



Legacy of Military Service Honored in District 5 for Community Veteran

Kyle Knox
Gila River Indian News

Forty years after his passing, Abraham B. Nelson, District 5, received a traditional memorial with military honors on Monday, Oct. 9. The small ceremony drew family members, Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51, GRIC Veterans & Family Services Office (VFSO), and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis to honor the occasion.

Abraham's remaining family in attendance included grandchildren Edmond Carl Nelson, Stanton "Paul" Nelson, Contra "Connie" Holt, Cheryl Thomas, and Lawrence "Larry" Nelson, Sr. Their families were also present to honor Abraham's memory.

"Today is heavy on my heart and means a lot because this will be the last, final good thing I can do for my grandfather," said Larry Nelson, Sr.

Larry resides in Montana and has worked with his wife to retrieve his grandfather's military records over the past two years with various government entities. His family recalls seeing an old



Members of the Nelson family stand at the site of Abraham B. Nelson's grave with a newly erected headstone provided by the Veterans & Family Services Office on Monday Oct. 9. Kyle Knox/GRIN

photo of their grandfather in uniform, rifle in hand and at attention, but doesn't remember Abraham ever discussing his military service with the family. After obtaining Abraham's military records and confirming his service, the family contact-

ed the VFSO. From that point

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Art, Poetry Contest Aims to Shed Light on Suicide and Prevention



Frances Histia receives her award for her art submission for the Whispers of Hope Contest. Photo courtesy of Tribal Education Department

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

In recognition of Sept. being National Suicide Prevention Month, Gila River Indian Community's Tribal Education Department hosted an art and poetry contest with the theme "Whispers of Hope" for Gila River Indian Community youth in grades 3-12.

On Sept. 29, three winners were announced: Francis Histia, District 3, an 11th grader from Casa Grande Union High School submitted an art piece; Alayna Mark, District 3, a 12th grader also from CGUHS submitted a poem titled "Diminuendo" and a third 11th grader from District 3 who wished to remain anonymous submitted a poem titled "Hold On." Their art and poems can be seen online at gricted.com.

"It's truly a fun project and I absolutely love to see the faces of the winners/participants when they receive their rewards," said Nadia Huff, TED case management coordinator, who plans to make the contest an annual event.

The winners received a "calm down" swag bag from TED that included a TED blanket, stress relievers, a water bottle, stickers, mints and a scented TEDdy bear along with a certificate of participation and a family pack of four tickets to the Children's Museum of Phoenix.

National Suicide Prevention Month aims to remember lives lost to suicide and acknowledge individuals, families and communities

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Chief Azul Day Returns, Honors Last Traditional Leader

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

With the world ever-changing and Community youth aging into Community elders, their life journeys become an experience in history. Teaching these experiences becomes a

part of the Community's cultural enrichment that future generations will learn. The Gila River Indian Community preserves the importance of teaching the Community's history by hosting the honorary memorial for the "Last traditional Chief" Antonio Azul. This memo-

rial took place from Oct. 13 to Oct. 14 from Sunset until Sunrise in District 3.

"Chief Azul was a leader in extraordinary times, and we still are in extraordinary times," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in his speech to the family and volunteers at the event. He acknowledged that Chief Azul was a warrior, military strategist, and a diplomat forming the first militia in Arizona. "This is why we are here, it's not only to share in the present to honor the past, but to keep this alive for the future as well," said Gov. Lewis as he recalled Azul's memory with a GRIC youth unfamiliar with his history.

Community veterans and Community first responders from the Gila River Police Department, Gila River Fire Department, Gila River EMS, and Gila River Veterans & Family Service Office lead a procession from the Governance Center until meeting at the West Cemetery in Sacaton. Community members and volunteers from the Huhugam Heritage Center marched into the premises where Chief Azul was laid to rest in 1909.

"He protected our land, our borders. He protected us for what we have today," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, as she thanked the volunteers and veterans for their civic duties in hosting and honoring Chief Azul.

Six generations of family members from



Veterans stand in salute in front of Chief Azul's grave including Gary Rodriguez, Aaron Sabori, and Mike Smith at the Chief Azul Day Friday Oct. 13. Velia Moncada/GRIN

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PORTER & JOHNSON DAY
OCTOBER 10, 2023

Family Affected by Fraudulent Sober Living Facility
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Project Dream Catcher Graduates Native Entrepreneurs
Page 12

MUL-CHU-THA

60

YEARS

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 15-17, 2024





Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Monica Antone

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62nd Annual Miss Indian Arizona Program Showcases Tribal Talent



Miss Indian Arizona 2023-24 Laney Lupe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, after being crowned by 2022-23 Miss Indian Arizona Sistine Lewis. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

The 62nd Miss Indian Arizona (MIA) Scholarship Program occurred on Oct 14, at the Chandler Center for the Arts, Showcasing seven talented women representing themselves and their communities for the opportunity of a lifetime. Laney Lupe from the White Mountain Apache Tribe was selected as the 2023-24 Miss Indian Arizona.

The MIA scholarship program participants underwent six categories to showcase themselves in, including an interview, talent (contemporary or traditional), evening gown attire, traditional dress, oral presentation, and personal interviews.

Kelsey Martinez from the Gila River Indian Community participated in the 2023 MIA scholarship program, representing her roots in District 3. In Martinez's talent showcase, she demonstrated

how O'otham women cleaned cowhide. In her traditional reflections and oral presentation, she described her traditional dress that an O'otham woman would wear when completing tasks around her home.

Contestants for the MIA scholarship program were Tonana Ben from the Navajo Nation; Manderee Jose from Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Laney Maria Lupe, White Mountain Apache Tribe; Natiana King from the Navajo Nation, and Stacia Colleen Scott, from the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

"I feel great!" said 2023-24 Miss Indian Arizona Laney Lupe after winning her new title and role. Lupe's platform will promote physical health and its connection to an individual's mental, spiritual, and physical well-being.

The other awards and nominees for the night are as follows: People's Choice - Samantha Stauffer, Miss Congeniality -



Kelsey Martinez, from the Gila River Indian Community, demonstrates how to clean cowhide in her cultural presentation at the 2023 Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Pageant. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Tonana Ben, Community Service Award - Kelsey Martinez, Essay Award - Natiana King, Evening Wear - Samantha Stauffer, Talent Award - Natiana King, Oral Presentation - Natiana King.

Natiana King was selected as MIA's first attendant for 2023-24, and Tonana Ben was chosen as the 2023-24 MIA second attendant, both representing the Navajo Nation.



All seven contestants at the 2023 Miss Indian Arizona pageant present their traditional attire in front of the judges before the final results are announced. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Poetry Contest from the front Page

that have been impacted as well as raise awareness about prevention and share messages of hope.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, the overall death rate from suicide is about 20 percent higher for American Indian and Alaskan Native communities than the overall U.S. population.

The contest was developed

to promote suicide prevention, awareness and education throughout the Community, according to Huff, who helped lead the efforts.

"The decision to choose an expressive outlet to allow the youth in the Community to show how they are embracing life and hope for suicide prevention came easy in the form of a contest," Huff said. She added that they were "hoping that we can get more kids in the Community to get a bit more comfortable in expressing their thoughts about the subject matter."



Top Three Finalist - Art Category
Francis Hattie
11th Grade, District 3,
Casa Grande Union High School



Embracing Life During Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month

Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department (520) 562-3662 • www.gricred.com

Diminuendo

Breathe.... Can you hear them?
Breathe... Do you see them?
Breathe, I can hear them
Breathe! I can't see them
Breathe!!!

The desperation, the degradation, and implication
The inflation, frustration, and translation
How can they do this, who does this, why did they do this?
The accusation, affixation, and allegation
The altercation, complication and defamation
I don't understand it, it's not candid, I'm reprimanded
But soon enough...

Inspiring song, how I long to be strong
They smiled at me, I see them
They whisper to me, I hear them
"Smile, go the mile, make it worthwhile
Fly, apply, and why do you speak in rhyme?
I think it's time, to step out, it's not a crime
Why be everyone else?"

I hear them, I see them, my intrusive elusive thoughts
My eternal mortal friends, thank you
I see the stars shine brightly, it all is slightly
Amazing, as they all are blazing, appraising
The night as it lights up the might of the moon
As my friends light up mine

Oh, these whispers of affirmation, creation, salvation, aspiration, and inspiration
What I'm trying to inquire is this entire poem are to inspire
Whispers of hope

Above is the poem "Diminuendo" by Casa Grande Union High School student Alayna Mark, District 3. Photo courtesy of TED.

Huff is also part of the Community's Suicide Prevention work group that works alongside Gila River Health Care's Behavioral Health Department and other departments.

She also leads an initiative to create a "training challenge" for TED employees to learn skills and

coping mechanisms that can aid in suicide prevention and awareness.

For information about suicide prevention, call Gila River Behavioral Health Services at 520-562-3321, ext. 7100. Also, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day.

Legacy of Service from the front Page

forward, the VFSSO staff worked with the Nelson family to plan an official memorial with military honors in Abraham's recognition.

"It took years for us to retrieve his records but once we did, we realized my grandfather was buried without honors. So from that point we began to work

with VFSSO to give my grandfather the honors he deserves," said Larry Nelson, Sr.

VFSSO's significant assistance yielded the cost of the headstone placement, presentation of the "Burial" Flag to the family, and a 21-gun salute for the memorial.

During the ceremony, Vah-Ki Presbyterian church members shared hymns for guests including one sung in the traditional O'otham language. A prayer and address was provided by David

Stewart. Lawrence Nelson's wife, Misala Peo-Nelson (Nez Perce / Umatilla), a member of the Native American Women Warriors organization, also presented the family with commemorative dog tags on this day.

Abraham B. Nelson, born Jan. 8, 1892, was an active member of the Community and his district. Widely regarded in District 5, Nelson maintained a strong presence there due to his dedication and service to the Vah-Ki Presbyteri-

an Church, where he also served as a deacon.

Later in life, Abraham would serve in the US Army in May of 1915 during the Mexican Border War, stationed at the US-Mexico border. During his service, he served in the CO F 1st Infantry Artillery Unit until the conflict ended in 1919.

Like many Native American service members, Abraham would serve at a time before Native Americans were granted citizenship in 1924. Larry cites

this as a measure of his grandfather's character as being "willing to pick up a rifle and defend a country that doesn't see him as a citizen." Larry and his family are proud of Abraham's dedication to his Community and to the country.

Prior to the memorial, Governor Lewis directed tribal staff to fly the US flag at half-mast at the GRIC Governance Center in honor of Abraham's service.

During his remarks, Gov. Lewis also mentioned

that Abraham lived alongside Chief Antonio Azul and served when the US was in conflict with Mexican forces, including Pancho Villa.

"We, as a Community, have a long history of honoring our veterans throughout time. Today, 40 years later, we are still honoring those that gave to this country and for those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to this nation," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.



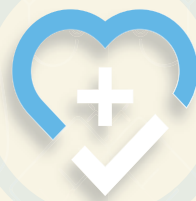
Lawrence "Larry" Nelson Sr. opens the ceremony honoring his grandfather among their family, District 5 members, Veterans & Family Services Office staff, and Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Community veteran David Anderson presents the burial flag to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis before giving it to the family of Abraham B. Nelson at his memorial service Monday Oct. 9. Kyle Knox/GRIN



grhc.org



GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE (520) 550-6079



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

In observance of

VETERANS DAY

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

CLOSED

Friday, November 10, 2023

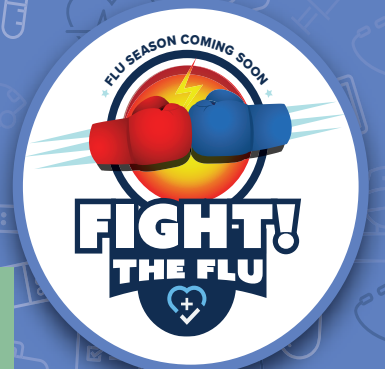
Regular business hours will resume on Monday, November 13, 2023

GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

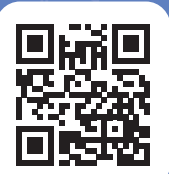
Flu vaccines are available in the Primary Care Departments at Gila River Health Care locations by walk-in and routine appointments during regular clinic hours.

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.



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SAVE THE DATE

LIFE CENTER
DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

Annual Health Fair

9 am - 2 pm

Komatke Health Center
Thursday,
November 16th

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital
Saturday,
November 18th

Scan QR code to read the October Newsletter

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988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GRIC CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449

Veteran's Corner

Submission by
GRIC Veteran and Family Service Office

The Veteran and Family Services Office (VFSO) is located at 264 S. Bluebird Rd. behind the fire station. We provide a variety of services to Veterans and their families. Our most often requested services are filing disability claims and claims for surviving spouses. We can assist Veterans requesting replacement DD214s or ordering military government headstones. If you are interested in finding out what you may be eligible for as a Veteran, surviving spouse or for minor aged dependent children, please make an appointment and we will review the benefits with you. Please let us know of any elderly Veterans that may require well-check vis-

its. If you would like us to keep a copy of your DD214 on file, you may bring it in for us to scan (no appointment is necessary). We will not keep originals or hard copies. You may submit your DD214 by email to kimberly.skelton.vfso@gric.nsn.us

Meet our staff:
Peer Specialist - US Army Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037
Peer Specialist- USMC Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4383
Veterans Service Officer -USMC Kim Skelton 520-610-7644
VFSO Coordinator-USMC Ret. Eric White 520-610-8793
Administrative Assistant -Samantha Jackson 520-610-5135
Veterans, if you were discharge with an Honor-

able or Under Honorable Conditions Discharge, you are eligible to be buried with military funeral honors. This includes flag folding and presentation, 21 gun salute and the playing of Taps. Your family must provide a DD214 to show eligibility for this to occur.

Please make sure your family knows where your DD214 is located or have a copy on file with our office.

--October is Agent Orange Awareness month

--Nov 9, 2023 Veteran's Day luncheon at the District 3 Multipurpose building 11:00 AM for Veterans and their families.

-- Nov 11, 2023 is Veteran's Day. Thank a Veteran for their service!

We assist GRIC Military Veteran employees and their families.

Chief Azul from the front Page

the Azul family arrived to witness this memorial. All were honored to see their sixth-great grandfather recognized for his esteemed rankings in political, military, and educational advocacy in the Community.

"All young people, re-

ally need to ask questions of their moms and dads and uncles, and especially ask questions of your grandparents," said Dean Azul, 5th generation descendant of Antonio Azul. "There's a lot of history that you can learn from them that you probably don't know about, and when they pass away you'll find yourself asking about

things."

The second day of the memorial brought together traditional singers, food vendors, and military veterans to the annual tribute. At the same time, the military veterans stood on guard in front of the grave in honor of Chief Azul. The ceremony concluded at sunrise on Oct. 14.



(From left to right) Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Stanley Sterling, Donald Sabori, David Anderson, Sage Etsitty Jr., Gary Rodriguez, Kimberly Skelton, Arnie Bread, Darrell Whitman, Josiah Manuel, Martin Isvak, Aaron Sabori, Joey Whitman, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Paul Maroney stand for photo at the memorial of Chief Antonio Azul. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Photo of the four wreaths placed on Chief Antonio Azul's gravesite carried in by veterans, first responders, and Jr. ROTC members from Blackwater Community School. Velia Moncada/GRIN

NOV 9TH **11AM THUR**

VETERANS DAY

Luncheon Celebration

LOCATION :
DISTRICT 3 MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

For More Information Contact:
Samantha Jackson 520-610-5135 | Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037
Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4384 | Kim Skelton 520-610-7644

O'odham Veterans Celebration

Saturday, October 28, 2023

District 4 Multipurpose Building

Starting
7am

**Gila River Indian Community
Santan District 4
1510 W. Santan Rd/Homerun Rd**

Ending
1pm

All Veterans & Families Invited

Traditional Blessing	7am
Registration	8am
Continental Breakfast	8:00 – 9:00am
Posting of Colors	9:00am
Program	9:10am
Lunch	11:30am – 12:30pm
DOD Gear	1pm

Door Prizes

Services Providers

Arts & Crafts Vendors

Entertainment

DOD Gear

Guest Speakers

For More Information Please Contact Doug Juan (602-327-5973) or Doreen Atkinson-Juan at (602-689-2837)

Funded in part by the Arizona Department of Veterans Services made available through the Arizona Veterans Donation Fund

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE
IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
IN THE RE: Case: CEDRIC STONEI, Petitioner/Plaintiff VS. ROLAIIID WILLIAM BLACI(WATER JR., Respondent/Defendant
CASE Number: CY-2023-0165-MO
TO: Roland William Blacswater Jr., 949 E. Roma Ave. #6, Phoenix, AZ, 85014
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court. YOU shall respond at an Answer/Response Hearing regarding this matter on:
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom I,

AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.
YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court. If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.
DATED this 26th day of September, 2023



S-he:pijig Mashath - He'ekia? How many?

Submission by
Huhugam Heritage Center

S-he:pijig Mashath translates to the "cold month," which notes the arrival of cooler weather and windy days.

There are several ways of counting in O'otham, each are slightly different, depended on the items being counted. Say you wanted to ask someone how old they are. One way to ask this question in O'otham is to say "He'ekia ap vuđ 'i aithag?" (How old are you?) This question makes use of the O'otham word "he'ekia" which the word that corresponds to the English word (how many) and the phrase "vuđ ahithag" (to be a certain number of years old). One way to respond to this question is to use the phrase "Thañ _____ ahithag" which says (I am _____ old) and add in your age using the O'otham number. For example, you could say

"Thañ gokko vesthma:m ahi-thag" (I am twenty years old).







He'ekia is used in different situations when you are asking how many people or items are being counted. It is also used when you want to ask how much something costs, or its worth. This is accomplished by using the question "He'ekia namkig?" (How much does it cost?). There are many possible answers to the question "He'ekia namkig?" that range from "I:vo 'o s-namkig." (It's really expensive.) to "Bi 'o shai namkig." (It's not that expensive). We can also give the exact price by using "pi:sh" and "lial" (Dollars and cents.) like "Tho vaik pi:sh ch heg hemako lial." (It costs \$3.25).

The O'otham word "he'ekia" is very useful and used when you want to find out how many people or things there are in a group. One last example for counting how many is asking how many pets

somebody owns. This can be done with "he'ekia" by using the general term for pets "shoshiga" or by asking specifically using the animal name and using the word ending "-ga" which denotes ownership. For example: You can ask "He'ekia ap 'i mimitholga?" (How many cats do you own?) if you wanted to know how many cats someone owns. The response would be in the same manner as the previous replies. As you can see, any item can be applied to "he'ekia?" (How many?).

This month's "Chukuđ ha Thash" (Ghost's their day), or (Halloween). When O'otham adapted to western society practices, they named items related to certain observations. In this case, they applied certain words to different Halloween items. "O'o Otham" (skeleton), "ge'e s-uam ha:l" (jack 'o lantern), "chu:chkuđ ha-ki:" (ghost's their house), or

He'ekia Chukud ha Thash Haichu ap ñeid? Match the question with its picture and answer!

He'ekia a'al am oimed?		Chudp ge'e s-uam ha:l 'o hehem.
He'ekia o'o Otham ab ke:k?		Añ ñeid hethasp nanakmel.
He'ekia ge'e s-ua:m ha:l am hehem?		Go:k o'o Otham am Ke:k.
He'ekia ba:ban 'o hi'hink?		Vaik ba:ban 'o hi'hink.
He'ekia nanakmel ap ñeid?		Gi'ik a'al am oimed.
He'ekia chu:chkuđ ha-ki: ab ñeid?		Añ ñeid hemako chu:chkuđ ha-ki:

Clipart Courtesy Robert Johnson

haunted house. Of course, we already know what a'al, ba:ban and nanak'mel are in O'otham. This month's word match will test your understanding of this question word as well as your numbers in O'otham. We en-

courage you to ask an Elder or fluent speaker how to say the phrases as they may be different between villages. A special Thank You to community Elders for sharing their knowledge about he'ek-

ia? and Chukuđ ha Thash that made this article possible.

Crossword Puzzle Solution on Page 15

FLU SEASON COMING SOON

FIGHT! The FLU

GET YOUR FLU SHOT

Beginning September 6, 2023, the Flu Vaccine will be available to GRHC Patients. Walk-in to one of our GRHC Primary Care Departments or visit a vaccine outreach event. *Please refer to the calendar of events for updates GRHC.ORG/HUB

Gila River HEALTH CARE

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital	(520) 562-3321 Ext. 1495
Komatke Health Center	(520) 550-6000 Ext. 6060
Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center	(520) 796-2600 Ext. 2697
Ak-Chin Clinic	(520) 568-3881
Pediatrics Department	(520) 562-3321 Ext. 7337

KNOW THE COVID-19 AND FLU SYMPTOMS

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (520) 562-5100

Both COVID-19 and Flu Symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Headaches
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat

Stay Home, See your Healthcare Provider & get tested
Look for emergency warning signs:

- Trouble breathing
- Continuous pain or pressure in chest
- New confusion, Inability to wake or stay awake, bluish face

For more information: Scan QR Code

Tribal Health Department (520)562-5100

Navigating the Fraudulent Sober Living Home Crisis

A cautionary tale of one family's search for hope that turned into a devastating ordeal

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

For Vickie Alba, a Gila River Indian Community member from District 6, what started as an opportunity to further her career ended up as an up-close experience with a fraudulent sober living home. Alba told her story to the Gila River Indian News in an effort to make Community members aware of the dangers these fake business can create – dangers that also endangered Alba's daughter Frances Schlater, a member of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians Tribe.

Earlier this year, the mother and daughter came across an ad on social media that offered tax preparation classes. "My mother and I decided to pursue them in hopes of me getting into a good career," said Frances. "I genuinely just wanted to pursue my career and find something."

The tax prep classes were held two to three times each week, offering discussions and packet work on becoming a tax preparer and how to provide customer service, said Schlater.

"However, the establishment itself was questionable," Frances recalls. "I remember saying to my mother, 'It seems kind of sketchy here.'"

Schlater explains that she brushed off her concerns because of the seemingly valuable services offered by the company, which includ-

ed a certificate upon completion of the program. She completed the classes and ended up finding a job as a tax preparer. Both women's personal information remained on file with the company. The organization eventually reached out to Vickie Alba after the company opened a sober living environment specifically for Native Americans.

"Since they knew that we were Native, they wanted me to give them some input and they were creating their website," said Alba. "They said, 'Well, if you're looking for a job, we would really love for you to come work with us. We want to provide services to the Native American community. They're highly underserved and we would just like to help them.'"

Alba adds, "I truly thought that they meant this."

Alba, who holds a state certification in peer support, thought she might be of use in the organization, although the job position was for an "art therapist" – a role she had never done before and which she says lacked a job description. She recalls being invited for an informal job interview in a local park.

"Yes, I have a degree, but I've never done this type of work," said Alba, who explained that to the company. "I'm not a counselor or a therapist or anything like that, (but) that didn't seem to bother them."



Vickie Alba and Frances Schlater together before their experience with a fraudulent sober living home in Phoenix this year. Photo courtesy of Vickie Alba

Alba was in school at the time and could only work one day each week. As she explains it, the organization agreed to work with her schedule. The mother adds that she previously worked for behavioral health facilities in the Valley, but those environments were far different from this particular place. As time went on, she says, those differences became clear.

"I can remember I was only there one day a week and I would go from one classroom, two hours with those clients and then they would actually drive me to another facility where there were other clients and I was there with them," said Alba.

Alba says she believed it was a legitimate program providing a service to those in need, despite the lack of

a written curriculum to follow and other staff members leaving as quickly as they were hired. Similar red flags began to follow as there were a fast increase in clients shared Alba.

"I'd go to work and we'd have like 20 or 30 new clients," Alba explains, adding that she began to question where the new clients were coming from. She says she eventually found out that clients were being utilized to recruit more people.

"They were actually, you know, paying them and encouraging them to go out there and giving them incentives to bring in more people from the streets," says Alba.

In legitimate sober living environments, the facilities typically provide safe housing and supportive, structured living conditions for those dealing with substance abuse.

Shortly after becoming employed with the program, Alba thought her daughter, Frances, who had been struggling with her mental health, might benefit from the place as well.

"They promised that she'd be okay there, that she could go to school, go to work," Alba explained. "They were happy to have her, and I truly thought that they meant it. You know, I truly thought that, okay, it's going to be okay. I'm here. I'll be able to see her."

Alba explains that many of the classes were being held in spaces around the Valley previously used for the tax preparation classes – including two classes in shopping plazas that lacked adequate space for such classes.

As Alba tells it, the actual "sober living homes" were situated in residential neighborhoods in two-story houses that were often bare. She says the vehicles used to transport clients were unidentifiable with such a business. Assuming that

more furniture and amenities would be added soon, Alba says she tried to overlook those conditions, given that the organization was just starting out.

Alba adds that many of their employees were tasked with multiple roles and were underqualified for their positions – including the therapists who offered only 15-minute sessions with clients and YouTube videos on substance abuse. The program lacked basic needs and structure, says Alba, including regular meals and water for clients. Lunch often consisted of just pizza and soda.

"If you're going to have people in a sober living environment, you should provide, in my mind, healthy food, healthy snacks, and plenty of water," said Alba. She adds that it was her understanding that the owners and employees lived in the Phoenix area, but none of them had previous background working with tribal members.

According to her, they served many tribal members from at least 14 different tribes from around the country, including as far as Alaska.

When asked why she continued to work for the program, Vickie said, "I kept going back because I truly cared about the clients and I really felt like we bonded."

Vickie's daughter, Frances, experienced a much different side of the operation when she began staying in one of the homes. Frances, a college student, admitted herself into the facility thinking it might improve her mental health while allowing her to attend work and school.

However, she saw that staff was not always present and the poor living conditions attracted cockroaches. She saw pills scattered throughout the house, the backyard littered with cigarette butts and empty beer bottles, and a glass sliding door that had been shattered. Frances explains that many of the clients were afraid to speak up about these issues for fear of getting kicked out or in trouble.

She revealed that clients were permitted to leave on the weekends and were encouraged to recruit other tribal members by receiving compensation. She says that they also were allowed to continue using drugs and alcohol in the home. She recalled one client who was fed up and refused to recruit additional clients.

"These people are making money, so much money off of us, off of Native Americans who are vulnera-

ble, who are desperate, who have mental health issues, who have addictions. And they're just going to take anything," said Schlater. "All I wanted was mental health services and safe residency, but somehow my mother and I got caught up in this loop to where they happen to be fraudulent."

One morning during her stay, Frances says she became involved in an altercation with another client in the home who verbally abused her. "So I put my foot down and confronted her," said Schlater, who asked the individual not to speak to her that way. The individual then became physically violent towards Frances, she says, pushing her to the ground and hitting her, causing a concussion, a black eye, back injury and multiple bruises.

Staff was not present at the time, says Schlater. Phoenix police became involved and treated it as a domestic violence situation. Both Frances and the individual were arrested and Frances was taken to the emergency room.

Afterwards, Vickie went to the home to find out more information about what happened and to retrieve her daughter's belongings. She was then told by staff that Frances had started the fight, despite none of the staff being present to witness the altercation at the time.

"It was really hard for me to look at my daughter because she was covered in bruises from head to toe," said Vickie Alba. "It makes me very sad because there are .. good places that will provide good care, but (we got) caught up in all of these lies."

After she quit the company, Alba filed reports against the organization, which is being investigated. Schlater is still recovering from her injuries while continuing her education in medical billing and coding. Both Frances and her mother have received additional assistance from Gila River Health Care's Behavioral Health Services, including counseling and therapy.

If you or a loved one have been affected by a fraudulent facility please call and report the site by dialing 211, dial 1 for English, and option 7 to report or receive services.

If an emergency or crime has taken place don't hesitate to call 911. And for those seeking services related to addiction or mental health call the Gila River Health Care's Behavioral Health Services at (520)-562-3321 ext. 7100.

Help for AHCCCS American Indian Health Program Members



**2-1-1
ARIZONA**

If you are in immediate danger, call 911

If you are, or know of, an AHCCCS member who lives in a sober living home or residential facility and you need help, please tell AHCCCS.

Get Help With Health Care Services

Call 2-1-1 and then press 7.

Report Abuse

If you or a loved one were mistreated by a provider: (602) 417-4885 or email CQM@azahcccs.gov.

Report Provider Fraud

It is illegal for someone to offer gift cards, meals, cash, or other gifts in exchange for Medicaid services.

- In Arizona: (602) 417-4045
- Toll-free outside of Arizona Only: 888-ITS-NOT-OK or 888-487-6686





HEADLINES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Monica Antone
Lt. Governor

U.N. Representative Visits GRIC, Tours Heritage Center

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

On Oct. 6, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples José Francisco Calí Tzay visited the Gila River Indian Community, where he toured the Huhugam Heritage Center.

“I appreciate the in-



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and José Francisco Calí Tzay, at the Huhugam Heritage Center on Oct. 6. Emma Hughes/GRIN

vitiation of the Gila River tribe to be here with them, to learn about their history, to learn about their past struggle, and especially I came here to be educated on the reality that they are living,” Calí Tzay said. “It’s amazing what they shared with us today because there are some things that nobody knows internationally.”

Calí Tzay is Maya Kaqchikel from Guatemala and was appointed Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2020, addressing human rights violations against the Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala and worldwide. He has been representing Indigenous peoples at the U.N. for nearly 40 years.

Special Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the Human Rights Council to respond to individual complaints, conduct studies, provide advice on technical cooperation, and undertake country visits to assess specific human rights situations.

Calí Tzay was joined by Huhugam Heritage Center staff and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis for a special tour of the facility, where he was given an inside look at the Community’s rich history on display in the gallery and repository.

“They need to share their history, everything that they have achieved, that is going to serve as an example for other Indigenous people around the world,” Calí Tzay said.

Gov. Lewis said the Community was really fortunate to have Calí Tzay come to the Community, “I had the opportunity to speak with him and we had a tremendous opportunity to showcase our story, our history here at the Huhugam Heritage Center.”

Gov. Lewis added, “This very important task in documenting the struggles and the ongoing survival of Indigenous peoples, looking at best practices are good examples, but also looking at where Indigenous peo-



Leland Thomas, Assistant Curator provides a tour of the Huhugam Heritage Center with Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and José Francisco Calí Tzay. Emma Hughes/GRIN

ples are struggling with their needs, with their nation states, with the countries; that they are continuing to survive within their Indigenous land bases, [honoring] treaty rights, water rights.”

GRIC shared their historic fight for water rights and the new innovations to protect and maintain their water and land, especially during Arizona’s current

mega drought.

“For him to come to the Community and to see firsthand, to hear our story and our significant struggles and successes as well, I think it was important. He wants to continue to keep the lines of communication open as well, as he continues to document in his important position,” Gov. Lewis said.

Calí Tzay shared that

he has been traveling to Bolivia, Ecuador, and Iceland, documenting some of the extreme situations and resilience of Indigenous peoples and communities.

Calí Tzay is currently hosted at the University of Arizona’s Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the James E. Rogers College of Law.

October Designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month by Gov. Hobbs



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone joins Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, along with state leaders and advocates for a signing ceremony on Oct. 3. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

On Oct. 3, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs was joined by Gila River Indian Community’s Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, public officials, state agency employees, law enforcement, and service providers for a signing ceremony at the State Capitol, declaring the month of Oct. as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

“I was honored to attend the signing ceremony, alongside other advocates across the state of Arizona

in honor of those victims and survivors of domestic violence,” said Lt. Gov. Antone, “It’s time we take a stand and bring attention to the issue.”

According to Gov. Hobbs’ proclamation, more than 52 million women and 49 million men in the United States have reported experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner.

One in two women and one in four men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate part-

ner during their lifetime. In 2022, there were 101 known domestic violence-related fatalities across the state.

Thirty percent of children are exposed to intimate partner violence before the age of two, and an additional 26 percent are exposed between the ages of two and seven, creating adverse lifelong lasting effects.

Victims of domestic violence often experience significant short and long-term impacts, such as frequent headaches, post-traumatic stress symptoms, difficulty

sleeping, chronic pain, and mental health effects.

“As Governor, I will continue to look for ways to protect and support victims of domestic violence and their families, just as I have done throughout my career,” said Gov. Katie Hobbs, “Today, I could not be more proud to sign a proclamation officially declaring Oct. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.”

Domestic Violence Awareness Month can help reduce the occurrence of violence between intimate partners, support survivors, and reduce harm to individuals, families, and communities.

“Today, I felt a heartfelt welcome by many I worked with in the past for the domestic violence commission,” said Lt. Gov. Antone, who in 2015 was assigned to the Domestic Violence Task Force for the State of Arizona to develop a consolidated state-wide plan to ensure coordinated and efficient use of resources to address domestic violence prevention, prosecution, and supportive services to victims.

Lt. Gov. Antone added, “Many have survived and some have passed due to violence, and it’s time to reflect and teach our children that it’s not normal to be in

unhealthy relationships.”

As a symbol of unity and hope, the State Capitol’s Executive Tower will be lit purple throughout the month as part of the 9th Lighting Arizona Purple Campaign.

In collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) and the Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women, the campaign provides an opportunity to sup-

port victims, connect families and communities with essential resources, and encourage Arizonans to end domestic violence.

“This work is vital to preventing domestic violence, building resilience, improving how to support survivors, and addressing the underlying causes of domestic violence and trauma in every corner of our state,” said Tonya Hamilton, Cabinet Executive Officer for GOYFF.



Governor’s Office of Youth, Family and Faith (GOYFF) Cabinet Executive Officer Tonya Hamilton and GRIC Lt. Gov. Monica Antone. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Eddie Basha Collection to be donated to two metro Phoenix museums

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

The Basha family, founders of one of Arizona's largest grocery chains, will donate the late Eddie Basha's Collection of fine art, including American Indian and Western American art, to the Heard Museum in Phoenix and the Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. The Basha family officially announced the move at the Basha Gallery located at the Basha's Support Center in South Chandler on Monday, Oct. 9.

Edward "Eddie" Najeeb Basha Jr. was the chairman and CEO of Basha's Inc., Arizona's family-owned grocery store company. The small company expanded to 160 stores across Arizona, becoming integral to many diverse communities. In 1971, under the encouragement of his aunt Zelma Basha, Eddie began collecting art. He grew up captivated by the American West and gravitated toward Western art genres. He also built the gallery to house all of it and welcomed the public to see his art pieces free of charge. The donation gift com-



The Heard Museum's David M. Roche, GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Nadine Basha, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, and CEP of the Western Spirit Museum of the West, Todd Bankofier at the Eddie Basha Collection on Oct. 9. CPAO Photo

prises more than 2,000 works of art that span three centuries, including rare and important examples of paintings, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, katsina dolls, and basketry from the Akimel O'otham, Tohono O'odham,

Yavapai, Apache, Hopi, and Navajo tribes. Pieces of art from members of the Cowboy Artists of America and many other artists are also featured in the collection.

In March of 2013, Eddie Basha Jr. passed away.

The Raley's Company purchased the Basha chain in 2021, and now the massive art collection requires a new home.

"My family and I are delighted to make this gift to the Heard Museum and

Western Spirit: Scottsdale Museum of the West. We are confident that these two world-class institutions will be excellent partners in fulfilling Eddie's wish to continue to share the collection and have it remain in Ari-

zona," said Nadine Basha, Basha's widow.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis also attended and discussed the mutual respect between Basha and local tribes.

"The Gila River Indian Community has a long history with the Basha family. Eddie Basha had such a deep understanding of the culture," said Gov. Lewis.

The collection will remain at its Chandler location through Nov. 30 before moving to their new homes in Phoenix and Scottsdale.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis shares remarks for the gathered audience. CPAO Photo

Missing Person Identification Project helps GRIC Families

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

Thirty people from seven Gila River Indian Community families with missing relatives met with federal and tribal law en-

forcement authorities and other resource providers at the Missing Person Identification Project (MPIP) on Sept. 26-27 in District 3's Sacaton Middle School and the District 6 Head Start Center.

The goal of this program is to provide families an opportunity to file for a new missing person's report or provide supplement critical identification information to an ongoing case. In addition, the MPIP event

allowed families and law enforcement to cross-reference missing persons' reports that are closed and/or state that the person is no longer missing.

DNA was collected from family members to assist with investigations into nine cases, including seven missing persons cases and two cold-case homicides. One family that attended the event for their missing family member was also able to inquire about another relative who was murdered in 1990. They were connected to the law enforcement agency that led the investigation in the 1990s.

"Hosting this event is will hopefully bring out any

additional information in the Community, making it a one-stop shop for victims and the families, where they can talk to different services and agencies," said Chief Jesse Crabtree, Gila River Police Department.

Support services on hand included NamUs (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System), the Gila River Police Department, the FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs Murdered and Missing Unit, Gila River Prosecutor's Office, United States Attorney's Office, Gila River Indian Community Crime Victim Services and the Gila River Behavioral Health services.

"This is really for the

Community and for the victims and their families so that they may receive some answers and ultimately some closure," said Jerry Grambow, a supervisory special agent with the FBI covering the Phoenix region. "When the FBI is working in collaboration with other tribal agencies, this is the best way to help. It's a team approach; together to help individuals in the Community."

Similar MPIP events are tentatively scheduled at other Native American communities in Arizona, including the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the coming months.

Gila River Indian Community	
2023 GENERAL ELECTION	
DATE	EVENT
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023	VOTER REGISTRATION OPENS for the General Election, November 7, 2023
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023	VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSES for the General Election
OCTOBER 4, 2023	GRIC Community Council certifies the election results from the Primary Election, held September 19, 2023
OCTOBER 6, 2023	ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS for the General Election
NOVEMBER 6, 2023	ABSENTEE VOTING CLOSES , for the General Election. All absentee ballots must be accepted by a District Judge or the Tribal Elections office by 5 pm.
November 7, 2023	GRIC GENERAL ELECTION DAY Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
NOVEMBER 13, 2023	DEADLINE TO PROTEST THE ELECTION: any registered voter can file a protest in writing to the Election Board Chairperson by 5:00 pm.
DECEMBER 6, 2023	GRIC Community Council certifies the election results from the General Election
JANUARY 1, 2024	Newly elected candidates for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge and Associate Judges are sworn into office.



Gila River Fire Dept. Crisis Response Team distributed teddy bears to families in need to decompress at the MPIP event. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Indigenous Peoples' Day 2023 Indigenizes the Valley

Velia Moncada
Gila River Indian News

The Indigenous-led, Indigenous-owned art and entrepreneur space Cahokia Socialtech + Artspace hosted the second annual Indigenous Peoples' Day Festival on Oct. 9. This year's event took place at the Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix for a day of celebrations dedicated to America's Indigenous people and Arizona tribes.

The festival included cultural presentations, musical performances, a skateboarding competition, vendors as well as informational booths including one set up by the Gila River Indian Community, who were also a sponsor. Local leaders including Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego attended in addition to various tribal leaders.

Gila River Royalty was also on hand with 2023-24 Miss Gila River Mavis

Thomas and 2023-24 Jr. Miss Gila River Eleanor Lynch participating in the festivities.

"We wanted to organize a festival that would celebrate the unique cultures, identities, and talents of all of our amazing Indigenous people here," said Mike Webb, Community Cultivator for Cahokia. Webb explained that Cahokia is a platform to amplify Indigenous voices and perspectives,

especially through means of entrepreneurship for small-business owners.

This year's theme was to "Indigenize the Valley" with a retro throwback theme, in attempts to reconnect individuals with their Community elders and increase awareness to other metropolitan areas of Indigenous contributions and ingenuity prior to Arizona's statehood.

Festival-goers were

treated to many activities throughout the day featuring Indigenous Film Screenings presented by Cahokia PHX and Indie Film Fest, the Inaugural Sacred Cycle of Life Bike tour hosted by RVSO + Heavy Pedal Phoenix. Downtown Showdown Skateboard Competition hosted by Seven Layer Army Skateboards. An Indigenous pop-up market featuring over 120 Indigenous artisans and food vendors.

A "Rez Fest" music festival with two curated stages showcasing local bands, musicians, and cultural performances. There was also a Community Zone featuring valley partners like the Phoenix Suns and more. A presentation called Growing for the Future (Plants, Indigenous Foods) and musical guests took place near the Heard Museum that day as well.



Photo of the many booths, vendors, and activities found at the Indigenous Peoples' Day festival. Velia Moncada/GRIN



Community artist Chadwick Pasqual, District 3, contributed to the Indigenous Peoples' Day Mural pictured above. CPAO Photo



An Aztec dance performance took place at the Indigenous Peoples' Day event on Oct. 9. CPAO Photo



Artificial Red perform at the Indigenous Peoples' Day event. CPAO Photo

STEPHEN ROE LEWIS

for Governor

Still Putting Our People First!

Experience, Proven Leadership, Results.



Nike Store and Nike N7 host youth for "Only Basketball"

CPAO Staff
Communications & Public Affairs Office

On Oct. 13, in collaboration with Nike and N7, Native American youth basketball teams, includ-

ing Gila River, gathered at Tempe Marketplace's Nike store for its grand reopening event, "Only Basketball." This event presented the teams with fresh basketball equipment and an opportunity to hit the court. Phoenix

Suns shooting guard Josh Okogie was in attendance, connecting with the youth.

"I love how the game grows in the Native American community. It has been great," said Okogie, who did a Q&A with the players

and participated in some of the drills with the instructors.

Okogie also said he appreciated the support for the Suns from Arizona's Native population and enjoyed working with the youth. "I



Josh Okogie greets and hi-fives all the Native youth present for the Q and A portion of the event. CPAO Photo



Josh Okogie (center) poses for a photo with the youth participants at the "Only Basketball" event at Tempe Marketplace where the youth enjoyed a basketball clinic. CPAO Photo

do it with great pride and honor," he said.

Gila River head coach Brent Escalante had been busy teaching the game to youth during fall break when Robert Johnston, head coach of AZ Warriors, asked if he had a team for the "Only Basketball" event. Escalante had several school-aged children eager to attend.

"Gila River does an excellent job of getting their kids out there and keeping them active," said Johnston.

Escalante said his players were excited to participate and learn more about the game of basketball.

"They love these type of events," said Escalante.

The Nike Unite – Town Lake, located at Tempe Marketplace, set up a court for drills and also opened its doors for the players and parents to attend the Q&A with the Okogie. The action then went outdoors, and the players hit the hardwood for a series of drills and instruction in their brand-new basketball sneakers courtesy of Nike.

Okogie also posed for a group photo and left the court, but not after showing off his 42.5-inch vertical with a two-handed alley-oop slam dunk.

What's In Our Name? New Exhibit Opening at S'edav Va'aki Museum

Submission by
S'edav Va'aki Museum

Phoenix, AZ – What's In Our Name? celebrates the Museum's name change from Pueblo Grande to S'edav Va'aki, a name chosen by our tribal partners, the O'Odham, whose ancestors previously inhabited the site. Names have power, both emotionally and spiritually through oral history. The City of Phoenix is continuing on its journey of healing with this renaming.

The exhibit will also explore other ways in which the Museum has grown through an updated mission statement, new interpretation signs, programing, and ultimately, an entirely new

interpretation plan.

What's In Our Name? will be on display at S'edav Va'aki Museum from November 7, 2023 through June 2024.

S'edav Va'aki Museum (formerly Pueblo Grande) is a 1,500-year-old archaeological site once inhabited by the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People. Voted a Phoenix Point of Pride and listed as a National Historic Landmark, the Museum offers two accessible interpretive trails on the prehistoric site. Visitors view a platform mound, ballcourt and irrigation canals. Indoor exhibits feature artifacts from the site and hands-on activities. The Museum provides

preservation, education, and collaborative interpretation of the cultural history of the Phoenix area and is managed by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department.

Throughout the year, S'edav Va'aki Museum offers programs for visitors of all ages. Check out www.phoenix.gov/sedav-vaaki or call (602) 495-0901 for more information about upcoming programs and events.

S'edav Va'aki Museum
4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602) 495-0901
www.phoenix.gov/sedav-vaaki

The Museum is located on the Southeast corner of 44th St. and Washington St.

Accessible by the Sky Train and the Sky Harbor Airport Light Rail Station Stop

Follow us on Facebook

@PuebloGrandeMuseum and on Twitter @PuebloGrande

Hours: Museum Hours: October through April – Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Sunday 1 to 4:45 p.m. CLOSED

Sunday and Monday May through September and most major holidays.

Admission: Adults \$6, Seniors (55+) \$5, Children (6-17) \$3, under 6 are Free

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT THE GILA RIVER ROYALTY COMMITTEE

Number of Vacancies	Term of Service	Deadline
Five (5)	3 years	OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Royalty Committee (GRRC) must submit a Letter of Interest to the Communications & Public Affairs Office, (include your address and phone number). Provided below is the GRRC Purpose and Terms of Membership outlining the qualifications, duties & responsibilities of the positions.

The purpose of the Gila River Royalty Committee shall be to coordinate the annual Gila River Royalty Pageant as well as oversee the travel itinerary and coordinating activities within the Gila River Indian Community, State of Arizona agencies, and organizations throughout the United States.

Membership to the Gila River Royalty Committee shall be open to any enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Committee, of which, two seats will be specifically filled by former Miss Gila River title holders

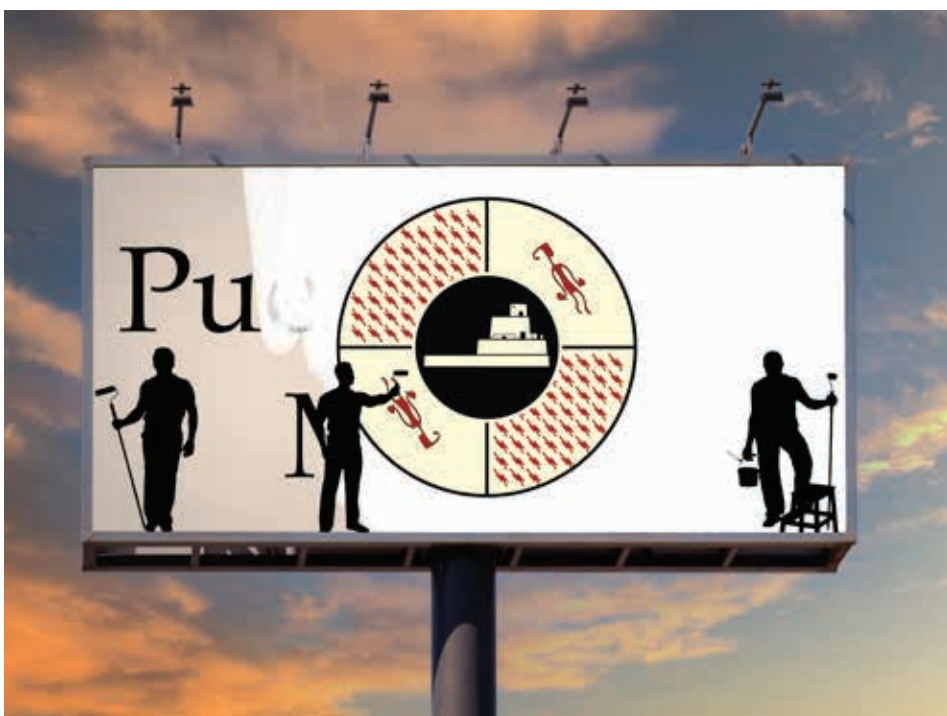
Members of the Gila River Royalty Community are expected to maintain a positive attitude and influence to the Gila River Royalty.

Letters of interest can be submitted:
Communications & Public Affairs Office
PO Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

By Mail to :
Communications & Public Affairs Office
Attn: Royalty Committee
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

By E-mail to:
missgilariver@gric.nsn.us

For more information please contact: 520-562-9713



“Beauty of Native Art” showcased at Native American Connections Parade

CPAO Staff

Communications & Public Affairs Office

The “Beauty of Native Art” was at the heart of the Native American Connections (NAC) 39th Annual Parade in Phoenix on Oct. 14. The long-running parade highlighted the arts with local tribes and Native American organizations

participating in the Saturday morning procession honoring Arizona’s tribal communities.

The Gila River Indian Community contributed with entries, including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Gila River Royalty, Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84, 2023 Miss Indian Arizona

Contestant Kelsey Martinez, among other GRIC members and groups who joined the fun.

The parade started on 3rd Street and Oak Street to Indian School Road.

The Phoenix Indian Center also hosted an open house and social pow-wow at Steele Indian Park following the parade.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis walks in the 2023 NAC parade. CPAO Photo



Lt. Gov. Monica Antone greets others on the parade route. CPAO Photo



2023-24 Miss Gila River Mavis Thomas rides through the NAC parade. CPAO Photo



2023-24 Miss Indian Arizona Sistine Lewis and MIA contestants walk the parade on Oct. 14. CPAO Photo

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

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

Project Dream Catcher Elevates Female Native Entrepreneurs

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

On the morning of Oct. 13, the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University held their Project Dream Catcher graduation. The Freeport-McMoran Foundation created Project Dream Catcher in partnership with the Thunderbird School of Global Management to build the capacity of women business owners from Arizona tribes.

Vonda Martinez, from District 6, was one of 23 graduates representing the Gila River Indian Community. Martinez graduated from the project with more knowledge of running her two businesses. A Com-

munity food pantry, found in District 6, and a chair/table and inflatable jumper/bounce house rental company named “Last Call Rentals.”

Martinez’s entrepreneurial aspirations began when she noticed the Community would reach out to outside resources for chairs, tables, and inflatable jumpers/bounce house rentals. She thought to herself, “I might as well do one, and have it native-owned within our Community,” she said. Such a service could help the Community by using resources from within she furthered.

“For the pantry, I saw a need,” said Martinez. She created the venture with an

aspiration to assist elders and individuals with limited income, little to no transportation, or access to stores. “The pantry is open 24/7,” said Martinez.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis is also supported Martinez for her hard work and dedication to the Dream Catcher Program. “She is a leading entrepreneur now, coming back to the Community after going through this program. She is definitely going to be a powerful and tremendous asset in building our economy back home.”

Martinez said she was happy she went through the program because it helped her learn more in-depth skills on how to run her business as a running ma-

chine versus just attempting to run it as it goes. “If you see a passion in doing something that you want to

do as a business, do it and also come here and you’ll get more out of it,” she said. Lastly, she mentioned

to “rent from us for all your chair and inflatable jumper needs.”



Vonda Martinez, District 6 standing with Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis in front of the GRIC flag as a homage of including the flag at the Dream Catcher event. Velia Moncada/GRIN

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Save the Date

Winter Bird Count

December 2nd, 2023

GRRC Honors Esther Manuel's Retirement at Celebration



Esther Manuel, seated, holds a certificate of appreciation at her retirement party on Oct. 13 at the Wild Horse Pass Casino Conference Center joined by, from left, District 6 Council Representative Anthony Villareal, District 4 Council Representative Nada Celaya and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. CPAO Photo



Family, friends, coworkers and tribal leadership attended a retirement party in honor of Lone Butte Development General Manager Esther Manuel for her 32 years of service. Manuel received several gifts including a certificate of appreciation from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis for her years of exceptional service and leadership. CPAO Photo

District 6 Gathering continues preservation of O'otham Indigeneity

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community celebrated American Indian Day on the third Friday in Sept. This year saw it land on Sept. 15, where Districts celebrated in their own unique ways to commemorate their Indigenous pride. The District 6 Service Center hosted several days of Community History, O'otham Language Bingo, traditional food cooking, learning of traditional singing and dancing, and social activities on Sept. 21, 22, 27 and 28, which culminated to their final social gathering in Kalka Park on Sept. 30, for GRIC members to learn more about their O'otham Himdag.

Denise Jackson, Recreation Coordinator, planned the District 6 Social Gathering with encouragement from a Community elder, to incorporate O'otham culture. "I was told this way began with our ancestors and should be how we treat each other; with love, care

and sharing" she said in an interview with the GRIN.

Mike Tashquith, District 6, and Barbara Parsons, District 6, gave lessons on Sept. 21 to Community members about how the villages in the District 6 area came to be and the first families who were here. Both elders said to those in attendance, "learn the language and the O'otham Himdag, if you don't the outside world is ready to take our land away; it is important to our identity as tribal members and to keep the land."

On Sept. 21, Jackson and Parsons hosted O'otham Language Bingo using O'otham words and phrases.

Cooking of traditional food was presented by Jasper Pilone, Tohono O'odham Nation, teaching how to make, Wiscojula (Sweet Cookies) and chumath making was taught by Cheyanne Jackson, District 6, on Sept. 27.

Hunter Nish, District 2, assisted with tradition sing-

ing and dancing demonstrations on Sept. 28., followed by sharing of bird singing and dancing by Jeffrey Thomas, from Parker, Arizona and Gaberiel Olmedo, from Lehi, Arizona with Bird Dancer Janie Foulke, District 7.

The full slate of activities led to the larger event on Sept. 30, beginning with basket dancers and social songs, along with samples of traditional foods such as Gaivsa (ground Corned Soup), O'otham Poshol (Soup of wheat berries, brown tepary beans, and meat), Skov chumath (lazy man's bread), and samples of melons. Bird Singing and Dancing was also on display throughout the gathering. Also, songs from Peach Springs, Arizona was shared by Sterling Selana. The evening concluded with a giveaway dance with plenty of goodies to give thanks to all that attended to celebrate the O'otham Himdag.

Defense Services Office celebrates its 20-year Anniversary

Submission by
Defense Services Office

Oct. 11, 2023 marked the 20-year anniversary celebration of Defense Services Office, the Community's public defense office.

DSO invited community members and special guests to join in the celebration. Governor Stephen R. Lewis offered welcoming for the event, praising the work of DSO and reminding everyone of its service to the Community in making sure the accused are properly defended.

He acknowledged past leadership for developing the Community's public defense office two decades ago and recognized the event's other speakers: Community member Aaron Sabori and Keynote Speaker Diane Enos from Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. In her keynote speech, Ms. Enos mentioned the many times she as SRP-MIC President and Governor Lewis worked together on tribal issues in the state and nationally.

Governor Lewis' father, the late Rod Lewis, then General Counsel for the Community, was one of those leaders who were instrumental in establishing the department.

Next, Community member Aaron Sabori, artist and former paralegal of DSO, spoke about the importance of culture to be instilled in Community departments, such as DSO's 15-person office. DSO is comprised of 11 Native employees of which six are Community members.

Back in October of 2019, Mr. Sabori led a cultural event for DSO. He spearheaded the building the Vatho that sits in front of the office facing Bluebird Rd. across from the Mul-Chu-Tha fairgrounds parking lot. Mr. Sabori recently returned to reinforce the Vatho and now will stand tall for the next 20 years.

To close out the celebration, Ms. Enos recounted her many years as a public defender in Maricopa County, some of those years

while simultaneously serving on SRP-MIC Council. She spoke of the humanity of her clients. Throughout her professional career, she supported adult rehabilitation and child development programs that address recidivism and crime prevention.

As the night ended, Lt. Governor stopped by to offer encouraging words to DSO staff members. "In the early 80's, Due Process to families was not available," Lt. Governor said, noting that the tribal judges knew defendants needed public defense representation. "I recall Mr. Ray Vaca as the first director who started the department. The Defense office has come a long way under the leadership of Claude Jackson and his team. Thank you defense services for 20 years of service to our Community."

DSO thanks the Governor, Lt. Governor, Tribal Council and the Court for its many years of support and promises to maintain its highest level of criminal defense for its clients.

GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
22ND ANNUAL
HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL
MUSIC, FOOD, VENDORS, CANDY
28
OCTOBER
2023
GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
SACATON, AZ
6:00PM - 8:00PM
FOR INFORMATION:
CELESTINA.PEREZ@GRIC.NSN.US

SPOOKTACULAR PET COSTUME CONTEST

Dress your pet in their Halloween best and submit a photo of your four legged friends in their spookiest costume!

Prizes will be awarded to: Best Costume, Spookiest Costume, Funniest Costume Most Original Costume & Fan Favorite Costume

1st place winner in each category will win a \$100 gift card to Petco

How to enter:

- Dress your pet in Halloween costume and take photo. Submit a clear photo of pet only
- Email your photo to Special.Events@gric.nsn.us Include your pets name and costume description
- Include pet owners full name, phone number & address
- Contest is open to GRIC enrolled pet owners only
- Winners must be able to pick up prize in person

All entries must be received by Friday October 27, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.

If you have questions please call (520) 562-9859

Announcements & Notices

What's New at GRICUA?

GRICUA Pole Inspections

You may see crews from Premier Pole Inspections in the Community conducting pole testing and inspections to the GRICUA and SCIP 69kV & 12 kV systems. Proper pole inspection and maintenance can help extend the lifespan of utility poles, reducing the need for frequent replacements and



lowering overall costs.

New Employee – David Clarke

GRICUA is happy to introduce our new Meter Technician – David Clarke. David started his career in Denver as a Meter Tech contractor for Xcel Energy in 2007. In September of 2010, Xcel Energy hired David as an Electric Metermen Apprentice.

David graduated the Metermen Apprenticeship in June of 2013. After finishing his apprenticeship, David completed a two-year training program from the Rocky Mountain Meter School advancing from Journeyman Metermen to Senior Metermen. Still wanting to challenge himself David left his position as Senior Metermen to become a Relay Technician Apprentice in the System Protection Department for Xcel Energy working with both Transmission Line and Distribution voltages. David is married with two beautiful daughters and it is his joy in life to provide for his family.

District Days

GRICUA is happy to announce the return of District Days!! It has been nearly 3 years since GRICUA held District Days. We are excited to get back out into the Community to offer customer service assistance and to accept payments for electric bills and propane.

Sacaton District Days at District 3 Multipurpose Building from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (electric and propane).

- Wednesday, November 8th
- Wednesday, December 6th
- Komatke District Days at Komatke Service Center from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (propane only).
- Thursday, November 9th
- Thursday, December 7th

REMINDERS

Bill Payment Options for GRICUA Residential Customers:

- GRICUA Drop Payment Box
- Online (VISA and Mastercard Credit/Debit Cards and E-check)
- GRICUA Mobile App
- By phone (520-796-0600, 24 hours a day)
- By mail (6636 W. Sundust Rd., Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226)

Call Before You Dig

GRICUA is a member of Arizona Blue Stake. Please call 1-800-782-5348 to request an underground line locate of both GRICUA and SCIP on reservation facilities.

GRICUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to gricuacomment@gricua.net. You can also go to our website at www.gricua.net.

GRICUA's Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Payments are accepted on-line and by phone both during our normal operating hours as well as afterhours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment options please call during normal business hours.

Customer Appreciation Day 2023

November 2, 2023
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
GRICUA
6636 W. Sundust Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85226

BECAUSE WE VALUE YOU!

- Hourly Gift Card Giveaways
- Photo Booth
- Bounce House
- Bingo with Gift Basket Prizes
- Complimentary Food: Hamburgers, Grilled Chicken, Baked Beans, Chips, and Refreshing Drinks
- Building Tours
- Information Sessions: Learn about our Billing Programs, Mobile App, and Customer Portal
- Power Town Demonstration
- Engaging Games and More

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

It's WATT We Do!

He'ekia Chukud ha Thash Haichu ap ñeid? SOLUTION!

He'ekia a'al am oimed?
 He'ekia o'o Otham ab ke:k?
 He'ekia ge'e s-ua:m ha:l am hehem?
 He'ekia ba:ban 'o hi'hink?
 He'ekia nanakmel ap ñeid?
 He'ekia chu:chkuð ha-ki: ab ñeid?

Chudp ge'e s-uam ha:l 'o hehem.
 Añ ñeid hethasp panakmel.
 Go:k o'o Otham am Ke:k.
 Vaik ba:ban 'o hi'hink.
 Gi'ik a'al am oimed.
 Añ ñeid hemako chu:chkuð ha-ki:

Clipart Courtesy Robert Johnson

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
 TO: Manuel Hernandez, IN THE MATTER OF, MARCARET ROBLES
 CASE Number: PB-2023-00-18-DE
 CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
 Please take notice that a **Review Hearing** has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:
 Monday, November 27, 2023 at 2:00 PM in Courtroom VII, Westend Judicial Center, 4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ.
 Given under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.
 DATED this 16th day of October, 2023

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE
 IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
 TO: Rochinda Thomas and Jerald Teller
 IN THE MATTER OF, M.T.
 DOB: 10/7/2017 - Minor Child(ren)
 CASE Number: JC-2023-0208-CA
Summons
Petition for Customary Adoption
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, a Petition for Customary Adoption has been filed regarding your child/

children in the Gila River Indian Community Children's Court. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter under the Gila River Indian Community Children's Code.
Answer/Response Hearing:
 DATE: October 27, 2023
 TIME: 11:00AM
 LOCATION: Westend Judicial Center 4751 West Pecos Road Laveen, AZ 85339

FOUR RIVERS INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES
 a division of Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

Attention Gila River Members!

Four Rivers has installed a new land line exclusively for community members. To skip the voice recording and be directly connected to the office, please contact us at **520-562-3902**. You can also contact us by using our current number 520-562-3369.

If you leave a voicemail, we will call you back!

LSC
 America's Partner for Equal Justice

GO D-BACKS!!!

10/23

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Oct. 4, 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, October 4, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:04 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa (9:18), Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.(9:10), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird(10:00)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #1 AND #3; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #26; AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

REPORTS

>1. 3rd Quarter Budget American Legion Haskell Osife Antone Post 51

Presenters: David Anderson, Belen Lawlor, Avery White

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. 2023 Mul-Chu-Tha Report

Presenters: Roberto A. Jackson, Kelly Whitman

REPORT HEARD

>3. FY 2023 1st Half Report Post 84 Activity Report

Presenters: Tony McDaniel, Bill Dixon, Luis Federico

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report August 2023 (Executive Session) Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Richard Strafella, Tony DeMark, Robin Villareal, Majdi Kayyali, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK; MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:42 A.M.]

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Arizona Cancer Foundation For Children Improving Outcomes For

Children With Cancer Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with correction and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Arizona Humane Society, Humane Teens: Animal Welfare, STEAM Focused Service Learning Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Assistance League Of Phoenix Operation School Bell® Wardrobes For Children In Poverty Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For The City Manager's Office Of Sustainability Student Council Sustainability Officer Initiative (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Elevate Phoenix Improving At-Risk Youths' Academic Success And Futures Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine Council Girl Scout Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Heard Museum K-12 Free Admission Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Homeward Bound Career & Community Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's

State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Human Services Campus, Inc. Respire Shelter (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Kid In The Corner Penny Pledge Youth Suicide Prevention And Mental Health Awareness Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For OCJ Kids Restoring Dignity Room (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>12. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Phoenix AKArma Foundation Ultimate Technology Extra-Curricular Education Programs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>13. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For The Phoenix Office Of Heat Response And Mitigation Summer Outreach And Communication Campaign (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>14. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Phoenix Parks And Recreation Department Homestead Park Playground Renovation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

15. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Phoenix Planning And Development Department Rio Reimagined Community Plan (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

APPROVED WITH CORRECTION

>16. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Rosie's House Free Afterschool Music And Leadership Program For Under-Resourced Kids (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >17. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For St. Mary's Food Bank Skills Center (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>18. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For The Opportunity Tree Youth Transitions Program From Youth With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>19. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For The Phoenix Symphony Music Education Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>20. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Upward For Children And Families Inclusive Early Care And Education (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>21. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Tempe For Treasures 4 Teachers Free And Low-Cost Supplies For Teachers And Students (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>22. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The Town Of Florence For Pinal County Historical Society Upgrades To Property Fencing (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>23. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Arizona Center For Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo Outdoor Native Species Conservation Complex (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>24. A Resolution Approving An Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And BOKF, NA For Fiscal Year 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement

Continued on next page

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS Cont.'d

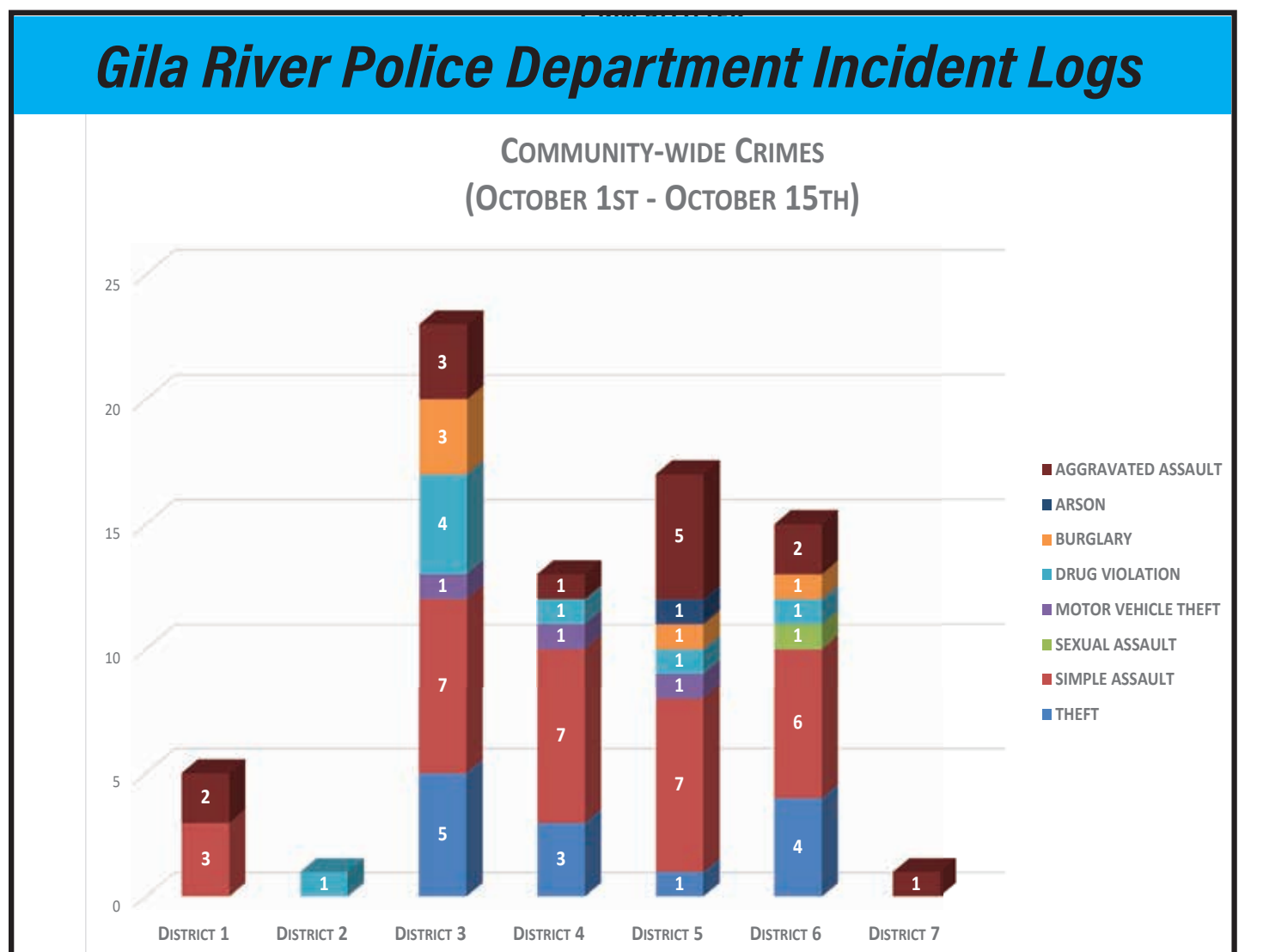
Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • Oct. 4, 2023

on the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >25. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And RVK, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 >26. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement (Defined Benefits Plan) Between The Gila River Indian Community And Yoder & Langford, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
 Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
 ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 27. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Dorsey & Whitney, LLP For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE RESOLUTION'S #27 THROUGH #35
 28. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And DR Law PLLC For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 29. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson & Halloran, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 30. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Lippes Mathias, LLP For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 31. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Osborn Maledon, P.A. For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 32. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Rothstein Donatelli, LLP For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 33. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River

Indian Community And Public Policy Partners For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 34. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Center For Applied Research, Inc. For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
 35. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Yoder & Langford, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenters: Thomas Murphy, Javier G. Ramos
 APPROVED AT RESOLUTION #27
ORDINANCES
 1. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Amends Title 5, Criminal Code Section 5.1522 And Section 5.1809 (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)
 Presenter: Anthony J. Hill
 APPROVED
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
 >1. Gila River Farms FY24 Initial Budget (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. Tribal Opioid Litigation Payments Permissible Uses and Reporting Requirements (H&SSC forwards to Council

as FYI; G&MSC concurs)
 Presenter: Sunshine Manuel
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT
 3. OGC Employment Matter (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session for discussion and action)
 Presenter: Government & Management Standing Committee
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TERMINATE MR. THOMAS MURPHY FOR CONVENIENCE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 11, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.
 4. General Counsel Position (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval and to concur with the Reviewing Committee)
 Presenter: Thomas Murphy
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HIRE AND APPROVE THE ATTACHED CONTRACT FOR JAVIER GARCIA RAMOS AS THE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND AUTHORIZE FOR AN EMPLOYEE ACTION NOTICE TO BE PROCESSED PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACT TERMS. THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL WILL PROCEED WITH THE RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE OGC CONTRACT
 5. Certification of the Gila River Indian Community 2023 Primary And Special District Five Community Election Results (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify Gordon Santos Jr.) (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the Candidates for Governor and to be moved to the General Election Stephen Roe Lewis and Monica Antone) (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the Candidates for Lt. Governor and to be moved to the General Election Regina Antone and David Anderson) (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the Candidates for Associate Judge

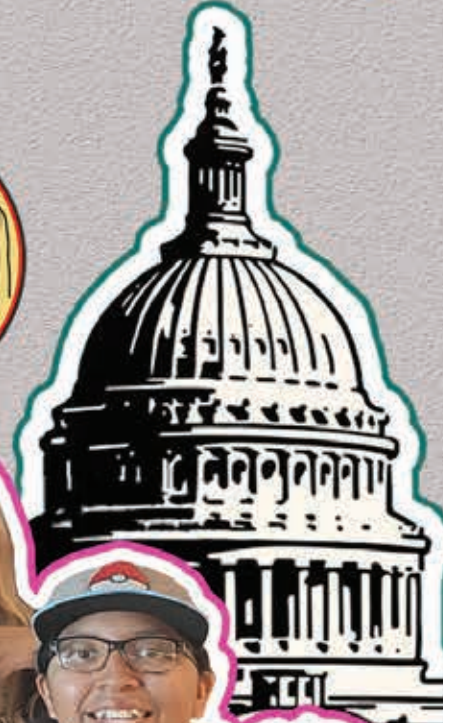
and be moved to the General Election Sheri L. Cassa, Brianna L. Rhodes, Gwendolyn P. Morago, Lucinda M. Nez, Charles W. Aragon, Darren Pedro-Martinez, Danielle B. Allen, Starlet Jones, Richard Cachola, Garren Manuel)
 Presenters: Nadine Shelde, Shannon White, Javier Ramos
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY SPECIAL DISTRICT FIVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFY GORDON SANTOS, JR.
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY 2023 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS, AND CERTIFY THE CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR: STEPHEN ROE LEWIS AND MONICA ANTONE
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY 2023 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS, AND CERTIFY THE CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR: REGINA ANTONE AND DAVID ANDERSON
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY 2023 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS, AND CERTIFY THE CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGE: SHERI L. CASSA, BRIANNA L. RHODES, GWENDOLYN P. MORAGO, LUCINDA M. NEZ, CHARLES W. ARAGON, DARREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ, DANIELLE B. ALLEN, STARLET JONES, RICHARD CACHOLA, AND GARREN MANUEL
MINUTES
 1. September 20, 2023 (Regular)
 APPROVED
ANNOUNCEMENTS
 • LITIGATION TEAM MEETING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.
ADJOURNMENT
 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:07 P.M.
 Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
 > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



2024 Washington Youth Tour

June 14-21, 2024

APPLY FOR
**THE TRIP OF A
 LIFETIME!!**

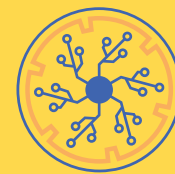


- Must be a high school junior
- Must be an enrolled GRIC member
- Must be in good academic standing
- Must submit application and essay
- Deadline *December 1, 2023*

Visit www.gricua.net for more info

TECH SKILLS WORKSHOP

Brought to you by:



**DIGITAL
 CONNECT™**
an initiative of Gila River Telecommunications Inc.

A FREE PROGRAM TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS.

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- COMPUTERS, TABLETS, AND SMARTPHONES
- INTERNET AND WI-FI QUESTIONS
- WORK AND SCHOOL DOCUMENTS
- ONLINE SAFETY

- E-MAIL
- VIDEO CALLS
- MUSIC AND VIDEO APPS
- AND MORE!

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR THE DIGITAL DISCUSSION!

DISTRICT & DATES

D6: OCT. 3, 5, 17, 19

D7: OCT. 10, 12, 24, 26

WORKSHOP TIME: 9AM TO 12PM

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

🌐 bit.ly/DCI-registration

☎ (520) 610-0990



SHOP LOCAL



Sacaton Retail

On the Corner of Pima Street
& Sacaton Road



Akimel Smoke Shop

Premier Auto

On-Point



Property Managed by
Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation

ARIZONA Chicano Pride Lowrider Show

SATURDAY
11.11.23 • 2-6PM

LIVE ON **FITE**

Championship Fighting

FIGHT STARTS @ 7PM

**Free
Parking!**

RAWHIDE

EVENT CENTER
5244 S. 48th Street
Chandler, Arizona



Tickets available at [Eventgroove.com](https://www.eventgroove.com), General Admission \$40