



Governor Lewis Issues Executive Order Declaring Public Safety Emergency, Announces Enhanced Curfew for Minors

“I will always take action whenever necessary to protect the Community’s youth,”
-Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

In response to a recent increase in violent crimes within the Gila River Indian Community, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis announced an Executive Order declaring a public safety emergency and enhanced curfew for minors on Feb. 25.

“I will always take action whenever necessary to protect the Community’s youth, and I encourage all Community members to report any suspicious or criminal activity to the Gila River Police Department,” Gov. Lewis said in a statement.

The temporary curfew is set between 7:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m., beginning Tuesday, Feb. 25, and has been extended to March 31. The curfew will not apply to minors who are accompanied by a parent or guardian and does not apply to emergencies, employment, and attending school, including Community-sponsored events or an official after-school program or sporting event, or practice.

The executive order states that after careful consideration and consultation with law enforcement officials and Community leaders, there is a need to implement an enhanced curfew for minors within the Gila River Indian Community to prevent further violence.



Gila River Police Department Chief, Jesse Crabtree, addresses the Community in video PSA on gun-related incidents on Feb. 25. GRIN Photo

Several gun-related incidents have been reported to the Gila River Police Department (GRPD) within the last week, including reports of gun fire near a school bus stop where children were present, which prompted lock down protocols. The following day, reports of gunshots and injuries were reported in a residential area, where officers spent several hours investigating.

GRPD Chief Jesse Crabtree issued a video statement addressing the “serious and growing concern of gun-related incidents,” reminding the Community of the dangers of gunfire and encouraging them to speak out if they are witnesses to anything.

“What goes up must come down, and stray bullets can cause

serious injury or even death,” he stated.

“There have been reports of gunfire near children walking to school, playing in their backyards, and even waiting for school buses. This must stop,” said Crabtree.

He said that GRPD will enforce the Community’s new safety measures but that the Community’s help is also needed, urging firearm owners to be responsible, utilize designated shooting ranges, and teach youth about gun safety.

“Teach them about responsibility, the irreversible consequences of unsafe gun handling, and the dangers of firearms falling into the wrong hands,” said Crabtree. “One bad decision can

mean a lifetime of regret.”

Crabtree encouraged the Community to speak up, “If you see something, say something. If you hear or witness gunfire in your area, report it immediately.”

In an emergency, you can call or even text 911. For non-emergencies, call (520) 562-4511. GRPD also utilizes an anonymous tip line: (520) 562-7144.

GRPD also states that you do not report crimes through social media, as messages are not monitored 24/7.

District 3 calls Town Hall to address concerns

A crowd of about 150 people filled the Gila River Police Department (GRPD) Station in District 3 on the night of Feb. 26 as Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, Community Council members, GRPD Chief Jesse Crabtree, and concerned GRIC residents gathered for a Town Hall meeting focused on crime and public safety and the newly instituted temporary youth curfew.

The Town Hall, called by District 3, provided a platform for law enforcement representatives and Community leaders to share crime data and policing strategy updates while giving residents an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns. By 6 p.m., the meeting space was already filled to capacity.

The meeting officially began

around 6:30 p.m. with an opening statement from District 3 Community Council Representative Avery White, followed by presentations from GRPD officials, including Chief Crabtree and Lt. Alex Belsan, who outlined recent crime trends and ongoing efforts to address public safety challenges on the reservation.

Following the presentations, Community members engaged in a structured Q&A session, with each speaker allotted up to three minutes to ask questions or provide comments. The topics addressed included gun violence, crime prevention strategies, general policing policies, and recent police incidents in the Community.

The discussion lasted more than two hours, with residents voicing their concerns about the recent uptick in violence within District 3. Gov. Lewis, Lt. Gov. Antone, Council Representative Joseph Manuel Jr., Chief Crabtree and the leaders in attendance pledged continued engagement with the Community and encouraged residents to report suspicious activity and work collaboratively with law enforcement.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from District 3 leadership to hold similar forums in the future to maintain open dialogue and ensure that public safety remains a top priority.

61st Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo Cancelled

GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

On Feb. 27, the Gila River Indian Community announced the cancellation of the 61st Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo, scheduled for March 14-16, due to safety concerns within the Community. All related events, including the planned Community Day, parade, rodeo, the Busta Rhymes and Ginuwine concert, the Battle of the Bands, the Pow Wow, and the cultural and sports games, have all been cancelled.

The announcement to cancel Mul-Chu-Tha also included the cancellation of the Miss Gila River Pageant, scheduled for March 8 at the Casa Blanca Community

School.

While GRIC officials made it clear that no imminent threats had been received against the fair and rodeo—one of the largest tribal fairs in the U.S.—they emphasized that prioritizing the well-being of guests and staff remained the Community’s top concern. All other Community events unrelated to the Mul-Chu-Tha are scheduled as planned.

For those seeking refunds related to the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo, the Office of the Treasurer/Finance Department Accounts Receivable can be reached at (520) 562-9618 or (520) 562-9633 or via email at financecashiers@gric.nsn.us.



Photo from the 59th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo in 2023, where crowds of attendees enjoy free carnival rides during Community Day. GRIN Photo

Gila River Indian News
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PATIENT NOTICE: Laboratory Order Process Update

In an effort to improve the quality of our patient care, we are changing the process of accepting external (non-Gila River Health Care) laboratory orders.

External orders for laboratory services will be completed after a patient care visit with one of our providers.

Please present your laboratory order to the Patient Registration desk, and we will be happy to assist you through our new, quick process.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us (520) 562-3321 Ext.1220.

Collection and processing of external laboratory orders are available during the hours below:

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 6:15 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 5:15 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Komatke Health Center

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:15 pm
Saturday & Sunday - Closed

Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:15 pm
Saturday & Sunday - Closed

View our Health Update Newsletter for the month of March.

In this edition HEALTH UPDATES AND EDUCATION

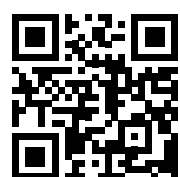
- Health updates and Education
- National Nutrition Month
- 20 Simple Nutrition Tips
- Life Center for Wellness

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 Behavioral Health Services
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

SCAN HERE



CHECK OUT OUR MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Access our monthly calendar
online at GRHC.ORG/BHS.
Call us for more information at (520) 610-2394
or email us BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG

Behavioral Health Services
invites you to join our educational
programming in March 2025.

March

- Active Parenting of Teens
- Yes to Life! & Narcan Booth
- Healthy Relationships
- Heroes Carry Narcan Booth
- Dangers of Meth
- Stress & Self Care
- Prevention Coalition
- Mental Health Awareness Line Dance
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Active Parenting

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449



Governor
Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Regina Antone

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Skyline Gila River Varsity Boys Basketball Win State Championship

News Release
Skyline Gila River

The Skyline Gila River Varsity boys team capped off their 20-win season with a state championship!

Boys Varsity finished a dominant 20-0 season hoisting a trophy after taking down Trinity Christian 57-51 to win the Canyon Athletic Association (CAA) Division 1 State Championship on Feb. 22.

Senior David Kelley was the CAA Division 1 Player of the year as well as the championship game MVP, while he and senior James Kelley were named to the CAA Division 1 All-State 1st team.

David Perez and Anointed Antone were named CAA Division 1 All-State 2nd Team.

The boys' varsity basketball team is coached by Andre Murray who was also CAA Division 1 Coach of the Year. This is Coach Andre Murray's first year coaching at Skyline Gila River and won a championship his first season as coach.

Freshman Bryson Brooks, senior Adrian Rocha, sophomore Isaiah Fino, senior Phillip Rocha, freshman Arthur Lewis, freshman Blake Jackson, and senior Dmitri Pratt were among other team members on the championship winning squad!



Skyline Gila River Boys Varsity Basketball team wins CAA Division 1 State Championship on Feb. 22. Photo Courtesy of Skyline Gila River



Skyline Gila River Girls Varsity Basketball team compete in the State Championship against Ville de Marie Academy. Photo Courtesy of Canyon Athletic Association

Skyline Gila River Varsity Girls

Our Varsity girls squad finishes their dominant season winning a state championship!

Girls Varsity finished their season with a 20-1 and a state championship. Sophomore Luciana Rivers won the CAA Division 1 Sonoran Region Player of the Year and was named CAA Division 1 All-State 1st Team.

Junior Kameryne Marion was also CAA Division 1 All-State 1st team. Sophomores Alex-

is Lewis and Monica Benally were named to the CAA Division 1 All-State 2nd Team.

Girls varsity basketball team's head coach is Daveda Taylor and assistant coach Darius Turner. Sophomore Jozette Biarco, freshman Sophia Gregg, sophomore Brie'Ann Dixon, junior Natalie Garcia, senior Jayden Benally, 7th grader Maryanah Benally, & 8th grader Alianna Villarreal also contributed on the championship winning squad!

Students from Skyline Gila River commit to College Football

Joseph Morales
GRIN Intern

On Feb. 27, two student-athletes from Skyline Gila River High School committed to playing football at the college level. David Perez, from the Gila River Community District 4, will continue his journey at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho, while Amear Hawkins has committed to Ottawa University Arizona. Their accomplishments not only represent personal milestones but also bring pride to the Community.

In our conversation, both athletes shared the years of hard work and discipline that led them to this moment. Perez, who represents the Community, stated, "Not too many people get the chance to play sports or even attend college. I just want to make my family and community proud."



David Perez (right) during the signing ceremony on Feb. 27. Photo Courtesy of Skyline Gila River



L-R: David Perez, Darius Turner, and Amear Hawkins. Photo Courtesy of Skyline Gila River

Hawkins added, "I started playing young, and it really interested me. I have my family's support, and I'm getting to see some of my dreams come true."

Both young men were key players on the Skyline football team, which recently won the State Championship for the 2024-25 season.

Achieving the state title was no easy feat, especially for these two athletes. Hawkins has been playing football for years, but Perez is newer to the sport. The tackle football program at Skyline Gila River was introduced in 2022, with the first years focused on developing the team and players. Last year's offseason, however, took the team's efforts to the next level.

"It was hard work, running and staying committed. We didn't have much free time, so we stayed focused," said Hawkins.

Perez added, "It was tiring. I'd get home late, do schoolwork, and start it all over again. But it was worth it."

Their paths have been shaped by the unwavering support of coaches and family, and their scholarships are the result of years of dedication.

These two athletes are not alone in their success. Skyline Gila River High School has had a remarkable year, with the girls' basketball team finishing as State runners-up and the boys' football and basketball teams winning state titles. These achievements reflect the commitment and leadership of Athletic Director Daveda Taylor, along with the coaching staff and faculty.

They showcase the strength and talent across all sports at the school and highlight the dedication of the entire student-athlete community.

As Perez and Hawkins head to college, they both carry the pride of their families and teammates. While Perez represents the Gila River Indian Community, both athletes demonstrate what is possible through perseverance and focus. Their success embodies the determination and spirit of their community and positions them as role models for younger athletes.

With strong support and a legacy of excellence, the future is bright for all Gila River student-athletes.

High School Basketball Star Receives Multiple Scholarship Offers

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

Kierah “Sugar” Pablo, a standout senior at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla., has captured the attention of college scouts, receiving multiple scholarship offers to play basketball at the collegiate level.

“I am extremely thankful for my basketball scholarship offers,” said Pablo.

“I am very excited for my future, and as of right now, I have not committed to where I will be continuing my journey.”

Among the schools offering scholarships are Arizona Christian University, Hartnell College, and Phoenix College, each recognizing the young athlete’s talent and potential. Pablo is expected to make a decision soon, weighing factors such as academics, coaching staff, and team fit.

Pablo, a Community member from District 5, is the daughter of RaySean Pablo Sr. and Sharon Pablo. She shares that her nickname “Sugar” was given to her by her grandfather, Raymond Pablo Sr., when she was just a baby. “I take a lot of pride in my nickname,” she said.

She plans to graduate college with a degree in Nursing and a minor in

Sports Management, begin her career, and return to the Community to give back and serve fellow members.

“One of my main goals for myself being Native American from Gila River is just to be a role model to the youth,” Pablo said. “Always be proud of who you are and where you come from; never forget your roots.”

During her time with the Riverside Lady Braves, the team won the district and regional championship in Oklahoma.



Kierah Pablo wins 2025 Girls Basketball District Champion. Photo Courtesy of Kierah Pablo

“Overall I had a great senior season of basketball and [I’m] very thankful for the opportunity; now time to start training for college,” said Pablo.

She expresses her deep gratitude to her parents and entire family for their unwavering love and support. She also acknowledges her mentor, David Grace, who always tells her, “Do more with your 24! Make every day your masterpiece!” This support has been instrumental in her journey.

Pablo would also like to thank Gov. Stephen Roe

Lewis for supporting and donating basketball shoes to the Gila River youth programs and attending local basketball tournaments, Native American Junior Nationals, and the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI).

As she prepares for the next chapter, her family, coaches, and teammates alike are eager to see where Pablo will take her talents next. Her advice to other students and youth is, “Anything is possible if you put your mind to it. The process is not going to be easy, but you have to stay focused and committed to accomplishing your goal.”



Kierah Pablo, District 5, plays for Riverside Indian School Lady Braves. Photo Courtesy of Kierah Pablo

GRIC’s 4-H Program makes steady progress

Joseph Morales
GRIN Intern

It has been close to a year for Liane Iglesias as the new Program Coordinator of the 4-H Youth Development program under the Gila River Irrigation & Drainage District (GRIIDD). Iglesias reports of the steady progress and increase of community engagement. The program, which aims to provide youth with hands-on learning experiences, has expanded its reach and continues to meet the needs of participants.



GRIC’s 4-H Program participants build towers out of marshmallows and toothpicks, an exercise that fosters engineering in youth. Photo Courtesy of Liane Iglesias

“The 4-H Program is going well and we are making progress,” said Iglesias.

The sign-up period just closed as of Dec. 31 for the 2024-25 program year. Youth who are still interested are encourage to attend their regular meetings. Monthly meetings are being held at the GRIID yard in Sacaton for Districts 1-5, meetings have even started in the West-end.

In addition to their regular meetings, the program has partnered with the Ira Hayes Memorial Library to host biweekly projects. These projects have been well-received by the participants. Workshops are also in development for

the Summer, with offers of leather crafting, photography, sewing, arts and crafts with STEM related activities.

“We want to continue expanding opportunities available for our youth,” said Iglesias.

One of the challenges faced is the access for all youth, most importantly those who lack transportation. To address this issue, Iglesias is working on integrating 4-H into schools within the Community as an after school activity.

“If 4-H were available in the schools that may help to eliminate that issue,” she explained.

With strong Community support and ongoing program development, the GRIIDD 4-H initiative continues to grow. It offers valuable experiences for local youth. As the program moves closer to the start of another year under Iglesias’ leadership, the focus remains on expanding opportunities, fostering engagement, and making 4-H accessible to all interested participants.

For more information about the GRIC 4-H Club, contact Liane Iglesias at (520) 610-7240 or email gri4H@gridd.com

“WHEN A FLOWER DOESN’T BLOOM YOU FIX THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT GROWS, NOT THE FLOWER”

2ND ANNUAL
DISTRICT 6
AUTISM
AWARENESS
WALK

SAVE THE DATE!!

SATURDAY
APRIL 19TH, 2025

GRIC Member launches Gila River Tractor Services, LLC

Joseph Morales
GRIN Intern

Gila River Indian Community member Wayne Lewis Jr, District 6, is dedicated to providing essential land and property maintenance for all Community members with his business.

Gila River Tractor Service, LLC, offers many resources, from gravel spreading to weed clearing. This locally owned venture is trying to fill an essential need while striving to give back to the Community.

“We strive to provide the best service possible and meet the needs of those seeking our help,” said Wayne Jr., A heavy equipment operator who now uses his skills for his own business.

The operation officially launched in June 2024 but faced some challenges in the early stages.

Wayne Jr., at the time, moved back to the Community with his family. He was driven and inspired to

make significant contributions throughout the area. Soon, he recognized the need for work with gravel spreading, weed removal, and general land upkeep. That’s when the journey began, which involved obtaining a business license, building the brand, and getting the right equipment. Marketing was the largest obstacle.

“From flyers and business cards to website development, this is a big and important start-up task. It’s also expensive on top of insurance and compliances; everything adds up,” Wayne Jr. explained.

By October of last year, Gila River Tractor Service was fully operational.

Wayne Jr. views his work as more than just a job- it’s an opportunity to support the people around him. The work is already making impacts with much-needed attention for local residents.

Additionally, to better

serve the Community, the business recently became an approved vendor within the Community and collaborates with the Community Services Department (CSD) to connect those in need.

Looking ahead, the owner hopes to expand efforts for elders and disabled Community members with property management.

Wayne Jr. even shared some advice for others wanting to venture into their own business.

“I would tell others to do your research, develop a marketing plan and get to know the leaders in your district and throughout the Community [and] finally, be patient. All good things take time,” he said.

Gila River Tractor Service, LLC, is more than just any trade; it’s about committing to the Community. The company is making a difference with each project by providing essential services and striving to give back.



Wayne Lewis Jr., owner of Gila River Tractor Services, LLC. Photo Courtesy of Wayne Lewis Jr.

For more information about the business or to inquire about services, Community members are encouraged to reach out directly by calling or texting (480) 335-7302 or visit their website: gilarivertractor.com. Gila River Tractor Service, LLC, is located at West Beltline Road in Laveen.



ANIMAL CONTROL/ SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM

VACCINATION CLINIC

March & April 2025

MARCH 24, 2025 • DISTRICT 1 & 2

District 1 Service Center: 9am-12pm

District 2 Ball Park: 12pm-3pm

MARCH 26, 2025 • DISTRICT 3

Ramadas (Old Service Center): 9am-1pm

MARCH 28, 2025 • DISTRICT 4

Red/Blue Ramada (Park): 9am-1pm

MARCH 31, 2025 • DISTRICT 5

Service Center: 9am-1pm

APRIL 2, 2025 • DISTRICT 6

Kalka Park (Behind Service Center): 9am-1pm

APRIL 4, 2025 • DISTRICT 7

Service Center Amphitheatre: 9am-1pm

CONTACT US

(520) 562 - 5177

If line is busy, please leave a clear message with your name, number and brief summary of your concern. Please allow our staff 24 hours to return your call.

433 W Seed Farm Rd Sacaton, AZ 85147





A photograph of a red tractor working on a dirt road, spreading gravel. The tractor is moving away from the camera, leaving a trail of gravel behind it. The road is surrounded by desert vegetation.

Gila River Tractor Services, LLC works on property maintenance for a customer. Photo Courtesy of Wayne Lewis Jr.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

MARCH 28, 2025







124 SKILL CENTER RD.


SACATON, AZ 85147

10:00AM - 2:00PM

TISON.GILL.DEQ@GRIC.NSN.US OR (520) 610-9950 FOR DETAILS

★ VETERANS ★

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Submitted by
Veteran & Family Services Office

The PACT Act and VA changes

of changes in the last few months within the Federal Government.

Recently, the announcement came that the VA is going to downsize 83,000 employees by August 2025. We know that this will bring changes.

It is unclear at this point, what those changes will be. It may mean longer wait times when calling 800-827-1000 to get answers to questions. It may mean that claim processing times will be longer, longer wait times for C&P exams or longer wait times getting any appointments.

The VA is changing access to your health records through MyHealthE-Vet; you will have to use VA.gov

The Veteran and Family Services Office (VFSO) staff remains committed to continue assisting veterans and their families.

We will be hosting two events in March: a Round Table March 12 and Vietnam Veteran's Day March 28.

We encourage you to bring a copy of your DD214 to our events for us to make a copy.

The copy will be retained by VFSO in case your DD214 is lost or a copy is needed by the family to ensure you receive the military honors you've earned.

For the families, a generic DD214 is attached. It may look slightly different depending on how old it is. PLEASE make sure you know where it is! We will gladly keep a copy for you. Encourage the veteran to share its location with you!


Save the date: March 28, 2025 will be our Vietnam Veterans Celebration. Location and time TBD.

Peer Support Specialist - Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4383

Peer Support Specialist - Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037

Veteran Service Officer – Kim Skelton 520-610-7644

21st Annual American Indian Disability Summit
presented by BMO




Friday | April 11, 2025
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Held at
Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85040


This event is in person.

Find more information about the 21st Annual American Indian Disability Summit on our

Website
ability360.org/american-indian-disability-summit











Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/aidisabilitysummit/



For more information, contact:
Rosalie Perry, 602-980-0286

"Gathering Native Voices to Nurture Wellness"





RSA-1473A FLYENG (01/25)

80th Anniversary of Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade



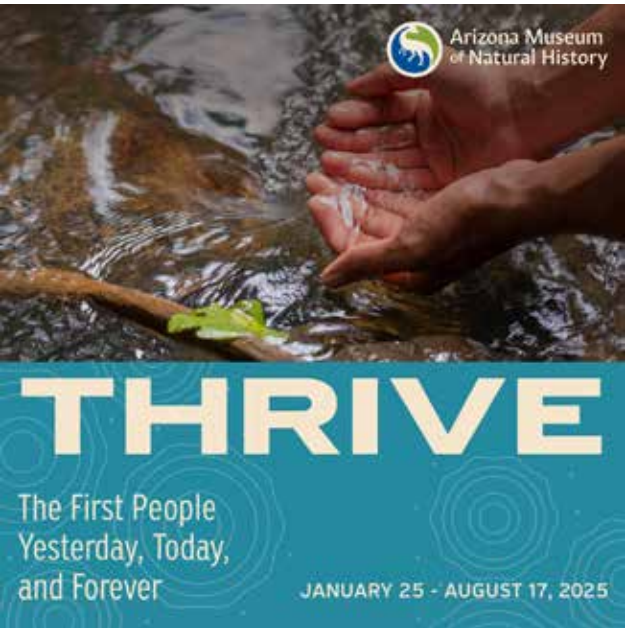
Arizona Museum of Natural History’s Newest Exhibit ‘THRIVE: The First People Yesterday, Today and Forever’ features GRIC

Joseph Morales
GRIN Intern

MESA — A new exhibit at the Arizona Museum of Natural History (AZMNH) celebrates the resilience and the enduring presence of the O’odham and Piipaash peoples, featuring key contributions from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC).

Titled THRIVE, the exhibition is a collaboration of AZMNH, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), and GRIC. It explores the deep connections these Indigenous nations have with their ancestral lands of the Sonoran Desert.

GRIC’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office helped in shaping the narrative while sharing cultural knowledge to enhance the project. Their input, along with contributions from SRPMIC’s Community Garden and Department of Cultural Resources, helped bring the vision to life. All of these Tribal Representatives contributed their expertise with great enthusiasm, generously sharing their knowledge and perspectives to shape this piece.” said Chad Amos, Marketing & Communications Manager at AZMNH. Working with GRIC and SRPMIC representatives, ensured THRIVE



authentically reflects their perspectives and traditions. “The exhibit expands the museum’s storytelling approach by centering Indigenous voices and traditional knowledge” said Amos, Marketing & Communications Manager at AZMNH. “This is designed to foster a greater appreciation for Indigenous people. It encourages visitors to engage with these stories in a meaningful way.” Rather than focusing solely on artifacts, the exhibit incorporates firsthand accounts and works of art inspired by ancestral practices. One standout piece is a pottery jar by O’odham master potter Ron Carlos (SRPMIC), it blends traditional artistry with modern influences.

The planning and de-

velopment of THRIVE began in January 2024, with the gallery opening in 2025. The process took approximately one year. Now, this is a temporary exhibit which started on January 25, 2025 and will be on display until August 17, 2025. The exhibit aligns with AZMNH’s mission to foster a deeper understanding of Indigenous history, ensuring these voices and traditions are honored.

Guest are encouraged to experience THRIVE and learn about the lasting legacy of Arizona’s first peoples.

For more information, visit the museum website: <https://www.arizonamuseumofnaturalhistory.org/explore-the-museum/exhibitions/thrive>.



The following list contains of names of individuals and other entities with outstanding checks issued by Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. (GRGE) and recorded as of June 30, 2024. In accordance with Escheat Ordinance GR-10-09, public notice of unclaimed checks will be published in the Gila River Indian Newspaper and GRIC’s official web site. If the last known owner is known to be a Community member, the department, program, or entity shall also post notice at all District Service Centers.

In order to claim the check, the owner must claim it in person within 30 days of publication or posting. In addition, to make claim, the person must provide the department, program, or entity with positive identification, including photo identification showing the person claiming the check is the last known owner. If the check is unclaimed for 60 days after publication, it shall escheat and title thereof shall vest in the Community. If you are the recipient of the Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. (GRGE) unclaimed property, please contact the GRGE Corporate Finance Department by sending an email to Accounting@gila.casino or call (520) 796-7198 for further instructions.

CLAYTON BURRIS	LOWDER, ISIAH N	WHITE, DOMINIC J
KETTLELICIOUS LLC	LOTT, AMBER K	HOMAN HAJBANDEH, MD
FROSCH TRAVEL	PERRY, DEVEN T	ALERE TOXICOLOGY
TRIPACTIONS	ANDRADE GONZALEZ,	STATE OF ARIZONA
*HOTEL ENGINE LLC	OMAR A	OKLAHOMA STATE
PALMISANO BROS INC	ALLISON, KY H	DEPARTMENT OF H
CESAR ALMODOVAR	MATA, LUIS M	OKLAHOMA STATE
CESAR ALMODOVAR	THOMAS, NESTA	DEPARTMENT OF H
MASTHEAD	HENDERSON, CHELLSEY D	DAYLENE R WHITTAKER
INTERNATIONAL	TOLIVER, RYAN E	UHC OF NEBRASKA
GILA RIVER DEPT OF	BURNETTE, AMANDA R	
PUBLIC WORKS	KIMMEL, HANNAH K	
LEWIS, JERED J	ESQUIVEL, ARMANDO L	

Community Health Nutrition Program

Nutritious Food Choices & Mindfulness

Welcome to a new season. Please join us to learn a new cooking skill set by meal prepping and participating in a food demonstration.

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

@ 7 p.m.

Location: Boys and Girls Club
116 S. Holly Street Sacaton, Az 85147

Class is open to GRIC enrolled members and residents. Space and promotional items are limited to 20 participants.



For information contact Community Health Nutrition
(520) 562-5134


CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT



YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.

Central Arizona Project (CAP) is a 336-mile system that supplies Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona, and delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.

Learn more about the CAP system at [KnowYourWaterNews.com](https://www.knowyourwaternews.com)

Kwi I'ivakithak Mashath, Sape Elithag/Proper Respect 2025



Submitted by
Huhugam Heritage
Center

The name for this month translates to budding of the Mesquite Tree Moon, which refers to the new seasonal growth of the Kwi. Now that we are moving forward into spring, we need to be reminded of how we relate to our family, relatives, friends and community members. Our upbringing not only involved the proper use of hand tools and assigned chores, it also included other aspects of Life. Those instructions in proper behavior were taught to us by our Elders, parents and other relatives. One of the first lessons in morals was the phrase “Sap ‘o ‘e ve:m-achak!” (Be good and get

along with others). This was especially important when we interacted with other community members not in our immediate family. As we grew old enough to attend school it became more essential, as we had to get along with our teachers and classmates. As we grew older the phrase “Sap hekachith heg ‘e mashchammig!” (Use what you learned in the right way.), became crucial, as we learned how to properly cut firewood without injuring ourselves and safely ignited the cooking fires. We were taught never to play with fire, but to treat it with respect, because it could kill someone if not attended properly. That was back in the day when there was no fire department. Another lesson taught to us was how

we were to conduct ourselves at school, church and out in public. The phrase “Sap haichu ‘ab wa:th!” (Conduct yourself in the proper manner.) That was especially important when we attended large communal church gatherings on the holidays, or large public events, such as the Mul-Chu-Tha. It was often the case that an older brother or sister took charge of us on our outings. We all had fun and rode the different rides and ate good foods. By the end of the night we were totally exhausted and fell asleep as soon as we had loaded into our family pickup truck for the ride home. One other phrase that was drilled into us was the instruction of “Sape ah ve:mthath heg hemachkam!” (Help others when

Sape Elithag/Proper Respect 2025: Match the phrase with its picture!

“Sap ‘e vem chichvith!”

“Sap ‘e vem ñeñeokath!”

“Ha kaiham heg ge’egeḏ!”

“Sap ha ve:machk heg hemachkam!”

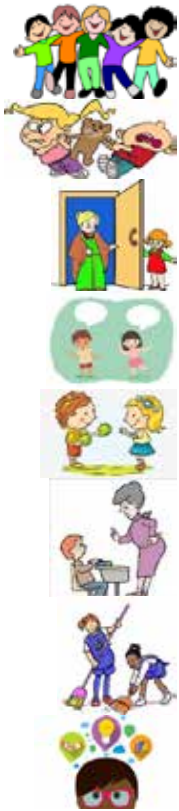
“Sap ‘o ha ve:machk!”

“Sap hekachith heg haichu mashchamig!”

“Sap haichu ‘ab wa:th!”

“Sap ‘i ha ve:mth heg hemachkam!”

ClipArt Courtesy Robert Johnson



they need your help.) This was important because not only were we expected to help our immediate family, but also our relatives on both our father’s and mother’s sides of the family. As we grew older, we were sent to live with our grandparents for the summer and helped them with everyday chores. We encourage you

to learn these phrases and practice them with your family members. Some phrases may be slightly different between the villages. Speak with an Elder, or speaker in your family and learn how to pronounce the phrases. Test your knowledge with the Sape Elithag/Proper Respect word match.

A special Thank You to community Elders for sharing their knowledge of Sape Elithag/Proper Respect that made this article possible. Additional source related from A Pima Past, Anna Moore Shaw, 1974, University of Arizona Press.

Events at Wild Horse Pass

GRIC Member Discount Available*

*A valid Tribal I.D. must be presented at the time of purchase at box office or entry to receive the Tribal discount. Discount dates and eligibility may vary.

FIREBIRD MOTORSPORTS PARK

FRI-SUN, 3/21-3/23

2025 NHRA ARIZONA NATIONALS

ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS! ENJOY 50% OFF TICKETS WHEN YOU PRESENT YOUR VALID TRIBAL ID (ANY TRIBE). TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN PERSON AT FIREBIRD MOTORSPORTS PARK OFFICE: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM OR AT THE GATE: DURING THE EVENT.

FIREBIRD MOTORSPORTS PARK - 20000 S MARICOPA RD

THURS-SUN, 3/27-3/30

FORD CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY WILD HORSE PASS

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

WILD HORSE PASS FESTIVAL GROUNDS

SAT, MAR 22

OFF THE TRACK: ALICE COOPER WITH SPECIAL GUEST BUCKCHERRY

GRIC MEMBER GA TICKET DISCOUNT FOR \$10 OFF IN TICKET OPTIONS. MUST SHOW VALID TRIBAL I.D. AT ENTRANCE

QUESTIONS AND INFO EMAIL: INFO@WHPP.COM

WILD HORSE PASS FESTIVAL GROUNDS

SAT, 4/12

PUNK IN THE PARK

GRIC MEMBER GA TICKET DISCOUNT FOR \$10 OFF INSERT PROMO CODE: GRIC10 AT CHECKOUT. MUST SHOW VALID TRIBAL I.D. AT ENTRANCE

TICKETS & INFO

WILDHORSEPASS.COM

I-10 AND WILD HORSE PASS BLVD CHANDLER, AZ 85226

New Data Analysis Sheds Light on Tribal Voter Turnout Decline in 2024

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

An analysis of 2024 voter turnout data conducted by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) reveals new insights into the downturn in tribal voting across the state, including within the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). GRIC’s turnout of 49% in 2024 remained higher than some tribal communities, but still lagged behind the Ak-Chin Indian Community, which recorded a 62% turnout, and the Navajo Nation, which had 59.67% participation. GRIC saw a slight decline from 50% voter turnout during the 2020 election, but remained above the 47% turnout in the 2016 election. According to the ITCA, voter turnout in Arizona’s reservation precincts dropped by 11% overall compared to 2020, even as voter participation in the rest of Arizona remained largely unchanged. This decline represents a stark contrast to 2020, when turnout on reserva-

tions increased by 29% over 2016 levels, fueled by a strong push for Native voter engagement during that election cycle. Among Arizona’s tribes, the Navajo Nation saw a particularly significant decline in 2024, with turnout falling 11% from 2020 levels. Other tribes, such as the San Carlos Apache (-12%) and Pascua Yaqui (-20%), also reported lower numbers. One of the contributing factors to declining voter participation in Native communities, according to the ITCA report, is the issue of ballot rejections. Tribal voters, particularly those living on reservations, faced disproportionately high rejection rates. Many mail-in ballots were rejected due to mismatched or missing signatures, a common issue that can arise when voters’ signatures change over time or when clerical errors occur. Late ballot submissions also posed a significant problem, particularly in remote areas where mail delivery delays made it difficult for ballots to reach election offices on time. Voter registration

issues further complicated participation, as some voters had outdated addresses on file, leading to confusion about their assigned polling places, while others unknowingly cast ballots in the wrong precinct, rendering their votes invalid. These challenges combined to create substantial barriers to voter turnout among tribal communities across Arizona. GRIC was among the communities where ballot rejection rates were notably higher than in off-reservation precincts. In Pinal County, where a significant portion of GRIC voters are registered, dozens of ballots were rejected due to registration and precinct errors. Despite these challenges, GRIC leaders and advocates continue to emphasize the importance of voting as a form of sovereignty and self-determination. Community outreach efforts, including voter registration drives and a “Get Out the Vote” rally featuring Arizona leaders like Gov. Katie Hobbs and Attorney General Kris Mayes, aimed to mobilize



Voter Information pamphlets provided by ASU’s Arizona Native Vote Election Protection Project during a Community Event. GRIN Photo

GRIC voters ahead of the election. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis acknowledged the hurdles faced by Native voters but reiterated the Community’s commitment to overcoming barriers. “Despite the barriers faced by members of the community and tribal voters everywhere, voting is a powerful declaration of our sovereignty,” Lewis said.

“Our voices matter. Every vote cast by a tribal member strengthens our fight for justice and equity, and for the valuable resources our Community and Indian Country deserve.” The ITCA analysis included several recommendations to address voting barriers that impact Native communities. These proposed solutions include expanding voter education

efforts, enhancing access to mail-in ballots, and increasing the availability of in-person voting locations on reservations. The findings suggest that implementing such measures could help stabilize or increase turnout rates and support broader electoral participation among Native voters in Arizona.

President Biden Commutes Leonard Peltier’s Sentence; Will Serve Remainder on Home Confinement

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

In one of his last offi-

cial acts in office, President Joe Biden commuted the sentence of Leonard Peltier, the 79-year-old Anishi-

naabe activist who has been incarcerated for nearly five decades. Peltier, a former member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), will serve the remainder of his sentence on home confinement, beginning Feb. 18. Peltier was convicted in 1977 for his role in the 1975 shooting deaths

of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The case has long drawn international criticism from Indigenous rights groups and human rights advocates who cite inconsistencies in evidence and alleged prosecutorial misconduct. Peltier’s supporters have argued for decades that his imprisonment

was politically motivated. “It’s finally over – I’m going home,” Peltier said in a statement released by the NDN Collective, an Indigenous rights organization based in South Dakota. “I want to show the world I’m a good person with a good heart. I want to help the people, just like my grandmother taught me.”

Advocates for Peltier’s release, including tribal leaders and members of Congress, have pushed for clemency, citing his age, declining health, and the injustices of his trial. His transition to home confinement marks the first time in nearly 50 years that Peltier will be outside a prison cell.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

REVISIONS TO TITLE 2, ELECTIONS CODE, QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

The Legislative Standing Committee (“LSC”) is considering proposed revisions to Title 2 of the GRIC Code to require Akimel O’Odham (Pima) or Pee Posh (Maricopa) blood as a requirement to hold office as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judge or Councilmember. A copy of the proposed revisions to Title 2 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 Lorenzo.SierraIV@gric.nsn.us.

The Office of General Counsel will present the proposed revisions and answer questions on the proposed revisions to Title 2 of the GRIC Code at the Legislative Standing Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 25, 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 2 of the GRIC Code, please provide them by email to the Office of General Counsel at Lorenzo.SierraIV@gric.nsn.us or by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147, Attn: Lorenzo Sierra.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

REVISIONS TO TITLE 2, ELECTIONS CODE, TO CODIFY A PROCESS FOR REFERENDUMS, INITIATIVES, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Legislative Standing Committee (“LSC”) is considering proposed revisions to Title 2 of the GRIC Code to codify a process for petitions for referendums, initiatives, and Constitutional amendments. A copy of the proposed revisions to Title 2 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 Lorenzo.SierraIV@gric.nsn.us.

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What's New at GRICUA?



Powerline Safety



Coming into contact with overhead powerlines can result in immediate, life-threatening injuries. It's crucial to respect the power and stay vigilant when near powerlines. Here are a few important safety reminders:

- Avoid shooting at utility facilities - this includes wires, poles, and insulators. Shooting at these structures is not only dangerous but also compromises power for everyone. Never attempt to shoot through wires or target objects on or near powerlines.
- Gunshot damage to electrical equipment can cause electrical arcs or make wires fall, posing a serious risk of injury or even death.
- If you witness someone shooting near utility facilities, please contact the Gila River Police Department immediately. Your quick action can help prevent potential accidents.

Let's all work together to keep our community safe by respecting powerline safety.

Congrats to Andy Jay!



GRICUA is proud to congratulate Andy Jay, from District 6, on completing the Technical Training Program (TTP). This rigorous 12-month program prepares participants for potential entry into GRICUA's Line Worker, Solar Technician, or Meter Technician Apprentices Programs. Andy's hard work and commitment have paved the way for future opportunities, and we celebrate his dedication and success.

Premier Pole Inspections

Premier Pole Inspections has completed pole testing on the GRICUA and SCIP 69kV & 12kV systems in District 4. These routine inspections help extend the lifespan of utility poles, identify issues early, and ensure reliable service while lowering overall costs.

Knox to Park Interconnection Project Update



GRICUA has begun construction on the 69kV Knox to Park Interconnection Project. Work is progressing along Allison Road and is expected to be completed by the end of January. The Knox to Park Interconnection is a critical project aimed at providing enhanced reliability and redundancy to customers in the Lone Butte Industrial Development area, including Community departments and enterprises operating within the Lone Butte Development area.

In addition to strengthening the existing infrastructure, this project will help attract potential businesses to the area by ensuring reliable power and fostering growth opportunities within the Community. We look forward to the completion of this project and the benefits it will bring to our Community's electric infrastructure.

REMINDERS

District Days

On April 2nd, GRICUA will be in District 3 at the District Service Center in Room E-17 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM on the following days to accept payments for electric and propane bills.

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 after hours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment options please call during normal business hours.



GRICUA'S STEAAAM SUMMER PROGRAM

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ART | ARCHITECTURE | AGRICULTURE | MATH

JUNE 2-6, 2025

GRADES 5-8

SIGN-UP DEADLINE MAY 9, 2025

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED
FIELD TRIPS & HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

SIGN-UP TODAY! GRIC MEMBERS ONLY

520-796-0600

WWW.GRICUA.NET

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: 190

PETER THOMAS



Last seen: 08/03/2007
Age: 47
Sex: M
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 190

JOSEPH UGALDE



Last seen: 05/14/2009
Age: 43
Sex: M
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 200

ANTHONY PORTER



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

KERMIT BREAD



Last seen: 04/11/2014
Age: 39
Sex: M
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 150

CYNTHIA ACEVEDO



Last seen: 08/31/2019
Age: 39
Sex: F
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'4"
Weight: 230

TONY GUTIERREZ



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

LORENZO JOSE



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

EMMANUEL BARRERA



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

ELEIJAH BROWN



Last seen: 11/01/2024
Age: 14
Sex: M
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'4"
Weight: 145

VINCENT BAPTISTO



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

RAYONNAH MIX



Last seen: 12/06/2024
Age: 14
Sex: F
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 125

ABRAHAM ENOS



Last seen: 02/16/2025
Age: 14
Sex: M
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'9"
Weight: Unknown

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

TIME TO UPGRADE?

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

CALL YOUR LOAN OFFICER
AT (520) 796-2454 Ext 226



PimaLeasing
& FINANCING CORPORATION



Announcements & Notices

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

ERICA KAYE SCOFFER
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

XAVIER CHIAGO
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. FM-2024-0083-PT

**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:

Tuesday, May 27, 2025
at 9:00 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

In the Matter of:
NAJI THOMAS

XAVIER CHIAGO
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. CV-2021-0238-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, April 17 2025
at 11:00 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

ALEX JOSEPH CASSA
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

PAULINE MAE WALEMA
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. FM-2022-0064-PT

**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, May 1, 2025
at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I,
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Honoring William "Monty" Frierson

DEC. 1966 **FEB. 2025**

April 5th 2025
Starting at 12PM
752 N Pleasant Dr.
Chandler AZ 85225

Food and refreshments will be served after the service

Join us as we honor the life and legacy of William 'Monty' Frierson.
His love, laughter, and kindness will forever remain in our hearts.

Scan to RSVP

Scan to donate and support
Monty's children after
his battle with cancer



Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department
Blotter Report

CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

FOR: GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS REPORTING DATE: 02/01 – 02/28/2025

OFFENSES

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	36
BURGLARY	8
DRUG VIOLATION	10
HOMICIDE	1
LARCENY	25
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	10
ROBBERY	1
SEX OFFENSE	4
SEXUAL ASSAULT	6
SIMPLE ASSAULT	60
WEAPONS OFFENSE	30

TOTAL

DISTRICTS

1	9
2	10
3	70
4	48
5	26
6	23
7	5

TOTAL

DAY OF WEEK

Sun	30
Mon	27
Tue	30
Wed	36
Thu	19
Fri	27
Sat	22

TOTAL

TIME OF DAY

12 AM	13
1 AM	3
2 AM	8
3 AM	3
4 AM	4
5 AM	4
6 AM	4
7 AM	4
8 AM	7
9 AM	6
10 AM	5
11 AM	9
12 PM	15
1 PM	11
2 PM	6
3 PM	12
4 PM	12
5 PM	15
6 PM	13
7 PM	9
8 PM	11
9 PM	6
10 PM	7
11 PM	4

3/4/2025 Created by Crime Analysts Page 1 of 1

A Tribute to William "Monty" Frierson

For over 20 years, William "Monty" Frierson dedicated his life to the Gila River Indian Community as a Surveyor for the Department of Transportation. He wasn't just an employee—he was family and a friend to many within GRIC. He spent years surveying roads and property lines, ensuring what he did was done with precision and care. Many community members may have encountered him or seen him at work, diligently surveying property lines, roads, and landmarks across the districts. Monty would often joke that he was "the skinny white dude" you'd see out there working, always ready with a laugh or a friendly nod. Monty was more than his job—he was a father, a friend, and one of the most generous people you'd meet. He selflessly donated hundreds of sick hours to help his fellow GRIC employees in times of need. And in his final months battling cancer, GRIC did what they could to keep him employed for as long as possible and assisted his family in navigating early retirement options, ensuring they had the resources to manage this difficult time. Their support meant the world to Monty and his loved ones, as they faced one

of the hardest moments of their lives. Now, Monty's family would love for you to join them to celebrate his life—to share stories, laughter, and memories in honor of the man who gave so much to others.

Date: April 5th, 2025
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: 752 N Pleasant Dr., Chandler, AZ 85225
Food and refreshments will be served after the service.

Monty leaves behind two children, Morgan and Will "Noah", who are now navigating life without him. **Please Share This:** If you knew Monty, please spread the word so those who worked with him can honor his legacy. Monty gave everything to his family and his work—let's show his children they are not alone. Your attendance, every share, and every kind word makes a difference. Thank you, GRIC, for being Monty's second family. We hope to see you there as we celebrate his life. <https://bunkerfuneral.com/obituaries/william-montgomery-frierson/>

Sape Elithag/Proper Respect 2025: Match the phrase with its picture!

"Sap 'e vem chichvith!"

"Sap 'e vem ñeñeokath!"

"Ha kaiham heg ge'eged!"

"Sap ha ve:machk heg hemachkam!"

"Sap 'o ha ve:machk!"

"Sap hekachith heg haichu mashchamig!"

"Sap haichu 'ab wa:th!"

"Sap 'i ha ve:mth heg hemachkam!"

ClipArt Courtesy Robert Johnson



Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

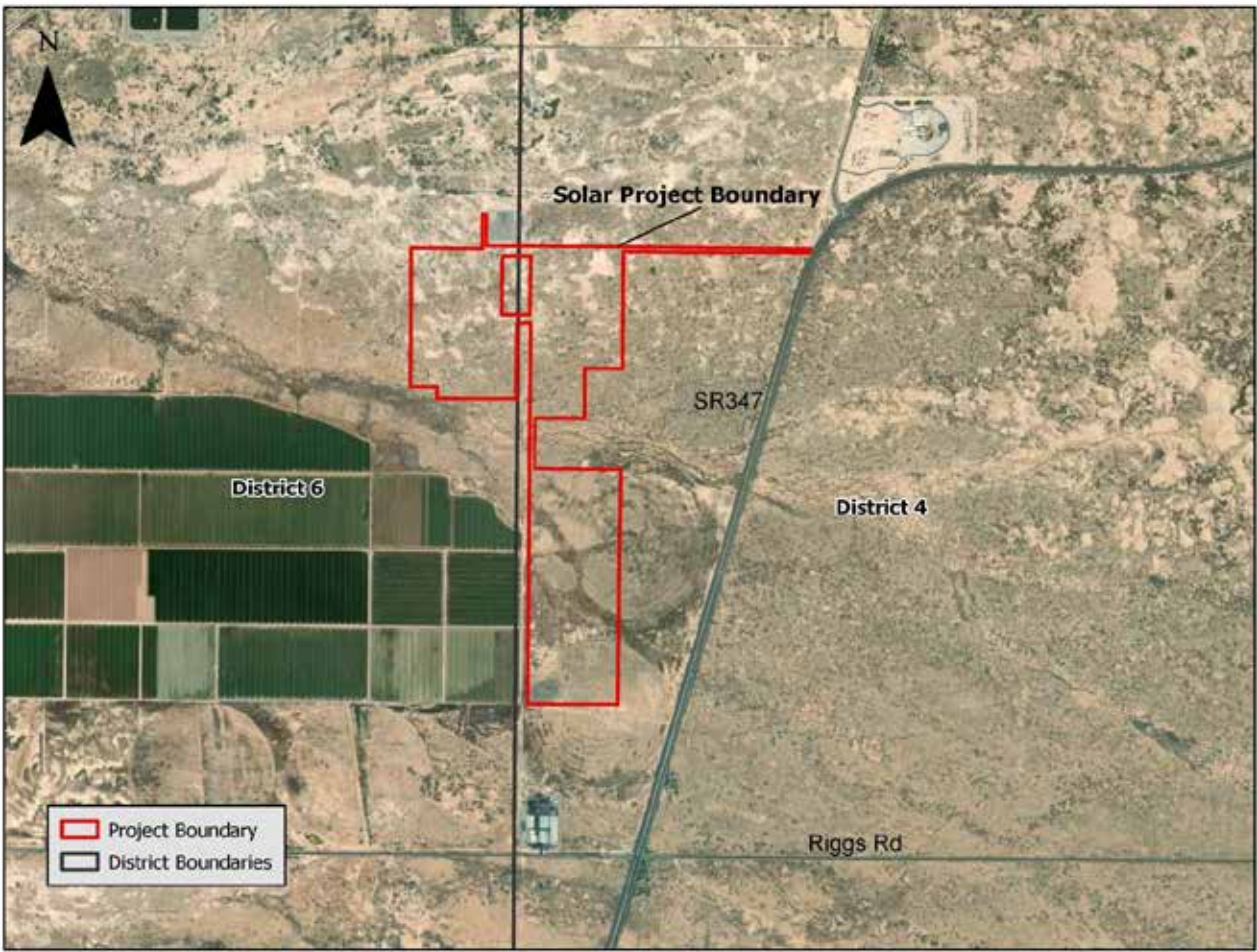
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Project Name:	GRICUA Solar Project
For:	Zoning Change
Currently Zoned:	A-1 Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning	I-2 Intensive Industrial District
Location:	West of State Route 347 & North of Riggs Road
Comment Period:	Now Open Until April 7, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Gila River Indian Community’s Natural Resources Standing Committee held a public hearing to discuss and consider a zoning change application submitted by Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority for their solar power site to be used for solar farming. On Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. a public hearing was held in District Four at the Service Center located at 1510 West Sesame Street Sacaton, AZ 85147. Comments regarding the zoning change from A-1 Agricultural District to I-2 Intensive Industrial District are currently being collected and will be become a part of the final zoning change consideration.

Comments from the public on the proposed zoning change will continue to be accepted **until close of business Monday, April 7, 2025**. Following the close of the comment period a report will be presented to the Natural Resources Standing Committee to review and make a recommendation for the proposed change in zoning.

Public comments can be submitted by emailing the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and Cc PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us or comment forms can be dropped off at the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning located at 291 W, Casa Blanca Rd. Sacaton, AZ. Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us or at (520) 562-6003.



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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • Feb. 19, 2025

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, February 19, 2025, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:08 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Regina Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.(9:11), Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans

Council Members Absent:

D5- James De La Rosa

D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr.

D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2, #3, #4, #5, #6; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA; AND TABLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS #1, NEW BUSINESS #5 AND RESOLUTION #4

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction - Enrollment/Census Department Director Ms. Sara Duenez

Presenters: Michael Preston, Sara Duenez

MR. MICHAEL PRESTON, ASSISTANT COMMUNITY MANAGER INTRODUCED MS. SARA DUENEZ AS THE NEW ENROLLMENT/CENSUS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR. MS. DUENEZ IS AN URBAN MEMBER FROM DISTRICT 4 UPPER SANTAN AND HAS BEEN EMPLOYED WITH THE COMMUNITY SINCE 2015 SERVING IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES. MS. DUENEZ RECEIVED HER ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE, HER BACHELORS IN ADMINISTRATION AND MASTER’S DEGREE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY. MS. DUENEZ HAS BEEN MARRIED FOR 25 YEARS TO JOSE DUENEZ AND IS A MOTHER TO THREE WONDERFUL, CREATIVE, AND LOVING CHILDREN. MS. DUENEZ LOOKS FORWARD TO PROVIDING UNBEATABLE CUSTOMER SERVICE WITHIN THE ENROLLMENT/CENSUS DEPARTMENT AND IS VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED TO HAVE THIS POSITION AS THIS IS SOMETHING SHE HAS STRIVED TO ATTAIN. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS WELCOMED MS. DUENEZ AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HER.

REPORTS

1. Haskell Osife Antone Post 51 2025 1st Quarter Budget Report
Presenter: Gary Rodriguez

REPORT HEARD

>2. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 2024 First and Second Quarter Report
Presenter: Tony McDaniel

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 84 2024 First and Second Quarter Report
Presenter: Carletta

McDaniel

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. FY2025 First Quarter Report - Four Rivers Indian Legal Services
Presenter: Sarah Youngblood

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. FY2024 Annual Report – Finance Department

Presenters: Mark Graham, Neomi Martinez

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. FY2024 Annual Report – Benefits Administration

Presenter: Gustina McCandless

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. FY2025 Financial Activity Report ending January 31, 2025 (Executive Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Granting 10.00 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land Within District Three To The Multi-Family Housing Construction Owner’s Team For The Purpose Of Planning, Designing, And Constructing Multi-Family Housing Units Within The Designated Area As Shown In Drawing No. 40324-0280-TP And Establishing A Zone Of R-M Community Multi-Family District (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC and EDSC concur)

Presenters: Planning Development Team, Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Kimberly Cooper

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Granting 10.00 Acres, More Or Less, Of Community Trust Land Within District Six To The Multi-Family Housing Construction Owner’s Team For The Purpose Of Planning, Designing, And Constructing Multi-Family Housing Units Within The Designated Area As Shown In Drawing No. 40624-0282-TP And Establishing A Zone Of R-M Community Multi-Family District (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC and EDSC concur)

Presenters: Planning Development Team, Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Kimberly Cooper

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement For The Gila River Indian Community Police Department’s Participation In The Arizona Child Abduction Response Team (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, Rachelle Rodriguez

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Police Department And The City Of Mesa Police Department For Mutual Protection And Assistance (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, Jeffrey Hunter

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Lori Reyes Located In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No.40424-0254 (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

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Proposed Changes To Code Of Conduct (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Michael Carter

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gila River Boys & Girls Club Board of Director’s Declaration of Two (2) Vacancies (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business to advertise for 60 days subject to a background check)

Presenter:

Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SCOND TO ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK

2. GRICUA FY24 Audit Financial Statements (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Ken Stock, Arnold Mejia, Adam Cavin

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

3. 2025 Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention March 31–April 3, 2025 – San Diego, CA (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

4. Sherman Indian School Board Representative Committee (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation to authorize and direct the Governor, with the assistance of OGC, to send a letter to the Bureau of Indian Education expressing the Community’s displeasure with the process by which the BIE terminated Mrs. Carolyn Williams’ membership from the Sherman Indian High School Board)

Presenters: Education Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OGC, TO SEND A LETTER TO THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION EXPRESSING THE COMMUNITY’S DISPLEASURE WITH THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE BIE TERMINATED MRS. CAROLYN WILLIAMS’ MEMBERSHIP FROM THE SHERMAN INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

5. FY2025 Internal Audit Department 1st Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept)

Presenter: Dena Thomas

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MINUTES

*1. June 1, 2024 (Special)

APPROVED

2. February 5, 2025 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR COUNCILMAN FRANKLIN PABLO, SR. IN THE LOSS OF HIS GRANDSON

• GILA RIVER FARMS BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.

• HOUSING OWNER’S TEAM WORK SESSION HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

• POLICE DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION OWNER’S TEAM MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M. VIA WEBEX

• FOUR SOUTHERN CULTURAL RESOURCE WORKING GROUP WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M. IN AK-CHIN

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:32 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



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**EVERCLEAR
WITH MARCY PLAYGROUND**
SATURDAY, MARCH 29 | 8PM



WAR
FRIDAY, APRIL 4 | 8PM



PRINCE AGAIN
A TRIBUTE TO PRINCE
FRIDAY, APRIL 4 | 8PM
& SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 8PM



THIRD EYE BLIND
SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 8PM



THE O'JAYS
SATURDAY, APRIL 12 | 8PM

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UPCOMING
SHOWS**

APRIL 17 | DASHA AT WILD HORSE PASS
APRIL 26 | SICKICK AT WILD HORSE PASS
MAY 1 | LOS LONELY BOYS AT WILD HORSE PASS



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