



Gila River Indian Community Signs Historic Agreement for Solar-Over-Canal Project

GRIC signs agreement with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for first Solar-Over-Canal pilot in the United States

Press Release

Communications & Public Affairs Office

Sacaton, AZ - On Thursday, Nov. 9, the Gila River Indian Community and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a Project Partnership Agreement to begin construction on Phase I of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Renewal Energy Pilot Project. This agreement starts the first phase of the solar-over-canal project within the Community and will involve construction of solar panels over a portion of the Community's 1-10 Level Top canal to conserve water and generate renewable energy for tribal irrigation facilities. The overall project is the result of a broad effort by the Biden Administration to support new, innovative solutions to the drought crisis threatening the Colorado River Basin, with support from the Bureau of Reclamation and Congress as well.

This historic agreement represents the first solar-over-canal



Gila River Indian Community Council members, Akimel O'otham Pee Posh Youth Council, Gila River Royalty, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Col. Andrew Baker, Assistant Secretary of the Army of Civil Work Michael Connor, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis on Nov. 9. GRIN Photo.

project of its kind in the United States to initiate construction. The cost of Phase I of the solar-covered canal project is estimated to be \$6.744 million, and it is expected to produce approximately 1 MW of renewable energy to

offset energy needs and costs for tribal farmers. Funding for this project comes from the federal-tribal partnership, with support for the tribal portion of the cost being provided by the Bureau of Reclamation in the form of a

grant for \$517,000, which the Community used to produce the design that will be used to construct the project. With the execution of this historic agreement, the Army Corps will now begin the actual construction phase of

the project, with completion expected in 2025.

The first phase of this pilot project will cover approximately 1,000 feet of canal and will show the feasibility of the concept with the goal of expanding the solar-over-canal project to include additional miles of the Community's irrigation system which is one of the most comprehensive irrigation systems in the State. The Community has already begun feasibility and design efforts for Phase II of its overall plan for the project, with funding being provided in part by the Bonneville Environmental Fund, once again demonstrating the broad support for this innovative approach to addressing the drought crisis, while attacking the root cause of the crisis with renewable energy to move toward a new "Blue-Green Tribal Agricultural Economy." Funding for Phase II of this project is expected from the Bureau of Reclamation,

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St. Peter Indian Mission School hosts Annual Run for the Fallen



Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs (Center) and the St. Peter Indian Mission School Military Appreciation Class during the Run for the Fallen event on Oct. 27. Zachary Redbird/CPAO

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Over 400 people were in attendance at this year's Run for the Fallen event hosted by Saint

Peter Indian Mission School at their campus in District 5 – Bapchule, where school students and staff, Community members, Gila River Indian Community lead-

ership and special guest Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs honored GRIC

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Honoring Veterans in GRIC: A Commemoration of Service

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

In the heart of the Gila River Indian Community, a spirit of gratitude and respect permeates the air each Veterans Day. This year's commemoration was marked by two significant events - an uplifting Veterans Day luncheon on Nov. 9, hosted by the Veteran and Family Services Office (VFSO), as well as the District 1 Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 11, bringing the Community together to honor and express their gratitude to those who have served in the military.

"I want to say thank you for the invitation and it's good to be around other veterans," said Ramon Robles, Marine Corps veteran at the Veterans Day Luncheon, held at the District 3 Multipurpose Building. The gathering showcased an unwavering support for veterans by VFSO.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis attended the event by personally delivering challenge coins to the veterans. Lunch was distributed

by Dewskies Frybread, featuring the assistance of Blackwater Community School's Color guard, and over 20 raffle prizes, ranging from gadgets to gift certificates.

During the luncheon, veterans shared their experiences in the military. Their stories ranged from moments of camaraderie and pride to the challenges they faced while serving. Veterans remarked about their family history in the military and how the support system for veterans was of great help throughout their time of service.

As Veterans Day transitioned into a more extended celebration on Nov. 18, the Gila River Indian Community came together once again, this time in a larger and festive atmosphere. The celebration paid tribute to veterans through various activities, including a walk/run, a posting of colors, food, kickball/corn hole/horse-shoe tournaments and a perfor-

Continued on Page 4

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CASA/GAL Program: To keep children safe develops in GRIC
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Youth Basketball Camp with Bronson Koenig
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GRIC Employee recognized at Community Council
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 Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.

Thanksgiving Holiday

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

CLOSED

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
November 23rd, 2023
November 24th, 2023
November 25th, 2023

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Pharmacy Curbside Hours

Thursday, 11/23..... **C L O S E D**
Friday, 11/24.....10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday, 11/2510:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday, 11/2610:00 am - 8:00 pm

If you need assistance or would like more information on services open, call GRHC's main line (520) 562-3321. GRHC's normal business hours will resume Monday, November 27th. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

VACCINES AVAILABLE



COVID-19, Flu, and RSV Vaccines are available in the Primary Care Departments at Gila River Health Care locations by walk-in and routine appointments during regular clinic hours.

[Scan Here](#)



If you have questions, please call Gila River Health Care at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495. Please refer to the calendar of events for updates GRHC.ORG/FLU.

A Salute to Gila River Health Care Veterans!

[Scan Here](#)



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GRIC CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449

YOU'RE INVITED

Sacaton Market Groundbreaking Ceremony

**TUESDAY,
DEC 5, 2023
AT 10AM**



We are thrilled to announce the groundbreaking of the highly anticipated Sacaton Market. This will mark the beginning of construction, which will bring new jobs and opportunities to the Gila River Indian Community.

 **SOUTHEAST CORNER OF
S. OCOTILLO DR &
BLUEBIRD RD
SACATON AZ, 85147**





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Lt. Governor
Monica Antone

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Joey Whitman

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GRIC becomes first Tribal Community in the State to have National CASA Certification

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

On Nov. 1, the Gila River Indian Community Court swore-in two special advocates, David George and Carmen Duarte to the newly established program of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem Association for Children (National CASA/GAL) Program.

The National CASA/GAL program contains 940 programs that recruit, train, and support volunteers who become advocates for the best interest of children who are wards of the court. The Gila River Indian Community Court appoints these volunteers to provide a voice for children as they work to ensure children are receiving the necessary services and aid to help the youth thrive in safe and permanent homes. GRIC is one out of 20 tribes endorsed under the National CASA certification out of the 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States and is currently the only tribe in Arizona to be certified for CASA/GAL.

"I work with children, some of which are wards of the court and I understand the need for



Newly sworn in Special Advocate Carmen Duarte, Court Appointed Special Advocate Coordinator Sharon Banda, and Special Advocate David George. Velia Moncada/GRIN

child advocacy," said Duarte in an interview with the *GRIN*. She has spent over 27 years within the Community.

Duarte considers her advocacy role as an opportunity to engage in her civic duties, while enhancing and supporting adult-child relations for children who are in the child welfare system. She expressed a firm belief that a CASA can make the difference in the life of a child and plans to utilize the skills the program has taught her and is mindful that in

her role will be the eyes, ears and voice of the child and in all situations, promote child well-being and safety.

George said in his interview with the *GRIN*, that as a respectful outsider he has been blessed to have been a part of the Community for so many years in his days of service as a social worker.

Although, he has had his heart broken by the stories he's encountered, "Learning that there's 800 kids in the system away from their families, that's

what made me want to do this," said George.

Both, George and Duarte strongly encourage Community members to become advocates as there is a critical need for them and it is rewarding in the end.

Sharon Banda, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Coordinator said, "I feel that this is a beneficial program, when you give children the proper attention, they change. They know somebody is there for them and kids really respond to that."

Banda is passionate about helping children find significance, purpose and a good path. With the assistance of CASA/GAL volunteers, the program will work with Tribal Social Services, service providers, and the court to ensure that the children's needs are met and their voices are being heard.

CASA/GAL's vision is for every child to be safe, nurtured and granted the opportunity to grow in an environment well-suited to the honor of their culture/tribal identity. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Sharon Banda, CASA/GAL Coordinator, at (520) 562-9860 or email Sharon.Banda.JUD@gric.nsn.us

Veteran & Family Services Office honored at 80th Annual NCAI Conference in New Orleans

Gov. Lewis delivered remarks and served as panelist during work sessions



GRIC Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) was honored at the 80th Annual NCAI Veterans Welcome Event for earning recognition as an Official Tribal Veteran Service Organization by the U.S. Department Veteran Affairs. The Veteran & Family Services Office staff along with GRIC Councilman Frank Pablo Sr. and Councilman Joey Whitman (far right) provided a short presentation on their journey to receiving the recognition for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs on Nov. 13. CPAO Photo



Outgoing NCAI Recording Secretary Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, welcomed Tribal leaders and attendees to the 80th National Congress of American Indians Conference (NCAI) on Nov. 16. Photo Courtesy of NCAI

Mavis Thomas, Miss Gila River 2023-2024, Officially Introduced to Community Council



2023-2024 Miss Gila River Mavis Thomas, District 2, shared her platform to be a positive role model to youth through outreach and engagement. GRIC Council members and leadership congratulated Miss Gila River on this new opportunity. Velia Moncada/GRIN



2023-2024 Miss Gila River, Mavis Thomas (center) with former title holders L-R: Kelly Whitman, Lisa Hendricks, Wanda Manuel and Zuzette Kisto on Nov. 3, 2023. Velia Moncada/GRIN

★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS



Veterans listen to their fellow comrades share their military experiences at the Veterans Day Luncheon Celebration on Nov. 9. Velia Moncada/GRIN

From the front page
mance by 2023-2024 Miss Gila River, Mavis Thomas. “We put on this program to celebrate the veterans, it’s nothing to be somber about, it’s just supporting the veterans of Gila River and District 1,” said Henry Pino, U.S. Army

Veteran from District 1 and coordinator of the District 1 Veterans Day Celebration. Gary Anderson, U.S. Army Veteran from District 3, expressed his gratitude of the celebration and the impacts that these celebratory events remind veterans that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

The Gila River Indian Community’s commitment to honoring its veterans extends beyond these annual events. The Community actively engages in initiatives to support veterans in their transitions to civilian life, providing resources for education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

The Gila River Indian Community stood united, expressing gratitude not just in words but through actions that reinforce the bond between the Community and its veterans. The stories shared by these courageous individuals serve as a reminder that Veterans Day is not only about recognizing the past but also shaping a future where the sacrifices of the military are remembered and honored.



U.S. Marine Veteran Ramon Robles reflects on friendships made and hardships veterans faced while serving. Velia Moncada/GRIN



U.S. Army Veteran Henry Pino welcomes attendees to the Veterans Celebration at the Ke’li Akimel Ballpark in District 1 on Nov. 11. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis commends Marine Sgt. Sage Etsitty Jr. and all veterans at the luncheon with a challenge coin. Velia Moncada/GRIN



2023-2024 Miss Gila River Mavis Thomas and Blackwater Community School’s Color Guard at the District 1 Veterans Day Celebration. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Veterans benefits for surviving spouses and other news

Submission Veteran & Family Services Office

Do you know that the VA has two plans for surviving spouses and it’s possible not to be eligible for either one?

The first plan is dependent upon the veteran’s service connected disabilities. If the veteran is less than 100 percent service connected or 100 percent less than 10 years, then one of the veteran’s service connected disabilities has to be listed on the death certificate. If the service connected condition is not the primary reason for death, it must be listed as a contributing factor. If the veteran is 100 percent for 10 years or more, then causes of death on the death certificate aren’t a determining factor. The veteran and spouse must have been married at least one year. The surviving spouse rate is currently \$1,562.74 monthly. The second plan is based upon the income and assets of the surviving spouse. The veteran must have had one day during a war period, even if the veteran was not in combat. This income-based plan is a sliding scale amount. There is no set dollar amount. It is dependent upon how much the surviving spouse has for

income and expenses.

Not sure if you qualify for the PACT Act? Please make an appointment and we can determine your eligibility.

The Veteran & Family Services Office is here to assist veterans and their family members with filing claims with the VA. Veterans who are filing new claims or claims for increases, we are here to do all or most of your paperwork for you. We will discuss your current ratings and how filing new claims or increases will affect your current ratings. We will walk you through the process. If you are awarded service connection of at least 10 percent, then you are eligible for a monthly monetary check.

Please make an appointment so that we can assist you with your VA claims.

Also, we will assist all GRIC employees who are veterans. Please call -

Peer Support Specialist Wesley Rhodes (520) 610-4384

Peer Support Specialist Darrell Whitman (520) 610-2037

Veteran Service Officer Kim Skelton (520) 610-7644

Servicewomen History:

SPARS - an acronym for the Coast Guard motto “Semper Paratus - Always Ready,” was the women’s branch of the Coast Guard Reserves. They were allowed to join starting in November 1942 for the duration of WWII plus six months. The Unit was deactivated in 1947 and reactivated in 1949. It wasn’t until 1973 that women were allowed to go on active duty.

Bugs Bunny joins the Marines

Soon after the cartoon featuring Bugs Bunny in Super-Rabbit (1943) premiered, Bugs Bunny “enlisted” in the U.S. Marine Corps. He started at the rank of Private (E-1) and was promoted throughout WWII until he attained the rank Master Sergeant (E-8) and retired. It was such a morale builder during the war that Bugs Bunny was named an Honorary Marine.



★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the front page

service men on Friday, Oct. 27.

The annual event pays tribute to those who have lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces, by running one-mile to honor and remember each fallen hero, which also recognizes the Community's long-standing history of honorable service. GRIC members have made for their Community and Country.

"On behalf of the St. Peter School community, we welcome you to this celebration in which we honor, bless, thank and pray for the families of our fallen heroes," said Sister Mary Martha.

Images and background information of the 24 fallen heroes were posted along the school's courtyard while students began the ceremony with the posting of colors conducted by the school's military culture appreciation class, which typically includes only male students but this year young women also joined in to lead color guard duties. All students proceeded to sing the national anthem, both O'otham and English, followed by the school's culture class who sang and performed traditional songs



L-R Top: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Vice President Ricardo Leonard, GRIC Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Army Veteran Gary Anderson, Kathy Ludlow, Reynalda Miguel-Shaw, and Barbara Rose Miguel-Lewis. Emma Hughes/GRIN

and dance as special tribute to the fallen and their families.

"I think that the participation of the children at the school is so important, exposing them to the service and sacrifice and patriotism; I'm very happy to be able to participate today," said Arizona Gov. Hobbs.

In addition to the event, families of the fallen are also acknowledged by

bestowing them with the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal, as a symbol of appreciation and recognition of the honorable service and sacrifices they have made.

This year recognized U.S. Army Private Matthew B. Juan, who was the first Arizonan to be killed in action during World War I, U.S. Army Private First-Class Lloyd Miguel,

and U.S. Army Private First-Class Harry Miguel, both serving in the Korean War. Juan was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart medal.

"Everyone here today knows all too well that the history of Indigenous people has often been forgotten and sometimes altogether left out," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, "By hon-

oring Matthew today and holding this ceremony, we recognize our fallen heroes from the Gila River Indian Community and shed light to their stories that have often been kept in the dark."

During the event, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis announced and signed a proclamation on behalf of the Community, declaring Oct. 27, 2023 as a day of

remembrance for Private Matthew B. Juan, PFC Harry Miguel, and PFC Lloyd Miguel.

"On this day, the Community acknowledges our fallen heroes for their courage as we ensure their ultimate sacrifices are remembered, honored, and their families supported during this day of remembrance," said Gov. Lewis, who thanked the families for allowing their loved ones to be honored.

GRIC Veteran Gary Anderson, U.S. Army Special Forces, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Anderson worked to begin the process of requesting and obtaining the medals for the fallen, along with the support of Veteran & Family Services Office and the Community's Enrollment Dept. who assisted in finding the family members.

"It was such an honor to be invited today to participate in this event where we have the chance to present honor to some families who have been waiting for it for a very long time, to honor the service of these men," said Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, who presented the Arizona Gold Star medal to the families.



Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs pins the Purple Heart Medal and Arizona Gold Star Military Medal on Kathy Ludlow, family member of Private Matthew B. Juan. Emma Hughes/GRIN



St. Peter Indian Mission School student runs the school's track in honor of fallen heroes. Miyana Manus/CPAO



St. Peter Indian Mission School Culture Class performs basket dance. Miyana Manus/CPAO

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

St. Peter Indian Mission School
1923 - 2023

Join US December 9, 2023
End our Centennial Year Celebration
10 am - 10 pm

Games:	Rides:	Food:	Music:
Tug of War	Carnival style,	Feeding at	Chicken
Chair Vollyball	Jumping	lunch, Vendor	Scratch &
Kick Ball	Castles	and food trucks	Traditional



Submission

Huhugam Heritage Center

S-uam Mashath means the yellow/brown month in the Akimel O’otham language. The name refers to the plant-life that goes dormant during the winter months. This month we celebrate two holidays, the first is Shonthal Ha Thashga (Veteran’s Day). Today, many community members are on active-duty, or have served in the armed forces. The second is Thova Thash (Thanksgiving). We have farmed in our middle Gila River valley for a very long time and have always given Thanks to our Creator for our bountiful corps. Although these holidays were introduced, O’otham have accepted them due to their importance.

Since first European contact with Padre Kino in 1694, new ways and items had been introduced to O’otham. Contact with different people would continue throughout the decades. As new items introduced, O’otham adapted and creat-

ed new words for the introduced items. In the 1870’s the Presbyterians became rooted in our community through the efforts of Reverend Charles Cook. In 1872, he built and operated a day school at Sacaton. At Santa Cruz Village, the government built and operated another day school. Both schools and others that followed brought changes to O’otham. The main influence was the introduction of western society holidays celebrated throughout the year.

As resilient O’otham, we adopted the celebrations into our lifestyles. Throughout grade school, many generations, learned the importance of the holidays. One holiday that O’otham readily accepted was the gathering of families at Thanksgiving. Traditionally, O’otham had conducted harvest feasts in the fall after the harvesting of their crops. In a sense, O’otham had already been celebrating their own indigenous version of Thanksgiving since time immemo-

rial.

Other celebrations occurred throughout the year and did not necessarily follow a set pattern. According to calendar stick accounts, certain head Chiefs conducted social dances and other events. Sometimes, men’s foot races, kick-ball races and thoka games for the women were planned for the villages. Of course, there was wagering between villages, as they cheered on their fastest racers and thoka teams. Many of the celebrations took place when the villages were prosperous with abundant crops, or when rainfall transformed the desert lands into gardens.

Today, our community is surrounded by modern cities and towns. Despite modern improvements we have managed to keep our Himthag intact for present and future generations. This is made possible through the teachings of our Elders. Historically, we have always been communal people who worked together to keep our farms

S-uam Mashath 2023 – Match the O’otham word with the picture of items found on our Thova Thash Table!

Ha:l



Thova



Hu:n



Ko:ji Chu:kug/Hamo:n



Pa:n



U:dvis



Thova Kayio



ClipArt Courtesy Robert Johnson

Word Match Solution on Page 13

Webb, University of Arizona Press, 1959; The Pima Indians, Frank Russell, University of Arizona Press, Re-printed 1980 and A Pima Past, Anna Moore Shaw, University of Arizona Press, 1974.

in operation, villages intact and continue our strong family ties.

This month’s word match will focus on items that will be set on the Thova Thash dinner table. Speak with an Elder, or speaker and ask how they would pronounce the words. Some words may be spoken differently between

the villages. We encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives. From all of our families here at your Huhugam Heritage Center, we wish you and your family a S-he:kig Thova Thash! (Happy Thanksgiving)!

Information for this article related from: A Pima Remembers, George

Senate Passes Sinema-Backed Resolution Honoring Native American Heritage Month

Senator honored the contributions Arizona’s 22 federally-recognized tribes make to the state and country



Senator Kyrsten Sinema and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during a round table discussion with Tribal leaders, hosted by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona on Dec. 9, 2022. GRIN Photo

Press Release

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate passed bipartisan legislation cosponsored by Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema that designates November as Native American Heritage Month to honor the heritages, cultures, and contributions of Native Americans in Arizona and throughout the country.

“From the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II to the Tohono O’odham Shadow Wolves of today, Tribes across our state have long played a crucial role

in our state and country. We’re proud to honor their immeasurable contributions to Arizona’s culture, heritage, and long-term success,” said Sinema.

The Sinema-backed bipartisan resolution honors the heritages, cultures, achievements, and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors to the United States. This resolution also designates the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day.

With 22 federally-recognized tribes, Arizona ranks among the states with

the most tribal communities in the entire nation. In the last year, Sinema has met with members of the Navajo Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Tohono O’odham Nation, Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona to highlight her work and discuss priorities critical to Arizona tribal communities.

SOUTHWESTERN WHITE TEPARY BEAN DIP

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ³/₄ cup cooked and drained white tepary beans
- 3 tbsp cilantro, roughly chopped
- 1 jalapeno, roughly chopped
- 3 tbsp fresh lime juice
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tbsp water
- Salt and pepper (to taste)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine ingredients in a food processor or blender and blend until smooth.
2. Serve with fresh vegetables or whole grain chips

HOW TO COOK TEPARY BEANS

1. Basic Cooking Instructions
To cook, rinse beans with water, pick out and discard any stones or broken pieces, place beans in a large pot and cover with water (8 cups of water of one cup of beans) and add 1 teaspoon of salt. Partially cover and cook until tender, about 2-4 hours. Once cooked, they will double in volume. The cooked beans can be frozen and store well in the refrigerator for up to one week (leave them in the cooking liquid).

2. Crock Pot Instructions
Pick through the beans removing any stones or cracked pieces. Rinse in water to remove any dust. Add the 2 cups of dried beans and 1 teaspoon of salt and fill your crock pot with water almost to the top. Cover and cook on high approximately 8 to 12 hours or until the beans are soft but not falling apart. Yields about 4 cups of cooked beans.

Recipe Courtesy of the GRHC Life Center



Gila River Health Initiative hosts Bronson Koenig for a youth basketball camp at District 4

On November 3rd and 4th, the Gila River Health Initiative hosted a basketball camp for the youth led by Bronson Koenig, a former professional basketball player from the Ho-chunk Nation. Koenig spoke with the youth about his basketball career and overcoming his struggles with his mental health before running through basketball drills. Koenig's career includes two NCAA Final Four appearances while playing for the Wisconsin Badgers and later signing a two-way contract with the Milwaukee Bucks and playing professional basketball overseas.

"I'm here to share my knowledge of basketball and also to tell my story. I want to communicate to the youth that we all need a creative outlet whether it would be basketball, or art. Find something positive you can do and attack it everyday and see where it takes you, because it has taken me all over the world." - Bronson Koenig



Miss Indian Arizona Laney Lupe, from the White Mountain Apache Tribe, made a guest appearance on Saturday and spoke to the participants about her basketball journey, from high school to the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) and NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) where she received multiple awards along with her Bachelors Degree in Exercise Sports Science. Lupe's goal as the reigning Miss Indian Arizona is to share her experience and encourage tribal youth across Arizona.



"Basketball has had a big impact on me, because I was able to further my education and meet a lot of other people from Puerto Rico and Venezuela. I received a lot of knowledge through basketball on the court and off the court. I took advantage of that and I know that our young people can do that." - Laney Lupe, Miss Indian Arizona

2024 Washington Youth Tour June 14-21, 2024

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**THE TRIP OF A
LIFETIME!!**



- Must be a high school junior
- Must be an enrolled GRIC member
- Must be in good academic standing
- Must submit application and essay
- Deadline **December 1, 2023**

Visit www.gricua.net for more info





HEADLINES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Monica Antone
Lt. Governor

Gov. Lewis speaks at Water Conservation Event

GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego welcomed Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and other tribal, state and local officials at an announcement at Phoenix City Hall on Nov. 3 to celebrate new federal funding for water conservation in Arizona.

The Colorado River, a critical water source for Phoenix and the Western United States, is under threat due to drought conditions resulting from climate change, and Lake Mead is at critically low levels. New funding and agreements among water users aim to protect the water supply.

At the event, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton said \$63.4 million in federal resources is being provided for water conservation, water efficiency and protection of critical environmental resources in the Colorado River System.

To date, 18 entities including tribes have entered agreements that are



L-R: Gilbert Mayor Brigette Peterson, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, LCB Deputy Regional Director Dave Arend, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, San Carlos Apache Tribe Vice Chairman Tao Etpison, CAP Board President Terry Goddard, and Director of the Arizona Department Water Resources Tom Buschatzke during the announcement of the water system conservation agreements on Nov. 3. Velia Moncada/GRIN

expected to conserve up to 162,710 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead through 2026. The agreements provide federal funding for water that the contractors do not use from their allotment of Central Arizona

Project water.

Phoenix City Council in May unanimously voted to forgo up to 50,000 acre-feet of its Colorado River entitlement each year from 2023 to 2025. Gov. Lewis noted that the Community

has committed more than 375,000 acre-feet of water over the next three years.

He also explained the dedication the Community has demonstrated to conserve water through the Arizona Water Settlement

Agreement.

“The Community has been a supporter of this approach to addressing the drought crisis since 2016 when we entered into the first major voluntary agreement and we’ve been ded-

icated participants ever since,” Gov. Lewis said.

He added, “The program’s success can be best measured by the number of entities who are here with us today celebrating our joint collaboration...I couldn’t be more proud of Arizona as we confront this challenge head-on.”

San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Terry Rambler, also spoke on the importance of preserving water throughout his Community. He described how precious water is to the lives of the San Carlos Apache people and other tribal Communities.

The Voluntary Water Conservation Agreement in Arizona was authorized under the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program and funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

In April, officials announced the Community would receive up to \$233 million in water conservation funding, including \$83 million for a water pipeline and other projects.

Lt. Gov. Antone serves as Panelist for State of Reform Health Policy Conference

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

The State of Reform Health Policy Conference held at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown on Oct. 24, featured Gila River Indian Community’s Lt. Gov. Monica Antone as a panelist.

State of Reform works to bridge the gap between the worlds of healthcare and health policy while the conference offers a chance for healthcare professionals to hear from and interact with the most influential healthcare executives, policy makers, and thought leaders who are the informed opinion leaders and the go-to people in their field of expertise from across the region.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Deputy Director of Community Engagement & Regulatory Affairs, Marcus Johnson served on the panel: “Issues & Initiatives in Tribal Healthcare”, which covered Arizona’s significant



Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Cabinet Executive Officer Carmen Heredia, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Deputy Director of Community Engagement & Regulatory Affairs, Marcus Johnson. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Native population that faces its own unique set of challenges in accessing and receiving healthcare, meriting distinct approaches and solutions for tribal healthcare in the state.

Moderated by Health Management Associates, Associate Principal Kathleen Cahill, Lt. Gov. Antone provided insight to the current issues tribal com-

munities face in healthcare such as substance abuse, mental and behavioral health, and the fraudulent sober-living home crisis which has severely affected tribal members and healthcare facilities in numerous ways. The panel also shared key initiatives and work underway to improve services for tribal members throughout the state.

Lt. Gov. Antone shared the Community’s on-going work and initiatives to provide members with better access to healthcare through telehealth, which debuted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then the Community continues to work towards ensuring its members have the service and access they need for quality healthcare.



L-R: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Col. Andrew Baker, Assistant Secretary of the Army of Civil Work Michael Connor, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. GRIN Photo.

From the front page

which is implementing a grant program established by Congress for a pilot program to further develop this innovative technology.

In his remarks during the event, Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis offered his appreciation to Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for his partnership in this project and for understanding the impacts of this project within the Community and throughout the Basin. Gov. Lewis stated, “This first pilot will break new ground and fur-

ther the Community’s role as stewards of our shudag (water) and in keeping with the Community’s tradition of bringing innovation to irrigation systems throughout their lands. “I want to personally thank Assistant Secretary Connor for his vision and steadfast support for this innovative project. Our work with the Assistant Secretary dates back decades and the Community deeply appreciates him and his support.” Gov. Lewis said.

The Community expects this first phase of the project to be completed in 2025 and hopes to launch the second phase as soon as December of this year.

Natural Resources and Energy Law Program welcomes Gov. Lewis

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law formerly known as Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation hosted two programs simultaneously – Natural Resource and Energy Development in Indian Country Special Institute and the premier of the annual Water Law Institute, at the Gila River Resorts and Casinos Wild Horse Pass on Nov. 2-3.

The Natural Resource and Energy Development Special Institute provides a comprehensive look at the legal issues that should be considered before commencing natural resources or energy development on tribal lands. The institute also includes crucial information about applicable Federal, Tribal, and State laws, as well as political and environmental considerations.

The Water Law Institute premiered its annual national legal program for attorneys and professionals involved and engaged with all things water throughout the country, including discussions and presentations on issues of water acquisition and management, water quality, climate changes



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Development Special Institute at Gila River Resorts & Casinos Wild Horse Pass on Nov. 2. Velia Moncada/GRIN

and scarcity, and water litigation.

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was featured as keynote speaker on climate change impacts and the need for innovation with water resources. Gov. Lewis outlined the GRIC's history and its continued concern in water scarcity brought on by early western development that caused severe drought and famine to the Community. It caused GRIC to search for ways to conserve water and energy with federal and tribal aid through the years of modernization leading to the Community's very own underground water storage area known as the Managed Aquifer Recharge Site Five

(MAR-5).

"The Community has successfully implanted a modern water plant developed with our leadership; a water plant that puts into motion certain policies aimed to increase agricultural productions," said Gov. Lewis to attendees of the institute, "We were looking at ways to bring back the flow of the Gila River, and looking at it through riparian projects/wetland projects in an official way."

With modern conservation efforts throughout the years, GRIC has seen its restoration efforts of the Gila River slowly come back to its natural state before western development.

Water stored in the

MAR-5 can be recovered when surface water shortages occur and is a source for farming irrigation while restoring riparian ecosystems that previously existed along the Gila River.

The institutes featured faculty from a variety of backgrounds and viewpoints, including representatives from oil and gas, mining and renewable energy industries, tribal governments, legal scholars and former federal officials who attended this networking and educational experience.

The Foundation for Natural Resource and Energy Law hosted the programs essential for anyone considering an investment or development projects on Indian or Tribal lands.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis attends the Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law and the premier of the Water Law Institute. Velia Moncada/GRIN

S'edav Va'aki Museum holds Renaming Ceremony

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

S'edav Va'aki Museum, formerly known as the Pueblo Grande in Phoenix, officially held a ceremony marking the official name change to the museum on Monday, Nov. 6. The renaming reflects the O'otham heritage by using the language, which translates to "Central Ground House".

GRIC elder and Cultural Advisor Barnaby Lewis, began the ceremony with a prayer and blessing. A class from the Sacaton Middle School were also in attendance as part of a field trip to the museum's exhibits.

"It feels good to be here and show the kids what happened today because I feel it's very important for all the students to learn where they come from and our background," said Gail Blackwater, District 3, Sacaton Middle School Paraprofessional.

Guest speakers for the event included Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Phoenix Council Rep. for District 8 Kesha Hodge

Washington, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier, and O'otham artist Thomas "Breeze" Marcus.

Marcus was present to debut and sign a new mural that adorns the entire side of one building on the premise. Although the museum selected Marcus' design for the final mural, Marcus invited fellow O'otham art finalists Zachary Justin (Gila River Indian Community) and Dwayne Manuel (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community) to assist him in completing the mural.

"Names tell a story, which is why I was happy to see the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to change the name," said Mayor Gallego, "The new name better represents the connection the site and museum has with our local Native American communities in the Salt River Valley - specifically the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Gila River Indian Community."

Mayor Gallego shared her admiration for the mu-



City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego during the renaming ceremony on Nov. 9. GRIN Photo

seum and its historical significance in telling how the city of Phoenix came to be, serving as her go-to suggestion to visitors.

The decision to change the name was made during the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Mar. 23. The renaming ceremony was also accompanied by the museum's newest exhibit: "What's in Our Name", which reflects the process and timeline it took to officially change the name.

The S'edav Va'aki Museum is open seven days a week, located at 4619 E Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85034.

GRIC Employee recognized at Community Council Meeting

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Ronald Nasewytewa, Records Specialist for Community Council Secretary's Office (CCSO) was recognized during the regularly scheduled Community Council meeting on Nov. 15, for his completion in the GRIC's Employee Development Program.

"This is quite a surprise," said Nasewytewa, "I wasn't expecting this and I was wondering why I was called in here this morning, I'm usually in my office." Said Nasewytewa.

Offered by the Community's Human Resources Department, the program offers learning and growth opportunities for its employees looking to better or advance themselves and their careers.

"The knowledge we gain changes us into something better," said Phillip Morris, Human Resources Department Training Specialist, "It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things we never had thought of before."

The program offers a variety of video and audio courses, focusing on management series, employment law, customer service, communication, supervisor series and the leadership learning lab.

"The Leadership Learning Lab was developed with a vision of those that came before us," said Morris. Established in 2010, the lab offers a place for those that want to experience, learn, and develop their leadership skills.

"It has been a staple of

well thought out material available to almost every GRIC employee that wants to take their mind just a little bit further in their supervisory and management roles." Morris said.

Nasewytewa, successfully completed all 43 courses of the lab, which he began in 2019 and was rewarded for his achievements.

He said the lab was suggested as part of his evaluation, to seek professional development and so he thought why not take advantage of the lab offered by HR.

Council members congratulated Nasewytewa and offered words of support and further encouragement.

"It is such a huge accomplishment and we do encourage employees, because in addition to him coming to the learning lab, he still had other responsibilities in his position as well," said HR Director TeriLynne Kisto, "So that shows his commitment and dedication and as we go forward, Human Resources looks to evolve in the training and development area so that way we can support professional growth of all of our employees, whether it's line staff, management or directorship."



Community Council Secretary's Office (CCSO) Records Specialist Ronald Nasewytewa and Human Resources Director TeriLynne Kisto. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Sacaton Middle School students visit the S'edav Va'aki Museum on Nov. 9, featuring a mural completed by O'otham artists Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, Dwayne Manuel and Zachary Justin. GRIN Photo

Announcements & Notices

GRIC COURT NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
IN THE MATTER OF: K. Juan **DOB:** 06/19/2017 **Case No.:** JC-2019-0380-JC
TO: Lovette Richanda Enos Last known address: 19162 S. Cokata St., Laveen, AZ, 85339
 Please take notice that a hearing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Children's Court. If you fail to

appear a judgment may be issued in favor of the other party.

This matter has been scheduled at the place, date, and time set forth below:
Motion Hearing
DATE: December 8, 2023 **TIME:** 11:00 AM
LOCATION: Westend Judicial Center 4751 West Pecos Road Laveen, AZ 85339
DATED: November 13, 2023



**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
 TRIBAL COURT ADVOCATE**

Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc. (SALA) is hiring a Tribal Court Advocate. The person to be hired will be required to undertake a variety of civil cases in tribal court. SALA provides services to low-income families and individuals in nine counties and eleven tribal communities in southeastern Arizona.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

1. The candidate should be admitted to practice before the Tohono O'odham courts or be willing to apply for and be admitted to practice in the Tohono O'odham Nation within three months of hire. The candidate should have two to five years' experience as an advocate in some capacity with administrative law, tribal government, a court system, a law office or a governmental agency.
2. Must exhibit a high degree of sensitivity to legal issues in low-income communities and be able to work with low income and community groups. Should have initiative, good communication skills, and the ability to work well in a multi-cultural setting.
3. Should be knowledgeable in the area of general civil practice and specifically general civil practice on behalf of the poor community.
4. Bilingual English/Spanish helpful. Ability to speak the Tohono O'odham language and familiarity with the Tohono O'odham culture is also helpful. Criminal Background Check Required.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The **Tribal Court Advocate** will work with and under the supervision of the Managing Attorney for Sells, Casa Grande, and Sacaton Arizona. Duties will include interviewing potential clients, performing case intake and file maintenance, drafting pleadings and other documents, gathering evidence and/or documentation for cases, participating in SALA's community legal education programs, doing legal research, representing clients in tribal courts and administrative tribunals, and doing outreach presentations on the Tohono O'odham Nation and in rural Pima County.

JOB LOCATION:Tucson, Arizona **JOB SCHEDULE:** Full-time

COMPENSATION: Salary range depending on experience **\$31,395 - \$54,551**; up to 5% additional compensation to individuals fluent in a language other than English, that is used by more than 10% of SALA's eligible client population. SALA has an excellent benefits package including, health insurance, pension plan and generous leave provisions.

EOE: Equal employment opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment regardless of race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sex, age or sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

CONTACT: Hiring Committee
 Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.
 Continental Building
 2343 E Broadway Blvd, Suite 200 - Tucson AZ 85719-6007
 (520) 623-9465 / Fax: (520) 594-6554 email:
salahr@sazlegalaid.org

DEADLINE: Open Until Filled. Please submit cover letter, resume, and three references.

****NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT****

PROPOSED LEASE FOR REVOLUTION INDUSTRIAL, LLC

The Natural Resource Standing Committee ("NRSC") will be considering the Environmental Assessment Form ("EAF") from the Revolution Industrial, LLC regarding a proposed lease of additional acreage of approximately four and nine hundred forty-nine thousandths (4.949) acres of Community Trust land, for purposes of developing, operating and managing a secured gravel yard and related uses, in District 4 of the Gila River Indian Reservation, at their regular meeting on **December 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**, located in Conference Room C of the Community Council Secretary's Office. A copy of the EAF its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary's Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the EAF, please attend the scheduled NRSC meeting. You may also contact your Council representative or the NRSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Written comments may be received until December 20, 2023 via email to the Office of General Counsel at OGCHelpDesk@gric.nsn.us or mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147.

Submission
 United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
 Pima Agency



NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS FOR LEASING OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pima Agency, on behalf of the allotted landowners, provides notice under Sealed Bids for the advertisement of available land for farming lease on trust or restricted Indian land. We will be accepting SEALED BIDS ONLY for the purpose of leasing agricultural lands to the highest bidder through November 30, 2023. All bids must be delivered to the Pima Agency's Superintendent by U.S. Postal Mail or personally deliver sealed bids to the Pima Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs. The bid must be received at Pima Agency by November 30, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., to be considered as an acceptable bid offer. Bids will be opened and read at Pima Agency at 2:00 p.m. on November 30, 2023.

Bids must be enclosed in separate envelopes and each plainly marked, "SEALED BID ON FARMING LEASE, ITEM NO. _____, TO BE OPENED ON November 30, 2023." Mail bids to Pima Agency, P.O. Box 8, Sacaton, Arizona 85147 or deliver to 104 North Main Street, Sacaton, Arizona 85147.

ITEM	DISTRICT	TRACTS AND ACRES AVAILABLE
No.1	5	See attachment Exhibit "A" - 80.00 acres

Each offer of the bid must include the allotment number and legal description of the land to be leased, proposed conditions being offered including Bid/Dollar Per Acre Price and Term of Lease, being from one to ten years. In order to submit an acceptable tract bid, the bidder must propose a fair market value bid offer. The term of any lease bid accepted will begin on January 1, 2024, and will expire on the date negotiated under the lease terms. If your bid is accepted, the Superintendent, Pima Agency will provide notification that your bid has been accepted and will provide you with the lease documents and instructions to submit the executed lease agreement along with the supporting documentation needed to execute and approve the lease. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject any and all bids that do not meet the bid advertisement requirements. Bids may also be rejected by the Superintendent using her discretionary authority for any terms and rent. If this occurs, negotiation may resolve the issue(s) before any final rejection of a successful scaled bid.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Big Knife, Realty Specialist, at the Pima Agency at (520) 562-3376 or samantha.bigknife@bia.gov.

**Exhibit "A"
 Schedule of Lands**

Allotment No.	Section	Township	Range	Acres
3410	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3417	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3418	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3419	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3413	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3414	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3415	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
3416	03	04 South	04 East	10.00
Total				80.00

Crossroads: Casa Blanca Road & Gopher Road



Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

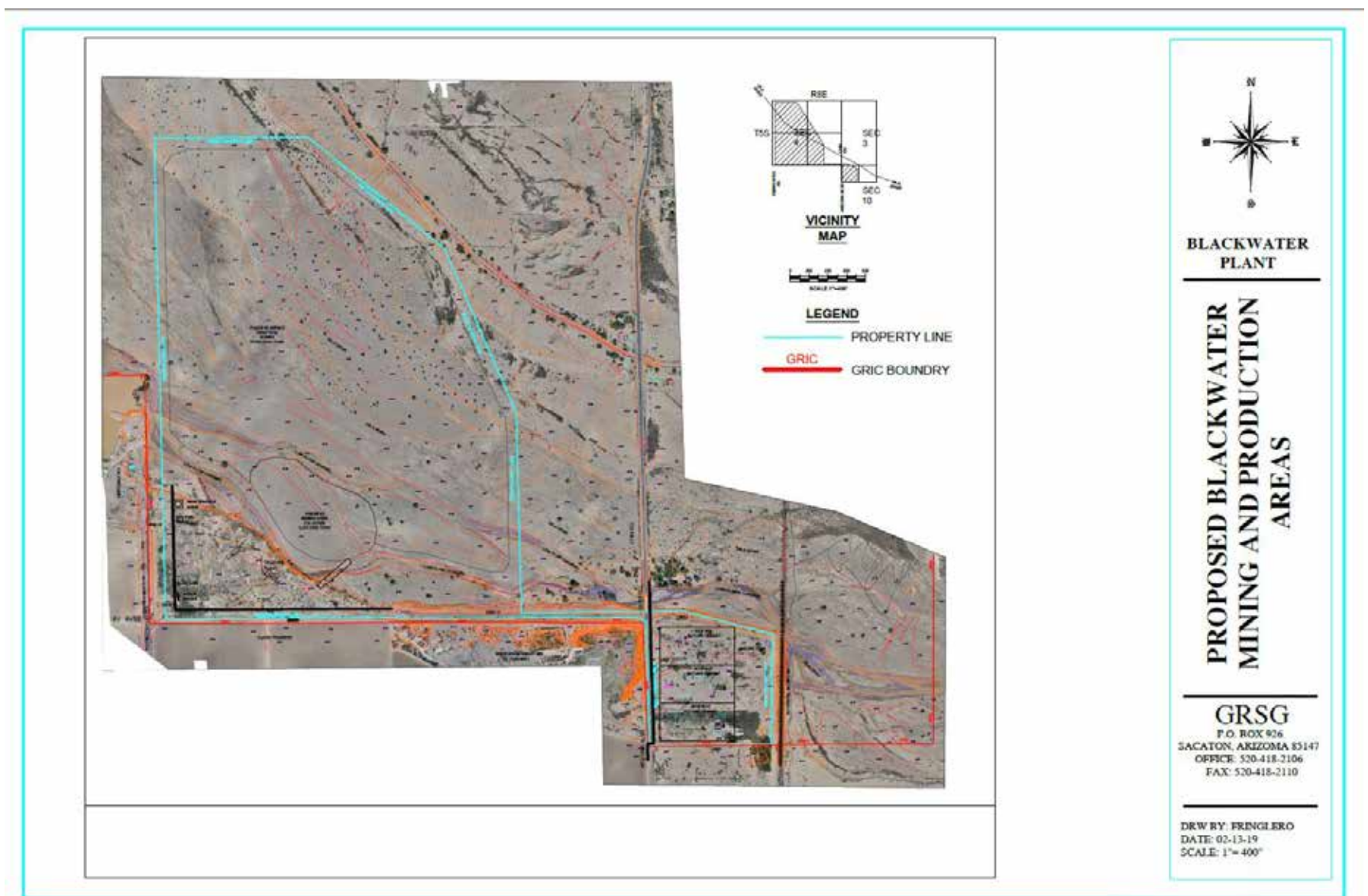
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Project Name: Gila River Sand & Gravel Corp.- Blackwater Site
For: Special Use Permit
Location: East of Kenworthy Rd. & Mayfield Rd.
Date and Time of Public Hearing: December 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM
Place: District One Service Center – Aerobics Room

Notice is hereby given that the Gila River Indian Community's Natural Resources Standing Committee on **Saturday, December 2, 2023** at **10:00 a.m.** in District One at 15747 N. Shegoi Rd. Coolidge, AZ 85128, will hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a Special Use Permit Application submitted by Gila River Sand & Gravel Corporation for their Blackwater site to be used for aggregate mining.

The public hearing is to solicit public comments on the proposed Special Use and allow the Natural Resources Standing Committee to review and verify that the proposed Special Use, as it is submitted, contains such requirements and safeguards as are necessary to protect adjoining property and the public's health and safety.

Public comments can be submitted prior to the public hearing by emailing the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and Cc PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us. Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us or at (520) 562-6003.



If you have any questions, please contact Planning Development Team at Department of Land Use Planning & Zoning (520) 562-6003 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Nov. 1, 2023

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, November 1, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Arzie Hogg; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White; D4- Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Laleana Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.(9:10), Charles Goldtooth(9:16), Terrance Evans

Council Members Absent:

D1- Joey Whitman (Personal)

D3- Joseph Manuel, Jr. (Personal)

D4- Christopher Mendoza (Illness)

D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (Personal)

D7- Devin Redbird (Personal)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADD MATERIAL FOR RESOLUTION #9, TABLE REPORT #1 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL; REMOVE RESOLUTION #1 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND DISPENSE NEW BUSINESS #3

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2, #3, AND #4, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #6, #7, #8, #9, AND #17, ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA, AND APPROVE THE OVERALL AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. 2023-2024 Miss Gila River Mavis Thomas Introduction

Presenter: Roberto A. Jackson

MS. MAVIS THOMAS IS FROM HASHAN KEHK, DISTRICT 2 AND IS THE CURRENT MISS GILA RIVER. MS. THOMAS PLANS TO BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL AND MENTOR TO THE YOUTH WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACEMENT AT THE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR YOUTH TO LET THEM KNOW THEY ARE NOT ALONE. SHE PLANS TO WORK WITH THEM TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR GOALS. SHE IS EXCITED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL, LT. GOVERNOR, ANTONE, AND GOVERNOR LEWIS PROVIDED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:46 A.M.]

REPORTS

>1. 2023 1st Half Report Unit 84

Presenters: Carletta McDaniel, Emilie Lopez, Sonnette Cherry

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. 3rd & 4th Quarter Budget for American Legion Post 51 Haskell Osife Antone

Presenters: David Anderson, Belen Lawlor

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Education Allocation Annual Report for SY2022-2023

Presenter: Isaac Salcido, Jim Mosely

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. GRTI 2nd Quarter Report 2023

Presenters: Jennifer Burkhalter, Anthony Villareal, Sr., James De La Rosa, Arzie Hogg, Charles Goldtooth, Devin Redbird, Craig Baugartner

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REPORTS #5 THRU #8

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

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

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report September 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth

Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Richard Strafella, Tony DeMark, Sr. Leadership Team, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. Schedule of Investments ending August 31, 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. FY23 Financial Activity Report ending September 30, 2023 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing Clint Buckelew To Reside At The Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation From November 09, 2023 To December 29, 2023 Pursuant To GRIC Code Section 8.902.H (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The State Of Arizona And The Gila River Indian Community To Accept Two Million (\$2,000,000) Dollars From The State Of Arizona To Pave Seedfarm Road And To Provide A Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity Solely For The Purpose Of Enforcing The Provisions Of The Agreement And Enforcing Any Arbitration Award Up To The Amount Of The Costs Paid By The State To The Community And For No Other Purpose (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval, G&MSC concurs)

Presenter: Steven Johnson

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Peoria For Soldier's Best Friend Service / Therapeutic Companion Dog Training Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving The Project Partnership Agreement Between The Department Of The Army And The Gila River Indian Community For The Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Renewable Energy Pilot Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Jason Hauter, David DeJong

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Establishing The Gila River Indian Community's Tribal Opioid Litigation Payments Permissible Uses Implementation

Committee (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; H&SSC concurs)

Presenter: Sunshine Manuel

APPROVED

>6. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To The Greater Cause For Use At The Rawhide Western Town & Event Center On November 18, 2023 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Approving A Pipeline Abandonment Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And SFPP, L.P. For The Abandonment Of The SFPP LS-53 Pipeline Located On The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving Compensation To The Gila River Indian Community And Certain Allotted Landowners Within The LS-53 Easement Area (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; G&MSC & EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Bartley Harris, Denten Robinson

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. A Resolution Approving The General Counsel Contract Between The Gila River Indian Community And Javier Garcia Ramos (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To The Chandler Compadres, Inc. For Use At The Rawhide Western Town & Event Center From November 4, 2023 To November 5, 2023 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

10. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Deana Lisa Thompson Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

11. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Tiffany Lynn Lewis Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

12. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Angel Lynn Sanchez Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

13. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Ava Jade Sanchez Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

14. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Christine Elizabeth Sanchez Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for

approval)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

15. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Tisa Helena Mepat Justin Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Sheila Valenzuela

APPROVED

16. A Resolution Recognizing The St. Peter Indian Mission Catholic High School (ESC motioned to forward to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Sister Mary Martha, Sister Pamela Catherine

APPROVED

>17. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-145-16 And Approving The Revised Higher Education Scholarship Program Policy Manual (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval under the consent Agenda)

Presenters: Jennifer Hinton, Isaac Salcido

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

>1. Gila River Farms Plan of Operation Amendment (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Gila River Farm Board, Benito Alvarez, Jr., Kimberly Fisher

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Community Priorities Work Session Request (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with the recommended dates and for Treasurer to look for a suitable place to have the Work Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD THE COMMUNITY PRIORITIES WORK SESSION AT LOEWS VENTANA CANYON RESORT ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

3. A Motion That NRSC Is Willing To Be Included In The Proposed Changes to the GRIC Development Proposal Review Process And Is Willing To Make A Final Determination Of Any Penalty Recommended For A Developer, When PLFC and EDSC Board Members are Identical (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Teresa Mandelin, John Martin

DISPENSED

4. District 2 Citizens Advisory Board Appointment (LSC forwards for Community Council with a recommendation to approve the appointment of Ann Manuel to the Citizen Advisory Board)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT ANN MANUEL DISTRICT 2 TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

1. October 18, 2023 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• UPPER VALLEY TOUR NOVEMBER 2-3, 2023

• PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR MR. ROMERO WHO IS A PMIP EMPLOYEE

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:22 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

DEVIL'S CLAW AVAILABLE AT DEQ

****COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY****

November 27, 2023 – December 29, 2023
****until supplies last****

Seeds for at home growing is also available upon request

For more information call: 520-562-2747

Scan QR Code

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT

RESIDENT NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2024

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

- ✓ All non-member residents 18 years of age and older who reside within the boundaries of the Community must register their residency with the Enrollment Department by January 31st each year.
- ✓ Previously registered non-member residents will receive a renewal form by mail. All other non-member residents should contact the Enrollment Department.
- ✓ The Registration Form can be submitted in person at the Enrollment Office, a photo ID is required.
- ✓ Registration Forms can be submitted by email, fax or mail. Notary required.

Contact Information:

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 97
 Sacaton, AZ 85147

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

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

Himdag Ki Winter Art Fair

Come and enjoy the cool winter weather and do some shopping among a variety of Artist Vendors

Location: Tohono O'odham Nation Cultural Center & Museum - Topawa, AZ

Date: Saturday, December 16th

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

For Questions, contact Naomi Tom, Curator of Education:
 Naomi.Tom@tonation-nsn.gov
 Himdag Ki: Tohono O'odham Nation Cultural Center & Museum along with any participating programs, vendors, or volunteers are not responsible for any illness, injuries/death, damages, stolen/lost items during this event.



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

GRIN Blotter Community Wide Crimes (Oct. 31 - Nov. 12, 2023)

Crimes by District

Completed by: GRPD Crime Analysts

District	Aggravated Assault	Arson	Burglary	Drug Violation	Motor Vehicle Theft	Simple Assault	Theft	Weapons Offense
District 1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
District 2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
District 3	2	1	1	2	0	7	1	1
District 4	1	0	1	0	0	5	4	1
District 5	2	0	0	1	0	8	0	0
District 6	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0
District 7	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

TOP 8 Offenses	Count
SIMPLE ASSAULT	24
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	7
WEAPONS OFFENSE	6
THEFT	5
DRUG VIOLATION	4
BURGLARY	3
ARSON	1
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1
Grand Total	51

S-uam Mashath 2023 – Match the O'otham word with the picture of items found on our Thova Thash Table! SOLUTION!

Ha:l → Corn

Thova → Ham

Hu:n → Turkey

Ko:ji Chu:kug/Hamo:n → Fruit

Pa:n → Grapes

U:dvis → Pumpkin

Thova Kayio → Turkey

ClipArt Courtesy Robert Johnson

GILA RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

"PROUDLY SERVING THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1988"

Box 5015, 7065 West Allison Road, Chandler, Arizona 85226-5135
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DISTRICT DAYS

BILL PAYMENT • RESOURCES • CUSTOMER CARE

DISTRICT 3 MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER
DECEMBER 6TH
 10AM - 2PM

DISTRICT 6 LEARNING CENTER
DECEMBER 7TH
 10AM - 2PM



www.gricua.net

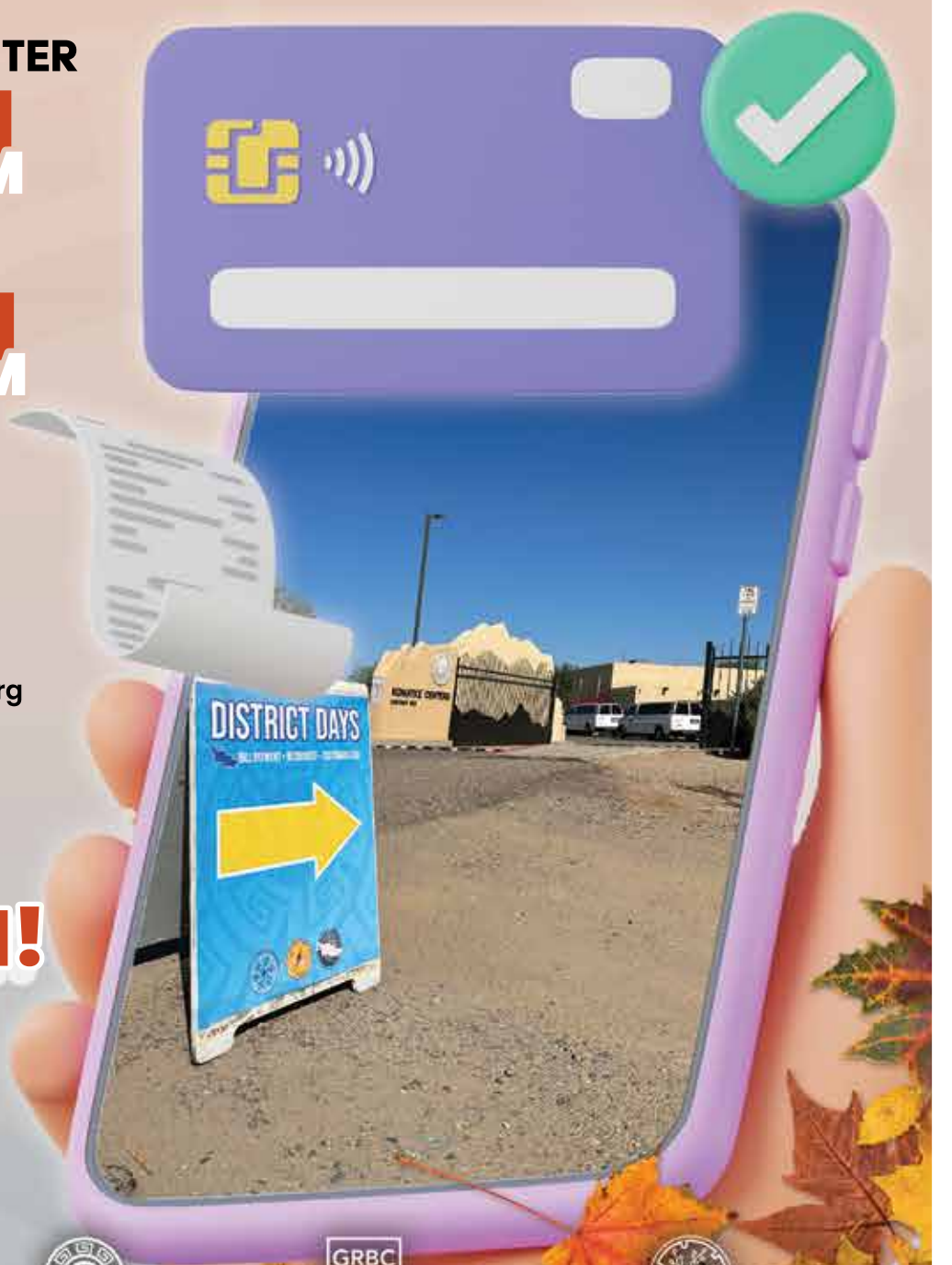


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@GilaRiverTV

@DigitalConnectInitiative



HAPPENING ON
SATURDAY
DECEMBER
16
3PM - 10PM

Oodham Artist Market

LIVE FROM
THE
SHELDE
BUILDING
5718 W. NORTH LOOP RD.
CHANDLER AZ, 85226

ARTISTS...

ALLEN LEWIS
AMBER MORISTO
ANGELO CORTEZ
ANISSA GARCIA
CHADWICK PASQUAL
CISSIMARIE JUAN
DWAYNE MANUEL
FURIOUS ART
IVEE PENNURI
NOX ONES
KYLE MILDA

AND EVEN MORE ARTISTS...

MELISSA YAZZIE
MITCHELL CRUZ
RACHEL ESPINOZA
RULKEL RENO
ROGUE ONE
RUSSELL BLACKWATER SR
SARA LUCAS
SOPHIA VILLALPANDO
THOMAS BREEZE MARCUS
TIFFANY ENOS
ZACHARY JUSTIN



GRAB A BITE FROM
THE RANCH
MOBILE EATERY

ART VENDORS!
LIVE ART!
AND GOOD TIMES!



**YOU
DO
YOU**

Legendary status is all yours with every double down, slot pull, and roll of the dice. So bring your swagger and take your play to epic places.

GILA RIVER
RESORTS & CASINOS

Wild Horse Pass
Lone Butte
Vee Quiva
Santan Mountain