JULY 7, 2023

# In historic first, Vice President Kamala Harris visits Gila River Indian Community

Harris discusses impact of Infrastructure Investment on Tribal Nations

**Communications & Public Affairs Office** 

Press Release

Laveen, AZ.- Vice President Kamala Harris became the first sitting U.S. President or Vice President to visit the Gila River Indian Community when she spoke to a crowd of about 800 elected leaders, officials from Arizona tribes and Community members gathered at the Gila Crossing Community School on July 6.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who met with Harris prior to her remarks and accompanied the Vice President and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff on a tour of the Community's Reclaimed Water



O'otham singers and dancers from the four "Sister Tribes" welcome the Vice President. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Vice President Kamala Harris addresses the audience on Thursday, July 6 at the Gila Crossing Community School in District 6. Kyle Knox/GRIN

the crowd, calling the Biden-Harris Administration "a true partner" with Indian Country.

"This Administration has taken partnership to a whole new lev-

Pipeline Project, also addressed el," said Gov. Lewis. "They have brought Tribes genuinely to the table, working with us on important investments and solutions for each Tribe's unique needs."

Harris met privately with O'

otham youth prior to her remarks while the Second Gentleman met with Community Veterans. The Vice President's speech focused

Continued on Page 4

# **GRRC hosts Grand Opening Ceremony for New Santan Mountain Casino**

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Resorts & Casinos Santan Mountain, the tribe's fourth casino in Arizona, invited Community members to an exclusive pre-opening and ribbon cutting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

Many Community members waited outside for the doors to open. Once they entered and were led to the Silverleaf Ballroom, the first 1,000 received a free State 48 Santan Casino T-shirt. Five hundred more shirts were ordered to be distributed to those who didn't get one at a later date.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, council members from all seven districts and executive leaders and employees of the Gila River Resorts & Casinos attended the event, which included a blessing from former Lt. Gov. Robert Stone, speeches from tribal leaders and cultural performances by tribal members.

After the blessing, Gov. Lewis said, "We've raised the bar at Santan Mountain Casino. It's



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis cuts the official ribbon for the opening of the Santan Mountain Casino. Velia Moncada/GRIN

beautiful, it's open and it's bright." Located on the outskirts of

District 4. the casino entrance boasts large windows that provide

stunning views of the surround- light and airy atmosphere. ing desert and Santan Mountain. Inside, the decor is dominated by a white color scheme, creating a

Gov. Lewis also thanked el-

Continued on Page 9

## **TED Graduation** Banquet honors 2023 Graduates



Samuel Dillon, 2023 Betty Fairfax High School graduate, shares his education journey through high school. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

There was joy that filled the air at the Tribal Education Department's (TED) graduate recognition banquet held on Friday, June 23. The banquet fell into the evening, where 85 students RSVP'd with two guests. At the same time, tribal leadership and Community council members attended the event as well, resulting in the attendance of 300 individuals commemorating the graduates. TED student advisors hosted the graduate banquet to honor the class of 2023 students and recognize their academic accomplishments at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass with a dinner service held in the Komatake Ballroom.

Tribal Education Department Director Issac Salcido greeted the banquet guests, congratulated students on their accomplishments, and finally introduced graduates. Cultural and Language Program Manager Anthony Gray and Cultural Specialist Antonio Davis sang O'otham songs as each graduate entered the room during the introduction. Then Arizona State University 2023 graduate Kristen Dosela provided a blessing for everyone.

Following the opening came congratulating and encouraging remarks from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone. Both shared their admiration towards the TED employees, paving the way for the graduating students to thrive in their academic futures while admiring the graduates for their efforts in their

Continued on Page 3

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**Preparing for Monsoon Storms** Page 5

O'otham New Year Celebration Page 7

Go Skateboarding Day in District 4 Page 9













# Non-Emergent Medical **Transportation Services (MTS)**

# What to Know:

### **Patient Scheduling** Change

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Wednesday	Monday	
Thursday	Tuesday	
Friday	Wednesday	
Saturday	Thursday	
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Governor

### **Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor **Monica Antone** 

Community Council Representatives

> District 1 Arzie Hogg Joey Whitman

District 2 Ann M. Lucas

District 3 Avery White Joseph Manuel Jr.

District 4 Jennifer Allison Lalena Jackson Christopher Mendoza Nada Celaya

District 5 Brian E. Davis, Sr. James De La Rosa Franklin Pablo Sr.

District 6 Anthony Villareal, Sr. Terrance B. Evans Charles Goldtooth

> District 7 Devin Redbird

Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer Shannon White, Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

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### WIOA First Responder Program instills career training for youth

**Emma Hughes** 

Gila River Indian News

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) continues its summer First Responders Cadet Program for youth from June 12 - July 28. The unique First Responder Cadet Program works in collaboration with the Gila River Police Department (GRPD), Gila River Fire Department (GRFD), and Gila River **Emergency Management Services** (GREMS)

Open to ages 14-18, the seven-week program provides youth the opportunity to learn and gain hands-on experience in public safety through an in-depth look at day-to-day operations with experienced instructors in the field.

"I think it's a great program to introduce the youth here in the Community to public safety in general, but our ultimate goal would be to have them go in those career routes, whether it's fire, PD, EMS, or higher education," said Robert Jackson, GRFD. He began working with the program as an instructor in 2017.

The program challenges participants to accomplish physical and mental education training in

each department. This year, 12 cadets joined the summer program, where they trained at GRPD's training facility in Chandler.

The program initially began with GRPD, which provides insight into dispatch, officer protocols, officer safety, Miranda warnings, firearms safety and training, and much more.

Eventually, throughout the years, GRFD and EMS were introduced and now offer firefighter training and medical education as part of the program.

Participants receive a stipend through WIOA and are eligible to receive CPR training and certification through EMS. This added certification will allow them to become better prepared and equipped as they enter their ca-

For departments like GRFD, physical demands are much higher, so the program also partners with the Tribal Wellness Center instructors, who provide physical education and exercise. Cadets are also allowed to practice drills in firefighter uniforms.

Sayuri Jackson, District 3, a first-time participant in the program, said she's gained a lot of



2023 WIOA First Responders Cadet Program participants. Emma Hughes/GRIN

leadership skills and a better understanding of public health and safety. She's also made new friends in the program.

"We all help each other figure out how fast can we get on our turnouts or how can we resuscitate someone in the orderly time," said Jackson. "I've learned a lot of leadership skills and just maybe what career I might go into. It's a really good program. It just helps me a lot, honestly."

cent Alvidrez, District 7, said it's much more inclusive this year with more participants. "We get better activities and whatnot because we get more people and that's more people to learn and that's more people who have better knowledge out there," said Al-

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer program steadily increased, with its largest class of 16 cadets in 2019. The program is slowly seeing those numbers return, with 12 cadets this summer.

"If you're looking for good interactions while also having fun learning environment, possibly meeting and making new friends along the way, if you want an opportunity in any of the three public safety departments, definitely join. It had to be one of the best decisions I've made personally," said Alvidrez.

Rebecca Lewis, EMT with Gila River EMS, said, "I do believe that this program has given us great results in the past. We have four or five of our cadets that are now in the public safety fields to date."

Lewis instructs the cadets on Second-year participant, Vin- how to perform CPR on infants and adults while going over other life-saving techniques, such as applying a tourniquet and more.

"Our goal here is to teach these kids about gaining medical knowledge and trying to get them familiar with what we do in the field, so that way it kind of gives them a clear picture of what we do as EMS to kind of help them decide if that's what they want to do," said Lewis.

For any youth interested in the First Responders Program, contact any participating departments: Fire, EMS, or GRPD, and ask them about the program. And for interested adults, a year-round program is also available for those 18 and older.



Rebecca Lewis provides CPR training for the First Responder youth cadets. Emma Hughes/GRIN

### From the Front Page

journey to academic success. Graduates from the class of

2023, Samuel Dillon of Betty Fairfax High School and Yvette Carpio of Arizona State University spoke to the graduating class and their families at the recognition banquet. They highlighted the numerous challenges and tri-

umphs they faced throughout their educational journevs.

Amongst the activibanquet ties, a raffle occurred throughout the night where students would receive home appliances as prizes. These ranged prizes from microwaves to keurigs, egg cookers, and a plasma TV.

Lance Reyna, K-12 Education Manager at TED, and Jennifer Hinton, Adult Education Manager at TED. gave students certificate Velia the late evening,

recognizing stu-

dents for their studious work and academic achievement.

Closing remarks were then presented by the Chairman of the Education Standing Commit-

tee, District 1 Councilman Arzie Hogg, concluding the night for students and their well-deserved achievement.



Students receive a recognition certificate from their Tribal Education Department staff along with of recognition in congratulations from GRIC leadership. Moncada/GRIN



### From the Front Page

on federal-tribal partnerships involving infrastructure - including the recent water conservation projects to address the drought in the Lower Basin. She also touted the Biden Administration's commitment to expanding voting rights for Native Americans, to working to solve the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, and to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act, which was recently upheld by a decision of the United State Supreme Court.

tinue to work together in Gila River for such a tour. partnership toward a future the Vice President told the economic

Harris "an historic meet- to Indian Country." ing," Gov. Lewis talked about what it meant to the Community to have the

"Together we will con- Vice President single out

"This was about an where all of our children equal partnership," Lewcan realize their God-giv- is explained. "In that way en potential, a better future we can truly collaborate to for this generation and sev- address important issues, en generations to come," including climate change, development crowd. "In that fight, togeth- among tribes, and protecter we will work to continue ing voting rights for tribal to strengthen this partner- members. Her as Vice Presship, to count on your lead- ident coming to the Comership, and to work together munity as the sole reason in support of our common she came to Arizona today really represents the Ad-Calling the visit from ministration's commitment



Gov. Lewis greets Vice President Kamala Harris upon arrival at the Gila Crossing Community School. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Vice President Kamala Harris and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis meeting with Miss Gila Gov. Lewis guides Vice President Kamala Harris on a tour of the Reclaimed Water River Royalty and O'otham youth on July 6. GRIC Photo



Pipeline Project in District 4. Kyle Knox/GRIN

# **TECH SKILLS WORKSHOP**

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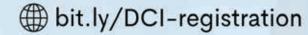
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# **Preparing for Monsoon Storms and Effects this summer**

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

As the Community awaits the beautiful summer rainstorms to pass through the desert landscape, the Office of Emergency Man-

prepares for the damages the Monsoon season tends occur when the winds shift in direction due to seasonal changes, causing air pres-

agement (OEM) of GRIC parched air in the southwest ing. region to increase in moisture. These storms can range to leave behind. Monsoons from minor dust winds to severe thunderstorms causing heavy winds and rain, low visibility, power outagsure between the hot and es, and severe flash flood-

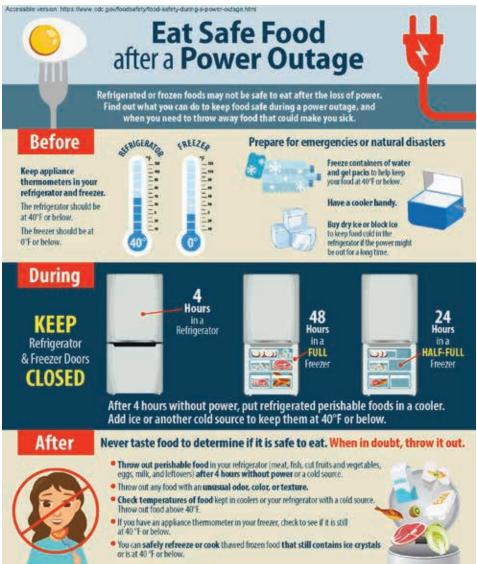
"Residents should be prepared and take the monsoon's very seriously and prepare as needed," said Emergency Management Coordinator Adam Sainz. He ensures that preparation planning for emergency disasters are thorough and effective for the Community. For the past and future monsoon seasons, OEM coordinates with each district occurs the Emergency Opto supply adequate sandbags for each district and encourages departments to

test their facility's backup

nity is well-equipped to as- as possible. sist with the prevention of flooding as well as provide emergency power during a power outage. "The OEM Team along with Public Safety and GRIC departments understand the importance of preparedness and work together to keep the Community safe," said

When an emergency eration Center (EOC) activates to assist, coordinate and deploy emergency resources for the Communiemergency equipment. This ty. The OEM Team will be ready to respond as quickly

Although OEM strives to prepare for monsoon season, it is imperative that Community members safeguard and prepare for the monsoon elements as best as possible. Some steps to help plan for such an incident includes: avoid driving in severe weather, watch the news for accurate information and weather updates, create a communication and evacuation plan, prepare for power outages, travel safely, and prepare an emergency 72- hour kit in the event you need to shelter in place.





Adam Sainz, Emergency Management Coordinator for OEM, stands in front of sandbags that are distributed to Community service centers in the case of severe flooding. Velia Moncada/GRIN

### **Phoenix Suns host annual** Basketball camp for youth

www.cdc.gov/foodsafety

**Emma Hughes** 

Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Suns, in partnership with the Gila River Indian Community, hosted two week-long basketball camps for youths ages 6-17 the first at Thunderbird High School in Phoenix and the second at Williams Field High School in Gilbert.

Over 200 youths participated in the camp this year, including ten from the Gila River Indian Community. The camps offer one-on-one instruction in a safe and positive environment for everyone to learn more about the sport.

Open to experienced and inexperienced players, the camp allows players to play basketball and learn from trained coaches from school, collegiate professional levels. and Through guided exercises and drills, youth developed their experiences and helped others gain valuable foundational skills.

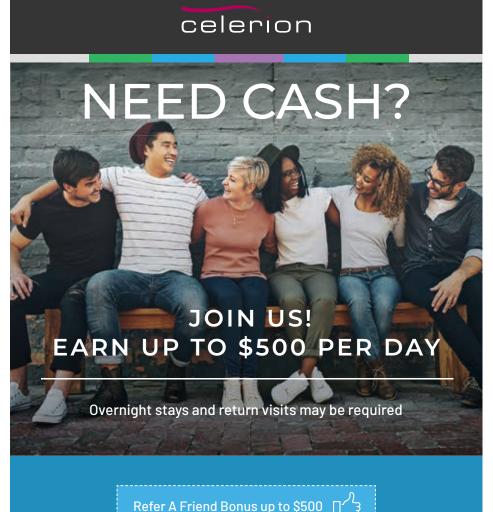
Over the course of the week, participants go over drills, learn offense and defense work, teamwork, review educational videos, and hear from guest speakers.

Players were catego- shared his start in baskettivities. The event conclud-Phoenix Suns player Damion Lee at the Williams Field High School gymnasium.

rized based on age and skill ball and how it kept him level during the week's ac- busy during his childhood, he thanked the youth for ed with an award ceremony coming out to the camp and and a meet and greet with taking the time to learn and acquire new skills. Lee also signed autographs and took photos with all the youth During his visit, Lee participating in the camp.



Phoenix Suns player Damion Lee shares encouraging words for the youth at the camp. Emma Hughes/GRIN



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# **COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS**

# Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • June 21, 2023

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:11 a.m.

### INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Ann Lucas **ROLL CALL** 

Council Secretary Shannon White called

**Executive Officers Present:** Governor Stephen R. Lewis Lt. Governor Monica Antone 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.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:16), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird (9:24) Council Members Absent:

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 THROUGH #4; RESOLUTIONS #1, #3, #4, AND #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AP-PROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS **PRESENTED** 

### PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

\*1. First Things First Introduction Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Ember Tahy MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TA-**BLE THE REPORT** 

### **REPORTS**

>1. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51 FY23 2nd Quarter Grant Financial Report and Summary Presenters: Virginia Encinas, Pamela

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-

>2. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services -Second Quarter Report

Presenter: Diana Lopez-Jones ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-

>3. Executive Travel Report ending March 31, 2023

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-

>4. Head Start Program Monthly Report-March 2023

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Samuel Alonso, Tiffani Boni

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council April 2023 (Executive Session) Presenters: Gaming Commission Board, M. Scott Sanderson, Lydia R. Acosta

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION 6. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report April 2023 (Executive

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

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION 7. FY2023 Schedule of Investments

ending April 30, 2023 (Executive Ses-

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. FY2023 Financial Activity Report end- forwards to Council with a recommendaing May 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 Memorandum Of Understanding Between Lone Butte Development, L.L.C. And The Gila River Indian Community Regarding Business Lease 42001168349 And The Calculation Of Net Operating Income For Purposes Of Calculating Rent (EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections)

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Esther Manuel, Karen Park

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-PROVAL OF AGENDA

2. A Resolution Rescinding GR-225-18 And Approving The Revision Of The 2023 Community Council Standing Committee Policies And Procedures (H&SSC forwards to Council under Resolutions; NRSC concurs; LSC forwards with a recommendation for approval, ESC forwards with corrections and concurs with NRSC, H&SSC, LSC & CRSC; EDSC concurs with ESC; G&MSC concurs with LSC)

Presenters: Shannon White, Thomas Murphy

**APPROVED** 

>3. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Funding Between The City Of Phoenix And The Gila River Indian Community For Fixed-Route Transit Services For Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenter: Sreedevi

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-PROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Transit Services Intergovernmental Agreement No. 128-75-2024-05-00 Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Regional Public Transportation Authority Providing For Fixed-Route Transit Services (G&MSC tion for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sreedevi Manthra ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-PROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Approving A Master Credit Card Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And JP-Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. For Commercial Card Services And Approving A Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-PROVAL OF AGENDA

6. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Agreement Among The Arizona Department Of Transportation, Gila River Indian Community Governor And Gila River Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Regarding I-10 Gila River Bridge, Federal Aid No. 101-C(224)T, TRACS No. 10 PN 173.1 F02701D, Pinal County, Arizona (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC and CRSC concur)

Presenters: Barnaby V. Lewis, Larry Benallie, Javier Ramos, Ian Shavitz, Kyle Woodson, Darius Enos, Reylynne Williams

**APPROVED** 

7. A Resolution Approving A Ground Lease Template For Leases Of Community Trust Lands For Agricultural Use And Designating The Natural Resources Standing Committee To Act On Behalf Of The Community Council In Approving Agricultural Leases (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Shelby Francisco, John M. Martin, Teresa Mandelin **APPROVED** 

8. A Resolution Accepting Implementation Plans And Dissolving The Crime Task Force (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with the additional material from LUPZ, DSO and DHD)

Presenters: Crime Task Force, Rebecca

**APPROVED ORDINANCES UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS** 

1. Gila River Farms Board of Director's Declaration of Vacancy - (2) Seats (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business to declare the vacancies and to appoint at the June 21st Council

Presenters: Gila River Farm Board MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DE-**CLARE TWO VACANCIES** 

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO

APPOINT JENNIFER ALLISON AND LALENA JACKSON TO THE GILA RIV-ER FARMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2. Gila River Farms First and Second Quarter Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept) Presenters: Gila River Farm Board, Benito Alvarez, Jr., Kimberly Fisher

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AC-CEPT THE GILA RIVER FARMS FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER REPORT

3. Proposed Use Agreement between Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority and Gila River Farms Proposed Propane Transition Plan (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval; EDSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval to be included with the Gila River Farms Propane Tran-

Presenters: Gila River Farm Board, Benito Alvarez, Jr., Kimberly Fisher, GRICUA Board of Directors, Ken Stock MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY UTILITY AU-THORITY AND GILA RIVER FARMS PROPOSED PROPANE TRANSITION

4. FY2024 Operating Budget Work Session Request (G&MSC Work Session scheduled for July 20th - 22nd, 2023 with the location to be determined and G&MSC forwards to Council for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AL-LOW ANY INTERESETED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND THE FY2024 BUDGET WORK SESSION USING **DUES AND DELEGATIONS** 

5. SCIP Divestiture/Consultation Request (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to proceed with the consultation request and to delegate this matter to the Litigation Team; NRSC & EDSC concur) Presenter: Thomas Murphy

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSULTA-TION REQUEST AND DELEGATE THIS MATTER TO THE LITIGATION **TEAM** 

6. 2023 National Tribal Opioid Summit August 22-24, 2023 in Tulalip, Washington (H&SSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues & Del-

Presenters: Health & Social Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AL-LOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES AND DELE-**GATIONS** 

7. Special Community Council Election for District Five (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to approve the Election schedule and to declare the vacancy on July 21, 2023) Presenters: Nadine Shelde, Javier Ra-

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECARE THE VACANCY ON JULY 21, 2023 AND HOLD A SPECIAL COMMU-NITY COUNCIL ELECTION FOR DIS-TRICT FIVE

### **MINUTES**

1. May 3, 2023 (Regular) **APPROVED** 

2. June 7, 2023 (Regular) **APPROVED** 

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:42 A.M. \* Denotes TABLED from previous meet-

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

### Gila River Police Department Incident Logs **Community Wide Crimes** (June 13th - 30th) AGGRAVATED ASSAULT 3 ARSON BURGLARY 3 DRUG VIOLATION KIDNAPPING MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT 6 SEXUAL ASSAULT SIMPLE ASSAULT 4 **WEAPONS OFFENSE** 7 3 5 3 3 2 District 3 District 4 District 5 District 6 District 7 District 1 District 2

# Community Gathers to Celebrate the O'otham New Year

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

The Huhugham Heritage Center hosted a celebration on June 23 to welcome the 2023 O'otham New Year, where dancers and traditional singers, of all ages, from the Community performed in the center courtyard. At the same time, attendees dressed in cultural attire and joined the festivities by dancing to the music and songs that continued throughout the night.

The event was the first celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Gila River Royalty hosted this year's gathering.

The night's program in-Pee Posh singing, dancing, and traditional performances. It featured Pee Posh bird dancing and O'otham the summer solstice. singers showcasing basket giveaway.

"I wanted to bring our Community together and celebrate with one another," said 2023-24 Miss Gila River Lehua Lani Dosela. She organized the 2023 O'otham New Year celebration event with her GRIC royalty committee. She contributed

dance giveaway.

The 2023 O'otham cluded Akimel O'otham and New Year drew families and friends and people throughout the districts to celebrate the season's changing into

Sue Sixkiller from Disdances, social dancing, and trict 1 attended the celebration and remarked on how she recognizes the O'otham New Year as a time of renewal in life, with a time to rejoice and gather with one another and a moment to have pride in the Community and what the Community has to offer.

Also present during the 18 ribbon shirts and nine event was Lt. Gov. Monica skirts that she sewed for the Antone. Lt. Gov. Antone

acknowledged the efforts to organize the event and expressed her gratitude towards the Huhugam Heritage Center staff for their hard work and dedication in making the Miss Gila River O'otham New Year event a success.

The celebration allowed Community members to dance to the songs of the Pee Posh and the O'otham while learning the language of one another. The event also cultivated a space for everyone to embrace the beauty in the people and traditional customs that make up the Gila River Indian Community.



2023-24 Miss Gila River Lehua Lani Dosela and four others during the giveaway dance. Velia Moncada/GRIN



2023-24 GRIC Royalty and Community members celebrate with a social dance to ring in the O'otham New Year. CPAO Photo



2023-24 Miss Gila River first attendant, Mavis Thomas (center), joins Pee Posh Dancers for the bird dance social at the 2023 O'otham New Year Celebration. CPAO

### gather for education and VA updates June 27 Veterans

**Kyle Knox** 

Gila River Indian News

On Tuesday, June 27, the Veterans Family and Services Office (VFSO) hosted a Veterans Roundtable. The roundtable brings together veterans from all military branches to provide more visibility, education, and critical updates for Community veterans.

The roundtable, held in District 5, was the first roundtable after the pandemic and was a welcome reunion for veterans from all seven districts. These settings provide much-needed information for the Community veterans since many can't regularly travel to vices and information.

During the program's opening, Lt. Gov. Monica ordinator. Antone shared remarks with

resources to file claims. I observed their dedication to assisting Community Veterans at every level. And I am immensely grateful for the seeking mental health support," said Lt. Gov. Antone.

During this time, Lt. Gov. Antone also acknowledged the veterans' posts from the Community for their tireless dedication to representing GRIC. She also

"Today was all about a very successful event," said Eric White, VFSO co-

the audience. "I want to ex- VA, so to have represenpress my gratitude towards tatives from the VA here, the VFSO for providing working with our veterans one-on-one is great, that way they get the answers they need from the VA and it's programs directly."

Several members of services offered to Veterans various VA programs attended to provide program updates, information on program services, and workshop presentations. Some of those programs included the Phoenix VA Health Care System Rural Health, Tucson VA Health Care Native recognized their support for American Veterans Advothe services of a District 7 cate Program, VA Traditionveteran who recently passed al Healing, and information new office. The new VFSO on the PACT Act.

Phoenix or Tucson for ser- education, and I think it was being here today to receive The staff extends a welcome all the information we are providing here today," said "Changes are Michael Welsh, Deputy constantly occurring at the Medical Center Director, Phoenix VA Health Care. Mr. Welsh also attended the roundtable and welcomed everyone at the beginning of the program.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis also attended the roundtable and was pleased to see its return, in-person.

"It's great to be back with you all in person and I hope you all took away something from this time together," said Gov. Lewis in his closing remarks. "There was a time when we didn't have a VFSO, so to see them plan this for you all is great and I want you all to visit the new office, because it's your office and you deserve everything they have to offer, as veterans."

As the Community can now hold public events, VFSO will work to keep roundtables on a consistent quarterly schedule in the fu-

Additionally, **VFSO** plans to hold a Purple Heart event in August to celebrate GRIC officially being designated a Purple Heart Community in 2022.

Lastly, as mentioned previously, VFSO has a office is located at 264 S. Bluebird Road in Sacaton to all veterans to come and



Lauren Ybarra from the presentation about her program services and how to enroll for benefits. Kyle Knox/GRIN

information, stop in the of- 562-5145.

learn more about the ser- fice from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or vices they offer. For more call 520-562-5148 or 520-



Veterans gathered in District 5 for the Veterans Roundtable on June 27. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, VFSO Coordinator Eric White, District 1 Councilman Joey Whitman, and regional representatives from the VA at the end of the Veterans Roundtable. Kyle Knox/GRIN

NOTICE AND CALL OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SACATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 18 OF PINAL COUNTY,

A special election has been called by, and will be held in, Sacaton Elementary School District No. 18 of Pinal County, Arizona (the "District"), on November 7, 2023 ("Election Day"). The purpose of the election is to permit the qualified electors of the District to vote on authorizing the District to lease one or more parcels of land for a term not to exceed 99 years and to construct, improve, equip and furnish one or more buildings on such land.

The election will be a mailed ballot only election. No polling places will be provided. Ballots will be mailed to qualified electors residing within the District no earlier than 26 days prior to the election and no later than 15 days before the election. Ballots must be received or dropped off at one of the designated ballot drop box locations as designated by the Pinal County Elections Department and as set forth in the informational pamphlet and/or the ballot no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. The informational pamphlet will be mailed to the homes of qualified electors. If a ballot is lost, spoiled, destroyed or not received by the elector, the elector may receive a replacement ballot at the ballot replacement locations designated by the Pinal County Elections Department.

The last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in this election is Monday, October 9, 2023. Any qualified elector is eligible for early voting. Early voting materials may be obtained by contacting the Pinal County Elections Department, 188 S. Main Street, Coolidge, AZ 85128; telephone: (520) 866-7550. For more information about the foregoing, please review A.R.S. § 15-491 or contact the Sacaton Elementary School District, 150 Skill Center Drive, Sacaton, AZ 85147; telephone: (520) 562-8600.

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN THE MATTER OF: AMANDA CELIA MITCHELL, Petitioner/Plaintiff vs. JAMES JAVON LEWIS, Respondent/

CASE Number: FM-2023-0022-PT CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

Please take notice that a(n) Review Hearing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

### **Review Hearing**

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 10:30 AM in Courtroom I. AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona. DATED this 12th day of June, 2023

21st day of July, 2023

at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Sheri L

AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,

### Submission

Appreciation Letter

GRIN: Editor Letter is to appreciate the outstanding work done by the Public Works Department. It is recognizing the quality of work done in a timely manner.

Public Works Director: Jesus Haro

Public Works Solid Waste Supervisor: Elda

Public Works Equipment Operator: Rachel Valencia

Public Works Employees: Rudy Valenzuela, Robin

Thank you very much,

Byron R. Dixon, Sr.

### GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN THE MATTER OF: AUTO NOW FINANCIAL. Petitioner/Plaintiff vs. JOSEPHINE FAYE ESCALANTE ET AL., Respondent/Defendant CASE Number: CV-2023-0050-MO

CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING Please take notice that a(n) Review Hearing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

### Review Hearing

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 11:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ. Given under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona. DATED this 12th day of June, 2023

### **GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN THE MATTER OF: SOUTHWEST MOBILE STOR-AGE, INC., Petitioner/Plaintiff vs. JESSY MACCARI, Respondent/Defendant

CASE Number: CV-2023-0054-MO CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a(n) Answer/Response Hear-

ing has been rescheduled in the Gila River Indian Com-

munity Court. Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 11:30 AM in Courtroom I. AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River

Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 21st day of June, 2023

### **GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN THE MATTER OF: Dawn Williams vs. Kristin Notah CASE Number: CV-2023-0128-RO

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE OR-DERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered. Restraining Order Hearing

28th day of July, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Sheri L Cassa AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147 DATED Friday, June 23, 2023

### GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN RE Case: RACHAEL MARIE FARKAS vs. BRANDON MINSHEW

CASE Number: CV-2023-0112-RO CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in held in absentia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest,

forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered

### **Restraining Order Hearing**

721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147 DATED Friday, June 9, 2023

### **GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN THE MATTER OF: Jeannette Lewis CASE Number: CV-2020-0188-AIC

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE OR-DERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in held in absentia and a warrant may be

issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered. Review Hearing

15th day of August, 2023 at 3:30 PM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Sheri L Cassa AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147

DATED Thursday, June 22, 2023

### **GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT IN THE MATTER OF: Michaelene Jones vs. CW Sunbird Jones Sr

CASE Number: FM-2023-0031-DV

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE OR-DERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in held in absentia and a warrant may be

issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party, or jail time may ordered.

### Answer/Response Hearing

15th day of August, 2023 at 11:30 AM in Courtroom I before the Honorable Sheri L Cassa AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI.

721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147

DATED Monday, June 19, 2023

# Home loans that get the Native American community home.



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### From the Front Page

ders and Community members for their support of the casino, which is expected to bring economic revenue for the Community.

Lt. Gov. Antone in her speech also mentioned the economic advantages of the new casino and how it will benefit tribal housing, public safety and more.

"It's beautiful that our Community can open the doors to such a great opportunity, to an economic engine," she said. "This is your casino, this is our casino, this is Gila River strong... I am looking forward to the next few days as the revenue comes back to our people."

Later in the program, the Keli Akimel O'otham and a Pee Posh Bird Singing group performed traditional songs and dances for the auby Community members. ble games. Work by Community artists building, including seven tain also boasts the largest seven districts.

at 10:30 a.m., Community includes the Upper Deck members gathered in the Deli and a bar featuring gihallway outside of the ball- ant-screen TVs. room for the ceremonial ribfor official business.

nity cheered and dispersed approachable"

dience. The lead voice of the foot casino, which holds bird singers, Angel Ortiz, more than 800 slot ma-District 7, commented that chines, 15 blackjack tables, the casino to him is a great three roulette tables-inpromise to the Community cluding the first white routhat will enhance resources. lette wheel in the country— He also mentioned that his three poker card tables, two favorite feature of the casi- craps tables three Ultimate no was the artwork on the Texas Hold'em tables, mini walls, which was created baccarat and electronic ta-

Gila River Resorts is on display throughout the & Casinos Santan Mounpaintings from each of the sportsbook in Arizona at 7,000 square feet, which is After the performances sponsored by Bet MGM and

Other features include bon cutting. Lt. Gov. Antone a main bar and lounge area and Gov. Lewis were hand- called "The Hive;" the Preed \$20 bills, which they slid mia bar in the high limit into the nearest slot machine room; a food court with to mark that the Santan Rizzo's pizza and Italian, Mountain Casino was open Mein Dish Asian cuisine, Taste Kitchen and a Star-Afterward, the Commubucks; and the "upscale but restaurant into the 160,000-square- Honey and Vine, which uses ingredients grown in the Community and includes an outdoor patio and a walk-up coffee bar.

> Also, the high-limit area has a wall of floor-toceiling windows that create an indoor/outdoor vibe and opens to the gardens and patio for lounging. At the Community pre-opening, restaurants handed out samples of their cuisine and Eagleheart and Gertie n' the T.O. Boyz provided live



Keli Akimel Dance group sang and danced at the grand pre-opening for the Santan Mountain Casino. Kyle Knox/GRIN

it's extremely important for

music.

"A lot of people have Horse Pass, Lone Butte, Vee been waiting for this event Quiva, and Santan Moun- Casinos Santan Mountain to happen," said Alta Hymer, Community elder from Community member who's District 4. "I think it's a vested in what we do here, beautiful place, especially the art that comes from me to do something for the Community members."

After the Community pre-opening wrapped up, the casino held a ribbon cutting for the general public at 1:30 p.m. It has been open for business since, and an official grand opening was held on June 30 and July 1 with sold-out concerts by country music star Gabby Barrett.

"This is a combination of so many efforts," said Kenneth Manuel, District 4, CEO of the Gila River Gaming Enterprises—Wild Community proud."

Gila River Resorts & tain Casino. He added, "As a is at 7101 S. Gilbert Road, Chandler, and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a



Inside the casino floor where Community members test their luck at the slot machines. Velia Moncada/GRIN

### Gov. Lewis with two Community members after the ribbon cutting June 21. Velia Moncada/GRIN

# Skaters head to District 4 for Go Skateboarding



Alexander Daizey successfully ollies over three stacked skateboards during the skills exhibition portion of the day. Kyle Knox/GRIN

**Kyle Knox** 

Gila River Indian News

skateboarders Avid from the Community gathered for the annual Go Skateboarding Day (GSD) District 4 skate park.

Nationwide, numerous

taking place for the annual event. Thankfully, local skaters only had to travel a little since Seven Layer Army (SLA) coordinated the Community event, Wednesday, June 21, at the drawing dozens to showcase their skills and talents.

"Coming out of the events were simultaneously pandemic, this year was

event as of recent, and it's great since today's all about bringing the Community together," said SLA co-founder Paul Molina.

Through SLA events Molina and co-founder Reuben Ringlero have witnessed growth and progress in the skaters they work with and remain motivated to grow the next generation of skaters.

"Skating, hanging out with all my friends, the location, it was all great and plete without a "product made the event fun and a toss." which rounded out success," said Alexander the evening. Skateboard Daizey, District 3. This year decks, trucks, wheels, grip was his second time participating, and he encouraged everyone interested in skating to come out and join.

Issac Miguel, District 3. said he was excited to see how many people came out for the event. "Skateboarding is fun, it brings skaters together and keeps me out of trouble, so I appreciate when these events happen," said Miguel.

Seven Layer Army Co-founder Reuben Ringlero looks forward to GSD every year and said, "It's really cool to see when the young ones come back, and we see how much improvement they've made after a year." Ringlero said keeping the youth motivated on something positive and out

definitely the biggest SLA of trouble is one of SLA's goals.

> One thing new for this year was the 100 meals for participants and their families that evening, provided by Crime Victim Services.

> Crime Victim Services and SLA collaborate yearly for SLA's annual "Shred in the Name of Love" event every Feb. Building on the partnership Crime Victim Services offered to support GSD with food and drinks.

And no GSD is com-



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis assisted Paul Molina during the product giveaway portion of the event. Kyle Knox/

tape, tools, apparel, and a year's Go Skateboarding hand rail were some nota- Day. ble items distributed at this



Three lucky skaters received new Seven Layer Army skateboard decks as prizes at District 4 for Go Skateboarding Day. Kyle Knox/GRIN

# CONGRATULATIONS Get Ready TO SOOTS

# CONGRATULATIONS MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR STEPHEN ROE LEWIS

Congratulations to all our graduating students in the class of 2023! Whether you are graduating from high school, trade school, college or with advance degrees, this is a time to be proud of your accomplishments. I also want to acknowledge all of our students who are being promoted to your next stage of education. All of you are taking important steps toward a bright future and toward your chosen career. Education has always been highly valued in the Gila River Indian Community. Every year, each and every graduate fulfills the dreams of our past leaders - of our ancestors.

As you celebrate this time, be proud of your accomplishment and reflect on the determination it took for you to be promoted and graduate. You will forever be that graduating class of students who showed resilience in the face of an unprecedented pandemic a difficult time for our Community. You are each a testament of the power of education and the resilience it takes to never lose sight of your goal and to push through difficult times to achieve a dream. The exemplary persistence and strength that you showed will inspire future generations of O'otham and Pee Posh students and they will follow the path you have laid out for them.

As you celebrate, also take the time to acknowledge all those who supported you on this journey – your parents and guardians, your grandparents and extended families, your districts and your Community, your teachers and school officials and the classmates that will be lifelong friends. The entire Community takes pride in your achievements, because your success is the Community's success since each of you contribute to the future of our Community. As you look forward to your next stage of life - your career or continued education – continue to look to your future, but always keep a foot rooted in our past, in our culture – and know that the Community is there for you as you continue on your path.

I offer you congratulations and respect for what you have accomplished and wish you all the best and many blessings on the next stage of your life. Sapo

Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor Gila River Indian Community



# CONGRATULATIONS MESSAGE FROM LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTONE

Greetings graduates, from Lt. Governor Antone

It is with great appreciation and proudness I express my heartfelt congratulations to the 2023, Gila River Indian Community graduates.

Recognizing those in head start, grade school, high school, university, or doctorate, you are true motivation to many of us. This is just the first ladder in walking into the next step of your educational journey. Families and friends that stood behind you and supported your achievements should also be congratulated. This year after and Covid 19/20 we were able to attend ceremonies and I witnessed many families laughing, shouting and crying which only showed the emotions of love and gratitude.

We can never forget to thank the teachers, school faculty, tribal education, student advisors, and mentors. Thank you for the unselfish support in the career you chose to see our students succeed at all age levels.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment as this will pay off tremendously. I can say you all have caught the huge break to fall forward and succeed. Continue to be consistent, plan your goals and dreams and keep the reflection of hope!

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela

Sincerely, Lt. Governor Monica Antone



# HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES



**Adrian D Thomas** Central Arizona College Associates, Recording Engineering Much love y'all. Go follow my band One Way Sky



**Haley Bodmer** Arizona College, Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy Congratulations Haley we are so proud of you! Most importantly be proud of yourself! Many blessings on your future endeavors.

Love, Your family



Kahlea Nez Pima Medical Institute. Certificate, Medical Assistant



**Amanda Mitchell** Arizona State University Master of Science, American Indian Studies

I'm proud of my education journey and grateful for the support of the Gila River Indian Community and the Tribal Education Department. Most importantly, the unwavering love and encouragement from my family and close friends throughout my educational endeavors. I look forward to deepening my professional experience, applying my knowledge and nation-building wherever my path leads. Pursuing higher education can be challenging when navigating colonial institutions. I want you to know you belong, you are supported, and don't be afraid to take up space. It always seems impossible until it's done.



Isabella Hauter Arizona State University, Bachelor of Arts Psychology Continuing to Northwestern University



**Kelcey Mosley** Arizona State University - College of Health Solutions, Master of Science, Strength and Conditioning



Andrea "Andi" Losey University of Dubuque Bachelor's, **Business** Administration

Daughter of the late Johnny Applegate, I have lived in Blackwater all my life. I graduated from Coolidge High School in 2009 and Carrington College in 2011. I decided to go back to school in late 2019 because I was tired of not going anywhere with my job. After all these years of finally obtaining my Bachelor's, I am ready to continue on this path and earn my Master's. It has been a struggle, and I am so thankful for those who helped push me and supported me through this, especially my husband Shawn Losey and my son Zylus Jones!



Glendale Community College, Certificate, Illustration We are so proud of YOU! Just remember you are not finished, you have only just begun. We will always be here to support and cheer you on just as you do for us. We love you to the

Death Star and Back! MUCH!

Love your Wife and Babies,

Lanna, Caleb, Sinny, Yuri, and

Colbs (Deet, Venus, & Stella)



Masters of Education Educational Leadership: Principal K-12

First of all, I would like to thank the Gila River Indian Community for the support and guidance in attaining my degree. With this degree, my goal is to be a leader that advocates for our youth. I would also like to thank my family and friends for the support and encouragement of my pursuit of this achievement.



Janel Lewis Carrington College, Medical assistance Yay, I made it !!!



**Lauren Marie Antone** University of Arizona, MBA, Business Administration w/ Concentration in Management Information Systems

I want to thank my parents, my friends in the PMBA cohort, my instructors and everyone at the Eller College of Management for their support. I am truly grateful for the opportunity provided by the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department to continue my education and grow both personally and professionally. Bear Down Wildcats!



Get Ready To

**Danielle Allen** Master of Legal Studies, Indigenous Peoples Law I want to thank my husband Ryan, children, siblings and family for encouraging me throughout this journey. I Love you All.



Jessica Romo University of Arizona, Interdisciplinary Studies, Global and Intercultural I would like to thank my family and friends who always encour-

aged me to finish my degree. I could have not done it without my husband and my sons, they were always there to push me to keep going no matter what obstacles I faced. I will cherish this graduation for the rest of my life, I also got to graduate with my nephew, Nicholas Tapia. WILD-CAT4LIFE!!!



Maria Andrade

George Washington University, Master of Science, Crime Scene Investigation

It has been my dream since I was a little kid to solve mysteries, and with my love for science, forensic science and crime scene investigation just made sense! I want to thank everyone who supported me and helped succeed, I love you all and I am forever grateful!

# HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES



Kristen Sally Dosela

Arizona State University, Bachelor of Arts in Education, Educational Studies, Early Childhood Studies, Summa Cum Laude

I am beyond grateful to my parents, Arvis and the Late Lorraine Dosela for their constant words of encouragement. My amazing husband Sam has been my main cheerleader as I stayed up late finishing up my assignments and taking care of our baby boy Benito. My brothers and sisters, I hope you all continue to reach for the stars. I love you all and thank you!! Thank you to Gila River Indian Community, Student Services, and to my GRIC Head Start family. I will continue my educational journey this fall in the Indigenous Education Master's Program at ASU.



Napoleon Marrietta Arizona State University, Masters, American Indian Studies I finished this semester with a Master's in American Indian Studies with an emphasis on Indigenous Rights and Social Justice and I am currently finishing my second Master's in Public Administration in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. The next steps are to finish my second Master's and possibly adventure into a Ph.D. program. What is meant to happen will happen. Creator will guide me. Thank you to all those who supported me. Mahsapé, D-hegai



**Martin Randall** 

Associates Degree, Nursing I have spent the majority of my life in the healthcare field. I am proud to take the next step in my career. Thank you to the tribe for making it possible. Thank you for my family cheering me on throughout it. Thank you



Nicholas Tapia

University of Arizona, Bachelor of Arts, Economics

Thank you, mom, grandma, and grandpa, for always pushing me to finish school and always supporting me on my college journey. I know it hasn't been easy, but I stuck with it and here we are today, a bachelor's degree to my name, and now grad school on the way. I would also like to shoutout my auntie who graduated alongside me this past May! We did it auntie! Beardown!



Shawn Cortez

California State University of Los Angeles, Fire Protection Admin

Just want to say thank you to everyone who has helped me along this process, from my family, friends, to everyone here at the GRIC student services!



Michaela Haley Begay

University of Oregon, Bachelor of Arts, Family Human Services, Ethics, & Native Studies Ske:g Sialig, Continue your education, it is very rewarding and such an honor! I appreciate my son, Cillian; my sister, Lauryn; and my boyfriend, Ryan for getting me through my last year of Undergrad. Thank you Je'e, 'O:g, and my family for always being there for me. I love you all!



Rebecca Moffett

Phoenix College, AAS, Health Information Technology This is only the beginning for



**Reylynne Williams** 

University of Oklahoma, Masters of Legal Studies, Indigenous Peoples Law

A sincere thank you to my family and colleagues for their support as I worked towards a master's degree. All the hours of studying and request for time off to focus on the intense course work from the program paid off in the end. Congratulations to fellow community member Danielle Allen for graduating from the same master's program. Thank you OU IPL Program professors for sharing their knowledge on federal and international Indian law and the staff for their support and guidance.



### Mocha DeLosSantos

Northern Arizona University, Masters. Social Work

To my family, friends and Community, thank you for your love, support and encouragement throughout this journey. Thank you to Gila River for giving me the opportunity to obtain my degree and further myself in the field of social work. I hope that I am able to bring my education and expertise back to serve our people one day.



**Renay Justus** 

Grand Canyon University, Bachelor of Science, Sociology



Rita Mendivil

CAC, Early Education & BS **Beauty School** 

Hard work and dedication pays off, this was years in the making but I did it. Thank you to my family and friends who all help me accomplished my dreams and believed in my work. Thank You



Get Ready To

Monica Archambault

Community College of Denver, AAS Pre-Social Work, Social Work

I couldn't have made it this far in my education without the support from my community, GRIC. I am a first generation graduate from Phoenix attending school in Denver, CO. One graduation down, 2 more to go!



Reuben Ringlero Academy of Art University, BA, UI/UX Design



Sara Leonore Duenez

Grand Canyon University, Master of Business Administration Hello, my name is Sara Leonore Duenez, from District 4 and I am graduating this year from Grand Canyon University with a Master of Business Administration (MBA). I am a wife of 23 years, a mother to three wonderful children ages 15, 12, and 6. I am currently working with the Enrollment/Census Department and have worked for the Department of Public Works and Community Council Secretary's Office. I look forward to the opportunity to use my higher learning experience within my community. Thank you GRIC for the scholarships that made this possible.

# Class of 2023

# HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES



Thomas Jacob Cortez
University of Southern
California (USC), Master

Educational

Counseling

of Education,

I want to say thank you to the Gila River Indian Community for supporting me through my higher education journey; Thank you to my mom and dad; without you two, I would have never started and finished. Thank you, Shawn, Beto, and Loretta. Thank you to all my best friends, especially Karina the love of my life, who made USC memorable. I love you all!



Ty-Ahna Morning Dov Jones

Aveda Institute Phoenix, Cosmetology

I graduated from the aveda institute on may 4th. It had always been a dream of mine to do hair. While I was going to school I worked with children with special needs. Along with making people feel great about themselves I plan to one en a salon to meet the needs of children with disabilities



**Yvette Carpio** 

Arizona State University, Bachelor of Science in Health Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program

I've enjoyed my time studying and found the most support in my family & community. I am thankful for the knowledge I've gain and the experiences I've had along the way. I'm looking forward to what the future holds. Thank you for the support & encouragement I've received from my family & friends, Sapo! Awarded The Chief Azul award, Summa Cum Laude, & Dukepoo award recipient.



Get Ready

Erica Blackwater
University of Oregon, Bachelor of Science, Psychology.
Continuing to Grand Canyon University

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Adriella Gambler Hamilton High Schiol Can't stop, won't stop. Love you Ella!



**Gabrachale Melton** 

Vista Grande High School She will be attending College to earn her Associates of science degree to become diagnostic medical sonography.

She is the daughter Of Nathan Melton & Cassandra Ramos, and we are so Proud Of Her.



Alex Setoyant
Skyline Gila River
We are so very proud of you!!
Continue to doing great things.
Keep reaching for the stars.
Love Mom, Dad, your Brothers
and the rest of the family.



Marissa Quintero
Blue Ridge High School
We're so proud of you Marissa!
Wishing you the best in your next



Alexsia Duran
Coolidge High School
Alexsia Duran lives in District One and graduated from
Coolidge High School. Lexi
was Honorable Mention for
the 2023 Chief Azul Scholar
Award. She plans on attending
college and pursue a degree
in Dental Hygeine. We are so
proud of you Lexi, love you!



Mariah Fierro Barry Goldwater High School You finished high school!



Angel Marquez
Coolidge High School
Congrats, on you accomplishments Angel we are so proud of you. Continue to strive in your education don't be afraid of what life has to offer you. Your family will always be there to support you every step of the way. Reach for the stars and enjoy your time at U of A Love Dad, Mom & Amaya.



Danette Lewis Skyline Gila River



Anna Vasquez
Betty H. Fairfax High School
Anna, you did it! Every challenge you
took on, you conquered! Everyday
through lock-down was rough but, you
made it work. The amount of strength,
resilience, and poise you have is something to be admired. Continue to set
those goals high, as you always have
Anna Bananas! You are thee role model
for your sisters and cousins. You have
an army of love an support behind you
always. I am so incredibly proud of you!
Love, Mom



Erreyeh Blackwater-Young San Carlos High School

# Class of 2023

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Anthony Ruvalcaba
Coolidge Alternative Program
Congratulations! You did it! We
know it was a challenge on this
high school journey but it was
definitely worth it! We love you
and we are very proud of you!

Love your family



Damien Pahona

Chemawa Indian School Salem, Oregon

We are all so Proud of you Fatman!! We are always going to behind you in all you do. Continue on dancing and singing. We love you from: Blackwater/ Pahona/Namingha/Lewis Family



Eric Felix Jr.
North High School

Eric I am truly blessed and amazed at the way you continue to persevere in whatever obstacle comes your way. All that you have experienced and learned will help you on your path. Continue to hold your Culture and your Faith close to you as you move forward., I can not wait to see what you accomplish next. I know your Dad is very proud of you and how you are a hard worker Just like him! WE Love you -Mom, Anthony, Carissa-Lynn, Richard, and Issac. IT'S NOT

WHAT YOU CAN SEE IT'S

WHAT YOU CAN DO!



**Evelyn Enos** 

Desert Vista High School We are proud of all of Evelyn's accomplishments from Marching. Jazz, & Steel Drum Bands, Track & Field, Wrestling, and Basketball, while maintaining academic excellence. She gave numerous service hours toward the AZ Governor's Youth Commission, the Akimel O'Odham Pee-Posh Youth Council, AZ delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council for Tempe Union H.S. District. She will serve as a UNITY Earth Ambassador for 2023-24 as she heads on to ASU. We are so proud of the amazing young woman she has become and very excit-



ed for the years ahead.

Tristan Paul

Imagine Prep Coolidge
To my baby boy, i am so proud of
you! I know there were tough times
throughout your whole education,
but you didn't give up and you
finished with flying colors. Use this
time to learn about yourself and
figure out what it is you want to
contribute to this world. Whatever
you decide, I will be there for
support. Love, MOM



Kehanu D. Funiestas

Cesar Chavez High School Congratulations Kehanu!!! We are so proud of you!! We will always be here to continue to support you in all your upcoming endeavors. We love you so much and are so proud of you!

Love, Mom & Dad, Carol & Darren Funiestas



Cassandra Rose Hiosik Staley

Centennial High School & Glendale Community College We are so proud of all that you have accomplished in High School and life. You have a solid foundation to grow on and we look forward to watching you follow all of your dreams. The rest is still unwritten. Start this new chapter and make it your own. Your Father would be proud!



Cindy Lopez

Riverside Indian School Anadarko, Oklahoma

Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the Journey- MJ.... Congratulations Cindy! Thank you and your family for allowing me to be there to witness your day and also to be at your service! "Once a Brave Always A Brave". - ORBS Advisor Ivy Namingha



Graciella Niedo

Chemawa Indian School Salem, Oregon

Congratulations Gracie! Go confident in the direction of your dreams, Live the life you have imagine.- Henry David Thoreau.. Thank you and your family for allowing me to be there to witness your day and also to be at your service! - ORBS Advisor lvy Namingha



Destiny Notah

Riverside Indian School Anadarko, Oklahoma

Today is a Milestone. It tells you how far you've come. Keep learning, keep trying, keep accomplishing & Keep venturing on though your journey. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!! Love Mom... Congratulations Destiny! Thank you for allowing me to share your accomplishments with you and your family "Once a Brave Always A Brave". - ORBS Advisor Ivy Namingha



**Carol Antone** 

Chemawa Indian School Salem, Oregon

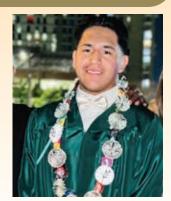
"Never give up, no matter what may set you back, and know that at the end of the road, you're going to have something that you can be proud of." -Unkown.. Congratulations Carol!! Thank you and your family for allowing me to be there to witness your day and also to be at your service! - ORBS Advisor lvy Namingha



Kyle Burnette

Phoenix Digital Academy

Kyle, we are so proud of you and this big accomplishment! I know you be successful in life and in all you do, continue to stay focused on your priorities. You make your parents, grandparents, siblings and family proud! Love Mom!



Get Ready To

Damen Allen James Jr Basha High School

Damen, we are so proud of you! Still through all life has brought, you persevere! And we owe it all to God. Keep Him as your foundation and He will direct your path. As you prepare for the next milestone, we will be here cheering you on. Your goal of becoming a Marine has already started! We all love you! Love, Moms, Dad & the whole family!



Samuel Dillon

Betty Fairfax High School, Continuing to University of Pennsylvania

Persevere on your journey, grow strong in your knowledge, and be humble in your heart. Blessings and love to you from your family.





Gracie Mark

Casa Grande Union High School

Continuing to The Citadel
We are so proud of you and
you continue to do the best
you can. For the next chapter
in your life it's hard to find the
words, so we say this to you:
Thank you for choosing a life of
service. May God continue to
watch over you and bless you!

# Class of 2023

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Hailey K. Allison Coolidge Virtual Academy Our daughter, Hailey, has been a two time runner-up Chief Azul Award recipient, she was inducted into the Coolidge Chapter National Honor Society her Sophmore year, & officially graduated high school in December 2022 as a Junior at the age of 16. Through all the hardship, heartache, & loss from the COVID-19 pandemic our baby pushed forward. By doing so she set the best example for her little brother & sister. That's what we are most proud of. We love you more than you'll ever know. Love-Mom, Dad(Jerrod), Kylie, Niko, Bella



Kaia Starlight Murphy
Gilbert High School, Continuing
to Arizona State University
Congratulations Kaia! We are so
very proud of you and what you
have accomplished over the years.
You are a determined, headstrong,
smart, and creative young woman.
Your crazy sense of humor always
makes us laugh and brightens up
our world! We love you very much
and we know you will continue to
make us proud! Go Sun Devils!
Love, Mom, Dad, Ty, Azumi, Jay,
Grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins



Mallorie F Thompson Cesar Chavez High School David Thompson & Andrea J Jackson



**Isaac Mark**Riverside Indian School
Anadarko, Oklahoma

I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smile, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.... Congratulations Isaac! Thank you and your family for allowing me to share your accomplishments! "Once a Brave Always A Brave". - ORBS Advisor Ivy Namingha



Mary-Jane Sam
AZ Compass Prep School
MJ, you have faced numerous challenges and have successfully overcome them. Despite the obstacles, keep pushing forward. Remember that we are always here to support you and love you!
Dinah, Grandpa & Izaiah

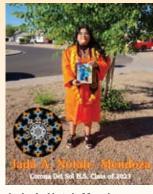


Vista Grande High School
As a fellow graduate of the 2023 class,
I look forward to see what the future
holds for me. I will continue my education at Northern Arizona University
where I will major in nursing to eam
my Bachelors degree in the Science
of Nursing. Who would've thought 12
years of education would prepare you
for a single diploma in hand, one-time
opportunity. I've learned so much in
so little time, I wouldn't be where I

am today without the support of my family and former teachers, who have

shaped me to be thankful for this very

moment I'll forever cherish.



Jada A. Notah-Mendoza

Corona Del Sol High School I weathered through the Pandemic, lost loved one's so dear to me. I have experienced some challenges & frustrations and lived countless hours of homework & study time. I know my JOURNEY is just beginning. I AM RESILIENT, I am a strong Native American Woman with goals, dreams, and many opportunities. THANK YOU to My Family, My Friends, and My Community who have and will continue to support me in my journey.



**Kevin Lewis**Chemawa Indian School Salem, Oregon

Congratulations Kevin!! "Your life journey is about learning to become more of who you are and fulfilling the highest, truest expression of yourself as a human being" -Oprah Winfrey. Thank you and your family for allowing me to be there to witness your day and also to be at your service! - ORBS Advisor lvy Namingha



Melanie J Thompson Betty Fairfax High School David Thompson & Andrea J Jackson



**Jalen Peters** 

Seton Catholic Preparatory
High School, Continuing to
Northern Arizona University
You pushed so hard, and now you
realize what I've always known,
YOU ARE CAPABLE! I am BEYOND proud of what you have accomplished. Remember all the support and love you have behind you
when facing trials or challenges that
you have going forward. Love you
everything!!



**Kevin Thunder Lewis**Basha High School

Congratulations Thunder I am Soo Proud Of You! I Know The Past Three Years Have Been Rough But You Remained Strong and Didn't Give Up! Even Though I Had To GIve You A Nudge A Couple Times You Worked Very Hard Up Until The Last Day & Graduated With Your Class!

I Will Always Be Here To Support You In Your Future Choices. Love Mom, Storm, Khyla & Ava-Mae



Walter L. Banham III
Onalaska High School
We are all so proud of you! You
put in the work and finished, even
through the difficult times. Congratulations Son! Love, Dad!



Jr Enos

Get Ready To

Coolidge High School, Continuing to Central Arizona College
We are so proud of you and proving you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it. As you continue your education and strive to reach your goals never forget we will always be here to support you and help you as you grow into a young adult. Remember we all love you and as always daddy is watching over you each and every day. Hugs and kisses. Love Mom



Nila Antone
GED, Continuing to Mesa

Community College I am so proud of you baby girl! I know at times it was tough but you persevered and made it! The future is yours for the taking, past mistakes mean nothing.



Marisa Rodriguez Coolidge High School

We are so proud of you! Can't wait to see what your future has in store for you. Congratulations and good luck! - Dad, Shan, the boys. Congrats Marisa! on your achievements, keep pushing forward in your education. We're always here to support you & we're so proud of you - Mom, Phillip, and Family. I'm so proud of you and can't wait to see what else you accomplish in life - V

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Janayah Mendivil Imagine Prep & Veterinary Science, Vet

Janayah Mom and dad are so proud of you completing both High school and Veterinary Science you push through these 4 years with all your heart and finished with all A's. we love you girl.



Mateo Barragan

Phoenix Coding Academy, Continuing to Arizona State University

Mateo will attend ASU in the fall and plans to study Computer Science. Mateo is from D6 and is the son of Sherilyn Analla and Luis Barragan. His maternal grandparents are Joyce Allison and Bobby Analla (Laguna Pueblo). His maternal great-grandparents are Helen and Gilbert Allison and Jean and Robert Analla. Mateo appreciates everyone who has cheered for him since he was in the D6 Head Start all the way through high school! He is mama's firework!



Omyra Osife

PPEP Tec High School, Casa Grande

I would love to proudly recognize my daughter Omyra Osife in her educational accomplishments. Omyra recently graduated on May 22nd and also received the Alice S. Paul Senior Star Scholarship Award. If I may share one of many short quotes that may inspire you and one day you may hold dear in your heart. " Behind you are all your memories, Before you are all of your dreams, Around you are all who love you, and within you is all you need." I'm beyond proud of you!! Keep Dreaming and know you are capable of achieving anything you put your mind too, for this is only the beginning. - We Love you!! Mom



Get Ready To

Raiyna Aubri Yoyokie

Maricopa High School You did it! Your family is so proud of your accomplishments. Life is full of endless possibilities so continue on your path of greatness. We will always be here to guide you, encourage you, and cheer you on. Congratulations beautiful! We love you!

# JR. HIGH PROMOTIONS



**Alanah Siquieros** 

Congrats! You did it, you have finished middle school now off to high school. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished.



Aliah Harper

Connolly Middle School Congratulations Aliah! Your family is VERY proud of you! Can't wait to see what's high school has in store for you! Go Chargers!



**Anaya Marquez** Sacaton Middle School



**Aolani Rachel Garcia** 

Fees College Prep, Continuing to Marcos De Niza High School Congrats Rachel Bear!! We are so proud of you!! Keep up the good



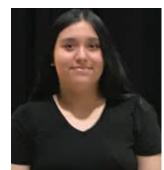
**Duriat Johns III** 

Imagine Prep, Continuing to Imagine Prep Coolidge Congratulations Van! You accom plished your first step to better yourself. Keep reaching for the stars! You got this. Love from us all. Mom, Dad and Brothers.



**Zachariah James Miguel** 

St. Peter's Indian Mission School, Continuing to Casa Grande Union High School Congratulations on graduating the 8th grade Zack. We love you. -Mom and Dad



Zabrina Black Cloud

Wakpala School District Zabrina has completed the 8th Grade. We are extremely proud of her accomplishments and continued dedication and motivation to her education.



Sinai Antone

Gila Crossing Community School

Congratulations Pearl! Let's cruise through the next 4 years of high school. Stay focused and do your very best everyday. We love you and are so proud of everything you have accomplished so far. Keep up the good work my girl.



Robert Edward Sigelnski III Papago

I'm so proud of you son.



Vista Del Sur Accelerated Academy MOM AND DAD ARE PROUD OF

YOU!

# CONGRATULATIONS Get Ready TO SORTH

# JR. HIGH PROMOTIONS



Eliana Pesqueira Skyline AZ Compass

I Elizabeth Alvarez parent of Eliana Pesqueira am very proud of how far you've come knowing how hard it was you've accomplished a lot during this school year and i know you had it in you. So i wish you nothing but the best as you become a freshman the up coming year you got this baby girl. Love Always ur mother.



Jayce Pablo

Coolidge Junior High, Continuing to Coolidge High School

The family is so proud of you for your accomplishments this far. As you enter into high school continue to learn, grow and expand your knowledge. We will always be here to support you and help you grow into the young man you are becoming. Enjoy your high schools years as it will go by so fast. Remember we all love you and as always daddy is watching over you each and every day. Hugs and kisses. Love Mom



Francisco Percy Jr.
Gila Crossing Community
School

Congratulations son! We are proud of your accomplishment! We hope you enjoy these next years in high school. We can't wait to see what sparks your interest. Keep moving forward, you have great things in your future, just set your mind to what you enjoy and don't stop working towards that! We love you and your whole family is proud of you!



Jorge A Gutierrez Jr.

Willis Junior Hight School
Mom and Dad Love you so very
much. The whole family is so proud of
you. You have grown into a wonderful
hardworking young man. Always set
goals and go for your dreams. Mistakes are only another lesson in life.



Paige Thomas

Coolidge Jr. High School, Continuing to Coolidge High School

We are all very proud of you Paige! You have done so much already. Continue doing great in school. We all Love you. Continue making your Dad and Nana proud. Go Bears! Love Mom, Dad, Nic, Girls & Boys!



**Hayden Mercado** 

Gila Crossing Community School, Continuing to Betty Fairfax High School Hayden, We are so proud of you! Stay Focused & always be yourself! Remember to say NO!



Lilly Mary Jordan

Fremont Middle School, Continuing to International Baccalaureate Academy

Our family is exceptionally proud of Lilly, she has without a doubt excelled in her academic studies. She also led efforts with the GRICA STEAAAM program being recognized as the only student to complete all of the assignments. Lilly is also active with her Art Coop the "Walter Hive" helping teach laser cutting classes to the Boys & Girls club and anybody wishing to learn.



Jakob D. Jackson

Sacaton Middle School, Continuing to Skyline-Gila River

"Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope" a quote chosen by Jakob which meant to him, If you are in a bad place you can find some hope some way and someday. So it can keep you moving forward with happiness and with your life.



Keshia Benally

Congrats to my sweet baby girl for being promoted to high school. We're so proud of you for pushing yourself even on days when it seemed like "the world was going to end" (LOL). Always remember you are amazing, still growing, and its okay to make mistakes! Good luck & cherish High School because those four years are going to fly on by!



Jaden Jackson

Skyline Gila River

We are so very proud of you, for making it this far. Skys the limit, you can do anything you put your mind to. Here comes High School! Love Mom, Dad, your Brothers and the rest of the Family.



Naomi S. Marrietta

Sacaton Middle School Know that we are very proud

of you, and eager to see your next up-coming accomplishments in this new phase of your life. Love you Sasha, from Mom and Dad



Teresa Munoz

Casa Grande Middle School, Continuing to Vista Grande High School

Congratulations! I know you will continue to achieve great things in High School and beyond... Love you,

Mom

# LIL' GRADS



Adeleya Pena Vah-Ki Head Start, Continuing to Casa Blanca Community School



Ahnevay Yazzie Santan Head Start Vay! You did it my girl, mom so proud



Amilio Ahmsaty-Rodriguez Sacaton Head Start Hooray Amilio! You did it! We're so proud of you for graduating! We can't wait to see all of your achievements in life, this is just the beginning. Keep up the hard work handsome! Let the journey continue.



**Andrea Baptisto** SanTan HeadStart We are so proud of you, keep going baby-Mom & Dad



Get Ready

Angelita Moyah Laveen Elementary Congratulations Angelita we love you babygirl get ready for big things you've got this everyone cheering you on dads very proud of you



**Axel Apodaca** Gila Crossing Community School



**Bailey Conde** Imagine Coolidge Elementary Congratulations, Bailey Cole! You make us proud everyday. Love, Mom and family



**Camille Yazzie Hull Elementary** Congratulations my girl, you did it and pass all the nervousness, proud of you babe! Love mom.



**Carlee Catherine Conde** Vahki Head Start Congrats, Miss Carlee! You're ready for the "big school." Love, Mom and



**Colby Jackson** Conley Elementary Congratulations, Colby! You are on your way to obtaining that high school diploma and college degree. We are all proud of you on this promotion. Keep a positive attitude and ask questions! Love you son! From: Yuri, Sinny, Caleb, Mom & Dad (Deet, Venus, and Stella)



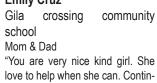
**Delilah Pablo-Coronado** Vector Prep & Arts Academy Shoot for the stars baby. We love you like dinosaurs.



Ella Marrietta Vah-Ki Head Start



**Emily Cruz** Gila school



ue to reach for the stars you make

us so proud.. Love you



**Ezerian Pablo** Sacaton Elementary School



Ezra Jackson Sacaton Elementary School



Jordan Luna Vah-Ki Head Start



Gracelyn Failauga Vah-Ki Head Start



Journey Cerna Vah-Ki Head Start



**Kyle Wilson** Laveen Elementary School Congratulations Bubba! Reach for the stars my boy. - Mama



Kidz Academy Preschool Congratulations Levi! We are so proud of you. Love you lots.

# LIL' GRADS



**GRIC EECC** Hunter Juk, The sunshine of our family. Your entourage is so very proud of you and we can't wait to drop you off

at your first day of kindergarten! Continue to shine bright in sports and academics, this is only the beginning! We Love You, Mom, Dad and Your Siblinas



Macy Gabrielle Duenez

Saguaro Elementary Hello, my name is Macy Gabrielle Duenez, and I graduated kindergarten from Saguaro Elementary School. I enjoyed my time in kindergarten and had a blast making new friends, visiting the Reed Park Zoo, and participating in our water fun day. I improved on my i-ready reading benchmark, met stretch growth on i-ready math benchmark, and met typical growth on the i-ready benchmarks. I will be working on reading, writing, and math through cultural Native American activities during Summer School Camp provided to me by the Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM). I will be attending first-grade at Saguaro.



Nea Mercado

Dos Rios Elementary School Congratulations, Muxan! May Creator continue to guide you on the right path. Keep up the great work and continue to strive for the best. We are so proud of you. All our love - your family



**Hailey Cheater** 

Sunrise Preschool-Chandler Good-Bye Preschool, Hello Kindergarten!! Growing up has just begun baby girl. Can't wait for many more accomplishments and greater mile stones you'll make. you make us proud! From Momma, Bubba, Daddy, Grandma and many family



Persephone Jose

West Elementary School

Persephone we are so proud of you. You have grown so much within this last year from starting Kindergarten now you are going to be starting 1st Grade. We are so happy for you.

Love. Dad & Mom, brother & sister.



Maricela Peraza

Blackwater Community School To my sweet girl, this is only the beginning!! I'm super proud of you! You'll are a very bright & smart girl! Full life of love, laughter & care for your peers! baby!! You'll grow to do great things in life!! Just continue to reach for the stars baby!! Love you always; Mama



Kaleeyia Cloud Ahmsaty

Blackwater Community School Congrats on completing KINDER!!! Little Miss. Thunder Cloud, you have learned so much and brought us so much joy in hearing about all the goals you reached, from reading to math and to being this little Miss. Independent. Keep aiming for the stars, our little love bug!

Love Always & Forever, Mom, Dad, Sissy & Brother. "Promise me you'll remember: You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."



Noah Poleheptewa Vah-Ki Head Start Yav! We're so proud.



Rhys Poleheptewa Vah-Ki Head Start Good job boys!!! Many more years



Redbear Balderrama Vah-Ki Head Start



Isa Marie Whitman

Sacaton elementary school Congratulation Isa, although this is only beginning of your educational journey, I want you to know I am very proud of the way you applied yourself. Showing up everyday and wanting to learn, I know you will continue to do your best and make me proud. I love you forever and ever!



Orien Hu'u Blackwater

Gila River Headstart-Sacaton Congrats, Orien! You make everyone in your family so proud. It's so awesome how quickly you pick up Ev-Err-YTHING. 2 Skills you have always been so good at are: Enunciation & using context clues. (To put new words into context when you speak). You're so funny and your confidence and kindness are amazing to witness. Thank you for giving us light when times were rough. Keep doing your best and being such a great helper. Keep being thoughtful and caring. We know you are going to keep making us super proud. You have so much love and support in your corner.



Milliana Jackson Vah-Ki Head Start



Israel Boni

Get Ready To

Gila River Indian Community Early Education Child Care Center

Israel is a very bright student, who is always excited to learn, at the age of 2 Israel was diagnosed and placed on the Autism Spectrum and at the time was nonverbal. We would like to thank all those who have played an important role in his early education/ intervention (therapist, teachers & friends) Israel is leaving EECC with no longer needing therapy or placement of an IEP. You did it bud and we are so very proud of you.



Childtime

We are excited for you, moving onto Kindergarten! You have been waiting for this moment. Now it's time to grow, and show what your Teachers' taught you. A new adventure awaits you!

We love you so much! Dad & Mom



**Tigerlily Rivera** 

Blackwater Community School Congratulations my sweet girl I am so proud of you! I can't wait to see what the future holds for you, keep reaching for them stars! I love you little ba'ag! Love, Momma

Page 20 Gila River Indian News July 7, 2023



# Higher Education Graduates

Steven Hyatt American Public University Rachael Antone Arizona State University Cassandra Bates Arizona State University Yvette Carpio Arizona State University **David Curtis** Arizona State University Kristen Dosela Arizona State University Yvonne Garcia Arizona State University Isabella Hauter Arizona State University Francisco Hernandez Jr. Arizona State University Kaitlin Holbrook Arizona State University Robert Horton Arizona State University Garrett Keeto Arizona State University Jessica Landa Arizona State University Lisa Lindner Arizona State University Amanda Mitchell Arizona State University Samantha Molina Arizona State University Kelcey Mosley Arizona State University Shea Pablo Arizona State University Jasmine Reece Arizona State University Gemini Valenzuela Arizona State University Areley Conchas Aveda Institute Ty-Ahan Jones Aveda Institute Rachel Barehand Zamundio Aveda Institute Alicia Redfish **Baker University** Shawn Cortez California State University-Los Angeles Devin Richards California State University-San Bernardino Alaya Antone Carrington College Camille Barehand Carrington College Sena Cross Carrington College **Ebony Gonzalez** Carrington College Cheerie Kisto Carrington College Martin Randall Carrington College Carrington College Courtney Rodriguez Amaya Duran Central Arizona College Andrew Pedro Central Arizona College Nicholas Flores Chandler-Gilbert Community College Community College of Denver Monica Archumbault Sonny Mallett Jr. Estrella Mountain Community College Maria Andrade George Washington University Jaime Jackson Glendale Community College Sara Duenez Grand Canyon University Grand Canyon University Donna Henderson

**Grand Canyon University** 

Grand Canyon University

**Grand Canyon University** 

Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon University

Keller Graduate School

Sarah Huerta

Renay Justus

Maureen Lugo

Rheanna Jackson

Manuela Johnson

Marissa Sanderson

Jorge Valenzuela

Kanlee Poterfield

Masters Information Assurance & Security Bachelor of Arts Psychology Bachelor of Science Criminal Justice Forensic Psychology Bachelor of Science Health Entrepreneurship & Innovation Master of Arts Communication Bachelor of Education Educational Studies -Early Childhood Bachelor of Arts Filmmaking Bachelor of Arts Psychology Master of Science Health Care Delivery Bachelor of Arts Psychology Bachelor of Science Supply Chain Management Bachelor of Arts Dance & Theatre Masters Social Work Bachelor of Arts **Business Administration** Master of Arts American Indian Studies Master of Science Organizational Leadership Masters Strength and Conditioning Bachelors Sustainability Master of Science Organizational Leadership Bachelor of Arts Psychology Certificate Cosmetology Certificate Cosmetology Certificate Cosmetology Masters Instructional Design & Performance Technology Bachelor's Fire Protection Admin. & Technology Bachelors of Science Public Health Certificate **Medical Assisting** Certificate Medical Assisting Certificate Medical Assisting Certificate Veterinary Technology Certificate Pharmacy Technology Associates Nursing Medical Billing and Coding Certificate Associates Clinical Laboratory Assistant Associates Fine Arts Associates Of Arts Anthropology **Human Services** Associates Associates Web Design Development Master of Science Crime Scene Investigation Certificate Illustration **Business Administration** Master of Arts Bachelor of Science **Health Sciences** Early Childhood Education Bachelor of Science

**Exercise Science** 

Sociology

Psychology

Health Care Administration

**Business Administration** 

Organization Leadership: K-12 Leadership

Organization Leadership Emphasis in Organizational Development

Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science

Doctorate of Education

Doctorate of Education

Masters



# Higher Education Graduates

Delora Griffeth Cianna Chavez Mocha De Los Santos Angelita Guerrero William Lewis Santiago Jones Barbara Espinoza Rebecca Moffett Rachel Jones **Gregory Mitchem** Brian Cooper Andrew Hariver Justin French **Daniel Dobbs** Robin Johnson Rosendo Percy Jr.

Lorenzo James

Nicholas Tapia

Ariana Bustamante

Lauren Antone Grace Elias Andrea Losey Rosalyn Rico Reylynne Williams Danielle Allen Michaela Begay Thomas Cortez Nia Young Erica Blackwater

Genevie Espinoza Amanda Lopez Alicia Kisto Nathan Broeneagle Janel Lewis Cerrah Pino Edna Pino Veronica Hendricks Tahanee Sepeda

Rita Mendivil Ona De La Rosa Monique Rossel Angela Norris Sophia Strohm Michael Acosta Kenyen Thompson Kahlea Nez Kylie Thomas

Sheree Jimenez Rachel Hendricks Jessica Romo Tyla Molina Kimberly Davis

Mesa Community College Mesa Community College Northern Arizona University Northern Arizona University Northern Arizona University Northern Arizona University Ottawa University

Phoenix College

Scottsdale Community College Southern New Hampshire University The Refrigeration School

The Refrigeration School The Refrigeration School The Refrigeration School Universal Technical Institute Universal Technical Institute Universal Technical Institute University of Arizona

University of Arizona University of California Los Angeles Bachelors University of Dubuque University of Hawaii-Manoa University of Oklahoma University of Oklahoma

University of Arizona

University of Oregon University of Southern California University of Texas at Arlington University of Oregon

Yavapai College Aaniiih Nakoda College Arizona State University Capital Technology/University Carrington College Carrington College

Carrington College Central Arizona College Central Arizona College Central Arizona College Chandler-Gilbert Community College Associates College Of The Sequpias

Devry University Gateway Community College

Mesa Community College Pima Medical Institute Pima Medical Institute South Mountain Community College Tohono O'odham Community College University of Arizona UAT

UEI

Associates Associates

Master of Social Work Master of Education Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Applied Science Master of Arts

Associates Associates Masters

Associate of Occupational Studies Associate of Occupational Studies Diploma Associate of Occupational Studies

Associate of Occupational Studies Associate of Occupational Studies Associate of Occupational Studies

Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Science Master of Business Administration

Bachelors Bachelor of Science Masters Masters Bachelor Master of Education

Bachelor of Arts Bachelor Associates

Certificate Certificate Certificate Associate Of Arts Associate In General Study Certificate

Associate Of Arts

Associate Of Science Bachelors Of Science

Associates Masters Associates Certificate Associates Associates Associates Bachelors

Associates

Social Work

**Fashion Merchandising** 

Social Work

**Educational Leadership** 

Criminal Justice

**Emergency Management** 

Counseling

Health Information Technology

Tribal Development Organizational Leadership Mechanical Maintenance Mechanical Maintenance Refrigeration Technologies

Mechanical Maintenance Engineering

Auto & Diesel Tech II Automotive Tech II

Diesel Tech II + Cummings Program

Criminal Justice **Economics** 

**Business Administration** 

Geology

**Business Administration** 

Human Development/Family Studies Legal Studies - Indigenous Peoples Law Legal Studies - Indigenous Peoples Law Human & Family Services

**Educational Counseling Public Relations** Psychology General Studies

Early Childhood -

Medical Assistant Medical Assistant Medical Assistant

Early Childhood Education

Behavior Health

Paralegal

Early Childcare Education & B5 Beauty School Nail Technology Behavior Science and Human Services

Health Care Register Nurse Program Film & Media Studies **Business Management** Medical Assistant

Health Care Administration General Requirements Elementary Education

Global & Intercultural Understanding Emphasis

Early Childhood Education

# CONGRATULATIONS Get Ready TO SOOR

# 2023 High School Graduates

Sophia Nora, American Leadership Academy Daniel Jr. Lewis, Amplify Online Lillyana Araiza, Apollo High School Hector Soto, AZ Compass Reyna Soto, AZ Compass Nicolas Garcia, AZ Compass Nicholas Rodriguez, AZ Compass Derek Cooper, AZ Compass Savannah Joe, AZ Compass Pandonlyn Thomas, AZ Compass Hannah Preston, AZ Compass Mary J. Sam , AZ Compass Alexander Apkaw, AZ Compass Damen James, Basha High School Kevin Lewis, Basha High School Isaiah Soke, Basha High School Delicia Castro, Basha High School Summer Williams, Basha High School Leo Harrison, Basha High School Mariah Sierro, Berry Goldwater High School Leroy Antone, Betty Fairfax High School Gabrielle Barajas, Betty Fairfax High School Samuel Dillon, Betty Fairfax High School Bernardo Estrella, Betty Fairfax High School James Knox Manuel, Betty Fairfax High School Felix Percy-Lopez, Betty Fairfax High School Aldon Rhodes, Betty Fairfax High School Kendall Stewart, Betty Fairfax High School David Tashquinth, Betty Fairfax High School Melanie Thompson, Betty Fairfax High School Anna Vasquez, Betty Fairfax High School Kishi Marrietta, Betty Fairfax High School Ashlyn Creighton, Campus High School Tristin Jones., Casa Grande Union HS Adan Mario Makil, Casa Grande Union HS Dean Manuel, Casa Grande Union HS Teeya Martinez, Casa Grande Union HS Jacob Ochoa, Casa Grande Union HS Alianya Pablo, Casa Grande Union HS Xavier Bojorquez, Casa Grande Union HS Riki Eble, Casa Grande Union HS Azaria Enos, Casa Grande Union HS Manuel Johnson, Casa Grande Union HS Presley Manuel, Casa Grande Union HS Gracie Mark, Casa Grande Union HS Jacob Martin, Casteel High School Arturo Corona, Cathedral High School Adrian Carrillo, Cesar Chavez High School Christopher Chacon, Cesar Chavez High School Michael Cross, Cesar Chavez High School Kehanu Funiestas, Cesar Chavez High School Kelly Juan, Cesar Chavez High School Erica Pablo, Cesar Chavez High School Jerome Peters, Cesar Chavez High School Eli Andrews, Cesar Chavez High School Christopher Lassiter, Cesar Chavez High School Mallorie Thompson, Cesar Chavez High School Jehgos Hendricks, Chandler High School Nomeo Lewis, Chandler High School Xander Phillips, Chandler High School Marco Reves, Chandler High School Salvador Reyes, Chandler High School Anthony Rivera, Chandler High School Eliana Stone, Chandler High School Ruben Kyyitan, Chandler High School Kai Warren, Chandler High School Octavia Lyons, Chandler Online Academy Carol Antone, Chemawa Indian School

Graciella Neido, Chemawa Indian School Damien Pahona, Chemawa Indian School Kevin Lewis, Chemawa Indian School Dante Emerson, Cibola High School Aden Salkey, Coolidge Alternative Program Aldon Antone, Coolidge Alternative Program Dayna Sharp, Coolidge Alternative Program Ray Smiley, Coolidge Alternative Program **Jr Enos**, Coolidge Alternative Program Saeed Williams, Coolidge Alternative Program Anthony Ruvalcaba, Coolidge Alternative Program Ronnell Sharp, Coolidge Alternative Program Lena Dawahoya, Coolidge Alternative Program Mariah Valenzuela, Coolidge Alternative Program Clarie Blackwater Coolidge Alternative Program Hailey Allison, Coolidge High School Zadrian Baldwin, Coolidge High School Alexsia Duran, Coolidge High School Antonio Escalante, Coolidge High School Denise Jackson, Coolidge High School Angel Marquez, Coolidge High School Celestina Davis, Coolidge High School Danielle Morago, Coolidge High School Marisa Rodriguez, Coolidge High School Rogelio Salazar, Coolidge High School Raven Terry, Coolidge High School Alawna Trujillo, Coolidge High School Jesse Ybarra, Coolidge High School Alaya Harris, Coolidge Virtual Academy Clarie Blackwater, Coolidge Virtual Academy Nathan Dixon, Coolidge Virtual Academy Jayda Notah Mendoza, Corona Del Sol High School Thereas Thomas, Desert Hills High School Malakai Eschies, Desert Hills High School Heather Garcia, Desert Hills High School Savannah Gutierrez, Desert Hills High School Evelyn Enos, Desert Hills High School Brand'ie George , Dobson High School Aliese Howard, Dobson High School Brandyn Penuelas, Franklin Police & Fire Niyah Joaquin, Hamilton High School Adriella Gambler, Hamilton High School Jordan Lewis, Hamilton High School Jason Otero, Hamilton High School Serena Alvarez, GED GRIC Anthony Burnette, GED GRIC Raylynn Garcia, GED GRIC Brianna Knox, GED GRIC Alexander Lewis, GED GRIC Ethan McCall, GED GRIC Adessa Saraficio-Williams, GED GRIC Nadia Stone, GED GRIC Preciousfaith Thompson, GED GRIC **Tobias Tobey**, GED GRIC Isaiah Zepeda, GED GRIC Kai Murphy, Gilbert High School Emily Woodard, Gilbert High School Joseph Lynch, Hailey High School Natoyi N. Jackson, Heart Butte High School Jason Romine, Humanities & Sciences Institute Janessa Sanchez, Humanities & Sciences Institute Janayah Mendivil, Imagine Prep High School Christopher Lopez, Imagine Prep High School Jovan Soto, Imagine Prep High School Saniyyah Wood, Imagine Prep High School Tristan Paul, Imagine Prep High School Nathan Lopez, Imagine Prep High School Marisa Rios, Insight Academy Of Arizona

Vanessa Salas, Ironwood High School Layla De Leon, Jane Fredrick Continuation High School Taima Marrietta, Lakeview High School Tia Litton, Maricopa High School Sapphira Rayes, Maricopa High School Raiyna Yoyokie, Maricopa High School Kayleeon White, Maricopa High School Sarah Hymer, Maricopa High School Destiny Garnica, Mountain High School Eric Felix Jr, North High School Mia Gastelum, North High School Walter Banham, Onalask High School Tahnie Sanderson, Peoria Flex Academy Mikaela Brimhall, Perry High School Freddy Rodriguez, Perry High School Raechelle Jackson, Phoenix Digital Academy Mateo Barragan/ Analla, Phoenix Digital Academy **Kyle Burnette**, Phoenix Digital Academy Dawn Franklin, Plano West High School Daniel Goodman, Point Quest Education Omyra Osife, PPEP Tec High School Lillian Miguel, Primavera Online High School Arianna Pio, Primavera Online High School Junior T. Escalante, Primavera Online High School Alauna Thomas, Queen Creek High School Cindy Lopez, Riverside Indian School **Destiny Notah**, Riverside Indian School Issac Mark, Riverside Indian School Kehlani Pancho, Robstown Early College Brandy Armstrong, Rocinante High School Erreyah Blackwater Young, San Carlos High School Estrella Gonzales, Sandia High School **Jalen Peters**, Seton Catholic Preparatory Isaiah Castillo, Sierra Pacific High School Caiden Thompson, Skyline Gila River Jose Carrillo Jr, Skyline Gila River Anissa Marie Enos, Skyline Gila River Arturo Gomez, Skyline Gila River Flaviano Guzman Skyline Gila River Seleste Jade James, Skyline Gila River Maxwell Jose, Skyline Gila River **Jamie Kelley**, Skyline Gila River Danette Lewis, Skyline Gila River Cadence Bleu Makil, Skyline Gila River **Destiny Feather Martinez**, Skyline Gila River Tatum Thompson, Skyline Gila River Isaiah Perez, Skyline Gila River **Virginia Rossel**, Skyline Gila River Marcus Andy Sabori Lewis. Skyline Gila River Matthew Tate, Skyline Gila River Preston Tekala, Skyline Gila River Matthew Williams, Skyline Gila River Alexonder Setoyant, Skyline Gila River Malia Hart, Skyline Prep Academy Vincent Alvidrez, South Mountain High School Matthew Track, Sparks High School Mariah Mercado, Student Choice High School Joaquin Runningdeer Manuel, Taos High School Davian Johns, The Aces, Gilbert Campus Beau Jackson, Valley Christian High School Steven Joseph Valenzuela, Vista Grande Roberto Patraca-Zepeda, Vista Grande Gabrachale Melton, Vista Grande Damian Lee Martinez, Vista Grande Nisto Jose Martinez. Vista Grande RavenAngel Martinez, Vista Grande Jayden Fahnholz, Vista Grande Xavier Gomez, Vista Grande Angelina Kline, West Phoenix High School



# CULTURE IS PREVENTION IN



# SUICIDE PREVENTION

LIVING IN 2 WORLDS

**RX 360: SAFEGUARDING MEDICATION** 

GATHERING OF NATIVE AMERICANS (GONA)

# PARENTING IN 2 WORLDS

We know that in order to be successful in one's personal, educational, and professional life, we need to make good decisions and have a good network of support.

### The Phoenix Indian Center is here for you.

We offer several programs to help support our urban American Indian families to increase communication, build community and prevent risky behaviors and promote healthy choices.

Find out what events and activities we have for youth and adults.











# JULY 7 | 8PM VILMA DIAZ Y LA SONORA

AT VEE QUIVA



# JULY 8 8PM

# LEGENDS IN CONCERT

AT VEE QUIVA



## JULY 11 | 8PM

# THE HOME EDIT

SUMMER OF FUN TOUR AT WILD HORSE PASS



# JULY 23 8PM

# GEORGE **THOROGOOD**

& THE DESTROYERS AT WILD HORSE PASS



JULY 29 5PM S!CK!CK

AT THE OASIS POOL PARTY

GILA RIVER

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE WILD HORSE PASS BOX OFFICE AND PLAYATGILA.COM





