

THE GRIN



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GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS | www.GRICNEWS.org

JUNE 13, 2025

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs Signs H.B. 2281 "Emily's Law", **Establishing the Turquoise Alert System**

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community's Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis joined Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, Tribal leaders, members of the state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) task force, lawmakers, and law enforcement representatives for a signing ceremony of House Bill 2281 at the State Capitol on May

"I'm so glad that we're able to come together in a bipartisan way to pass common-sense legislation that will increase public safety," Hobbs said. "We are here because the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people demands our full attention and collaboration; it demands action, and it demands solutions."

H.B. 2281 is also referred to as "Emily's Law" in honor of 14-year-old Emily Pike, a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, who was murdered earlier this year. It establishes the Turquoise Alert System for missing and



Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs signs H.B. 2281 during a signing ceremony with Tribal leaders, including Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at the State Capital on May 21. Emma Hughes/

endangered Indigenous peoples under the age of 65 to provide rapid response for those who may fall out of the Amber and Silver

Alerts criteria. The Turquoise Alert, a significant step towards improving public safety, will be ready to utilize by the end of the

Summer.

"This alert system closes the jurisdictional and age-related gaps that sometimes led to delays

in alerting state and local law enforcement and the general public when Native Americans, our relatives, are reported missing or are endangered," Gov. Lewis said. "As we know from the success of the Amber Alert system, the sooner law enforcement and the public are alerted to potential danger, the stronger the likelihood that endangered individuals can return home safely; it's a testament to the serious need for this law that we were able to pass this bill quickly and with unanimous support."

Gov. Lewis thanked Rep. Teresa Martinez, who sponsored the bill, along with co-sponsors Brian Garcia, Mae Peshlakai, and Myron Tsosie, and hopes that this legislation will serve as a model for other states to take steps to protect tribal people within their borders. Currently, there are only four other states, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Washington, that have alerts for Indigenous people.

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Gila River Police Department **Honors Fallen Officers**

Jeston Morris

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Police Department (GRPD) honored three fallen police officers: Officer recruit Armando Reyes, Jr., Sgt. Kevin Lewis, and Officer Joshua Briese, by memorializing their service during a candlelight vigil at the police station in Sacaton on May 7.

Officer Briese was responding to call at a dance in District 4 when gunfire erupted, and he was fatally shot last year. In 1993, Sgt. Lewis was also responding to a call when his cruiser was swept away during heavy flooding in District 1. In 2007, Office recruit Reyes suffered cardiac arrest while he was in the police academy.

The Gila River Fire Department (GRFD) raised the U.S. flag on the ladder of the fire engine during the memorial event while a three-motorcycle unit procession honored the fallen officers. Former lieutenant governor Robert

Gila River Indian News

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Fallen GRPD Officers are remembered on a memorial placed in front of the police building in Sacaton. Jeston Morris/GRIN

O'otham while GRPD Lt. Celestina Perez commanded the color

GRPD Chief of Police Jesse Crabtree delivered the memoriam remarks. "Let's honor Sergeant Lewis, Officer Recruit Reyes and

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Stone provided the invocation in Officer Briese not just through ceremony but through continued commitment to serve justice and serve each other. Their memories live in us as we honor our warriors," said Chief Crabtree.

> GRPD officers laid wreaths for the three fallen officers and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis delivered a speech on behalf of the Community, "As the Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, I see and I feel, almost a year ago we

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School Wins Aerial Drone Competition

St. Peter Indian Mission

Submission Education Empowers

Students from the Saint Peter Indian Mission Catholic School in District 5 - Bapchule, earned the Championship Award in the Middle school division and several other awards during an aerial drone competition held on Saturday, May 3.

With the support of the community, Saint Peter Indian Mission School partnered with Education Empowers and the Boys & Girls Clubs to host an aerial drone competition. This event brought together 16 teams from across the

state, providing a platform for our students to showcase their skills and learn from others.

The competition, which showcased the unique skills of students, included three challenging categories: Drone piloting, autonomous drone coding, and communications.

The Saint Peter's teams excelled across multiple categories, including Middle School Division Champions and Autonomous Drone Coding awards for both the high school and middle school di-

Continued on Page 3



Aerial Done Competition held at the Saint Peter Indian Mission School on May 3. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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2025

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2025 GRIC GRADUATES!

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- College, University, Trade School, or Post High School Programs



Scan the QR Code for a **2025 Graduate Information Form.**



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMM

Contact information: Gila River Indian News 520-562-9715 / grin@gric.nsn.us or the Tribal Education Department 520-562-3662 / TEDEvents@gric.nsn.us



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Lt. Governor Regina Antone

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Gov. Lewis Signs Proclamation for EMS Week

Jeston Morris

Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis honored the 51st anniversary of National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week with a proclamation for the Gila River Indian Community, declaring the week of May 18-24, 2025 as EMS Week. This year's EMS theme is "We care. For Everyone."

During EMS week, the Gila River Emergency Medical Services held a staff meeting and training at the Shelde Building, where Gov. Lewis presented and signed the proclamation.

"It's great that the Community recognizes the EMS and all the staff for what they do for the community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, taking care of the sick and injured within the Community boundaries," said Gila River EMS Chief Kurt Rainbolt.

Chief Rainbolt, Myron Schurz, Chairman for Gila River Health Care Board of Directors, and Gila River EMS staff were present at the proclamation sign-

Gov. Lewis highlighted the Sacaton 4th grade students aspi-



L-R: Gila River EMS Chief Kurt Rainbolt, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, and Gila River Healthcare Board of Directors Chair Myron Schurz. Jeston Morris/GRIN

rations and dream jobs. "These 4th graders want to become first responders, they want to become EMS, they want to become EMT, they want to become paramedics and firefighters,"said Gov. Lewis.

On behalf of the Gila River Care Health, Schurz publicly recognized the important and crucial role of every EMS staff, "We want to recognize the efforts that you all have brought forth for the Community. We also appreciate and recognize what you do day to day, not just one week out of the year."

Chief Kurt Rainbolt provided the opening remarks which was followed by department reports. There were two breakout session

trainings and wellness program. BBO lunch was provided. EMS honor guard posted the colors. EMS team building activity was conducted through Kahoot online. Deputy Chief Kevin Knight provided the EMS employee/ committee awards and recognitions.



Hughes/GRIN



Middle School Division Champions: Team Black Pawns Emma Middle School Division Autonomous Checkmate. Emma Hughes/ **GRIN**



High School Division Autonomous Coding Award DT Drone Team. Emma Hughes/GRIN

visions. The Judge's Award was also presented to the St. Peters High School Division.

Ms. Kaylin Terry & Mrs. Ashton coached St. Peters High School Drone Teams and Ms. Joellen Kinnamon coached Saint Peter's Middle School Drone Teams along with Mrs. Ashton. Ms. Kinnamon received the Honorary Coach Award.

Education Empowers Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Chandler, Arizona. Since 2017, they have partnered with GRIC community



High School Division Judges Award: Team Freak Bob. Emma Hughes/GRIN

schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs to deliver year-around hands-on programs in LEGO Robotics, Drones, AI, Coding, App building, 3D print, CAD, Sustainability, Soldering, and Workforce Development summer programs.

For more information or to subscribe to the newsletter, you can sign up on their website http://www.educationempowers.org or email: contact@educationempowers.org

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AOPPYC hosts workshops for Traditional Games

Jeston Morris

Gila River Indian News

The Akimel O'odham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC) hosted workshops for the traditional games of thoka and shoñgivul at the Sacaton Fairgrounds on May 3.

20 players attended the workshop for the women's game of thoka, which was held at the southeast corner of the fairgrounds. The face off had five members on each side with a total of ten players. The remaining players sat under the canopy to listen, observe and substitute as needed. The players use a wooden stick and a puck. The thoka stick is called "u'us 'ga" and the puck is called "o'la."

"We are going to face off and everybody is going to go [to] their left. Our team is going to go to the east side of the cones to score. The opposing team are going to the west side of the cones to score. We use the u'us 'ga to hit the o'la. You have to get the o'la pass the cones and pickup it up to score. Once a team scores, all the players come back to the middle. The team switches sides," April Morago explained, coach and teacher for the thoka workshop.

Thoka does not have out of bounds and the game is played on a harden dirt

"If you are a spectator



The traditional game shongivul is taught to young men. Jeston Morris/GRIN

going to stop, they continue playing," said Morago.

In the past, thoka was played for trade or exchange. For example, one team puts up their baskets and the opposing team puts up their crops. Whoever wins gets the baskets or the crops. Since then, thoka has evolved into a competitive game for women of all ages.

Over a dozen Community youth participated in men's game of shoñgivul workshop on the west side of the fairgrounds. The wooden ball is made from mesquite tree, and it is

ing game. It conditions the runners for long distance journey. The objective is to keep the ball rolling. Over the years, shongivul evolved into a competition where players race each other. Everything we do is counterclockwise," said Antonio Davis. advisor. coach and mentor to the AOPPYC.

"The boys, they are sweeping the shongivul field. They are removing the small rocks that can hurt our feet," said Junior Escalante, District 3 representative and organizer for the AOPPYC workshop. "We race bare foot. We race all the way down to the cac-



Young women play thoka at the Sacaton Fairgrounds on May 3. Jeston Morris/GRIN

tus rib. We kick/flick the shoñgivul along,"

Shoñgivul is typically played in the Winter. After the Fall harvest, Community members compete against one another. There are shongivul fields in District 3 and District 6.

"During our shongivul workshop, we learn how to kick the ball without hurting our toes. We learn about the history of shoñgivul. Right now, we are taking care of our shoñgivul field, it's our home," said Escalante.

The grounds got too hot and uncomfortable for barefoot activity therefore the shongivul workshop ended by noon.

"In the last ten years



T-shirt designed by Community Artist Jaime Jackson. Jeston Morris/GRIN

the Youth Council has been working on popularizing the shongivul competition. One day we like to see a large crowd along both sides of the shongivul

field," said Joseph Davis, coordinator for the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council.

Proposed Renovations to a Domestic Violence Shelter in Sacaton, AZ

Notice of Availability—Draft Tiered Environmental Assessment: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) has completed a draft tiered Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the Gila River Indian Community's proposal to renovate an existing domestic violence shelter in Sacaton, Arizona. NEPA requires that federal agencies consider the effects of a proposed action and any reasonable alternatives on the human environment. This draft tiered EA evaluates the potential impacts that would result from the implementation of the proposed action as compared to the No Action alternative. The draft tiered EA is available upon request. Please send an email request to info@ clarkgrouplic.com. The draft tiered EA will be provided in electronic format unless a hard copy is specifically requested.

Project Title: Renovations to On Eagle's Wings Domestic Violence Shelter **Project Proponent: OVC**

Project Description: The proposed project involves renovating the existing On Eagle's Wings domestic violence shelter for the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, Arizona. The planned renovations aim to enhance safety, security, and living conditions for shelter occupants and include the following:

- Lighting Upgrade: Converting exterior solar-powered lighting to electrical lighting to improve reliability, reduce overheating issues, and prevent unit ruptures during the summer months.
- Flooring Replacement: Replacing existing carpet with tile to enhance cleanliness and sanitation.
- Security Enhancements: Installing 14 additional security cameras around the property to increase surveillance and resident safety.
- Patio Repairs: Repairing and replacing cement patio slabs to improve storm water drainage.

Once completed, these renovations will improve the shelter's ability to provide a safe, secure, and supportive environment for victims of domestic violence. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is accepting comments on this tiered EA for a period of 30 days from May 9, 2025, to June 8, 2025. Comments may be submitted by email to info@clarkgroupllc.com or mailed to 48 E. Pima Street Sacaton, Arizona 85147.

Date of Posting: 5/9/2025



June 2025 O'otham Ñeo'ok: "Tho:d hegai?/using vud in sentences"

Submitted by

Huhugam Heritage Center

A common question often asked amongst O'otham speakers is "Tho:d hegai?" This question literally asks "Who is he/she/that person?" and is the conversational version of the more formal phrase "Tho: 'o vud hegai?" This question utilizes the O'otham word "vud" which, is often heard in O'otham conversations and has a specific purpose in the spoken language. In O'otham sentences "vuḍ" is used to link or identify two words (often nouns) as being one and the same. This can be seen in the following example sentences.

- 1) "Añi 'añ vuḍ Akimel O'otham." (I am Akimel O'otham.)
- 2) "Victoria 'o vuḍ u:v." (Victoria is a woman.)
- 3) "Hegai uvig 'o vuḍ ba'ag." (That bird is an eagle.)
- "A:pi 'ap vuḍ eñ navoj." (You are my friend.)
- four examples All above have the same form in that they each start off with a noun (Victoria) or pronoun (Añi, Hegai, A:pi), are followed by a form of



the auxiliary ('añ, 'o, 'ap), are then followed by the word vud and end with a type of noun. What is interesting about all of these examples, is that there is no true verb, in the form of an action word present in the sentence. The auxiliary verb which is present ('añ, 'o, 'ap) is only there to provide information about the subject and does not provide any information on the type of sentence. Vud in these sentences expresses the idea, that the subject (the first noun) is linked, or identical with the predicate (the final noun). You can think of vud as being like an equals sign (=) in that it communicates the idea that the two nouns are one and the same: Añi=Akimel O'otham. Victoria=u:v. Hegai uvig=ba'ag. "Vud" works similar to the word "be" in English. In everyday conversation vud shortens to d and it is often this form that is used by speakers. The corresponding sentences from above would

shorten to the following.

- 5) "Añi 'añ d Akimel O'otham." (I am Akimel O'otham.)
- 6) "Victoria'o d u:v." (Victoria is a woman.)
- 7) "Hegai uvig 'o d ba'ag." (That bird is an
- 8) "A:pi 'ap d eñ navoj." (You are my friend.)

Although, there is no change in meaning with these sentences, you can imagine that it is harder to hear the word vud in its shortened form. Even O'otham speakers may not (consciously) realize that the shortened form d is the same word as vud. This is especially true in commonly used phrases and questions (Tho: d hegai? Sha:chud i:tha?), where the d seems like it attaches to the closest word. O'otham ñeo'ok is flexible and allows for different orderings of words without changing their basic meanings. This is true with sentences that

Hegai keli 'o vud ma:kai.

Hegai u:v 'o vuḍ ha-mashchamtham.

Hegai cheoj 'o vuḍ bo:l chichvitham.

Hegai chehia 'o vuḍ e-vailatham.

Hegai haichu thoakam 'o vuḍ mi:thol.

Hegai uvig 'o vuḍ kakaichu.

Clip Art Courtesy Robert Johnson

use vud. Another possible ordering for the sentences above is one where vud appears at the beginning. It is actually this order that is commonly heard in casual conversations. Vud is never spoken in its full form when it appears at the front of the sentence but shortens and changes slightly to sound like a th (in some villages it will sound like a d). When appearing at the front it will attach to the following auxiliary to create the

following sentences.

9) "Thañ Akimel O'otham." (I am Akimel O'otham.)

10) "Tho u:v heg Vic-(Victoria is toria." a woman.)

11) "Tho ba'ag hegai uvig." (That bird is an eagle.)

12) "Thap eñ navoj (You are my friend.)

By now, you should be able to understand the word vud and all its forms that are used in sentences. As you can see, it is a

very useful word when you want to identify someone or something to another person. So the next time you hear the question "Tho: d hegai?" you should be able to think of an answer using the word vud. See some of the possible answers in the following word match.

A special Thank You to O'otham Elders, who shared their knowledge of Tho: d hegai? And Vud. That made this article pos-





June 2025: Tho:d hegai? Word Match: Match the person or animal with its picture!













NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

REVISIONS TO TITLE 7, CHILDREN'S CODE AND TITLE 17 MENTAL HEALTH; TRANSFER OF CASES

The Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") is considering proposed revisions to Title 7 of the GRIC Code, the Children's Code," and Chapter 4 of Title 17, "Mental Health," to transfer the Community's Indian Child Welfare Act ('ICWA") cases from the Protective Services Office ("PSO") to the Office of General Counsel, ("OGC") and transfer the Community's Mental Health cases from the OGC to PSO. A copy of the proposed revisions to Title 7 and Title 17 of the GRIC Code in their entirety is available for review at each District Service Center, the Community Council Secretary's Office, or by contacting the Office of General Counsel at OGC.HelpDesk@ gric.nsn.us

The Office of General Counsel will present the proposed revisions and answer questions on the proposed revisions to Title 7 and Title 17 of the GRIC Code at the Legislative Standing Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Council Secretary's Office, Conference Room B & C. Community members may comment on the proposed ordinance at the Legislative Standing Committee meeting, or by contacting their Councilmember(s) and/or the chairperson of the Legislative Standing Committee.

If you would like to provide written comments on the proposed revisions to Title 7 and Chapter 4 of Title 17 of the GRIC Code, please provide them by email to the Office of General Counsel at OGC.HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Alfred Urbina.



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CASA/GAL

Every Child Deserves a Voice.

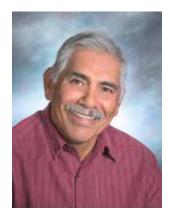
CASAs are everyday people-just like you-specially trained and appointed by judges to advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Their mission? To help ensure every child grows up in a safe, permanent, and loving home where their needs are met, their culture is honored, and their tribal identity is protected and celebrated.

Be the Voice. Change a Life.

Learn more about how you can make a difference, contact Sharon Banda, CASA Coordinator at 520-562-9860 ext. 9928, Sharon.Banda.JUD@gric.nsn.us.

A'AGA: Something to be told or talked about



Submitted by Billy Allen

O'odham and Piipaash are the accepted spelling of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. O'otham and Pee Posh are the GRIC spelling. As Ella Fritzgerald and Fred Astair sang; 'You say potatoes and I say pohtatoes. Let's call the whole thing off.' Could this attitude be applied to teaching and writing our Neok/ Niok? The answer is no. Ñeok refers to speaking, Niok refers to writing our language.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 included for Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Emergency Grants. Two hundred and ten groups secured money. Not to run a foul of DOGE, which I think should be spelled DODGE, what did O'odham tribes do?

The Ak-Chin Indian Community knew Neok was waning, applied and was awarded a grant. Ak Chin Education and the O'odham Niok Ki staff developed a plan. A survey was sent out to learn what the community wanted to do. It's one thing to pontificate on being a language warrior but putting ideas on paper-even with the help of a computer is laborious work, not for the faint of heart or feeble-minded. Technicians Velacita Lopez and Lerline Peters reached out to community elders to begin work on a Niok dictionary. Working together, 130 short Neok lessons on writing in O'odham were completed along with O'odham stories. All geared to develop Ak-Chin O'odham writers and speakers. Tribal member Jeremy Johns, a Yale University Ph.D. candidate in Linguistics, was a key contributor. A bonus of the process was that roughly 20 Ak Chin community members became recognized as expert consultants. Ak Chin departments, "walked the talk/himcud g niok," a'a'ha'u!

Our extended family to the north within their O'odham-Piipaash Language Program decided to develop an O'odham dictionary-database. As COVID precautions were lowered other projects came to the forefront. Focus was shifted towards hosting the Institute on Collaborative Language Research or CoLang, CoLang, which draws participants worldwide, provides workshops in language documentation, linguistics, and revitalization. It also offered audio/ video recording, language teaching, community archiving, and activism. Arizona State University and SRPMIC personnel had to find a site for all of this to take place. Scottsdale Community College became O'odham central which is on the SRPMIC.

When the CoLang sessions were done, the O'odham-Piipaash Language Program returned to processing entries for the O'odham-Piipaash dictionary. The University of Arizona Linguistics Program's Advancing Indigenous Languages Technology Group presented linguistic training geared to the O'odham-Piipaash Language Program. From its beginning as a Bilingual Education Program over 30 years ago, the O'odham-Piipaash Language Program, now within the Cultural Resources Department, SRPMIC has become a pace-setter in terms of language revitalization. O'odham communities await to see what our younger brothers and sisters will produce. That's what I'm talking about! Hegai añ ab ag!

The Ñi'okĭ Ki: or O'odham Language Center on the campus of Tohono O'odham Community College also applied for an American Rescue Plan grant. The plan was to record elders from all the districts and update language lessons of the Venito Garcia Library to digital. Bringing the Nation online, Pegi dowai! Background; In 1966, an heir of the American Tobacco Company awarded grants to universities to collect Native American oral histories. In 1996, the Doris Duke Native Oral History Revitalization Project was begun. Tohono O'odham Community College and O'odham consultants wanted to listen to five decades worth of material at the Arizona State Museum at the University of Arizona. Previously, access was limited fearing that material could be damaged.

A Tohono O'odham, who had earned a master's

degree, helped to make material more accessible by partially digitizing some of the material. O'odham eyes and ears noticed some subjects were culturally sensitive, not all of the material should be heard or seen. Given the magnitude of works stored, it is an on-going project. TOCC staff have been helping in translating, transcribing, to make sure all is correct.

Schools on the reser-

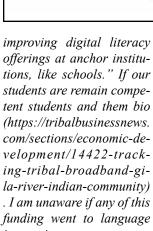
vation have been teaching Neok/Niok since the '70s. Now it is expanded to tribal departments. Our Huhugam Heritage Center has been offering Niok classes in the Gila River Indian Community since 2016. In Santan, Henrietta Lopez and Eugenia Apkaw have been doing this since 2018. At the Gila Crossing Community School, Barbara Parsons, and Ms. Christina Pablo have conducted classes since 2016. Robert Johnson, the Language Specialist at the HHC, helps at both locations. Entire families attend learning Akimel O'otham from fluent speakers. This year's focus was learning practical neok; leaving the home to shop for food, and learning kuintha or counting. Learning how to count out lial or money finished the class... To celebrate the twelveweek courses, forty-six certificates were awarded while sharing a meal. One learner commented, "As a first-time learner I really enjoyed the encouragement of saying the phrases [with] no judgement, but also making new students like me, aware that Elders might correct us and that is ok!" The HHC Language Program is looking forward to continuing in the fall the Language Revitalization

throughout GRIC.

Have O'odham run a foul of DOGE, (should be spelled DODGE)? That's for bigger or lesser minds to decipher. Pegi oig, nt o a 'ep m-ñei. Well then, I will see you again!

Sources; Ak-Chin O'odham Runner, edition of Septermber, 2023. Tucson.com Septermber 21, 2021. Correspondence with SRPIMC personnel and Ron Geroninmo,O'odham Ñi'okĭ Ki, Director, TOCC and Robert Johnson. Language Specialist, HHC.

A:cim, the Gila River Indian Community also applied and decided to use the grant monies to "support the tribe's push for digital equity by buying new equipment for tribal citizens and



instruction. did receive GRIC some funding for language as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, this was distributed through the Administration for Native Americans. All tribes that had applied for this funding were awarded, so the funding was split equally among them. I know Salt River had also applied for this funding, I am not sure if the Tohono O'odham Nation or Ak-Chin had applied for this funding. For GRIC, the funding is being used to do elder interviews and to create books supporting the GRIC orthography.

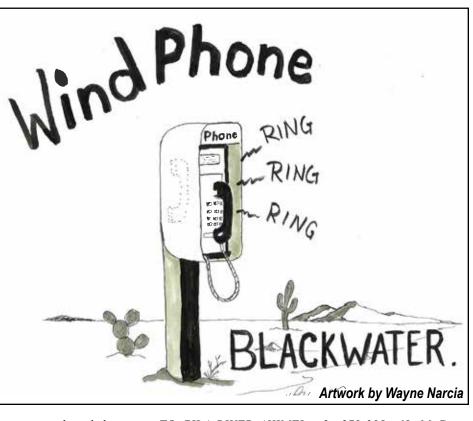
There is hope, Noah Webster took twenty years to publish An American Dictionary of the English Language," in 1868, ain't that something or istha!

A language survey done in 2021 showed that Tohono O'odham was largely spoken amongst elders, 60 and above. If parents wanted their children to learn O'odham, the parents were limited. Co-director Ron Geronimo adds, "From the schools, to work, to home and community, to social gatherings and social media, the O'odham language needs to be heard, spoken, and visible in all spaces." All must be on the same page.

Currently the co-directors are Ronald Geronimo and Leslie Luna. The staff is Monte Lopez, Multimedia Coordinator with Jenny Lopez, and Adrianne Rios as Language Specialist.

The Institute on Collaborative Language (Collang).

RECONNECTION



TO GILA RIVER AKIMEL
O'ODHAM HISTORY AND
CULTURE THROUGH
DEVELOPMENT OF A USER-FRIENDLY O'ODHAM
WRITING METHOD by
Duncan Johns

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SINCE 1988"

On The Horizon

District Days: D3 Multipurpose Center. June 4th D6 Learning Center. June 5th Bill Due: June 16th

> HAPPY SUMMER! Keep it chill out there!

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Gila River Indian News June 13, 2025 Page 8

CBCS earns designation as Heart Safe School

Jeston Morris

Gila River Indian News

The Casa Blanca Community School (CBCS) is recognized as the first 'Heart Safe School' in Phoenix and Northern Arizona region by Project Adam at CBCS's gymnasium in Bapchule on May 15.

Representatives from the Phoenix Children's Hospital and Project Adam, Jodi M. Kiernan, pediatric nurse practitioner and the Project Adam program coordinator, and Vincent J. Palmieri, a pediatric cardiologist and electrophysiologist and the medical director for Project Adam, brought a recognition banner to CBCS. They both represent the Phoenix and Northern Arizona region for Project Adam.

According to Kiernan, Project Adam is a national organization that helps schools create a cardiac emergency response plan and team. The team prac-



Casa Blanca Community School earns Heart Safe recognition on May 15. Jeston Morris/GRIN

tices Automated External Defibrillator (AED) drills. The AED drill prepares the team for cardiac emergencies on campus. The goal is to get aid to the victim

within three minutes.

"Normally we have our fire drill, we have lockdown drill, and we have mass evacuation drill. Now we have a new

one, it's called AED drill," said CBCS Principal Kim Franklin.

Once the school achieves the three-minute criteria, they earn a certification of a Heart Safe School through Project Adam and a banner was given to the school. There are two schools in Tucson with the Heart Safe School

designation. CBCS is the first school in Phoenix and Northern Arizona region.

The entire student body of CBCS assembled inside the gymnasium for the Project Adam designation. The event started with Pledge of Allegiance led by the students who also performed a song and dance. Principal Franklin moderated the esteem panel for Project Adam. Two students presented a thank you gift to Kiernan and Palmieri. At the conclusion of the event the new Heart Safe School banner was revealed.

"I think it's incredibly impactful. And I think it's a massive step for Arizona and for our region to have this certification," said Palmieri. "My hope is that this will be the first of many schools who get this distinction to keep the school children, staff and visitors safe."

Law Day 2025 provides information and fun

Joseph Morales GRIN Intern

The Akimel O'otham Loditha Kud Ki – Gila River Indian Community Court hosted Law Day 2025 on May 7, bringing together departments, legal professionals, and Community members for a day focused on justice, resources, and sovereignty.

Law Day, first observed in 1958, is a national event that promotes public understanding of the legal system and its role in American society. Within the Gila River Indian Community, the observance also honors the unique legal traditions and systems that uphold tribal governance.

The event took place outside the Community Court building in Sacaton, where numerous booths were set up to share helpful information. Inside, legal presentations were held every 30 minutes, offering attendees multiple opportunities to learn about tribal law and available services.

One session featured Four Rivers Indian Legal Services, which discussed its work in providing access to legal assistance and advocacy. Another presentation spotlighted the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), offering insights into job opportunities related to local projects.

Visitors who took part in the sessions and visited various booths were eligible to enter a raffle with prizes such as headphones, an ice cream machine, and a coffee maker. Alongside the educational aspects, fun activities like cornhole, plastic axe throwing, and a dunk tank—featuring probation officers-kept the crowd entertained throughout the

Law Day 2025 combined learning and celebration, offering a space for Community members to explore legal resources while enjoying a day of connection and fun.



Plenty of Community departments shared infromation and services to participants. Photo Courtesy of Joseph



A dunk tank was featured at the Law Day event. Photo Courtesy of Joseph Morales

Avian Influenza Detection Press Release

Arizona Department of Agriculture

Phoenix, AZ - Poultry at a third commercial farm located in Maricopa County have tested positive for Avian Influenza. When the poultry began showing clinical signs consistent with avian influenza on May 29, 2025, samples from the location were submitted to the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (AZVDL) for preliminary determination, then submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation, received on May 30.

Eggs produced after the onset of clinical signs of illness have not entered the food supply, and there have been no signs of illness in humans. Consumers in Arizona and around the nation can remain confident in the safety and quality of eggs and egg products. The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has en-



gaged with the USDA, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, and Maricopa County Department of Public Health to ensure a quick and appropriate response to addressing this animal disease emergency.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk to the general public is considered to be low with those most at risk of exposure being individuals who are directly involved with the daily care of birds. Information regarding protective actions for workers and the monitoring of avian influenza can be found on the CDC's website, which is updated regularly.

The affected poultry farm has been placed

under quarantine on the recommendation of the Director of the AZDA and ment of Environmental the AZDA State Veterinar-Quality, Arizona Depart- ian. Enhanced biosecurity measures are in place and efforts are underway to perform virus elimination. All applicable sanitation responses have been quickly implemented. Our dedicated and experienced team continues to monitor the situation closely to ensure consumer protection is always maintained.

Sick Bird Hotline: If you see signs of illness in your poultry, report them immediately to USDA at 1- 866-536-7593. You can also contact your local cooperative extension office, local veterinarian, or your State Veterinarian. For wild bird illness, please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department.



Gila River HEALTH CARE We are GRHC! Where Core Meets Community.



Congratulations

Isabel Vasquez, a Health Educator at GRHC School Health Services, played a crucial role in partnering with Casa Blanca Community School and Phoenix Children's Hospital's Project Adam to help the school achieve recognition as a Heart Safe School—the first in Phoenix/Northern Arizona.

Project Adam is a nonprofit focused on preventing sudden cardiac arrest in youth through education, CPR training, and AED placement. Dr. Vincent Palmieri and Jodi Kiernan presented a banner to the school, highlighting this achievement.

GRHC School Health Services is proud to promote lifesaving readiness for students and the community.



Behavioral Health Services GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

SCAN HERE



CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR OF

ACCESS OUR MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE AT GRHC.ORG/BHS

Call us for more information at (520) 610-2394 or email us BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG

To view more news, information & events:

- Life Center
- Behavioral Health Services
- May Calendars
- and many more!









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

For any information on services open during the holiday, please call Gila River Health Care's main line (520) 562-3321.

Normal business hours will resume Monday, July 7, 2025. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the **Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.**

★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRIC honors Memorial Day

Jeston Morris

Gila River Indian News

District 6 Elderly Department and Elderly Planning Committee, in collaboration with the Recreation Department, hosted the Memorial Day event at Kalka Park in Komatke on May 26.

Over 200 Community members participated in the Memorial Day event that kicked off with a walk/run. Private First Class (PFC) Azarrionna Harvey, Specialist (SPC) Lucio Acunia, and JROTC Cadet Nevaeh Blackwater posted colors. Former Lt. Gov. Robert Stone preformed the opening blessing. Ms. Lehua Lani Dosela sang the National Anthem in O'otham, and Ezio Juan provided the Pledge of Allegiance in both English and O'otham. Miss Gila River Gabrielle Garcia delivered the welcoming remarks.

PFC Harvey and SPC Acunia are in the Army Reserve Unit in Phoenix and expressed the meaning of Memorial Day.

"To me, Memorial Day means remembering the fallen soldiers and all those who have served. This is my first experience with color guard and posting the flags. Color guard is a pretty big deal to me because I have relatives who served during war. My great gran-



Flags are raised on Memorial Day in District 6. Jeston Morris/GRIN

dfather fought in war and he gave the ultimate sacrifice," said Harvey.

"Memorial Day means remembering the fallen soldiers and cherishing the sacrifice they gave so Americans can enjoy the freedom," said Acunia.

Army Special Forces Veteran Gary Anderson Sr., provided the Memorial Day tribute to Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) members who served in the military. GRIC's military contribution to the United States campaign is significant. It starts with the Apache Wars, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and Afghanistan.

Anderson paid special tribute to First Lieutenant Dwight Thomas Blackwater, U.S. Army, who died of wounds from the unintentional detonation of a fra-

gmentation grenade while serving in Vietnam.

Blackwater was posthumously awarded several military medals. A display case with Blackwater's photo and his medals were presented to his sister, Joyce Lopez during the event.

The Community's Veterans & Family Services Office (VFSO) donated the military presentation case, and Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 provided the military awards.

- Lt. Blackwater's medal awards include:
- 1. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
- 2. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- 3. Vietnam Service Medal
- 4. National Defense Service Medal
- 5. Combat Infantryman Badge
 - 6. Parachutist Badge



GRIC member Dwight Blackwater is posthumously awarded medals during the Memorial Day event in District 6. $Jeston\ Morris/GRIN$

7. Ranger Tab

There are two GRIC veterans who are officers and Airborne Rangers. "One of them is First Lt. Rodney Lewis and the other one is First Lt. Dwight T. Blackwater," said Anderson.

"Memorial Day is a day America set side to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, that is, their life," said Anderson.

Jesse Sanchez, Whitney Sharpe, and Clarice Sundust publicly read the names of 205 veterans. Ch'chino Spirit Dance Group performed, followed by Estrella Mountain Bird Singers and Dancers. With flags lowered to half-staff, Waila Style 87 entertained during the lunch break. The event concluded with a national moment of silence.

"The purpose of hosting the Komatke District 6 Memorial Day was to remind our community why we celebrate our freedom and to also recognize who fought for us in wars. To teach our younger genera-

tion about the rich military histories and traditions and to recognize and honor our fallen warriors," said Whitney Sharpe, District 6 Recreation Coordinator.

"The Komatke District 6 Memorial Day event is organized by the elders. The event was paused during COVID," said Anthony Villareal, Community Council Rep. for District 6. "It's really nice to see District 6 put on the Memorial Day event this year. I am certainly glad to be here and be part of the program."

Surviving Spouse Benefits



Submitted by Veteran & Family Services

Office Are you married to a veteran? If the veteran passes away before you, then your financial situation is going to change. This will definitely affect your household income immediately. You may be eligible for a surviving spouse monthly payment from the Veterans Affairs (VA). There are some conditions you should be aware of before this situation possibly happens.

First, make sure that you have a copy of the veteran's discharge papers (DD214). Our office can retain a copy to make things easier or in case it gets lost. It will cause a delay in filing the claim and military honors at burial, if you have to order it first.

Secondly, you should have a copy of your marriage license to submit with your claim. This must be submitted with your claim if the veteran has not previously put one on file with the VA.

Finally, the death certificate is VERY important. Know what your spouse's service connected disabilities are with the VA. One of their service connected disabilities needs to be listed on the death certificate. It does not have to be the primary cause of death. It can be listed on the death certificate as a long term health factor. If your spouse is not receiving a monthly check from the VA, it will be harder for you to receive a monthly benefit or you may not be eligible for one. You must still have specific health conditions listed on the death certificate. Please expect processing for this type of claim to take about 10 months. So, the sooner you start, the sooner you can get a decision of approval or denial from the

If you have questions about being eligible for a monthly benefit, the time to find answers is now. Don't wait until it happens. You can receive many solutions in advance before it

becomes a problem. There is also a surviving spouse plan that is dependent upon the spouse's income and expenses after the veteran passes. It is possible to not be eligible for either surviving spouse benefit. The Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) can answer your questions.

It doesn't matter how long it has been since the veteran passed. If you were denied more than 3 years ago, you may be eligible now because the qualifications have changed. Sometimes, the veteran never files for service connection to receive a check every month, that's alright. You may still be eligible. Please give us a call and we will review your case.

VFSO does all the forms associated with filing these types of claims. For more information contact the VFSO: (520) 562-9704

Peer Support Specialist Wesley Rhodes (520) 610-4384

Peer Support Specialist Darrell Whitman (520)

Veteran Service Officer Kim Skelton (520) 610-7644





District 1 held their annual Memorial Day Services with Military honors and memorial wreaths to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Emma Hughes/GRIN



EMILY PIKE

Murder Victim
Arizona
January to February 2025



REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$75,000 for any person providing independently verifiable information identifying the individual(s) responsible for the disappearance and murder of Emily Pike

DETAILS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Phoenix Field Office, the Gila County Sheriff's Office, the San Carlos Apache Tribal Police Department, and the Mesa Police Department, all in Arizona, are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the individual(s) responsible for the disappearance and murder of Emily Pike. Emily was reported missing from a group home in Mesa, Arizona, on January 27, 2025. On February 14, 2025, her remains were recovered by Gila County Sheriff's deputies near Forest Road 355 on state land near the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona.

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact the FBI's Phoenix Field Office at (623) 466-199. You may also contact your local FBI office, the nearest American Embassy or Consulate, or you can submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov.



Emily Pike's family, her uncle Allred Pike Jr. and her mother, Steff Dosela during the press conference. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Community Judge Sunshine Manuel, and Crime Victim Services Director Katherine Lewis witness the signing for H.B. 2281 'Emily's Law' on May 21. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis speaks during a press conference for the signing ceremony. Emma Hughes/GRIN

"While this bill was being considered in the state legislature, we learned of the senseless murder of this beautiful 14-vear-old Emily Pike," said Gov. Lewis. "This law won't bring Emily back, but we hope that Emily's Law - the Turquoise Alert System, will prevent another relative. another child, another teen, another family member, and another tribe from this same type of situation and loss."

In January, Emily Pike was reported as a runaway from a Mesa group home where she was staying, and weeks later, on Feb. 14, her remains were found off Highway 60 near Globe, 100 miles from where she was last seen. The San Carlos Apache Tribe, Gila County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the FBI are working together to solve the crime.

Because Emily was labeled as a runaway, an Amber Alert was not issued. "She fell through the cracks of many systemic barriers," said State Sen. Theresa Hatathile.

In March, The San Carlos Apache Tribe announced that they were offering a \$75,000 award; the FBI also matched that award for any information identifying the individual(s) responsible for the disappearance and murder of Emily Pike. During the signing ceremony, Hobbs also announced that the state would contribute \$25,000 towards the reward for information in the disappearance and murder of Emily Pike, making a combined total of \$175,000.

The family of Emily Pike was also in attendance for the signing ceremony. "It's a good thing that an alert is here for all of Indian Country, but the hard part is that it's named after my brother and Steff's daughter, and she's not here no more," said Allred Pike Jr., Emily's uncle. "It's hard to be here, but at the same time, we understand that we have to move forward... and Emily's Law is a step in the right direction. We just don't want this to happen to anyone else out there "

Hobbs noted that the MMIP crisis has been a priority for her administration. Within her first months as governor, she signed an executive order creating the MMIP task force to evaluate the recommendations from the legislative study committee on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Last year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established a new 'Missing Endangered Persons' (MEP) Emergency Alert System (EAS) code that will be effective later this year to help locate missing and endangered persons, including Indigenous persons, by expanding

the types of critical alert messages that can be delivered to the public over television, radio, and wireless phones.

In 2023, more than 188,000 people went missing and fell outside of the criteria for AMBER alerts, according to the FCC. The new MEP code will enable a more rapid and coordinated response by allowing alert originators to use the EAS and WEA to issue a broader range of alerts to spread the word about missing persons.

"This issue isn't new to Indian Country. This isn't new to tribes. We've been dealing with these unresolved, unsolved murders of our people, our women, our children, our most valuable population," said Sunshine Manuel, GRIC Judge. "So this was a great achievement for all of us. All of the advocates, all of those partners that we have, and especially the families that have been impacted by those that go missing and murdered."

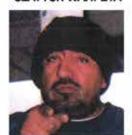
Manual was among those who created GRIC's first MMIP response team to address these very issues. The MMIP response team includes the Community's Office of General Counsel, Gila River Police Department, Tribal Social Services, Crime Victim Services, Behavioral Health, and more.

"When we talk about when someone's identified as a runaway and it is a reality that the response is different, which is why we consider our runaways missing. So we do have the immediate responses when it comes to somebody who has been identified as missing," said Manuel. "I think that everywhere else and every other jurisdiction needs to identify that that is a gap that we have."

MISSING PERSONS

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLAYTON WAHPETA



Last seen: 06/03/2005 Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black(shaved) Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190lbs

PETER THOMAS



Last seen: 08/03/2007 Age: 47 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5"

Weight: 190lbs

JOSEPH UGALDE



Last seen: 05/14/2009 Age: 43 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9"

Weight: 200lbs

ANTHONY PORTER



Last seen: 10/15/2011 Age: 48 Sex: M Hair: Black Eves: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 210lbs



KERMIT BREAD

Last seen: 04/11/2014 Age: 39 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9"

Weight: 150lbs



CYNTHIA ACEVEDO

Last seen: 08/31/2019 Age: 39 Sex: F Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4"



Last seen: 09/16/2022 Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 350lbs

LORENZO JOSE



Last seen: 08/29/2024 Age: 17 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 170lbs

EMMANUEL BARRERA



Last seen: 09/01/2024 Age: 20 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'7" Weight: 175lbs

VINCENT BAPTISTO



Last seen: 11/20/2024 Age: 44 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 250lbs

HENRY VILLAR



Last seen: 05/07/2025 Age: 14 Sex: M Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 4'9" Weight: 90lbs

ADRIAN VILLAR

Weight: 230lbs



Last seen: 05/07/2025 Age: 14 Sex: M Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 4'8" Weight: 90lbs



Last seen: 03/29/2025 Age: 31 Sex: F Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'7" Weight: 190lbs

PALOMA SEPEDA



Last seen: 05/29/2025 Age: 15 Sex: F Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 95lbs

XAVIER DOZAL JR.



Last seen: 06/03/2025 Age: 13 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 235lbs

MAGDALINE THOMAS



Last seen: 09/01/2024 Age: 17 Sex: F Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'1" Weight: 150lbs

MATO-WITKO BRAVEHEART



Last seen: Unknown Age: 12 Sex: M Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'8" Weight: 120lbs

HETEHILA BRAVEHEART



Last seen: Unknown Age: 11 Sex: M Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 105lbs

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT: (520) 562-4511 ANONYMOUS TIP LINE: (520) 562-7144

Gila River Indian Community

20) 562-9570

REPORT MISUSE OF GRIC PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT, THEFT OR FRAUD. ALL CALLS ARE ANONYMOUS.

NAMES OR PHONE NUMBERS WILL NOT BE USED WHEN DISCUSSING CONCERNS.



Gila River Indian Community Internal Audit Department

From the Front Page

loss Officer Briese. We also loss a Community member, Alicen Apkaw. We receive tremendous support for our collective loss."

He added, "Our collective loss sent a ripple effect throughout the Community, deep within the rank of the Gila River Police Department. And we received so much support and love from across Arizona, across the law enforcement agencies and families and across the United States."

With the candles lit, Pastor Jay Juan of the Tohono O'odham Nation, delivered a speech and a prayer for the fallen officers. Their end of watch was memorialized with a last call on police radio.

"I can't think of a better



Gila River Fire and EMS honor GRPD fallen officers. Jeston Morris/ **GRIN**

way to honor these fallen heroes. Rightfully so, Chief Crabtree called the fallen officers, warriors," said Pastor Juan.

GRPD's Public Information

Officer Teaya Enos delivered the closing remarks, "As we come to a closure of ceremony, let us carry on the legacy of the fallen officers that we just honored, Sergeant



Gila River Police Chief Jesse Crabtree shares remakes during the event. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Lewis, Officer Recruit Reyes and Officer Briese."

Stone and his group sang traditional songs for the fallen officers.

Enos said, "Their stories are not only etched into the stone but also woven into the fabric of this department and the heart of the Gila River Indian Community."



Staff from the Gila River Police Department and Gila River Fire Department, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Community Council Rep. Leah Williams, and Jay Juan gather for the candle light vigil on May 7. Jeston Morris/GRIN



More information to follow





STAY HYDRATED

VOID MIDDAY

NEIGHBORS

HEAT ILLNESS

485-5040

TEXT GRIC to 520-

Announcements & Notices

P-MIP Preparing to Construct the Westside Pipeline in District 6

Submitted by

Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project

After many years of right-of-way acquisition and design and then being funded, P-MIP is set to bid the Westside IE-IF pipeline in the District 6 community, which has long waited for construction to begin. P-MIP will bid the project in January 2026 and begin construction on the 10.9 mile pipeline project in the spring of 2026. The pipeline will provide water to serve about 3,500 acres in the District 6.

The project will begin at the 55th Avenue alignment at Ray Road and consists of two main pipelines and five laterals (See map below). The project is bounded by Ray Road on the south, the Community boundary on the east, 75th Avenue to the west, and approximately Barehand Lane to the north. The Westside pipeline project is expected to be the last major irrigation project constructed by P-MIP. Construction will be completed by early 2028.

The area to be served by the pipeline has been farmed in the past by a number of growers and much of it was included in the old MICA lease. The project will include 10.9 miles of underground pipe and will include various irrigation control structures and 41 turnouts to farm ditches. The project will include the main delivery system but excludes all

on-farm development. The project also includes Rubicon® BladeMeters to measure and control flow into the turnouts.

P-MIP anticipate minimal traffic disturbance in the area. However, in order to construct the pipelines, various roads will need to be temporarily closed. Detour routes will be provided. In the late summer or fall of 2025, P-MIP staff will be visiting the District 6 community to update the members and answer any questions.

In the meantime, if you should you have questions you may contact P-MIP's Bill Eden, Senior Design Engineer at 520 562-6827 or David DeJong, Director, at 520 562-6742.

CILLA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY WESTSIDE-IE-IF BALAGE REN NO CALLARY PROPRIED TO PROJECT PROJECT PROPRIED TO PROJECT PROJET PROJECT P

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT STATE OF ARIZONA

AKEEM BLAINE AVERY Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

SABRINA KIMI'LEE ALLISON Respondent/Defendant

Case No. FM-2025-0005-PT

Please take notice that a(n) **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, June 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT STATE OF ARIZONA

FIRST CREDIT UNION, Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

FREDRICO J. MOLINA, Respondent/Defendant

Case No. CV-2025-0017-MO

CIVIL SUMMONS

TO: Fredrico J. Molina

P.O. Box 1871, Sacaton, AZ, 85147

READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. THIS IS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR ADVOCATE FOR HELP.

You are hereby notified that a civil action has been filed against you, the Respondent/Defendant, in the Gila River Indian Community Court. You are required to appear and defend this action in Court within the time applicable.

You shall appear and respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING on:

Monday, June 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

You may respond in writing. However, 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. The Court staff is not allowed to give you legal advice but staff is available to assist you with general information such as scheduling and procedures.

You have the right to represent yourself or you may hire an attorney or advocate to represent you. If you represent yourself, you have the responsibility to properly complete all your Court papers and file them when they are due. The Court has a listing of attorneys and advocates who are licensed to practice in the court. Please do not wait until your hearing to ask for time to hire an attorney or advocate.

If you are not able to appear in Court at the above date and time, please immediately file a motion with the Court to reschedule. A judge will determine whether to approve your motion. You should be in court at least 15 minutes before the hearing. DO NOT come to court if you are sick.

If you fail to appear and defend in Court, a default judgment will be entered against you and in favor of the Petitioner/ Plaintiff for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT STATE OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF DAVIAN JOHNS

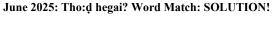
April Lynette Miles, Guardian

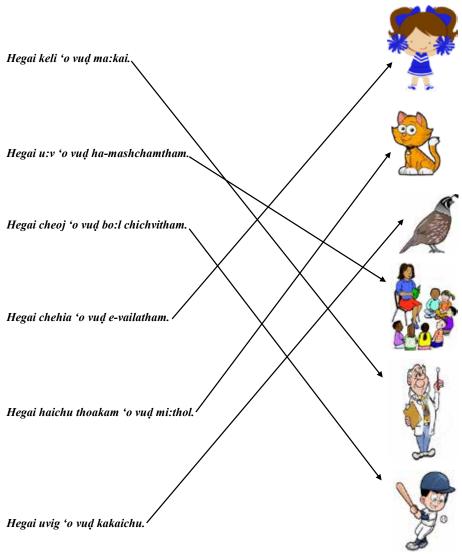
CASE Number: CV-2022-0120-ZGA

CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a(n) **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:

Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 2:00 PM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUO KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.





Clip Art Courtesy Robert Johnson

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • May 7, 2025

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, May 7, 2025, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton. Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:05

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Joseph Manuel, Jr.

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present: Lt. Governor Regina Antone Governor Stephen R. Lewis (10:28) Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.(10:16); D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa(9:07), Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.(9:11), Terrance Evans(9:19); D7- Devin Redbird(9:19)

Council Members Absent: D6- Charles Goldtooth (Personal) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE NEW BUSINESS #11 AND #14 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF **MATERIAL**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO **ACCEPT REPORTS #1 THROUGH** #4; ACCEPT AND APPROVE **RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #6.** #8 THROUGH #20, AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #2 AND #16 ON THE CONSENT **AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGEN-DA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUC-**TIONS REPORTS**

>1. American Legion Post 51 Haskell Osife Antone 2nd Quarter Budget Presenter: Gary Rodriguez ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

>2. Community Technology Center FY2024/2025 2nd Quarter Report Presenter: Connie Jackson ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

>3. GRSG FY25 Q1 Report Presenters: Michael H. Morago, Donna Stowell, GRSG Board of **Directors**

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

>4. GRICUA FY25 Q1 Report Presenter: Ken Stock ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF **AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #5 AND #6 5. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council March 2025 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gila River Gaming Commission, M. Scott Sanderson, Lydia Acosta, Jerald Higginson **ACCEPTED**

6. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report March 2025

(Executive Session) Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnelson, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee **ACCEPTED**

RESOLUTIONS

*1. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona, Inc. And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Tribal Health Department For The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Good Health And Wellness In Indian Country Contract GHWIC-GRIC-00 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; **H&SSC** concurs) Presenters: Calista Rocha, LaDawn Yazzie, Candalerian Preston

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >2. A Resolution Approving The System Conservation Implementation Agreement Between The United States Bureau Of Reclamation And The Gila River Indian Community For Construction Improvements To Ashurst-Hayden Diversion Dam (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda;

NRSC concurs) Presenters: Jason Hauter, Javier Ramos, Michael Carter ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-136-15 And Approving The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 For The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC & LSC concur)

Presenters: Bruce Harvey, Adam Sainz, Hector Andrade ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Confirming That The Community Will Assume Ownership, Operation And Maintenance Of The New Water Line Hydrant, Emergency Traffic Signals And Associated Infrastructure To Be Installed In Connection With The Construction Of The New District 4 Public Safety Facility (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs with corrections) Presenters: Todd Araujo, Michael

Carter ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Approving The Rebranding Of The Casino Expansion Owner's Team To Akimel-XiiL And Expanding Akimel-XiiL's Scope As Developer And Project Manager For Designed Economic Development Opportunities And Infrastructure Projects (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs) Presenter Barney Enos, Jr. ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >6. A Resolution Approving The Transfer Agreement (As-Is) Of

The Ak-Chin Clinic Facility To The

Ak-Chin Indian Community (G&M-

SC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; **H&SSC** concurs)

Presenters: Zachary Picciotti, Javier Ramos, Robert Yoder ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA [REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA]

>7. A Resolution To Approve The Gila River Police Department Performance Evaluation Step Program Proposal For GRPD (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: TeriLynne Kisto, Jesse Crabtree **APPROVED**

>8. A Resolution Authorizing Gila River Development To Approve And Ratify The Connected Payments Subscription Agreement Between Gila River Development And NCR Corporation ("NCR"), For The Credit Card Server Software At The Sacaton Market And Authorizing Gila River Development To Provide A Limited Waiver Of Its Sovereign Immunity (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Bartley Harris, Duncan Wiston, Kaleb Lester, Office of the General Counsel ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA >9. A Resolution Approving The Submission Of Year Four Of The Five Year Grant Application To The United States Department Of Health And Human Services, Administration For Children And Families, Office Of Head Start, American Indian And Alaska Native Programs For Renewed Funding For The Gila River Indian Community Head Start/Early Head Start Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)

Presenters: Michelle Tohtsoni, Sherilyn Analla ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA >10. A Resolution Amending The Tribal Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Reynalda James By Dividing The Parcel Into Two Separate

Parcels Located In District One With in The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Tiffany James (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, DHD Staff, Reynalda James, Tiffany James ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. A Resolution Amending The Tribal Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Cecelia Eddie By Dividing The Parcel Into Two Separate Parcels Located In District One Within The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Sierra Morago (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, DHD Staff, Cecelia Eddie, Sierra Morago ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >12. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Alexine Morales Located In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 40423-0126 (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Alexine Morales ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >13. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Marjorie Peters ignated As Drawing No. 40521-0009

Located In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Des-(NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, DHD Staff, Mariorie Peters ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA >14. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Brenna Lewis Located In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 40523-0271 (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, DHD Staff, Brenna Lewis ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>15. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Waylon Webb, Sr. Located In District Six Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 40623-0128 (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Waylon Webb, Sr. ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>16. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Jorge Alvarez Jr Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sara Duenez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA >17. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Amelia Amor Alvarez Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

Presenter: Sara Duenez ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>18. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Jordan Mariana Alvarez Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenter: Sara Duenez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >19. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Robert Kenneth Cooley Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sara Duenez ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA >20. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Shauna Marie Darrell Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards

to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda) Presenter: Sara Duenez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA 21. A Resolution Approving Amendments To The 2022 Enrollment/Cen-

sus Department Policies And Procedures (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval) Presenter: Sara Duenez **APPROVED**

ORDINANCES

1. The Gila River Indian Community Council Hereby Amends The Gila River Indian Community Code, Title 2, Elections Code By Enacting Revisions To Chapter 3, Referendums, Initiatives, And Constitutional Amendments (LSC forwards to Council under Ordinances with a recommendation for approval) Presenters: Lorenzo Sierra, IV, Michael Carter MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REFER BACK TO LSC **IGOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS** CALLED FOR A 15-MIN BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12:26 P.M.]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS

1. Gila River Specialty Plate Fund (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with additional material; EDSC concurs) Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Roberto Jackson MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO **DESIGNATE GOVERNMENT &** MANAGEMENT STANDING COM-MITTEE AS THE TRANSPORTA-TION COMMITTEE REFERENCED IN ARS 28-270.18 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE PROCESS OUT-LINED HERIN TO OVERSEE AND AWARD PROJECT FUND FROM THE GILA RIVER SPECIALTY PLATE FUND

>2. GRSG FY 2024 Audit Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs) Presenters: Steven May, Donna Stowell, Michael Morago ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Continued on ext page

Action Sheets cont.

3. Investment Manager Meeting Invitation (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND THE INVESTMENT MANAGER MEETING UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

4. SB 1308 Sober Living Homes Passage and Signing by Governor Katie Hobbs (H&SSC forwards to Council under New Business) Presenter: Alfred Urbina FOR INFORMATION

FOR INFORMATION
5. Government & Management
Standing Committee Declaration
of Vacancies to the Community
Council – (2) Council Seats (G&MSC
forwards to Council to declare (2)
Council seat vacancies)
Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO
DECLARE TWO (2) COUNCIL SEAT
VACANCIES FOR GOVERNMENT
& MANAGEMENT STANDING

COMMITTEE
6. Health & Social Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (2) Council Seats (H&SSC forwards to Council to declare (2) Council seat vacancies)

Presenters: Health & Social Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE TWO (2) COUNCIL SEAT VACANCIES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE 7. Natural Resources Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council - (3) Council Seats (NRSC forwards to Council to declare (3) Council seat vacancies) Presenters: Natural Resources Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THREE (3) COUNCIL SEAT VACANCIES FOR NATURAL

RESOURCES STANDING COM-MITTEE 8. Education Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (1) Council Seat (ESC

forwards to Council to declare (1) Council seat vacancy) Presenters: Education Standing

Presenters: Education Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE ONE (1) COUNCIL

SEAT VACANCY FOR EDUCATION

STANDING COMMITTEE

9. Economic Development Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (3) Council Seats (EDSC forwards to Council to declare (3) Council Seat vacancies)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THREE (3) COUNCIL SEAT VACANCIES FOR EDUCA-TION STANDING COMMITTEE 10. Cultural Resource Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council - (2) Council Seats

(CRSC forwards to Council to declare (2) Council seat vacancies) Presenters: Cultural Resource Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE TWO (2) COUNCIL SEAT VACANCIES FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE STANDING COMMITTEE 11. No More Families of Murdered Victims (LSC forwards to Council for discussion and action)

Presenter: Bernadean C. Lewis TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-

12. Urgent Call to Protect GRIC (LSC forwards to Council for discussion and action)

Presenter: Carmen Baldwin-Ortega MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE TO HOLD A TOWN HALL FOR THE COMMUNITY REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY AND DIRECT THE ATTENDANCE OF GRPD, OCM, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, DEFENSE SERVICES OFFICE, COMMUNITY COURTS, AND CPAO TO ADDRESS FUNDS AND GATHERING COMMUNITY INPUT

13. Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan (LSC forwards to Council under New Business as information) Presenter: Jesse Crabtree

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT AS FYI 14. Co-op Residents' Concerns (LSC forwards to Council for discussion) Presenters: Doreen Sunn, Lorraine Yaramata, Melissa Lewis TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-

15. 25th Annual NATHPO Conference, September 8-12, 2025, Reno, NV (CRSC forwards to Council under New Business

for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)
Presenters: Reylynne Williams,
Darius Enos, Larry Benallie, Jr.
MOTION MADE AND SECOND
TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED
COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ATTEND
THE 25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICERS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2025
IN RENO, NV UTILIZING DUES &
DELEGATIONS

>16. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. FY 2024 Final Audit Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and placement on the consent agenda) Presenters: Tony DeMark, Mark Siadal, Kelly Huntington ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• JOINT MEETING WITH GOVERN-MENT & MANAGEMENT STAND-ING COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE AND NATURAL RESOURCES STAND-ING COMMITTEE MAY 8-10, 2025 IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

- LAW DAY IS TAKING PLACE AT THE COMMUNITY COURTS WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025
- CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 AT THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPART-MENT
- PRAYERS WERE REQUEST-ED FOR THE FAMILY OF MS. CORINNE ESCALANTE, FUNERAL SERVICE WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025
- PRAYERS WERE REQUESTED FOR THE FAMILY OF JILL JACK-
- GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR MAY 26, 2025 HAS BEEN CANCELED
- PRAYERS WERE REQUESTED FOR THE FAMILIES OF WAYNE ALLISON, SR. AND DEBBIE SABORI
- ANTONIO AZULE AWARDS WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025 INFORMATION WILL BE FOR-WARDED TO THE COUNCIL

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:41

- * Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
- > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for air quality operating permits for the following facilities:

Facility Name	Facility Type	Permit Action	District	Significant Air Pollutants *
Superlite Block	Concrete Bagging and Block Plant	Modification/ Renewal	4	NOx, VOC, CO, PM, PM10, PM2.5
Honeywell Engines	Jet Engine Testing	New	4	NOx, VOC, SOx, CO, PM, PM10, PM2.5

*"Significant" means the following air pollutants have the potential to be emitted at quantities greater than one ton per year: NOx = Nitrogen Oxides; VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds; CO = Carbon Monoxide; SOx = Sulfur Oxides; PM = Particulate Matter; PM10 = PM <10 Microns; PM2.5 = PM <2.5 Microns

Public Notice Start Date: May 23, 2025 Public Notice End Date: June 23, 2025

Public comments will be accepted in writing until the public notice end date, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received.

Any person may submit a written comment or a request to the DEQ to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving oral or written comments on the -proposed air quality operating permits. Such comments and requests shall be received by the DEQ within 30 days of the date of the first publication notice. A written comment shall state the name and mailing address of the person, shall be signed by the person, his agent or his attorney and shall clearly set forth reasons why the permit should or should not be issued. Grounds for comment are limited to whether the proposed permit meets the criteria for issuance prescribed in the GRIC Code: Title 17, Chapter 9 of the Air Quality Management Plan. Only persons who submit written comments may appeal a permit decision.

Copies of the permit application, the proposed permit, and relevant background material will be available for review on the AQP website at:

 $\underline{http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/education--outreach/public-notices}.$

Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to:

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Ryan Eberle
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2139, Sacaton, AZ 85147

For further information or to schedule an in-person review, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520) 796-3781 / air@gric.nsn.us.





Start your free application for WIC today. Scan the QR Code at left or visit: itcawic.itcastars.net/apply



INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ARIZONA, INC.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY WIC 520.562.9698

66 West Pima St. Sacaton, AZ 85147

PUBLIC HEARING/OPEN HOUSE

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), as the lead agency and project sponsor, in collaboration with the Gila River Indian Community (Community), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Design Memo (DM) for the proposed Interstate 10 (I-10)/Koli Road Traffic Interchange. The proposed I-10/Koli Road Traffic Interchange would be located on I-10 between the existing Wild Horse Pass Boulevard/Sundust Road and State Route 347/Queen Creek Road traffic interchanges.

DRAFT EA AND DM AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

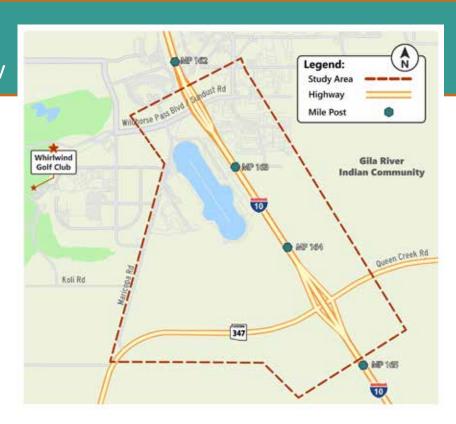
The draft EA and DM will be published and available for public review and comment from July 14, 2025, through Aug. 13, 2025. The draft EA and DM evaluate the Recommended Build Alternative as compared to the No-Build Alternative. Select technical reports associated with the draft EA will be available upon request. Please email koliroad@azdot.gov or call 602.522.7777 to make a request. The draft EA and DM can be reviewed at the following repository locations and on the study website at azdot.gov/koliroad:

- Chandler Public Library Downtown 22 S. Delaware St., Chandler, AZ 85225 | 480.782.2800
- Ironwood Library 4333 E. Chandler Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85048 | 602.262.4636
- Gila River Indian Community Governance Center 525 W. Gu U Ki, Sacaton, AZ 85147 | 520.562.9500
- Gila River Indian Community District 1: Blackwater 15747 N. Shegoi Rd., Coolidge AZ 85128 | 520.215.2110
- Gila River Indian Community District 2: Hashan Kehk 8070 Park St., Sacaton, AZ 85147 | 520.562.3450
- Gila River Indian Community District 3: Sacaton 31 N. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147 | 520.562.3334
- Gila River Indian Community District 4: Santan 2230 N. Home Run Dr., Sacaton, AZ 85147 | 520.418.3661
- Gila River Indian Community District 5: Casa Blanca 3456 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Bapchule, AZ 85121 | 520.315.3441
- Gila River Indian Community District 6: Komatke 5230 W. St. Johns Rd., Laveen, AZ 85339 | 520.550.3805
- Gila River Indian Community District 7: Maricopa Colony 8035 S. 83rd Ave., Laveen, AZ 85339 | 520.430.4780

COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EA AND DM

Submit your comments on the I-10/Koli Road Traffic Interchange Study draft EA and DM from **July 14**, **2025**, **through Aug. 13**, **2025**. All comments received during the public comment period will be documented and responded to in the I-10 Koli Road Traffic Interchange Study Final EA and DM. All comment methods are considered equal.

- Provide written/verbal comments at the in-person virtual public hearing.
- Online through our comment form: azdot.gov/koliroad
- ➤ Email: koliroad@azdot.gov
- Call: 602.522.7777
- Mail: I-10/Koli Road Traffic Interchange Study Office 7130 W. Fairview St., Chandler, AZ 85226



PUBLIC HEARINGS

An in-person public hearing and a virtual public hearing will be held to provide an overview of the draft EA and DM, share ADOT's preliminary recommendation and accept public comment. The public hearing presentation and materials can also be viewed on the study website.

In-Person Agenda:		Virtual Agenda:		
5:30 – 6 p.m.	Open House	5:30 p.m.	Formal Presentation	
6-6:30 p.m.	Presentation	6 p.m.	Q&A	
6:30 – 7 p.m.	Formal Public Comments/Open House	6:15 – 7 p.m.	Formal Public Comments	

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE:

In-Person Public Hearing for the
Gila River Indian Community
Tuesday, July 29, 2025 | 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass Shelde Building
5692 W. North Loop Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85226

2. Virtual Public Hearing
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 | 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Call-in/Online through Zoom





JOIN MEETING HERE bit.ly/3GHOrf5

English

Online: bit.ly/3GHOrf5 | Phone: +1 646.876.9923 Webinar ID: 928 4590 2660

Passcode: KoliRoad or 70876696

Español

Enlace (Inglés): bit.ly/3GHOrf5 | Teléfono: +1 646.876.9923 Número de Reunión (Código de acceso): 928 4590 2660

Clave: KoliRoad o 70876696

The environmental review, consultation and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 USC 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024 and executed by FHWA and ADOT.

Las consultas, la revisión ambiental y otras acciones requeridas según las leyes ambientales federales correspondientes para este proyecto se están llevando a cabo o se han llevado a cabo por ADOT de acuerdo con 23 U.S.C 327 y un Memorándum de Acuerdo con fecha del 25 de junio de 2024 y se han realizado por FHWA y ADOT.







Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other nondiscrimination laws and authorities, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact Marcy McMacken at 855.712.8530 or mmcmacken@azdot.gov. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the State has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

De acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA por sus siglas en inglés) y otras normas y leyes antidiscriminatorias, el Departamento de Transporte de Arizona (ADOT) no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad o discapacidad. Las personas que requieran asistencia (dentro de lo razonable) ya sea por el idioma o discapacidad deben ponerse en contacto con Marcy McMacken al 855.712.8530 o por correo electrónico al mmcmacken@azdot.gov. Las solicitudes deben hacerse lo más antes posible para asegurar que el Estado tenga la oportunidad de hacer los arreglos necesarios.

[COMPLETED LEGISLATION REVISION TO ELECTIONS CODE]

TITLE 2

ELECTIONS

Chapter 3. Referendums, Initiatives, and Constitutional Amendments

2.301. Petitions Generally. 2.302. Application for Petitions. 2.303. Form of Application. 2.304. Receipt of Application. 2.305. Standard Form of Petition. 2.306. Filing. 2.307. Certification. 2.308. Return. 2.309. Disposition of Petitions. 2.310. Recordkeeping. 2.311. Penalties.

A copy of this completed legislation in its entirety is on file and available for review at all District Service Center coordinators' offices and the Community Council Secretary's Office.

2.301. Petitions Generally.

- A. **Required Use.** This chapter within the Community Code of Ordinances shall govern formal written request to the Community Council for petitions for referendums, initiatives and Constitutional amendment elections. No petitions shall be heard by Community Council unless in compliance with this chapter within the Community Code of Ordinances, including any outstanding petitions at the time of the enactment of this chapter.
- B. **Petitions.** A referendum, initiative or Constitutional amendment may be held at a special election called for that purpose or may be held at the same time as and concurrent with any other election. Within sixty (60) days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and other legal holidays, from a petition being certified, the Community Secretary shall present the referendum, initiative or Constitutional amendment to the Community Council, which upon receipt shall within sixty (60) calendar days:
 - 1. Adopt an initiative measure without alteration; or
 - Set the matter for vote in accordance with this title at an election to be held within 120 calendar days from the date the referendum, initiative or Constitutional amendment was presented to the Community Council.

2.302. Application for Petitions.

A person or organization intending to propose a new law, amendment to an existing law or resolution or other action of the Community Council, or, to amend the Community's Constitution by petition shall, before causing the petition to be printed and circulated, file an application with the Community Secretary or his or her designee's office. The petition must be filed and signed by an enrolled member of the Community who is registered to vote in the Community. If the petition is filed by an organization and then at least two enrolled members of the Community must sign and submit the petition as officers of the organization.

2.303. Form of Application.

- A. The application shall be in no less than ten-point type, shall be on a form to be provided by the Community Secretary or his or her designee, and shall set forth the following:
 - 1. The applicant's name and GRIC identification number or, if an organization, its names and the names and titles of its officers;
 - 2. The applicant's or organization's address and district;
 - 3. A statement of the applicant's intention to circulate and file a petition;

A copy of this completed legislation in its entirety is on file and available for review at all District Service Center coordinators' offices and the Community Council Secretary's Office.

2



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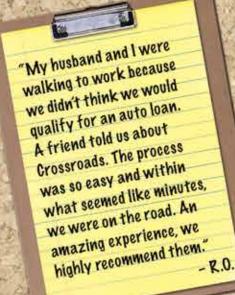


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