mental Health Awareness</b><br>2pm - 3pm  | <b>13 Youth Mental Health First Aid</b><br>District 3<br>New Beginnings Building<br>8:30am - 5pm<br><br>Narcan Education Drive-Thru<br>District 5<br>Gas Station (Vendor Spot)<br>11am - 2pm  | <b>14 Alcohol Prevention</b><br>District 3<br>New Beginnings Building<br>5:30pm - 6:30pm  | <b>15 Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru</b><br>District 5<br>Gas Station (Vendor Spot)<br>10am - 12pm<br><br>Gila River Prevention Coalition<br>District 3 Dialysis Center<br>10am - 12pm                | <b>16 Call a family member to say "I love you"</b>   | <br><b>Want our BHS calendar on-the-go?</b><br>Scan this QR Code to see up-to-date events/activities!<br><br><br>Gila River HEALTH CARE   |
| <b>18 Domestic Violence Awareness</b><br>District 3<br>New Beginnings Building<br>12pm - 1pm   | <b>19 Narcan Education</b><br>District 7 Service Center<br>12pm - 2pm<br><br>Healthy Relationships<br>Stocking Decorating Family Night<br>District 3 Service Center<br>5pm - 7pm  | <b>20 Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru</b><br>District 6<br>Pecos Rd. & 51st Ave.<br>10am - 12pm  | <b>21 Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)</b><br>District 6 Dialysis Center<br>8:30am - 5pm<br><br><b>Drug Prevention</b><br>Holiday Family Lego Night<br>District 6 Service Center<br>5pm - 6pm | <b>22 Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)</b><br>District 6 Dialysis Center<br>8:30am - 5pm<br><br><b>Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru</b><br>District 4 Service Center<br>10am - 12pm | <b>23 Watch a Christmas movie with the family</b>  |   |
| <b>25 Merry Christmas</b>  | <b>26 Current Drug Trends</b><br>11am - 12pm  | <b>27 SafeTALK Suicide Prevention</b><br>District 3<br>New Beginnings Building<br>9am - 1pm<br><br><b>Healthy Relationships</b><br>5pm - 6pm  | <b>28 Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru</b><br>District 7<br>Baseline & 83rd Ave<br>10am - 12pm  | <b>29 Holiday Self-Care Drive-Thru</b><br>District 3<br>Ocotillo & Seed Farm Road<br>10am - 12pm  | <b>30 Know an elder who wants a care package?</b><br><br><b>Contact Shayla at 520-610-3445 or snarcisco@grhc.org</b> |   |



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# ★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GRIC Gold Star families honored at Coolidge Veterans Day Parade



Coolidge Veterans Day Committee and the families of the late David Perkins and Dudney Arlentino. Photo courtesy of Kim L. Vandenberg

Submitted by  
Kim L. Vandenberg

The Coolidge Veterans Day Parade Committee selected the theme “Veterans Matter” and chose to honor two Gold Star Families from Gila River Indian Community/District 1.

Members of the families of David Drake Perkins/US Army/PFC and Dudney Nelson Arlentino/US Army/Spec 4th Class were part of the Grand Marshals that included WWII Veteran Therman Ashcraft/US Army (100 years old); Korean War Veterans Chuck Watson and Earl Hanna, both US Army; Vietnam Veteran Ronnie Smith/USMC; Desert Storm Veteran Thomas Jones/US Army and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran Matt Willcoxon/USAF. The Grand Marshals received an award for “Best Veteran” entry for the parade.

**David Drake Perkins/U.S. Army PFC** was born on August 20, 1943 in Sacaton and was killed in action on October 11, 1966 in Binh Dinh Providence at the age of 23. His family was presented with the Arizona Gold Star Family Medal. He received the



**David Drake Perkins.** Photo courtesy of Kim L. Vandenberg

Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnamese Military Merit Medal; Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Individual Citation Medal; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. PFC Perkins belonged to the 1st Cavalry Division; A Company; 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. His name can be found on Panel 11E/Line 67 at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in DC.

**Dudney Nelson Arlentino/U.S. Army Specialist 4th Class** was born April 29, 1945 and was killed in action on December 7, 1967 at the age of 23 in Binh Dinh Providence. His family was presented with the Arizona Gold Star Family Medal. He received



**Dudney Nelson Arlentino.** Photo courtesy of Kim L. Vandenberg

the Bronze Star Medal w/“V” for Valor; Purple Heart; Combat Infantry Badge; Marksmanship Badge; National Defense Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Army Presidential Citation; Vietnam Gallantry Cross and Army Good Conduct Medal. Specialist 4 Arlentino belonged to the 1st Cavalry Div; 1st Battalion; A Company; 50th Infantry.

His name can be found on Panel 31E/Line 58 at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in DC.

The Coolidge Veterans Day Parade Committee was very honored to have the families of PFC Perkins and Specialist 4th Class Arlentino as part of our honored Grand Marshals this year.



Medals awarded to U.S. Army Specialist Dudney N. Arlentino and Army PFC David D. Perkins. Photo courtesy of Kim L. Vandenberg

## Recognizing Space Force & Wreaths Across America

Submitted by  
Veterans & Family Services  
Office



The Space Force was established December 20, 2019. It was the first new U.S. branch of service in 73 years. They are called the Guardians. Prior to its establishment, it existed within the Air Force since 1982 as the Air Force Space Command. Their motto is Semper Supra meaning Always Above. Their official song has the same title. All of the initial Space Force members transferred from other branches. The First class of Officers graduated in the Air Force Academy’s class of 2020. December of 2020 saw the first seven direct enlistments.

There have been women in the United States Space Force since the

branch’s inception in 2019. It is the only branch of the United States military where women have always had equal roles.

In July 2020 the Space Force obtained its first all-female space operations crew. In August 2020, the first female Air Force general officer transferred to the Space Force becoming the first female general officer in the Space Force. In October of the same year 2 females were each promoted to chief master sergeant, making them the first women in the Space Force to attain the rank. The first female major general in the Space Force transferred from the Air Force in May 2021.

Air Force Major General Clinton E Crosier, who is also the United States Space Force’s director of planning, has stated that the Space Force is looking for new policies to create a culture of equality and inclusion.

When the military branch flags are displayed together, the Space Force

Flag precedes the Coast Guard flag. The Space Force is under the Department of Defense. Coast Guard is under Homeland.



**Wreaths across America** is a National Organization that promotes every Veteran having a wreath on their grave each December. Remembrance ceremonies are held at cemeteries nationwide on the 3rd Saturday in December (12-16-2023). They raise money every year to purchase as many wreaths as they are able to provide.

From the Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) Staff, we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season! VFSO office 520-562-5148

## GRIC WINTER PREPAREDNESS

brought to you by the Office of Emergency Management

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- Be aware of road conditions before travel
- Get covid and flu vaccines
- Practice relaxation and self-care



Scan for more information





# HEADLINES

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis  
Governor



Monica Antone  
Lt. Governor

### GRIC attends 2023 Colorado River Water Users Association

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

Leaders from the Gila River Indian Community attended the annual conference of the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino Dec. 13-15.

CRWUA is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that provides a forum for exchanging ideas and perspectives on the Colorado River uses and management with the intent to develop and advocate common objectives, initiatives and solutions.

GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Council Members Arzie Hogg, Ann Lucas, Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoza, Brian Davis, Sr. and Gordon Santos, Jr. attended the conference along with GRIC General Counsel Javier Ramos and staff from the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP) and Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District (GRIIDD).

"We had consultations with the Bureau of Reclamation," Gov. Lewis stated. "We had an important meeting with Central Arizona Project as well because we are their largest single customer of Color-



**Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis shares the Community's innovative approach to water conservation.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

do water transport through the CAP."

The conference included a panel on "Drafting a New Plan: Future Policies and Programs" featuring Gov. Lewis, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Vice Chair Lorelei Cloud, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, The Nature Conservancy's Colorado River Program Director Taylor Hawes and Colorado River Water Conservation District General Manager Andy Mueller.

Gov. Lewis highlighted the Community's solar-covered canal project, the first of its kind in the U.S. He added that the Community "got so many props on that" due to its

significance and magnitude.

The Community's delegation brought up big issues such as the ongoing drought and water rights that GRIC and other tribes face.

Gov. Lewis noted, "We reiterated our support for the ongoing trust responsibility between the federal government and tribes to make sure the tribes are included in the number of initiatives and processes that are ongoing."

Tribes are involved in several aspects of water management such as the Colorado River Post 2026 operations and guidelines, a 20-year plan for how the Colorado River water is being used and allocated as



**L-R: General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Adel Hagekhalil, Vice-Chair for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Lorelei Cloud and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at the 2023 CRWUA conference.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

well as potential cuts.

"In 2007, no tribes were a part of those guidelines," said Gov. Lewis, "so looking at 20 years later when we're negotiating for those post-2026 guidelines, tribes must be at the table. We fought for important influence and seats at the table; we need to protect our ongoing water rights as well and protect against mandatory cuts."

According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Colorado River supplies water to 40 million people, including 30 tribes who

own rights to about a quarter of the Colorado River water.

"We have convened 30 sovereign nations, the seven basin states and the federal government to sit at a table together to have a discussion, but that's just one part of it," said Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. "We need to have a better understanding of the science, the data — a baseline so that we're walking into those rooms together with a common framework and common understand-

ing."

Gov. Lewis reiterated the need for tribes to have a voice when it comes to water rights. None of the federal projects will succeed without the backing and support of tribes, he said.

"I'm proud of our delegation," he said. "We work together and we advocated really as a strong team for the Community to make sure that our Community water supplies, our Community water rights...[are] ongoing, that they're being protected moving forward."



**Top L-R: GRIC Council members: Arzie Hogg, Brian Davis Sr., Gordon Santos Jr., P-MIP Director David Dejong, GRIC Council member Christopher Mendoza, CAP Board members: Justin Manuel, Karen Cesare, Terry Goddard, GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, CAP Board members: Benjamin Graff, Mark Taylor, GRIC Council members: Ann Lucas, Jennifer Allison, CAP General Manager Brenda Burman and CAP Board member Alexandra Arboleda during the 2023 Colorado Water River Users Association Conference.** Emma Hughes/GRIN



# S-ko:mag Mashath 2023 - I:mik

Submitted by  
Huhugam Heritage Center



The name for this month translates to the 'grey month' and refers to the weather elements we encounter on rainy and foggy days. This month we all look forward to "Jios Alithag Ma:sik Thash" (The Birth of God's Son), which translates further to Christmas Day. This is a time of the year when families get together to celebrate the season of giving. Learning the relationships we have to one another is very important in keeping our Himthag intact. This article will focus on I:mik (kinship) and the terms associated with each family member. As we all know, every family has a pecking order from oldest to youngest. During our formative years our parents and grandparents guided us in our upbringing.

Starting with father, his children call him "Eñ o:g!" (My father!). To make it more personal, some children call their father "Eñ o:gach!" (My father!) The suffix "ach" makes it more of a close relationship. In turn, father calls his children "Eñ alithag!" (my child, singular), or "Eñ a'alithag!" (My children, plural). When he

introduced his children to others, father often said. "Itham 'o d eñ a'alithag." (These are my children.) He would then give our names from oldest to youngest.

For mother, each of her children call her "Eñ je'e!" (My mother!). Respectively, she calls her children "Eñ mad!" (My child, singular), or "Eñ mama!" (My children, plural). Mother often introduced her children as a group, to others and often stated, "Itham 'o d eñ mama." (These are my children.) She too, introduced us from oldest to youngest.

Older brothers and sisters are called "Sikul" (older sibling). As an example, Victoria would say "Eñ sikul Jennifer!" (My older sister Jennifer!). Younger brothers and sisters are called "Si:s" (younger sibling). In turn, Jennifer would say "Eñ si:s Victoria!" (My younger sister Victoria!) Likewise, each sibling refers to the other as venak (sibling, singular), or vepnak (siblings, plural). For example, Victoria would say to her friends

"Itham 'o d eñ vepnak!" (These are my brothers and sister!) and introduce them from oldest to youngest. First cousins are always treated as brothers and sisters because of the closeness of the bloodlines. Cousins are referred to as "Venak or Vepnak" For example, Victoria would say "Itha 'o d eñ venak Klishtina!" (This is my first cousin Christina!).

We encourage you to speak O'otham kinship terms in your everyday lives. Speak with an Elder or Speaker, as some terms maybe slightly different between villages. This month's word match will test your knowledge of items associated with Klishmas Haichu. From all of us here at your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish Everyone "S-he:kig Jiosh Alithag Ma:sig Thash ch heg Vechij Aithag!"

*A special Thank You for the Community Elders for sharing their knowledge of O'otham I:mik and Klishmas Haichu, which made this article possible.*

S-ko:mag Mashath Klishmas Haichu 2023. Match the item with its name!

Hu'u



Choikuḍ lu:lsi



Gev Otham



Huai



Santha Klo:s



Ma:kigthag



Kampañ



Kakalsi:tha



ClipArt Courtesy Robert Johnson

**Solution on Pg. 17**

## Department of Environmental Quality's 25<sup>th</sup> Winter Bird Count



On the morning of December 2, 2023, bird-watching enthusiasts gathered for the annual Winter Bird Count organized by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Splitting into groups, each team explored specific locations across the seven districts to observe the diverse wildlife.

Participants, both local and from out of state, successfully identified a total of 58 bird species. Following the bird-watching sessions, everyone reconvened at the Huhugam Heritage Center for lunch, cultural performances by the Estrella Mountain Bird Singers & Dancers, and the Pee-Posh Bird Singers and Dancers, along with closing remarks.

The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council, present at the event, received a painting on behalf of DEQ. This painting symbolized the collaborative history of the Winter Bird Count between the department and the youth council, acknowledging their ongoing support over the years.

### Top 5 Birds Counted

1. Northern Shoveler Duck  
1165 Spotted 
2. Mourning Dove  
980 Spotted 
3. Ruddy Duck  
853 Spotted 
4. American Widgeon Duck  
820 Spotted 
5. American Coot Duck  
259 Spotted 

# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



# Arts & Entertainment

## Actor Tatanka Means talks with the GRIN

**Velia Moncada**  
Gila River Indian News

As in previous years before, the Native American All-Star Comedy Night brought together many comedians from different tribal communities. Including Tonia Jo Hall (Lakota, Dakota, and Hidatsa) known from her "Aunty Beatrice" personality, who performed a refreshing new comedic skit as herself; James Junes (Navajo/Hopi) and Ernest David Tsosie III (Navajo), father-like figures of the group both created a delightful laughing atmosphere. Meanwhile, O'odham artists, Wolf Brown (Akimel O'otham/Tohono O'odham), and Teresa Choyguha (Tohono O'odham) joyfully performed their comedic skits with their O'odham wit and sense of humor at the Gila River Resorts & Casinos Wild Horse Pass on Nov. 25. The comedy show was an excellent and enjoyable experience for all.

Laughter echoed through the theater of the sold-out show, which also included comedian and actor Tatanka Means (Oglala Lakota, Omaha, and Navajo). Fresh off his appearance in Director Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*, Means was among the talented comedians who entertained the audience with his unique sense of humor, as he uplifts and empowers Indigenous communities, while pushing the barriers on film as a Native performer.

**Introduce yourself and where you're from?**

Yes. Hello, my name is

Tatanka Means, I am Oglala Lakota, Omaha and Navajo. Originally from Chinle, Arizona.

**Can you share your journey as an artist?**

Yes, it's been quite a journey since I first got on this road of acting and comedy.

So, it's been a lot of ups and downs. You know, sometimes it's kind of muddy waters, but right now, things are kind of smoothing out, I would say. And I'm hoping for better projects and good things to come. It's been good.

**How did you begin and what made you start?**

Yeah, when I first started acting, I was doing stunt work. They were filming a movie in my hometown boxing gym and where I grew up boxing. They needed a stunt double to double the main character. And I had volunteered. This was a few years after I graduated, you know, so I was kind of on a journey at that point, I had been in and out of different schools and kind of trying to figure out what I wanted to do. And this opportunity had presented itself in my hometown. After doing the stunt work and, you know, seeing, the movie come out, I thought, oh, man, I want to give it a shot, I started auditioning for movies. My peers who were in the business gave me encouragement to try it and give it a shot. Also, seeing my father in the *Last of the Mohicans*, gave me inspiration to see Indians represented differently.

**What advice would you like to give to Native actors and actresses who**

**don't know where to begin?**

I would say, research. Try different things, get out of your comfort zone and try performing. Because sometimes people think they want to perform or act, and they find out that you're acting in front of a crew of 100 people. It's kind of different than what you might think. Get into acting classes and researching as much as possible and seeing if you enjoy that.

**What do you like most about comedy and acting?**

I think they help complement each other, with the performing in front of people, I think it helps get the nerves out of the way and I think they just work well together. It's helped me be able to come out of my shell more. It's helped me be able to keep work while the actors strike was going on.

**What was some advice you'd like to give yourself now, since from when you were beginning?**

Don't be afraid to just speak up, give your ideas and thoughts. Reach out and ask questions and ask for help.

**What was your favorite part in the story of *Killers of the Flower Moon*?**

I really enjoyed all the stories that were being covered, you know, all the different characters and people who they were based off real people's lives. One of those people is Henry Rowen who played my little friend William Value, and he did a really good



Actor and comedian, Tatanka Means performs live at Gila River Resorts & Casinos Wild Horse Pass during the Native American All-Star Comedy Night on Nov. 25. Velia Moncada/GRIN

job. And he had a lot on his plate to represent and I really enjoyed his performance and everybody's else's performance as well.

**What is your favorite scene from *Killers of the Flower Moon*?**

When we see the director, Martin Scorsese, at the end of the movie up there talking. It hit different; it was really emotional.

**How do you keep yourself balance?**

I would have to say, my wife, she keeps me balanced. Without her I'd be lost. When I get home, she has everything ready to get back into the swing of home life.

**What's next for Tatanka Means?**

I'm filming a new movie right now called

Opus with John Malkovich and Juliette Lewis and Amber Midthunder. And it's kind of a horror-thriller, and it's a feature film.

It'll be in theaters next year and it's backed by A24, and it's going to be a really cool movie.

And, you know, I'm really looking forward to more things that are coming out that I've already filmed and finished. All I can say is that it's kind of a horror thriller, I am trying to get a break, get outside of that box, and just cast as regular characters.

**What's your favorite acting technique?**

To not have a technique to not act, just to be yourself. That was advice that Daniel Day-Lewis had given my dad when they

were doing the last of the *Mohicans* movie, because you want to be seen on screen. You just want to be that character.

**Anything else you'd like to say?**

I just want to say thank you so much to Gila River Indian Community, for always coming out and supporting these shows here at Wild Horse Pass Casino. You know, it's been difficult for comedians to get hired by casinos and Wild Horse Pass has taken a chance on us. We're just thankful for the support that the community gives and continues to give us for Native comedy, and Native entertainment. So, thank you, guys.



Wolf Brown, proudly represents himself as a full O'odham Native comedian performing with the All-Star Native Comedy group on Nov. 25. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Teresa Choyguah from the Tohono O'otham Nation, performs along the All-Star Native Comedy group at Wild Horse Pass resort and casino. Velia Moncada/GRIN

INFORM | ENGAGE | INSPIRE

# Merry Christmas

From



GILA RIVER BROADCASTING CORP.

Here's what's playing on GRBC Channel 29.1.

Christmas Holiday weekend.

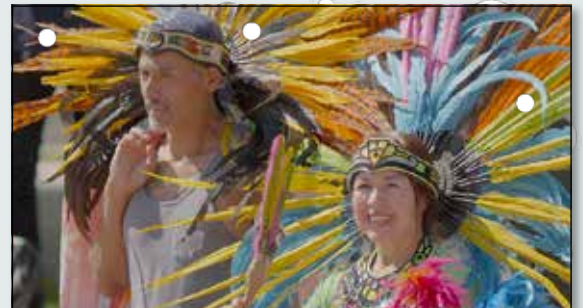
Saturday, Dec. 23rd - Monday, Dec. 25th starting at 9:30 AM.



MISSING PERSONS IDENTIFICATION PROJECT



RIDES FOR THE RES



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



GRIC SCHOOLS TEACHER IN-SERVICE



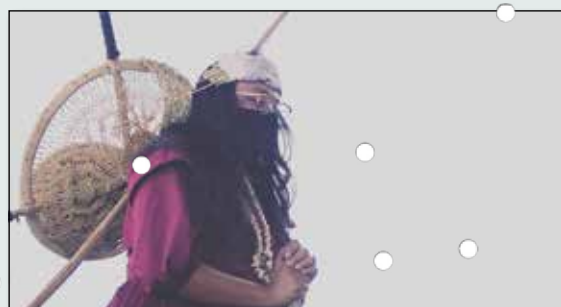
INDIGENOUS TATTOO & MUSIC FEST



GRIC EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING CAREER FAIR



SACATON MARKET GROUND BREAKING



SHE WALKS AMONG US



In Your Home  
On GRBC  
Channel 29.1

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GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE  
(520) 550-6079

grhc.org



Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.

# SHU:THAG (WATER) IS



SINCE THE DAYS OF THE HU HU KAM, SHU:THAG (WATER) HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF LIFE IN THE SONORAN DESERT AND WE ARE PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THAT OUR PEOPLE HAVE DONE TO PRESERVE IT.

# LIFE

## WATER RIGHTS DAY 12/10/2023

CELEBRATING 19 YEARS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 IS WATER RIGHTS DAY IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY, CELEBRATING THE 2004 WATER SETTLEMENT ACT AND ALL LIVES, PAST AND PRESENT.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO HEAR "SHU:THAG," THE TRADITIONAL WORD FOR WATER.



## Holiday Closures

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

### CLOSED

Monday  
December 25, 2023

Monday  
January 1, 2024

#### Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Pharmacy Curbside Hours

Sunday, December 24..... 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Monday, December 25..... C L O S E D

Sunday, December 31..... 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Monday, January 1..... C L O S E D

If you need assistance or would like more information on services open, call GRHC's main line at (520) 562-3321. GRHC's regular business hours will resume the Tuesday after each holiday.

If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Visit the [grhc.org/hub](http://grhc.org/hub) to view our upcoming health events.



Scan QR code to read the December Newsletter

Scan Here



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CRISIS LINE: 800-259-3449

# **\*\*\*NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT\*\*\***

## **RESIDENT NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2024**

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 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.
- ✓ The Registration Form maybe submitted in person at the Enrollment Office, a photo ID is required.
- ✓ Registration Forms can be submitted by email, fax or mail. Notary required.

### Contact Information:



Mailing Address:  
PO Box 97  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Physical Address:  
525 W Gu U Ki  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Phone: (520) 562-9790 | Fax: (520) 562-8103  
Email: [enrollment.dept@gric.nsn.us](mailto:enrollment.dept@gric.nsn.us)

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Dec. 06, 2023

## 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, December 6, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:02 a.m.

## INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Ann Lucas

## ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.(9:08), Charles Goldtooth(9:06), Terrance Evans(9:10); D7- Devin Redbird(9:41)

Executive Officers Absent:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE RESOLUTIONS #2 AND #3 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #3, #4, #5, AND #6, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #4, AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #3 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REQUEST TO ADD THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA JANUARY 2024 AND A MOTION TO ACCEPT MATERIAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

## PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS

\*1. The Caring House Quarterly Report – July-September 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, Linda Soto, Sarah Ramon, Owen Ayers, Max Haake, Susan Kelley, Dr. Anthony Santiago  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Lone Butte Development LLC FY 2023 Annual Report

Presenters: Christina Waquie

REPORT HEARD

>3. FY24 5-Year Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Plan

Presenter: Jesus Haro

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Gila River Police Department FY23 Annual Report October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, William Morago, Tamatha Villar, Jeff Hunter, Manuel Duarte  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. DRS FY-23 Annual Report

Presenter: Ron Lopez

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Gila River Indian Community Fire Department FY2023 Annual Report (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023)

Presenter: Kathy J. Garcia

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. Casino Expansion Owner's Team – Community Council Report 2022-2023 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Barney Enos, Jr., Deborah Griffin  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

[LT. GOVERNOR CALLED FOR A 15 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:12 A.M.]

8. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council October 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gaming Commission, M. Scott Sanderson, Lydia R. Acosta

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report October 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Richard Strafella, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. FY2024 Financial Activity Report ending October 31, 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

## RESOLUTIONS

\*1. A Resolution Approving The Submission Of Year Two Of The Five Year Grant Application To The United States Department Of Health And Human Services, Administration For Children And Families, Office Of Head Start, American Indian And Alaska Native Programs For Renewed Funding For The Gila River Indian Community Head Start/Early Head Start Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections to the attachments)

Presenter: Michael Preston

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

\*2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Gila River Indian Community Head Start/Early Head Start Program To Submit Year One Of The Five Year Grant Application To The United States Department Of Health And Human Services, Administration For Children And Families, Office Of Head Start, American Indian And Alaska Native Programs For The Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections to the attachments)

Presenter: Michael Preston

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 1 To The Gila River Indian Community Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

APPROVED WITH MINOR CORRECTION

>4. A Resolution Designating The Right Of Way Negotiation Team To Serve As The Negotiation Team For The Gilbert Road Widening Project In District 4 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC, CRSC, & EDSC concur)

Presenters: Bartley G. Harris, Denten Robinson

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## ORDINANCES

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Ransomware After Action Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session under New Business)

Presenter: Chris Cabanillas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. OGC Staffing Contracts (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session under New Business with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Javier G. Ramos

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT HUMAN RESOURCES TO RECLASSIFY A SENIOR ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL POSITION INTO A DEVELOPMENT COUNSEL POSITION; RECLASSIFY A PARALEGAL II POSITION INTO A PARALEGAL MANAGER POSITION; RECLASSIFY THE LAW OFFICE MANAGER POSITION INTO A LEGAL BOOKKEEPER POSITION, AND TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED REVISED OFFICE GRADES FOR THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL AND DIRECT HUMAN RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE GRADES IN THEIR POLICIES. FURTHER, DIRECT HUMAN RESOURCES TO WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL TO DETERMINE THE FINAL SALARIES FOR ALL OF OGC'S EMPLOYEES BASED ON THE REVISED GRADES

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE ATTACHED REVISED GRADE DOCUMENT

>3. FY2023 Lone Butte Development Audit Wrap Up/ Audit Report/Management Letter (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Chris Bitakis, Adrian Gutierrez, Karen Park

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. 2023 General Election Results (LSC forwards to the Community Council the certification of the Gila River Indian Community 2023 General Election with a recommendation to certify for the Office of Governor Stephen Roe Lewis) (LSC forwards to the Community Council the certification of the Gila River Indian Community 2023 General Election with a recommendation to certify for the Office of Lt. Governor Regina Antone) (LSC forwards to the Community Council the Certification of the Gila River Indian Community 2023 General Election with a recommendation to certify for the Office of Chief Judge Anthony J. Hill) (LSC forwards to the Community Council the certification of the Gila River Indian Community 2023 General Election with a recommendation to certify the Office of Associate Judges Sheri L. Cassa, Brianna L. Rhodes, Gwendolyn P. Morago, Charles W. Aragon and Darren Pedro-Martinez)

Presenters: Shannon White, Javier Ramos

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFY STEPHEN ROE LEWIS FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFY REGINA ANTONE FOR THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFY ANTHONY J. HILL FOR THE OFFICE OF CHIEF JUDGE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFY SHERI L. CASSA, BRIANNA L. RHODES, GWENDOLYN P. MORAGO, CHARLES W. ARAGON, AND DARREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ FOR THE OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE

5. Visit to Las Vegas Paiute Tribe (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS [ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

6. Southwest Indian Agriculture Association

Presenter: Brian Davis, Sr.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE SWIAA 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM JANUARY 15-18, 2024 IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA TO USE THE DUES & DELEGATIONS. TIE VOTE. LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE VOTED IN FAVOR

## MINUTES

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HOUSING OWNER'S TEAM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 AT 1:00 P.M.

- WILD HORSE PASS DEVELOPMENT MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

- THE RESCHEDULED GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

- GILA RIVER FARMS WILL HAVE CITRUS FRUIT AVAILABLE IN THE BINS STARTING MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

- HEALTH & SOCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A WORK SESSION AT THE VIOLA JOHNSON BUILDING AT 9:00 A.M.

- IOPC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

- CEOT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M.

- COMMUNITY MANAGER JONES WILL BE ON TRAVEL AND HAS DELEGATED ASSISTANT COMMUNITY MANAGER PRESTON FOR ALL MATTERS  
ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:31 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM







# More broadband. More broad impact.

**For many, a life without the internet is unimaginable.** High-speed internet has become increasingly important to day-to-day life as people depend on it for everything from education and work to socializing and health care. On behalf of the state, the Arizona Commerce Authority is honored to work with local, tribal and industry partners to administer almost \$1 billion in funding to bridge the broadband divide and deliver high-speed internet to all Arizonans.

**ARIZONA**  
COMMERCE AUTHORITY

Learn more about this historic effort at [azcommerce.com/broadband](https://azcommerce.com/broadband)

# Crossroads Auto Center,

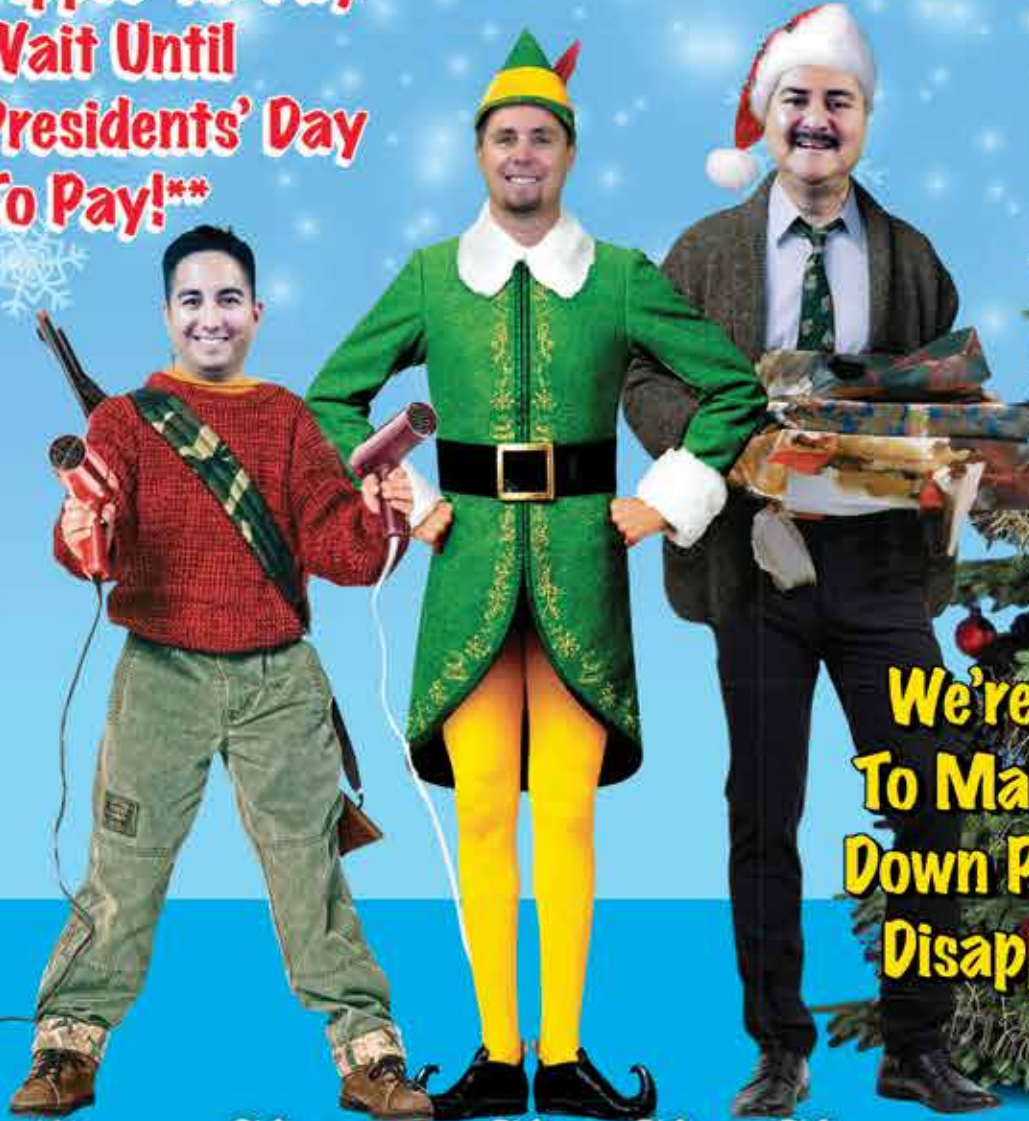
Casa Grande's Favorite Used Car Dealer

Presents Great Christmas Catch Phrases



**Yippee-Ki-Yay  
Wait Until  
President's Day  
To Pay!\*\*\***

**Don't Be A  
Cotton-Headed  
Ninny Muggins!  
Get \$2500  
Minimum  
Trade-In\***



**We're Going  
To Make That  
Down Payment  
Disappear!\*\*\***

And Then We're Gonna Have the Hap-Hap-Happiest Christmas

**2020 Chevy  
Camaro**



**HOT CAR  
LOW PAYMENTS!**

**2021 Nissan  
Titan**



**11,000 MILES  
and 26" RIMS!**

**2020 Toyota  
Corolla**



**\$18,999**

**2021 Chevy  
Traverse**



**ALL THE ROOM  
AND COMFORT**

**2019 Ram  
Big Horn**



**HEMI POWERED**

**2017 Jeep  
Wrangler Rubicon**



**NUFF SAID**

**2021 Honda  
Accord Sport**



**QUALITY AND STYLE**

**2019 Kia  
Optima**



**LOW MILES AND  
LOW PAYMENTS**

**2022 Chevy  
Malibu**



**12,000 Miles**

**2016 Toyota  
Tacoma**



**HOT TRUCK**

**2015 Kia  
Soul**



**\$259/MO**

**2019 Ford  
Fusion**



**ONLY \$17,999**

**2017 Nissan  
Sentra**



**ONLY \$8,999**

**2018 Kia  
Sedona**



**ONLY \$21,999**

**2020  
Chrysler 300**



**AFFORDABILITY  
& STYLE**



**CROSSROADS  
AUTO CENTER**

1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE

**520-836-2112**

INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL

[www.crossroadsauto.org](http://www.crossroadsauto.org)

\*Not valid with other offers. \*\*Subject to Credit Approval Not all Buyers Will Qualify. Not all customers qualify based on approved credit. Must present ad at time of purchase. Not all vehicles qualify. Ask manager for details.



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DO  
YOU**

It's your appetite's lucky day. Because with dozens of dining venues, including Prime, A Shula's Steak House, we take flavors to another level.

**GILA RIVER**  
RESORTS & CASINOS

Wild Horse Pass  
Lone Butte  
Vee Quiva  
Santan Mountain