



Boys & Girls Club of the Gila River Indian Community hosts Youth of the Year Banquet



2025 Youth of the Year nominees L-R: David Andrews, Vanessa Chacon, and Orion Homer. Photo Courtesy of Gila River Broadcasting Corp.

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

On March 7, the Boys & Girls Club of the Gila River Indian Community held its fourth annual “Youth of the Year” banquet, honoring outstanding young

members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, service, academic success, and personal growth. The event, hosted at Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass, brought together Community leaders, club members, families, and supporters to

celebrate the accomplishments of these inspiring youth.

Vanessa Chacon was awarded the 2025 Youth of the Year winner. Chacon is a junior at Betty H. Fairfax High School, where

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Prayer Vigil held for Emily Pike



Community members gather outside the Governance Center in Sacaton for the prayer vigil for Emily Pike on March 13. Emma Hughes/GRIN

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community’s Victim Services Department (VSD) held a special prayer vigil in honor of Emily Pike, a young girl from the San Carlos Apache Tribe who was reported missing in January and her remains found weeks later.

Emily, 14, was reported as a runaway from a group home in Mesa on Jan. 27. Her dismembered remains were found in a re-

mote area off the highway U.S. 60 near Globe on Feb. 14. The Gila County Sheriff’s Office is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mesa Police Department, and San Carlos Apache Police on the investigation. Currently, there are no suspects and the San Carlos Apache Tribe is offering a \$75,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest.

Emily’s disappearance and
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Removal of Tribal Flags from Phoenix Veterans’ Hospital Sparks Outrage

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The flags of all 22 federally recognized tribal nations in Arizona have been removed from the Carl T. Hayden Phoenix Veterans’ Administration Medical Center in Phoenix.

The flags were removed on March 18, without any notice or consultation to the tribes, and dropped off with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community where they put all flags on display temporarily before being entrusted to the office of Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs.

“The Community is grateful that we had the opportunity to receive the tribal flags and to have them for the short time and we are thankful Governor Hobbs has agreed to take the flags to display them at the Arizona Capitol, a more prominent and appropriate place for them to be located,” said

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Martin Harvier.

All 22 flags are now on display in the Executive Tower rotunda at the State Capital.

“Arizona is proud of the Tribal Veterans who sacrificed for their country,” said Hobbs in a press release. “We should be recognizing their service, not disrespecting their heritage. It’s my honor to display these flags at the Executive Tower, and I am grateful to all the Tribal leaders who have entrusted me with this responsibility. I will always support our Veterans, and vow to keep these flags safe until they can be returned to their rightful place at the VA hospital.”

Several tribal leaders, including Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, spoke out against the removal of the

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GRIC Extends Enhanced Curfew for Minors through May 1

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community has extended its nighttime curfew for minors in response to ongoing incidents of violent crime within the Community.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis signed a second amended Executive Order on March 28, pushing the curfew through May 1, 2025. The order continues to restrict individuals under the age of 18 from being in public places or public buildings between 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, or traveling for approved reasons such as school, work, or medical care.

The amendment states, “Since February 25, when the enhanced curfew was implemented, conditions have improved, but threats to public safety remain and calls of shots fired in neighborhoods continue; and because much of the violence has taken place at night, we must continue a

temporary enhanced curfew.”

It was initially set to expire on Sunday, March 9 but was extended to last throughout the month when the first amended executive order was issued on March 7.

Parents and guardians are urged to ensure that minors are home by the set curfew time and to work together with the Community and law enforcement to prevent any further incidents of violence.

Gila River Police Department (GRPD) will continue monitoring compliance with the curfew and violators may face civil or criminal penalties. However, the executive order states that exceptions to the curfew may be made on a case-by-case basis.

The executive order was issued on Feb. 25 and states, “After careful consideration and consultation with the law enforcement officials and community leaders, there was a need to implement an enhanced curfew for minors with-

in the Gila River Indian Community.”

The order reflects the Community’s ongoing efforts to protect its youth while working toward long-term safety solutions.

For the month of March there have been at least 50 calls reporting “simple assault” in the Community, followed by over 30 calls for theft, 27 calls for drug violations, and 21 calls for aggravated assault, according to GRPD’s crime analysis unit report. District 3 and District 4 have reported the most crimes.

Individuals are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any crimes or suspicious activity to GRPD by calling 911 in the event of an emergency, or for non-emergencies call (520) 562-4511. For anyone wishing to remain anonymous, you may notify the tip line if you are witness to or have any information regarding a crime by calling (520) 562-7144.

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We are **GRHC!**

Where Care Meets Community.



GOOD FRIDAY

Holiday

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

CLOSED

Friday, April 18th
Saturday, April 19th

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Pharmacy Hours

Friday, April 18th CLOSED
Saturday, April 19th 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday, April 20th 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For any information on services open during the holidays, call our main line at (520)562-3321. Normal business hours will resume Monday, April 21st.

If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

View our April Health Update Newsletter

This Month's HEALTH UPDATES AND EDUCATION on:

- National Foot Health Awareness Month
- Meet our Podiatry Team
- Podiatry vs Orthopedics
- Key Differences Between Podiatry & Orthopedics

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Behavioral Health Services

GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

SCAN HERE



CHECK OUT OUR APRIL 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

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

GRIC CRISIS HOTLINE 1-800-259-3449

TECH 4 ELDERS

These sessions aim to support our elders in navigating and understanding modern technology.

EVERYDAY USES OF AI

An introduction to artificial intelligence and how it impacts everyday life.

CLOUD STORAGE

A session on cloud storage, data security, and how to access files from different devices.

<div>D1 Elderly Center Main Hall</div> <div>EVERYDAY USES OF AI: Thurs. April 17, 9am-11am</div> <div>CLOUD STORAGE: Mon. April 28, 9am-11am</div>	<div>D2 Service Center Multi-Purpose Room</div> <div>CLOUD STORAGE: Mon. May 5, 1pm-3pm</div> <div>EVERYDAY USES OF AI: Mon. May 12 1pm-3pm</div>	<div>D3 Service Center Elder Dining Hall</div> <div>CLOUD STORAGE: Tues. May 13, 9am-11am</div> <div>EVERYDAY USES OF AI: Tues. May 27, 9am-11am</div>
<div>D4 Service Center Multi-Purpose Room</div> <div>CLOUD STORAGE: Thurs. May 1, 1pm-3pm</div> <div>EVERYDAY USES OF AI: Thurs. May 15, 1pm-3pm</div>	<div>D5 Elderly Center Main Hall</div> <div>CLOUD STORAGE: Tues. April 15, 9am-11am</div> <div>EVERYDAY USES OF AI: Tues. April 22, 9am-11am</div>	<div>D6 Service Center Learning Center</div> <div>CLOUD STORAGE: Thurs. May 8, 9am-11am</div> <div>EVERYDAY USES OF AI: Thurs. May 29, 9am-11am</div>



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AMANDA MACDONALD 520.610.6689





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Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor
Regina Antone

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Phoenix Suns ORIGINATIV Night honors AZ Tribes

Roberto A. Jackson
Communications & Public Affairs
Office

The Phoenix Suns ORIGINATIV Night Presented by Gila River Resorts & Casinos on March 2, was an emphatic “Wham, Bam, Slam!” as the voice of the late Suns Al McCoy would say.

ORIGINATIV Night is an annual recognition hosted by the Suns that honors Arizona’s 22 tribal nations with cultural presentations, performances and spotlights on Indigenous artists including the Gila River Indian Community’s very own Christopher “Jim Jupiter” Murphy, who was one of four local Native artists selected to hand paint one-of-a-kind ORIGINATIV basketballs on display in the Pavilion during the game against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Artist Selina A. Scott (Diné) designed the exclusive ORIGINATIV T-shirt, which is available online and in the Suns Team



Phoenix Suns hosted ORIGINATIV Night on March 2. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

Shop.

“My designs were focused on the O’otham and Pee Posh artistry,” said Murphy who was also featured on the Suns social media campaign for ORIGINATIV.



L-R: Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Anointed Antone, and Shawn Martinez. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

Murphy said he was recommended by Senior Director of Live Presentation for the Phoenix Suns Shawn Martinez for ORIGINATIV and he relied on his experience as a sneaker customizer to design his artwork by blending the Suns colors of purple and orange with Native elements.

Murphy recently made the award list for the juried competition at the 67th Annual HEARD Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market.

ORIGINATIV had something for all the Indigenous fans, including the many GRIC members in attendance with pregame activities, halftime performances and honored guests such as stars from the Netflix film “Rez Ball.”

“At all levels we had [GRIC] involvement,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis of ORIGINATIV.

Gov. Lewis praised the partnership with the Phoenix Suns.

“It was a proud night,” he said.

Members of the cast also enjoyed the celebration. Including Kusem Goodwind who played Nataanii Jackson on “Rezball.”

“I’m over the moon to be here, to be in the presence of a lot of Native peoples,” he said of participating in ORIGINATIV.

Following the game, all the artists, and guests gathered at half court for a group picture organized by Mr. Martinez with the Phoenix Suns including, Anointed Antone from Division 1 Boys State Champions Skyline Gila River.

Antone called the night a good experience and enjoyed seeing the players up close during the game.

From the Front Page

horrific death has touched the hearts of many, reaffirming the widespread concern about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) crisis. Her story is a stark reminder of the urgency and importance of addressing this crisis.

Over a hundred people gathered in the early morning of March 13 in Sacaton outside the Governance Center to honor Emily by sharing words and songs of healing. Their presence was a powerful testament to the Community’s support and their commitment to bringing awareness to Emily’s case and all who have been affected by the MMIP epidemic.



Over a hundred people gather for the prayer vigil on March 13. Emma Hughes/GRIN

demie.

“We wanted to have this gathering to show support for everybody who’s going through a loss of a loved one or who doesn’t know where their loved one is,” said VSD director Katherine Lewis.

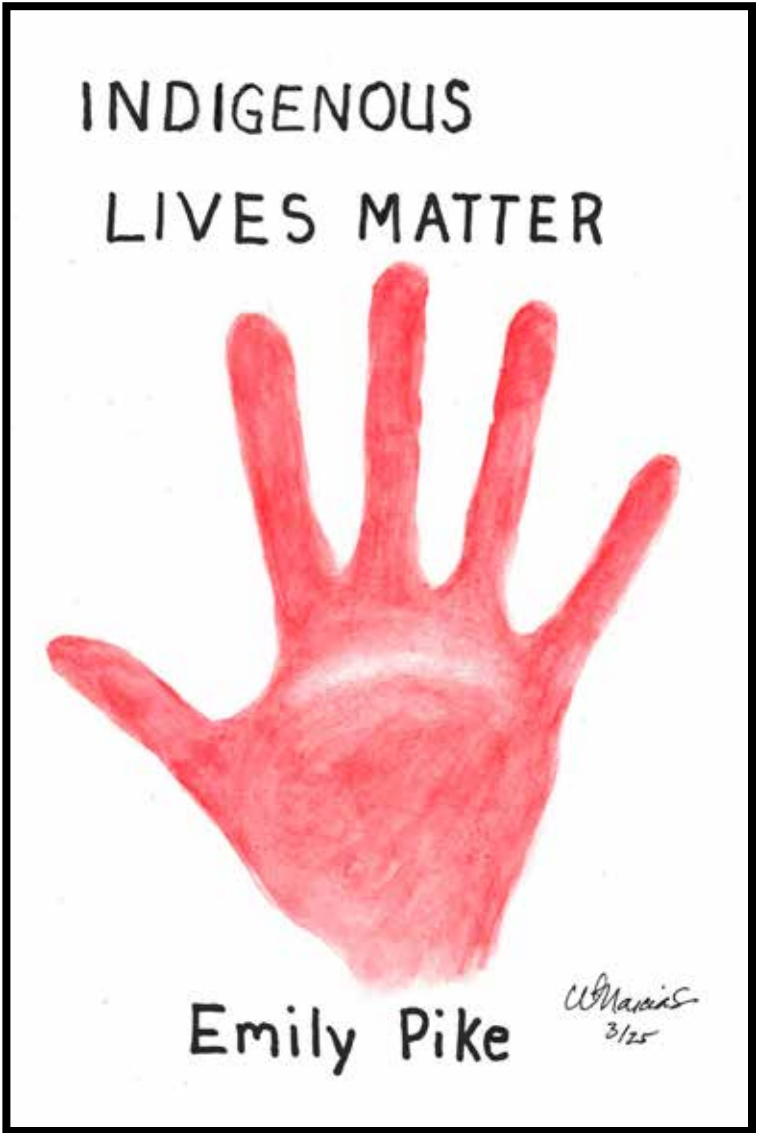
Emily’s family members traveled to the Community to attend the vigil.

“I want to acknowledge all the people that came here today to share this prayer,” said April Victor, Emily’s aunt. “We as Indigenous people, that’s how we show comfort for each other.”

Lt. Gov Regina Antone shared remarks and thanked those for coming out to show support. Gila River Police Department Chief Jesse Crabtree also spoke,

explaining that there is no waiting period to report someone missing. If you feel that something is off, don’t hesitate to notify the police

of a missing person. He encouraged the Community to work together and speak up to prevent tragedies like this.



Wild Horse Pass hosts LPGA

GRIN Welcomes Newsperson



Submitted by
Gila River Development

The Interim Board of Directors at Gila River Development welcomes the 2025 Ford Championship Presented by Wild Horse Pass hosted by the LPGA, highlighting this notable move to Whirlwind Golf Club, located on Wild Horse Pass’ 3,300-acre master-planned development. The biggest attraction for the LPGA team was the large footprint of the property. With its high acreage, it allows for accessibility to the course and ample parking for event goers. Additionally, there are various commerce and leisure spots around the property includ-

ing the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, Gila River Resorts & Casinos- Wild Horse Pass, Firebird Motorsports Park, Rawhide Western Town & Event Center, Buck-N Rodeo Grounds, Gila Gas & Goods, Phoenix Premium Outlets, KOLI Equestrian Center, Radford Racing School and Huhugam Heritage Center. This allows visitors of the property a variety of lodging options, plus a wide selection of other activities to enjoy while they are out for the LPGA weekend.

“Bringing the LPGA to our homelands is a historic moment for the Gila River Indian Community. This tournament represents not

only world-class competition but also a bridge between cultures, showcasing the strength, resilience, and excellence that define both the athletes competing and Our People. We are honored to welcome the LPGA, its athletes, and fans to Wild Horse Pass.”— James De La Rosa, Interim Chairman of the Board, Gila River Development

The Interim Board of Directors who contributed to this historic move include James De La Rosa (Chairman), Charles Goldtooth (Vice-Chair), Brian Davis, Sr. (Board Member), Devin Redbird (Board Member) and Leah Williams (Board Members).

From the
Front Page

she is involved with robotics and volleyball, interests she gained while attending the Boys & Girls Club – Komatke Branch. She considers the club her safe space where she has grown, discovered her passions and built resilience through sports, friendships, and academic support. She also serves as the club’s Keystone Club Treasurer.

“I would like to say thank you for this opportunity. I am so honored and humbled to receive this award,” said Chacon, “One of the many things I love about the club is the staff; they’re always there for you in the moment if you have a scraped knee or struggle with school work, they never gave up on any of us.”

Chacon began attending the club when she was five years old, “I wasn’t a very social kid at the time, but I do remember when I

walked through those doors - I was welcomed with peace, a feeling of belonging, and hearing the laughter of children knowing that this would be a good place to be,” she said.

Chacon shared that the club was there for her when she lost her father, whom she said was one of her main foundations. The club helped her raise funds for his funeral, and club members were always there when she needed someone to talk to, “The club had become my second home,” she said.

Nominees for 2025 Youth of the Year included David Andrews, 12-year B & G club Kotmatke branch member and Keystone Club President, and Orion Homer, nine year B & G club Sacaton branch member.

Two former Youth of the Year winners, Nila Antone and Reuben Ringerlo Jr., emceed the banquet. “Overall, the youth of the year is an amazing experience. It is an experience like one of a kind,” said

Antone.

“Youth of the year has really helped me be able to come out of my shell and be able to come up here and say what I need to say, and tell my story for our Boys & Girls Club,” said Ringle-ro Jr.

Featured keynote speakers for the event included District 6 Community Council Rep. Charles Goldtooth, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Gila River Indian Community Jason Jones, and Reuben Ringle-ro Sr. who was the 2001 Youth of the Year recipient.

“The Gila River Boys & Girls Club has been a big influence with our children in the Community,” said Goldtooth. “I strongly feel that the Boys & Girls Club empowers our youth and it continues to help our kids with their personal and professional growth.”

The banquet also recognized Youth of the Month and Junior Youth of the Year. Finalists for Junior Youth of the Year,

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian News hires Jeston Morris for the Newsperson position.

“I am very excited about my new position at The GRIN,” Morris said.

Morris, who is a member of the Navajo Nation, served in the United States Marine Corps as a Communication Center Operator. His tour of duties includes Head Quarter Battalion at Camp Butler, Ninth Communication Battalion and 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, both at Camp Pendleton.

“I am proud to serve my country. My uncle was a Navajo Code Talker. He inspired me to join the military,” said Morris.

He earned his college

degrees from Arizona State University. His degrees include a Bachelor of Art in Elementary Education, Masters of Art in Curriculum and Instruction, and a doctorate in Applied Linguistics.

“My parents valued college education. That is the reason why I pursued my college degrees after my military career,” Morris said.

Morris grew up in Aneth, UT on the Navajo reservation near Four Corners. Navajo is his first language. He acquired English as a second language in boarding school. His clans are Folded Arms and Edge Water. He attended boarding school but he eventually transferred to public school. His hobbies include photography, hiking, and traveling. He has a passion



Jeston Morris joins Gila River Indian News. Roberto Jackson/CPAO

for Native languages and cultures.

“I am excited about my new position and working with my colleagues at The GRIN. I look forward to serving the Gila River Indian Community,” Morris said.



2024-2025 Jr. Miss Gila River Shayla Davis and 2025 Junior Youth of the Year winner Gemma Gray. Photo Courtesy of Jr. Miss Gila River

Al-Kiohod Gemma Gray, Flippen Hernandez, Herilyn Valencia, and Caleb Lujan all got up on stage to share their experience with the club.

“Like many others, the club is considered a second home. The club has brought hope, opportunity, and joy to every member that comes,” said Gray, 2025 Juinor Youth of the Year winner. “The staff are supportive and always have an idea to help us start our futures or to grow to succeed.”

The club began in the Community in 1995, with its first location in Komatke, shortly after a second location was brought to Sacaton. Since then, the club has evolved and opened a new location last summer in Casa Blanca (Vah-Ki) at the District 5 Multi-Service Center.

“For 29 years, Boys & Girls of the Gila River Indian Community has taught our youth the traditions of our land, combined with the Boys & Girls Club Native Services,” said Jason Jones.

He emphasized the impact of the Boys & Girls

Club of the Gila River Indian Community on local youth, stating, “The staff and I are committed to bringing the best youth development programming that the Boys & Girls Clubs can offer.”

Gila River Police Department Commander Jeff Hunter was also recognized with the Community Leadership Award.

Hunter has been a dedicated volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club of the Gila River Indian Commu-

nity since 2017, leading the club’s Big Brother, Big Sister program at the Sacaton branch.

“I want to give thanks to this Community. I’ve worked here for 25 years and it’s been nothing but great,” said Hunter during his acceptance speech.

As the evening concluded, attendees left inspired by the stories of perseverance and achievement, reaffirming the Boys & Girls Club’s vital role in shaping future leaders.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and GRPD Commander Jeffery Hunter. Photo Courtesy of Gila River Police Department

★ VETERANS ★
ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. Defense Department Stirs Outrage by Removing Photos of Ira Hayes, Navajo Code Talkers



Ira Hayes (far left) assists in raising the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. Joe Rosenthal/Associated Press

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) faced a barrage of criticism from tribal communities across Arizona and the nation after quietly erasing references to Native American soldiers from a number of federal websites. The critics included Gila River Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, whose voice appeared prominently in multiple media stories, and helped lead to a change of heart by DoD after the intense backlash.

The removed content – reported by the Associated Press and other media outlets beginning on March 18 – included tributes honoring Native American heroes like the renowned Navajo Code Talkers and celebrated U.S. Marine Ira Hayes, an esteemed member of the Gila River Indian Community. Hayes has long been celebrated for his iconic role in the raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945—one of the most powerful and enduring images from World War II.

Gov. Lewis strongly denounced the mistreatment of Native American soldiers and their patriotism and courage in a statement and in interviews with a number of media outlets.

“It’s unacceptable and extremely unfortunate that the many vital contributions of Native American soldiers—including Ira

Hayes’ bravery during the Battle of Iwo Jima—appeared to have been disregarded by the Department of Defense and other military agencies,” said Lewis in his statement. “To be clear, recognizing the patriotism and courage of Native American soldiers has nothing to do with any type of DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) initiative. It’s simply an offering of respect for extraordinary service and bravery in the line of duty.”

Lewis concluded by demanding, “Every single reference that has been scrubbed should be returned to these websites as soon as possible.”

The removals appear to be linked to a broader federal directive aimed at eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives from U.S. government operations. Despite Pentagon spokesperson John Ulliot’s assurances that such removals were inadvertent and would be corrected immediately, the continued absence of references to Hayes will continue to be monitored by Community leadership.

The Pentagon restored references to the Code Talkers by March 19. The Navajo soldiers, who devised an unbreakable code based on their native language, were critical in helping the Allies secure victory during World War II.

“The restoration of the Navajo Code Talkers’ articles is a necessary step, but it does not erase the

harm caused by their initial removal,” Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley told the Arizona Republic. “The service of the Code Talkers was crucial to the success of World War II, and their legacy must be continually recognized and honored, beyond any political agenda.”

As of March 20, information honoring Ira Hayes remained notably absent from some military websites, drawing ongoing frustration and demands for immediate corrective action from tribal communities and advocates.

“He is a hero,” Gov. Lewis said of Hayes in an interview with Phoenix radio station KJZZ. “He is a native son of not just the Gila River Indian Community, but across Indian Country.”

The picture of Hayes and five fellow Marines had previously been labeled an “iconic image” by military leaders. The famous photograph, taken Feb. 23, 1945 by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, won a Pulitzer Prize. The picture served as a model for a statue that stands as a centerpiece of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

To capitalize on the popularity of Hayes and the Marines in the photo, the Pentagon sent the men on a national tour to sell war bonds. Hayes, later the subject of a hit song recorded by Johnny Cash, died at the age of 32 in Bapchule.

Veteran Benefits and Disability



Submitted by
Veteran & Family Services Office

Are you a Veteran that has a Service Connected Disability rating of 40 percent or less? If so, you can submit your Tribal enrollment information to the VA for a co-pay waiver. The waiver covers office visits at the VA and medications. Come to the Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) and we will assist with the form.

Your DD214 is one of the most important documents you have for VA healthcare eligibility, disability eligibility and burial honors. Please let your family know where you keep this document! If you don’t have it, please come to our office and we will assist you in ordering another one.

Urban members, if you are interested in filing disability claims or learning

more about benefits for you and your family, you may contact our office. We will work electronically to assist you.

If you have never applied or have been denied service connection for disabilities in the past, please come in to speak with us. The rules have changed in the last few years. There is a possibility that you may now be eligible. We can review your case to determine if you will now be eligible for benefits including a monthly check. All VA disability payments are non-taxable and non-reportable. VA disability payments typically range from \$175 to \$3831 per month.

Surviving Spouses, you may be eligible for a monthly payment of \$1,653 per month. Even if you were denied in the past, we can review your case to determine if you are now eligible since the rule have changed. This is a VA benefit payment which is non-taxable and non-reportable.

On March 12, a RoundTable was held for Veterans and their families at the District 3 Service

Center. A lot of great information was shared. As you know, changes have started taking place within the VA and there are many more changes to come.

We’d love to hear from you about the benefits you would like more information about. We can discuss disability, surviving spouse, pre-burial on/off the Reservation and Military Honors.

We will be hosting a Vietnam Veteran’s Day luncheon on March 28, 2025 at the District 3 Service Center from 11am – 1pm. It is open to Vietnam Veteran, their families and supporters.

Vietnam Veteran’s Day is March 29th! Thank you to all of our Vietnam Veterans!

Veteran and Family Services Office 520-562-9704

Peer Support Specialist Wesley Rhodes -520-610-4383

Peer Support Specialist Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037

Veteran Service Officer Kim Skelton 520-610-7644

264 S. Bluebird Rd, Sacaton, AZ 85147



All 22 tribal flags are now on display in the Executive Tower rotunda at the State Capital. Photo Courtesy of the Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

From the Front Page

flags.


“This is deeply concerning because it ignores the long-standing recognition that Tribes and tribal membership is a political status, not racial classification,” said Gov. Lewis. “The Supreme Court has recognized the critical importance of this distinction and so should any policy from the federal govern-

ment. What is particularly inappropriate is that the new policy apparently allows any political sovereign in the state of Arizona to have its flag displayed except an Indian tribe.”

Tribal members have a longstanding history of serving in the armed forces and at a higher per capita rate than any other group in the U.S. Both GRIC and SRPMIC are Purple Heart Communities, and 67 GRIC members have been awarded the Purple Heart


for their bravery and sacrifice, including 23 who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

“I urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reconsider this policy and take immediate action to restore the display of tribal flags at the Phoenix VA Hospital,” said Gov. Lewis. “An exemption should be granted for tribal flags, given the unique sovereign status of Federally recognized tribes and their profound contributions to our Nation’s military.”




HEADLINES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor



Regina Antone
Lt. Governor

Four O’odham Tribes hold Annual Meeting in Salt River



Leadership from the Ak-Chin Gila River Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Tohono O’odham Nation, and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community gather for their annual meeting at the Talking Stick Resort in Salt River on March 22. GRIC leadership Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, Community Council Representatives Brian Davis, Gordon Santos, Joseph Manuel Jr., and Leah Williams were in attendance to discuss crucial issues impacting O’odham communities. Congressman David Schweikert also participated in discussions. Photo Courtesy of Salt River Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs



L-R: Community Council Rep. Joseph Manuel Jr., Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, and Lt. Gov. Regina Antone. Photo Courtesy of Salt River Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs



L-R: Community Council Rep. Brian Davis and Gordon Santos. Photo Courtesy of Salt River Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis provided the welcome address for the American Indian Policy Institute’s (AIPI) Community Leader’s Reception at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law on March 18. In his address, Gov. Lewis expressed his gratitude for the partnerships through Arizona State University and the continued commitment to Tribal education, resources and services for Tribes and Indigenous students. Emphasizing on the impact of AIPI, he recognized participants of the Spring 2025 Indigenous Leadership Academy Cohort, a program of AIPI that supports emerging Tribal Leaders through training, skill building and networking. Apphia Shirley/CPAO



Scottsdale Ferrari Art Week sponsored by Gila River Resorts and Casinos kicked off on March 20 at Westworld of Scottsdale with a land acknowledgment and blessing provided by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. Gov. Lewis also congratulated Janis Lyon, recipient of the Scottsdale Art Week Lifetime Achievement Award, and Melissa Cody, recipient of the Scottsdale Art Week Artistic Achievement Award. Cody, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, is a fourth-generation Navajo weaver. She is the first Indigenous woman to have a solo exhibition at MoMA PS1 (Museum of Modern Art) in Queens, New York. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

Rep. Raúl Grijalva Remembered as a Fierce Advocate for Tribal Nations

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

The passing of U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva marks the loss of a longtime champion for tribal nations across Arizona and the country. The congressman, a Democrat who represented Arizona’s 7th District for more than 20 years, died March 13 from complications related to cancer treatment, according to a statement released by his office.

Throughout his time in office, Grijalva made Native American issues a centerpiece of his public service, particularly through his leadership on the House Natural Resources Committee, where he prioritized tribal sovereignty, sacred site protection, and environmental justice.

“Congressman Grijalva stood with tribal nations not only when it was politi-

cally convenient, but when it truly mattered,” said Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “He was a constant ally in the fight for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. His leadership leaves a legacy of trust and respect between Indian Country and the federal government.”

Grijalva played a leading role in drafting and advancing the Environmental Justice for All Act, which proposed stronger tribal consultation requirements and protections for communities—many of them Indigenous—facing environmental harm from industrial development. The bill reflected Grijalva’s belief that “everyone deserves the freedom to live a healthy life,” a guiding principle he often cited in his work.

He also fought to protect Oak Flat—sacred land to the San Carlos Apache

Tribe—from a land swap that would enable copper mining. As lead sponsor of the Save Oak Flat Act, Grijalva defended Indigenous spiritual and cultural heritage against powerful mining interests.

Closer to home, Grijalva championed the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Trust Land Act, which transferred land into federal trust to help the tribe expand housing and community services near Tucson. He consistently advocated for increased federal funding for the Indian Health Service, tribal education programs, and infrastructure in Indian Country.

In a farewell statement, Grijalva’s staff noted, “His proudest moments in Congress have always been guided by community voices.” Those voices included tribal leaders and Indigenous advocates whom he welcomed into policy discussions on Capitol Hill.

Gov. Lewis added,



Rep. Raúl Grijalva and former Dept. of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland during a visit to the Gila River Indian Community in 2022. Emma Hughes/GRIN

“Rep. Grijalva didn’t simply consult with tribes—he listened, he acted, and he delivered. He helped lay the foundation for more inclusive, just, and effective federal-tribal relationships.”

Known for his humility and kindness, Grijalva built lasting relationships with Arizona tribes and leaders based on respect and shared purpose.

As Indian Country mourns his passing, many

are also reflecting on the path he helped pave. His example, Gov. Lewis said, “will continue to inspire the next generation of tribal advocates and allies in Congress.”

Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library Calendar

Daily Diamond Painting for Ages 13+

Shrinky Dinks ages 6+ w/parent or guardian

Crochet for Beginners for Ages 13+

April

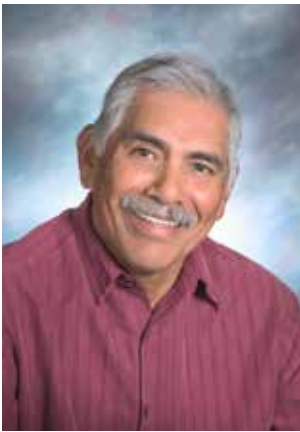
Library Hours:
Tue-Fri 8am-5pm
Closed for Lunch 12:30-1:30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Diamond Painting Begins! Tues-Fri 1	Kids Cafe 2		Meet Libby: The one-stop reading app does your library 4	
	Library Closed 7	Diamond Painting Tues-Fri 8	3:30-4:30 4H Arts & Crafts w/Ms. Liane 9	Shrinky Dinks 2-4 10	Shrinky Dinks 2-4 11	
	Library Closed 14	Lunch & Learn 11a & 12:15 15	Easter Egg Coloring 2-4:30 16		Good Friday* Library Closed 18	
HAPPY EASTER 20	Library Closed 21	Diamond Painting Tues-Fri 22	3:30-4:30 4H Arts & Crafts w/Ms. Liane 23	Crochet for Beginners 3-4 24	Crochet for Beginners 3-4 25	
	Library Closed 28	Diamond Painting Tues-Fri 29	30			

Eggs provided by Thank you!

Library is closed on Mondays for staff trainings.
CTC Lab or Dist.3 Computer Lab are open.
Please call 520-562-3225 if you have any questions.

A’AGA: Something to be told or talked about



Submitted by
Billy Allen

Kui I’ivakitak (Mesquite Leaves) is a great time to be outside—just sitting in the sun, enjoying a walk, or riding in the ka:lit (car) with the windows rolled down so you can serenade the neighborhood with your playlist. Bill Bowerman, Olympic track coach and co-founder of Nike said there was no such thing as bad weather, just soft people. Maybe you’ve been out on the jeved (land), seen pottery shards and wondered how hahajun (cousins) dealt with their climate. Imagine our ancestors on trade routes to the Gulf or even early explorers in Arizona wearing armor while scouting “Tierra Nueva.” No Google Maps. No refrigerators. No Slurpies. Let us look at history of a few centuries back and read what the non-soft people did back then. Are we s-moik (soft) today?

In 1540, Commander and Captain-General Francisco Vazquez de Coronado left Compostela on February 23, leading an entrada of about 1300 looking for the “Seven Golden Cities of Cibola.” They marched north, but like Columbus they were a bit lost—they thought California was an island. Two ships sailed up the Colorado River “coast” to meet up and resupply Coronado. Surprise, they never rendezvoused with the ships! However, Coronado’s men returned with a tall Native. The tallest Spaniard could only reach the chest of the Native. The Native said taller men lived to the west. (Imagine that “conversation.”)

Detour to the future. A road crew was making improvements around Sycamore Creek near Prescott. On February 17, 1913, they unearthed a graveyard which revealed very big bones. Measurements led to an estimation that this individual could have been at least 8 feet tall. The crew chief verified the discovery, but did not realize the importance or sacredness of the site. The road crew finished and left. Nothing has been done since.

In July of 1540, the Coronado expedition reached the pueblo of Háwikuh, a Zuni pueblo in eastern Arizona. Coronado sent out men to explore. Don Pedro de Tovar reached the Hopi villages and Garcia López de Cárdenas reached the Grand Canyon. The Natives did not like the Spaniards and once they realized what Coronado was after, they told him the “Seven Golden Cities of Cibola,” were in the east. Coronado spent the winter along the Rio Grande, wore out his welcome with the Zuni, then marched eastward. When Coronado reached Kansas and still no treasure, he gave up the search for the “Seven Golden Cities of Cibola.”

Detour, back to the present. Archaeologist Deni Seymour was looking for Spanish explorer relics along the Santa Cruz River near Nogales. Her metal detector hummed; she began digging and found a 3.5-foot long, cast bronze cannon tangled within mesquite roots. It’s the oldest gun found within the continental United States. Dr. Seymour had been certain a settlement called San Geronimo III, aka Suya, had been here. Dr. Seymour also found 11 more Spanish sites from Nogales up to the Gila River. This may have been a trail of over 150 miles overlooked until now.

When the Spaniards entered O’odham lands, they probably met the Sobaipuri, akimel o’odham who farmed and lived along the rivers in southeastern Arizona. Being farmers they used canals to divert river water to fields, raising more food than needed. O’odham life changed from dependence upon “wild” plants and animals. Starvation could be avoided by the hard work of irrigation/raising food. But the Santa Cruz River wasn’t always full of water, it rose and vanished as it made its way along the Gila drainage. Like most akimel o’odham, Sobaipuri villages moved roughly every 20 or 30 years to be near surface water.

The Sobaipuri knew the trails and tribes along the rivers. An O’odham interpretation of their name means, “to be like the enemy,” S-o:bma, because they were fierce warriors. They decided to help the lost Spaniards, which could have been seen as aiding the enemy, and tribal alliances fell apart.

On the San Pedro River in 1698, a Sobaipuri O’odham village of 80 was attacked by a com-

bined force of ancestral Apache, Jano, Jocome, Manso, Suma, and Jumano. On October 3, 1698, Pa:l (Padre) Kino’s guard, Capitan Diego Carrasco, was told of this battle from a Koahadk headman who had taken Tohono O’odham men to help the Sobaipuri. The O’odham prevailed. (Distinctive arrow points and the number of weapons found helped determine participants.) The the back-and-forth fighting became more frequent, and interfered with crop planting. The Sobaipuri abandoned the San Pedro River settlements, most went to San Xavier (Wa:k), some to Gila River. Many Wa:k O’odham residents are direct descendants of the Sobaipuri.

In 2007, Edmund Garcia was interviewed for the Sobaipuri O’odham Heritage Project and wore a t-shirt emblazoned, “Tucson, established 1692.” But Mr. Garcia pointed out, “We were here long before this. Tucson was not founded in 1692.” Mr. Garcia might also correct Google/Wikipedia/Safari because those sources say a Dublin born Irish immigrant to Spain named Hugo O’Conor founded Tucson. The name Tucson comes from a Spanish mispronunciation for a Sobaipuri O’odham village, San Cosme del Tucón or San Cosme del S-cuk Shon or just S-cuk Shon.

Enjoy this beautiful Kui I’ivakitak. Try not to be so s-moik. Keep your eyes open, use the good eye to watch for snakes.

Information gleaned from.

#PrescottAZHistory: Road Crew Finds Giant Skeleton on Sycamore Creek; Archeologists find 500-year-old cannon in Arizona, oldest gun in US, Lane Sainty, USA TODAY, Jan. 2025;

O’odham Place Names, Meanings, Origins, Histories, Arizona and Sonora. Harry J. Winters, Jr. 2nd ed., 2020; Unveiling Tucson’s Birthplace: The Sobaipuri O’odham Village of San Cosme del Tucón, by Deni Seymour. Journal of Arizona History 63(2). Summer 2022; Land of the Buzzard Clan and Their Mobile Neighbors: Exploring the Protohistoric in the Southern Southwest, by Deni Seymour. Journal of Arizona Archaeology, vol. 7, no 2; Video of Unveiling Tucson’s Birthplace: the Sobaipuri O’odham Villages. bing.com videos; Wa:k is how Tohono O’odham say and spell ‘standing water.’

Save the date 162nd Annual Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Saturday, April 12, 2025

- ★ Fun Run/Walk ★ Parade ★ Entertainment ★ Catered Meal (first 500) ★
- ★ Traditional Dancers ★ Bounce Houses & Waterslides ★ Informational Booths ★
- ★ Food/Arts & Crafts Vendors ★ T-Shirt & Promo Giveaway ★ Dance ★



Additional flyers and more information coming soon, questions please contact District 7 Recreation Department at (520) 430-4780

DISTRICT 7 MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY
8035 S. 83RD AVENUE • LAVEEN, AZ 85339

Record 200 Teams of Native Youth set to Compete at the Native American Basketball Invitational



200 teams will compete at this year’s NABI, set to return to Phoenix July 22-26, 2025. GRIN Photo

Press Release Native American Basketball Invitational

PHOENIX – The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI), presented by Resolution Copper, returns to Phoenix July 22-26, 2025, with a record 200 teams made up of boys and girls ages 14 to 19, representing Tribal communities from across North America. NABI is the largest all-Native American high school youth basketball tournament and includes a weeklong educational youth summit.

Registration is also open for the NABI Founders Golf Classic which will be held Monday, April 7, 2025 at Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass.

The golf classic supports NABI’s college scholarship program,

“Since 2003, we have awarded more than \$500,000 in college scholarships to NABI athletes,” said GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI CEO and co-founder. “Our youth and communities love basketball, and NABI uses it as a tool to inspire higher education goals.”

For NABI, basketball is way to engage and unite Native and Indigenous youth and inspire them to use their talents to pursue higher education. A record 200 teams will play more than 500 games in 16 gyms in the Valley, and NABI expects sell-out crowds once again this year. For the city of Phoenix, the economic

impact of the tournament is estimated at \$3 million.

The semifinal and championship games will be played at PHX Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury. The championship games will be broadcast live on AZ-Family Sports.

In addition to the excitement of the tournament, student athletes also participate in educational components like the NABI College & Career Fair and NABI Educational Youth Summit powered by Phoenix College, as well as being eligible to apply for the NABI College Scholarship fund.

To learn more about NABI, please visit www.nabination.com.

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

2ND ANNUAL DISTRICT 6

autism AWARENESS WALK

LOCATED IN DISTRICT 6
TASHQUINTH & PECOS RD

JOIN US!
SATURDAY
APRIL 19TH,
2025 AT
8AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LORINA ALLISON
(480) 404-5184



WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONNECTIONS EVENT



Gila River Indian Community members and business owners are invited to discover how the I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor and other major state construction projects are creating economic opportunities for you!

Join us to explore:

- Workforce training and career opportunities
- Connections with ADOT, Contractors and Community Partners
- Small business resources and support
- Procurement and contract opportunities
- ADOT partnership insights

Take the next step toward economic success!

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I-10 | LOOP 202 TO SR-387
WILD HORSE PASS CORRIDOR

Thursday, May 22, 2025
2 - 4 p.m.
Gila River Indian Community
District 5 Multipurpose Building
3456 W. Casa Blanca Road
Bapchule, AZ 85121

RSVP Here →
bit.ly/41mkd7J



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.

For more information about the project, visit www.i10wildhorsepasscorridor.com or call the project hotline at 602-522-7777

ADOT Tracs # F0252 01L and F0252 02L | Federal Aid #010-C(222)

GILA RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

"PROUDLY SERVING THE
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1988"

Box 5015, 7065 West Allison Road, Chandler, Arizona 85226-5135
(520) 796-3333 • www.gilarivertel.com • Fax (520) 796-7534

UPDATES TO OUR FIBER NETWORK ARE IN PROGRESS!

FOR OUR CURRENT MAPS, PLEASE VISIT
GILARIVERTEL.COM/FIBER/MAPS



@GilaRiverTelco



@NativeTechAZ



@AlluvionCom



@GilaRiverTV



@DigitalConnectInitiative

Announcements & Notices

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PHILBER LEON HOWARD JR.**

Debra Lee Garcia
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. PB-2021-0012-DE

CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a(n) **Order to Show Cause** has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:

Tuesday, April 1, 2025
at 1:30 PM 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

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 OR
KEYAHRA MURRAY**

NAJI THOMAS
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

AKEEM BLAINE AVERY
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

SABRINA KIM'LEE ALLISON
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. FM-2025-0005-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:

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

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

GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA

JYNAE MATILA ROMERO,
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

DAMIEN REFUGIO MADRIL,
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. CV-2011-0069-ZPT

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:

Monday, June 9, 2025
at 1:30 PM 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

LYNELLE BLACKWATER,
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

JUSTIN SHANE CHUIGO ET AL.,
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. CV-2024-0078-MO

CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a(n) **Status 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 8, 2025
at 3:00 PM in Courtroom I,
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

**The Gila River Indian Community
Court Presents**

**LAW DAY
2025**

THE CONSTITUTION'S PROMISE:
**OUT OF MANY,
ONE**
LAW DAY 2025

May 7, 2025
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
GRIC Sacaton Court
721 W. Seed Farm Rd.
Sacaton, AZ 85147

**INFORMATIONAL
BOOTHs**

**LUNCH
PROVIDED**

RAFFLE!
*Must Attend 4
Sessions to be eligible
for Raffle*

**SESSIONS ON
LAW
PROCESSES**

**DUNK A
PROBATION
OFFICER**

RAFFLE!
*Must Attend 4
Sessions to be
eligible for Raffle*



Do It Yourself Bike
Repair Days

Tubes, cables, chains, brake pads, tools and know how will be provided for free. Bring bikes and be ready to learn.



Free for all residents of the Gila River Indian Community

SACATON POST OFFICE PARKING LOT
THE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS OF EACH
MONTH 9AM-NOON
QUESTIONS: CALL/TEXT ELISHA
520-858-2774

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
Eyes: 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"
Weight: 230lbs

TONY GUTIERREZ



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: 04/04/2025
Age: 14
Sex: M
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 4'9"
Weight: 90lbs

ADRIAN VILLAR



Last seen: 04/04/2025
Age: 14
Sex: M
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 4'8"
Weight: 90lbs

ORLANZO HUGO



Last seen: 04/04/2025
Age: 15
Sex: M
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'3"
Weight: 98lbs

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



SERVICES AVAILABLE IN ALL DISTRICTS

Gila River Tractor Service is a community member-owned small business that provides essential tractor and land improvement services to Community Members and is a registered vendor of the Gila River Indian Community.

TRACTOR SERVICE \$180/HOUR (\$60/HOUR DISCOUNT)
NOW THRU APRIL 30TH, 2025

*Two-Hour Minimum. Prices subject to change at anytime.



GIVE US A CALL OR LOOK US UP ONLINE
FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
GILARIVERTRACTOR.COM
(520) 422-5522 Office
(480) 335-7302 Direct

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • March 5, 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, March 5, 2025, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Brian Davis, Sr.

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- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth(9:44), Terrance Evans

Council Members Absent:

D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS

#1 AND #2; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #2

THROUGH #9; AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSI-

NESS #3 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

REPORTS

>1. Ransomware Attack on PMIP

Presenters: David DeJong, John Taraskiewicz, Chris Cabanillas
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. FY2024 Executive Travel Report for the 3rd and 4th Quar-
ters for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the
Community Council January 2025 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gila River Gaming Commission, M. Scott Sander-
son, Lydia Acosta

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report January
2025 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnel-
son, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Schedule of Investments ending January 31, 2025 (Executive
Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SES-
SION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL
FOR REPORT #4

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #5

RESOLUTIONS

*1. 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 recommen-
dation for approval; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, Jeffrey Hunter

APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special
Event Liquor License To The Chemo Companions, Inc. For Use
At The Wild Horse Pass Festival Grounds On March 22, 2025
(G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for ap-
proval and placement on the consent agenda, EDSC concurs)
Presenters: Todd Araujo, Bartley Harris, Duncan Wiston

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>3. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special
Event Liquor License To The Chemo Companions, Inc. For Use
At The Whirlwind Golf Club From March 26, 2025 To March
30, 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation
for approval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC
concurs)

Presenters: Todd Araujo, Bartley Harris, Duncan Wiston
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special
Event Liquor License To The Chemo Companions, Inc. For Use
At The Wild Horse Pass Festival Grounds On April 12, 2025
(G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for ap-
proval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Todd Araujo, Bartley Harris, Duncan Wiston
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>5. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Agreement Be-
tween The Gila River Development And ADP, Inc., For Human
Resources Management Software And Services (G&MSC
forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and
placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Bartley Harris, Todd Araujo, Duncan Wiston, Kaleb
Lester, Molly Jagdon, Alexandra Andrew
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>6. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Agreement
Between Gila River Development And Oracle America, Inc. For
The Use Of The NetSuite OneWorld Cloud Service (G&MSC
forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and
placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Bartley Harris, Todd Araujo, Duncan Wiston, Kaleb
Lester, Molly Jagdon, Alexandra Andrew

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>7. A Resolution Approving The Loan Agreement Between
The Gila River Indian Community And BOKF, NA DBA BOK
Financial Regarding The Gila River Indian Community Gila
Crossing Community School (G&MSC forwards to Council with
a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent
agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>8. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Indian Community
Police Department To Submit The FY2025 Coordinated Tribal
Assistance Solicitation Purpose Area 1 Public Safety And
Community Policing Grant Application To The United States
Department Of Justice, Office Of Community Oriented Policing
Services (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommenda-
tion for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC
concurs)

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, Tamatha Villar
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>9. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-134-07 And Ap-
proving The Re-Designation Of 14.91 Acres, More Or Less, Of
Community Trust Land Within District Three Of The Gila River
Indian Community To The Department Of Public Works For The
Purpose Of Constructing, Operating, Managing, And Maintaining
Future Development Within The Designated Area As Shown
In Drawing No. 30307-0031 (NRSC forwards to Council with a
recommendation for approval and placement on the consent
agenda)

Presenters: Planning Development Team, DeWayne Badonie,
Kimberly Cooper

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
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO FORWARD TO COUNCIL
WITH THE RECOMMENDATION TO (1) FOLLOW THE PRO-
CESS FOR ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO
THE STANDING COMMITTEE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
REGARDING APPOINTED OFFICIALS; (2) TO REVISE,
RATHER THAN RESCIND, THE CODE OF CONDUCT RE-
GARDING ELECTED OFFICIALS; (3) THAT LSC BE DIRECT-

ED TO DEVELOP REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT
REGARDING ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TO BRING THOSE
REVISIONS BACK TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION
WITHIN 90 DAYS; AND (4) THAT CODE OF CONDUCT MOR-
ATORIUM REMAIN IN EFFECT

NEW BUSINESS

*1. 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

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

2. Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacancy (Ad-
vertise for 60 days subject to background check)

Presenter: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY
AND ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO A BACK-
GROUND CHECK

>3. Fiscal Year 2023 Gila River Farms Audit (G&MSC forwards
to Council under New Business with a recommendation to
accept and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Gila River Farm Board, Benito Alvarez, Jr., Kimber-
ly Fisher, Albert Cheung

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. NAFOA 43rd Annual Conference April 28-29, 2025 – New
Orleans, LA (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business
for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues &
Delegations)

Presenter: Government & Management Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTEREST-
ED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES &
DELEGATIONS

MINUTES

1. February 19, 2025 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• A PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY,
MARCH 8, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M. IN DISTRICT 4 GRICUA WILL
BE PRESENTING THE SOLAR PROJECT
• ATTORNEY GENERAL KRIS MAYES WILL BE HOLDING
A COMMUNITY COMMENT MEETING IN PHOENIX AT 6:00
P.M. THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL WILL PROVIDE A
SYNOPSIS OF THE MEETING

• BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR BANQUET ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE WILD HORSE
PASS CONFERENCE CENTER

• THERE WILL BE AN AZULE STREET BLOCK WATCH
MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 11M 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.

• IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURFEW IS APPRECIATED.
OPTIONS FOR EXTENDING THE CURFEW ARE BEING
CONSIDERED

• FOUR SOUTHERN TRIBES CULTURAL RESOURCE
WORKING GROUP WILL BE MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2025

• A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURS-
DAY, MARCH 27, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.

• FOUR TRIBES MEETING WILL BE HELD IN SALT RIVER
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

• BIA OFFICES ARE LOCKED DUE TO SECURITY REASONS,
PHONE AHEAD FOR ASSISTANCE

• ASSISTANCE FOR SACATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS
REQUESTED FROM AKIN GUMP FOR FUNDING

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND THE RULES
[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

NEW BUSINESS

5.Special Council Work Session
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A COUNCIL
WORK SESSION FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.
REGARDING THE RECENT DECISION UNDER THE EXECU-
TIVE ORDER PERTAINING TO FEDERAL FUNDING AFFECT-
ING THE COMMUNITY

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:05 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • March 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 Coun-
cil held Wednesday, March 19, 2025, in the Community Council
Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was
called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Ann Lucas

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 Wil-
liams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D5- Brian Davis, Sr.(Medical)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

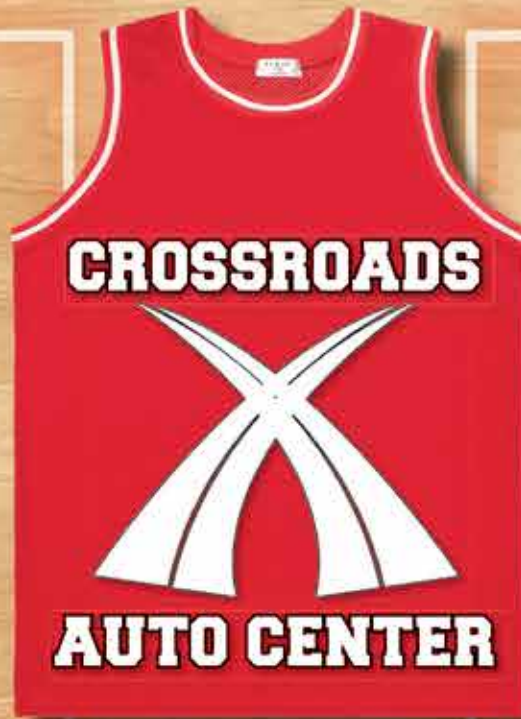
MOTION MADE AND SECOND ACCEPT ADDITIONAL MATE-
RIAL WITH THE CERTIFICATION FOR EUGENE BLACKWA-
TER FOR DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO ADD TO
THE AGENDA FOR CERTIFICATION, MOTION DEFEATED
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2
AND #3 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ACCEPT ADDED
MATERIAL FOR NEW BUSINESS #2
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE AGENDA
AS PRESENTED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

Continued on next page

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2022 NISSAN
SENTRA SV



57K MILES CLEAN

2020 JEEP
WRANGLER



DON'T MISS OUT

2022 DODGE
CHARGER SXT



STYLE AND COMFORT

2023 GMC
ACADIA SLT AWD



3RD ROW SEAT,
BEAUTIFUL SUV, WON'T LAST!

2023 HONDA ACCORD
HYBRID SPORT



ECONOMY, PERFORMANCE
AND STYLE • 32K MILES

2023 CHRYSLER
300S



LUXURY AND POWER
WON'T LAST

2023 FORD
EXPLORER



CLEAN STYLISH
AND READY TO ROLL

2023 TOYOTA
CAMRY SE



NIGHTSHADE
JUST 40K MILES

2023 KIA FORTE
GT LINE SPORTY



GAS STINGY WITH POWER
WON'T LAST

2023 JEEP
GRAND CHEROKEE



FAMILY FUN
AND COMFORT

2024 NISSAN
ALTIMA SV



16K MILES
BEAUTIFUL CAR

2023 NISSAN
ARMADA



STYLISH SUV WITH 3RD ROW
SEATING, WON'T LAST

2023 DODGE
DURANGO RT HEMI



3RD ROW SEAT
THIS IS A UNICORN!

2024 CHEVY
TRAX LT



JUST 15K MILES STYLE AND
ECONOMY AND POWER!



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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

2025 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION

COUNCIL SEATS OPEN:

District 2 | District 3 | District 4
District 5 | District 6 | District 7

February 7, 2025	<u>Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) OPENS</u> in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. Any qualified elector of the Gila River Indian Community who has attained the age of twenty-five (25) may file for the Office of Councilman for the District in which he resides. DOC forms can be requested through email: TEP@gric.nsn.us or forms can be picked up at the Tribal Elections office, 291 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Bldg. 9.
February 21, 2025	<u>Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) CLOSES</u> for Community Council declarations in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. DOC forms must be turned in to the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.
February 27, 2025	Tribal Elections Program to route DOC applications received to Enrollment/Office of General Counsel/Human Resources to ascertain applicant qualifications for candidacy.
March 4, 2025	DOC forms return to the Tribal Elections Program.
March 5, 2025	Special Election Board meeting to determine candidate's residency qualifications.
March 19, 2025	Community Council to certify qualifications of candidacy for Community Council seats in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. <i>Sec. 2116 Community Council Elections D. 2. The certification of Council Candidates shall be conducted at the second regular Community Council meeting in March. All candidates must be in attendance.</i>
March 25, 2025	<u>Voter Registration CLOSES</u> for the 2025 Community Council election. All applications must be received in the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.
April 3, 2025	<u>Absentee Voting Opens</u> for GRIC voter in District 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 unable to vote in person on Election Day.
May 5, 2025	<u>Absentee Voting Closes</u> at 5:00 p.m.
May 6, 2025	GRIC 2025 Community Council Election Day Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Absentee Ballots not returned by mail can be dropped off at any polling site until 6:00 p.m.
May 9, 2025	DEADLINE: for protest to the election. Any registered voter shall be allowed to file a protest in writing to the Election Board Chairperson within 3 business days following the election. Protests must be received before 5:00 p.m.
May 21, 2025	Certification of Election Results. Section 2.113. A. Certification of election results shall be conducted by the Community Council at its second regular meeting in May.
June 4, 2025	All newly elected or re-elected candidates are sworn into office to fill Community Council seats in District 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7.



For more information please contact Tribal Elections Office at:
Office: (520) 562-9758 or 562-9735 | Email: TEP@gric.nsn.us