



## 2025-2026 Gila River Royalty crowned in District 5



L-R: Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant Peyton Thomas, Jr. Miss Gila River Paige Thomas, Miss Gila River Gabrielle Garcia, Miss Gila River First Attendant Virginia Rossel, and Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, at the 2025 Gila River Royalty Pageant on April 26. Emma Hughes/GRIN

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community gathered for the annual Gila River Royalty Pageant, an event that celebrates heritage, tradition, and grace. The pageant held at the Casa Blanca Community School, featured four young women vying for the titles of Miss Gila River and Jr. Miss Gila River on April 26.

Gabrielle Garcia, District 3, was crowned as the new Miss Gila River 2025-2026, along with her first attendant Virginia Rossel, District 3. Paige Thomas, District 2, was crowned Jr. Miss Gila River 2025-2026, and first attendant Peyton Thomas, District 2.

The title of Miss Gila River and Jr. Miss Gila River is not just an accolade but a role of ambassadorship, where the winner represents the community at various events and gatherings throughout the year.

Outgoing royalty, Miss Gila River 2024-2025 Susanna Osife, District 2, and Jr. Miss Gila River

Shayla Davis, District 1, reflected on their time as Community ambassadors during their farewell address.

"It has been such an honor to hold a title such as this, to represent you all, to represent the Gila River Indian Community everywhere I went," said Davis. "I have had so much fun and enjoyed this experience. It has definitely been such an important moment in my life."

"I've had the wonderful honor during my time as Miss Gila River to experience unforgettable scenarios and experiences that I never believed that I could go through," Osife said.

The pageant featured a series of events designed to highlight the multifaceted qualities of the contestants: introductions, talent, traditional and business attire, and impromptu questions. This year's judges panel included: former Miss Gila River Diana Antone, Community Council Rep. Duane Jackson Jr., and former Lt. Gov. Robert Stone.

The Gila River Royalty inspi-

res young women to take active roles in preserving and promoting their culture while also encouraging personal development and leadership.

"I've always been very proud of our community and the representation, but working with the youth and hearing them – I have hope for our leadership moving forward," said Lt. Gov. Regina Antone

## Tribal IDs Meet TSA Requirements for Air Travel Under Real ID Law

**GRIN Staff**  
Gila River Indian News

As of May 7, 2025, the federal Real ID requirement is officially in effect for air travel across the United States. For members of the Gila River Indian Community, there is reassuring news: Tribal identification cards continue to be recognized as valid identification at airport security.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) confirms that "an acceptable photo ID issued by a federally recognized Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe, including Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs)," is sufficient for passing through TSA screening. Community members with a tribal ID that includes a photo and is not expired may continue to use it for domestic flights, however, TSA's policy also states that, "If your [tribal] ID cannot be scanned by technology, you will be asked for a secondary ID that can be scanned. If you do not have a second ID, your Tribal ID will be inspected manually and cross-referenced with the Federal Register."

If a tribal member does not have a secondary ID that can be

## I-10 Gila River Bridge Demolished



The Gila River Bridge during the demolition on April . Photo Courtesy of Arizona Department of Transportation

**Press Release**  
Arizona Department of Transportation

I-10 bridge over the Gila River is expected to be completed in early 2026.

The Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Project reached a significant milestone recently at the I-10 bridges over the Gila River construction site.

In early April, crews shifted westbound I-10 traffic onto part of the new eastbound I-10 bridge at the Gila River and began the removal process of the westbound I-10 bridge. This traffic shift will remain in place for approximately 8-10 months. The new westbound

Construction of the I-10 bridges over the Gila River began in May 2025 and is the first of four segments for the I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Project that runs along 26 miles of I-10 between Loop 202 (Santan/South Mountain Freeway) to just north of Casa Grande. The new I-10 bridges over the Gila River will be wider, making room for additional travel lanes that are being added in both directions on I-10

*Continued on Page 5*



Newly crowned Miss Gila River Gabrielle Garcia (left) and Jr. Miss Gila River Paige Thomas (right) during the pageant at the Casa Blanca Community School on April 26. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Gila River Indian News  
P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, AZ 85147  
Change Service Requested

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Sacaton, AZ  
Permit No. 25





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

## CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

### MONDAY MAY 26, 2025

For any information on services open during the holidays, please call our main line at (520) 562-3321. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. If you need immediate assistance, please call 911 or visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.



## We Continue To Grow!

Construction Starting May 2025

**HU HU KAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS UNDERWAY**

## Estimated Project Date of Completion: August 2025

Over the next couple of weeks, you will notice construction beginning at the Main Entrance and the Café at the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital campus.

We appreciate your patience as we work on these improvements.

- Enhancing Patient Care With A Lobby Renovation
- Exciting Updates Coming To Your Café Experience



For any questions, please contact  
Planning, Design & Construction at  
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 3369

**Behavioral Health Services**  
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

SCAN HERE



## CHECK OUT OUR MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACCESS OUR MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE AT  
[GRHC.ORG/BHS](http://GRHC.ORG/BHS)

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

## To view more news, information & events:

Scan QR  
code!



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







Governor  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Regina Antone**

Community Council  
Representatives

**District 1**  
Duane Jackson Jr.  
Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Ann M. Lucas

**District 3**  
Avery White  
Joseph Manuel Jr.

**District 4**  
Jennifer Allison  
Nada Celaya  
Lalena Jackson  
Leah Williams

**District 5**  
Brian E. Davis, Sr.  
James De La Rosa  
Franklin Pablo Sr.  
Gordon Santos Jr.

**District 6**  
Anthony Villareal, Sr.  
Terrance B. Evans  
Charles Goldtooth

**District 7**  
Devin Redbird

Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer  
Shannon White,  
Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
Roberto.Jackson@gric.nsn.us  
CPAO Director  
(520) 562-9851

**Emma Hughes**  
Emma.Hughes@gric.nsn.us  
Acting Managing Editor  
(520) 562-9852

**Jeston Morris**  
Jeston.Morris@gric.nsn.us  
Community Newsperson  
(520) 562-9718

**For more information**  
GRIN@gric.nsn.us  
(520) 562-9715

Write to:  
**Editor, GRIN**  
P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Published letters or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community.

LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters *should be limited to 200 words* and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer’s true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. *Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper.* Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling, and content.

**Gila River Indian Community**  
P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, AZ 85147  
(520) 562-9715  
www.gricnews.org

Material published in the Gila River Indian News may not be reproduced in any form without consent from the Gila River Indian Community



# Second Annual Autism Awareness Walk held in District 6

Emma Hughes  
Gila River Indian News

Several families and supporters came together for the second annual Autism Awareness Walk in District 6, coordinated by Gila River Indian Community member Lorina Allison, on April 19.

“The reason I did this was because I have two grandsons and my older one, he’s diagnosed with autism,” Allison explained. “I’m doing this because people need to know the characteristics of a child with autism and ADHD – It’s not that they’re spoiled. It’s not that you can’t control your child.”

Autism spectrum disorder is a complex neurodevelopmental condition characterized by challenges in social interaction, communication, and repetitive behav-



Families walk one-mile for the Autism Awareness Walk in District 6 on April 19. Emma Hughes/GRIN

iors. The term “spectrum” reflects the wide range of symptoms and severity experienced by individuals with autism. While some

people with autism may have significant language delays and intellectual disabilities, others may possess exceptional skills or talents in areas such as mathematics, music, or visual arts.

Allison took attendees along the same route that she walks with her grandson, Alijah Allison. “We started walking when he was three years old and I just follow him. He’s curious about everything and their memories are perfect – so every time we go out, we go the same route.”

One attendee, Marcella Brown, Community member from District 5, shared her experience attending the event, “It’s the first time I heard about it, I was very proud. I do have a son, he’s 14 years old. He’s autistic. He’s on level three spectrum, he also has ADHD.”

She explained that there ar-

en’t many resources within the Community for children, parents, and families to learn more about autism, “It was nice to see somebody speaking up about autistic children out here in the tribe.”

April is internationally recognized as Autism Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and advocating for the rights and needs of individuals affected by this condition. Autism Awareness Month aims to foster greater understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism and to highlight the importance of early diagnosis, intervention, and inclusive practices.

Gila River Sand & Gravel assisted Allison with the event by making t-shirts, which featured logos designed by Kyle Hill and his two daughters. Gila River Telecommunications Inc. also donated snacks for the event.

Allison thanked those who came out, and shared that she plans to host more events that are autism friendly. T-shirts were designed by her niece, and specially designed stickers made by Community artist Tiffany Enos, were given to all who attended.

“We had a really good turnout. I want to thank Councilman Joey Whitman. He came last year and he was here today. I appreciate him. He comes with very useful information and I want to support small businesses from community members,” said Allison.



Several families came out for the second annual Autism Awareness Walk on April 19. Emma Hughes/GRIN



**Class of**

# 2025

**Deadline to Submit:  
Friday,  
June 20, 2025**

## RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2025 GRIC GRADUATES!

### Congratulations On Your Achievement In Education!

Be on the lookout for a GRIN Special Edition recognizing all of the students who have graduated, certified, or promoted.  
If you haven't received a **2025 Graduate Information Form**, contact the Tribal Education Department or the GRIN so we can highlight your accomplishment in the upcoming Special Edition.

- Preschool to Kindergarten
- Kindergarten to First Grade
- 8th Grade to High School

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

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





# Project DreamCatcher Spring 2025 Cohort

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
Communications & Public  
Affairs Office

Three Gila River Indian Community members graduated from Project DreamCatcher at Arizona State University’s Thunderbird School of Global Management in Downtown Phoenix on April 18.

Oriana Apkaw, Amanda Mitchell and Cher Thomas represented the Community among a total of 26 in the 2025 Spring cohort who attended the graduation ceremony.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis spoke at the graduation and congratulated the GRIC members on their achievement.

The Freeport-McMoran Foundation created Project DreamCatcher in partnership with Thunderbird School of Global Management to prepare Indigenous woman for entrepreneurship with a week-long business development program.

“The faculty really created a structured environment for us to come together,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell said she learned how to develop a business plan, which she will use to start a consulting business.

Apkaw said she felt empowered by the women



**L-R: Cher Thomas, Amanda Mitchell, Oriana Apkaw, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during the Project Dreamcatcher ceremony on April 18. Roberto Jackson/CPAO**

in the program.

“All the women have different ideas,” said Apkaw who is a certified farrier, which is a specialist in hoof care for horses.

Thomas is also looking forward to using the tools she learned in DreamCatcher.

“Now that I’m done with Project Dreamcatcher, my goal is to begin introducing O’odham basketry and cultural education as part my business’ offerings. I like to do workshops about shegoi tea and sewing classes,” she said.

The ceremony started with flag bearers from all the tribes represented fol-

lowed by the ASU Indigenous Land Acknowledgment.

“I’m very proud of these three amazing women from the Gila River Indian Community,” said Gov. Lewis of the GRIC members in the cohort, which is the most GRIC has ever had in a single group.

Other speakers also included Dr. Charla Griffy-Brown, Dean & Director General, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Candace Hamana, Director, ASU Tribal Relations, Faith Soto, Freeport-McMoran and Dr. Mary Sully De Luque.

# AKIMEL O'OTHAM WEAVERS CIRCLE

A safe space for all current and future weavers to learn, socialize and continue the art of weaving.

**STARTS JUNE 2, 2025**

**EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING 5PM-8PM  
AND  
EVERY OTHER SATURDAY 8AM-1PM / 10AM-3PM**

• CLOSED FOR ALL TRIBAL AND FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
Identify weaving materials  
Year-round planting & harvesting  
**How to:**

- Process each plant
- Store your materials
- Design elements

Access to the Museum  
Guided access to collections

**Open Reception on JUNE 2nd at 6pm in the Gathering Space in the Museum**

GRIC & SRPMIC PARTNERSHIP  
ANY ENROLLED GRIC OR SRPMIC  
MEMBER WELCOMED  
AGES 16+  
(UNDERAGE MUST HAVE ADULT PRESENT)  
COMMITMENT TO CLASSES

**HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER**  
**CONTACT: JOSHUA YAZZIE**  
520.796.3510 | JOSHUA.YAZZIE@GRIC.NSN.US

# Team Play USA Donates Bikes to GRIC Youth



**Lt. Gov. Regina Antone with GRIC youth during the bike donation on April 30. Jeston Morris/GRIN**

**Jeston Morris**  
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Lt. Gov. Regina Antone received a bike donation on behalf of GRIC youth at the Arizona Grand Resort from Team Play USA on April 30.

According to Jake Hillard, spokesman for Team Play USA, this organization offers a variety of services. One of the services is the bike build challenge for children in need. Team Play USA provides the bike and a group of volunteers build the bicycles and donates them to children in need. In this case, the bicycles are

built and decorated for the Gila River youth.

“Our target age is for 8 to 16-year-olds and the bike size ranges from small to large,” said Hillard.

The bike build challenge began at 4 p.m. Lt. Gov. Antone spoke at the beginning of the event.

“I am excited to be here to witness the bike build challenge and donation. I don’t think I ever seen a bike put together,” said Lt. Gov. Antone.

The Tactile Medical is the volunteer group who built and decorated 36 bikes. Each bike came with a helmet, tool kit, license plate and poster.

“We have 360 people

here for the bike building challenge. They will be divided into 36 different teams. Each team will build their own bike,” said Hillard.

Upon completing the bike build, the volunteers had a bike race. To win the race, the biker rode the newly built bike extra slow to the finish line. The slowest rider won.

The event concluded with remarks by Lt. Gov. Antone, “Thank you very much for the bike build challenge and donation. I am honored to be here. Enjoy yourself! Have fun! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Many blessing to everybody.”

# BUSINESS PLAN

PREPARATION

**Wednesday,  
June 11, 2025  
10:00 AM to 11:30AM**

**12 SPOTS  
AVAILABLE**

Employment & Training  
192 S. Skill Center Rd. Suite 208  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Call Shaina Perez at  
(520) 610-1773 to reserve  
your spot!

**PRESENTED BY:**

**PimaLeasing**  
& FINANCING CORPORATION



# Scottsdale Jazz Festival honors Russell “Big Chief” Moore



L-R: GRIC members Roberto Jackson, Natalia Miles, and James Jay during a panel moderated by Jacob Moore. Jeston Morris/GRIN

**Jeston Morris**  
Gila River Indian News

William “Doc” Jones, founder of the Scottsdale Jazz Festival, and Jacob Moore, vice president and special advisor on Indian affairs at Arizona State University, paid tribute to legendary trombonist and Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) member Russell “Big Chief” Moore during the opening night of the Scottsdale Jazz Festival at the Western Spirit Scottsdale’s Museum of the West on April 24.

Jacob Moore, grandnephew to Russell Moore, moderated a panel honoring his legacy. The panelist included fellow GRIC members James Jay, Natalia Miles and Roberto Jackson. Jones and his band played tribute to Russell “Big Chief” Moore in the latter half.

“Russell Moore was born in 1912 at the base of the Estrella Mountains. When Russell was 6 years old, he listened to traditional singers. That is where he developed his musical ears,” said Moore.

According to Moore, after the Gila River dried up it became difficult for the Moore family to take care of young Russell and his brothers. The Moore brothers were sent to Chicago to live with their uncle, William T. Moore, who taught them how to play multiple musical instruments. Young Russell did not learn how to play trombone until he

attended Sherman Institute in Riverside, Calif. During his music journey, Russell played with jazz bands in California, New Orleans, and Chicago.

“In 1945, Russell, for the first time, played with Louis Armstrong. Again, he played with Louis Armstrong and the All-Stars in 1964,” said Moore.

Russel Moore played with many outstanding jazz bands. He performed at United States Presidential inaugural ball for John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. He also performed in Paris during the 1940s, for the Duke and Duchess at Central Plaza, and at Prince Charles and Diana Spencer’s wedding.

Moore asked the panelists to address what does Russell Moore present as an Akimel O’odham.

“How Russell Moore’s legacy impacted me as a Community member, you see someone who has made it to the world stage. ‘Wow, I can do that as well.’ It is awesome that Russell Moore did all these things. I am reminded all the time. In 1983, Russell Moore Day was declared in our Community,” said James Jay, multimedia designer for Gila River Broadcasting Corp.

“What Russell Moore means to me as an Akimel O’odham; To me Russell Moore represents Native American achievement, excellence and ambition,” said Natalie Miles, muse-

um tech with the Huhugam Heritage Center.

“Russell Moore was posthumously awarded the Legacy Circle Award in 2021,” said Moore.

Scottsdale Jazz and Yrefy LLC sponsored the event.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and students from Skyline Gila River visit the I-10 Gila River Bridge to witness the demolition. Emma Hughes/GRIN

## From the Front Page

through the Wild Horse Pass Corridor. ADOT hosted 25 students and other community members and leaders from the Gila River Indian Community to view and


witness part of this bridge removal process. The purpose of this site visit was to show visitors how the bridge removal process is conducted and provide insight into the freeway construction process.

To learn more about the I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Project, visit [i10wildhorsepasscorridor.com](http://i10wildhorsepasscorridor.com)



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY UTILITY AUTHORITY  
PROPANE



**Important Price Update**

On April 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 at a regular Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board meeting, GRICUA’s Board approved changes to its delivery and propane fill fees, which had not been changed since GRICUA’s assumption of operations in August of 2023. These changes are needed to offset the impact of inflationary operating costs being experienced by GRICUA. The changes will be implemented in a phased approach as outlined below.

The changes will be implemented in a phased approach as outlined below.

- Effective June 1st, 2025: Price will increase from \$3.00 to \$3.45 per gallon
- Effective September 1st, 2025: Price will increase from \$3.45 to \$3.90 per gallon
- Delivery Fee of \$20.00

**Delivery Requirements:**

Deliveries will be refused if any of the following conditions apply:

- Gates are locked.
- Dogs are not secured.
- There is less than a 10-foot clean radius around the propane tank.

If delivery is refused, a door hanger will be left with the reason for non-delivery. Customers must call the main office at 520-796-0600 between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm to be placed on the next available scheduled delivery day for their district.

Reading Your Propane Tank Percentage

	120	150	200	250
Gauge Reading	Gallon Tank	Gallon Tank	Gallon Tank	Gallon Tank
10%	12	15	20	25
20%	24	30	40	50
30%	36	45	60	75
40%	48	60	80	100
50%	60	75	100	125
60%	72	90	120	150
70%	84	105	140	175
80%	96	120	160	200

Chart shows gallons remaining

Propane Tank Valves



**Order Requirements :**

- All Propane Orders must be **prepaid** and placed at least **one day before** your district’s scheduled delivery day.
- **Minimum delivery:** 54 gallons


Propane Delivery Schedule

**Monday and Wednesday**

Districts  
1,2,3,6 and 7

**Tuesday and Thursdays**

Districts  
4 and 5

 **SAME-DAY DELIVERY AVAILABLE!** 

**Need it today? A \$25 fee applies.**

**Call and pay by 9:00 AM — but only on your district’s scheduled delivery day!**

Please note: Receipt will be placed under the hood at delivery.

Accepted Payment Methods

- **By Phone:** Pay with a Debit or Credit Card
- **In Person:** Pay with Cash, Money Order, Or Check at our office

Propane payments can be made during business hours, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

What is considered a propane Emergency ?

Please call GRICUA at (520) 796-0600 if:

- Propane Leak
- House Fire
- Smell of Propane

•Order propane when your tank is **between 10% and 20%** full to ensure uninterrupted supply.

•Propane tanks are considered **full at 80%(Winter) 75% (Summer)** to allow for safe expansion as temperatures change.

•**Overfilling past 80% can be dangerous.** 

•**Propane gauges display percentage, not gallons. Refer to the chart above to determine gallon amounts.**

Ready to Order?

Call 520-796-0600

Attendees for the opening night of the Scottsdale Jazz Festival on April 24. Jeston Morris/GRIN



# GRIC honors MMIP with Community walk



Jeston Morris  
Gila River Indian News

Over 500 people participated in this year's Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness event, hosted by the Gila River Indian Community's Victim Services Department (VSD) in partnership with the Gila River Police Department (GRPD) and the Tribal Recreation and Wellness Department (TRW). The event included a one-mile and 5k walk/run at the Sacaton Fairgrounds on May 3.

"The MMIP event turnout is very successful. Participation for this year's event increased significantly," said Krystal Bergen-Tsosie, coordinator for Crime Victim Services.

This year's MMIP event theme is "Remember Them" and succeeded ex-

pectation with record participation.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Regina Antone spoke at the beginning of the event.

"Our relatives in San Carlos and Emily Pike inspired a whole new movement not only [in] Arizona but across the entire United States," said Gov. Lewis.

Gov. Lewis worked with Arizona Representative Teresa Martinez, who is the lead sponsor of House Bill 2281, which will develop an alert system for a missing Indigenous person.

"We introduced a bill that will be the first alert system for MMIP in Arizona. We are going to get this done. We are going to get this bill signed into law," Gov. Lewis said. "This legislation will be a tool to protect our relatives and our most vulnerable."

Lt. Gov. Antone thanked the departments for putting on the MMIP event.

"Keep walking, keep moving forward but never forget them," she said.

MMIP started with a traditional blessing by Anthony Gray, who is a Community member from District 4.

"In our culture, in O'otham, the best way to honor someone and to remember



someone is to carry on something that they did," said Gray.

The Junior Marines from Blackwater Community School, District 1, also participated in the event. They proudly marched with their banner.

The newly crowned 2025-2026 Gila River Royalty court were also in attendance and introduced themselves to the crowd. They include:

Gabrielle Garcia, Miss Gila River  
Virginia Rossel, Miss Gila River 1st Attendant  
Paige Thomas, Jr. Miss Gila River  
Peyton Thomas, Jr. Miss Gila River 1st Attendant

GRIC members, other tribal members, and non-natives participated in this year's MMIP event and all attendees

received a maroon T-shirt with a unique graphic design in the front and text that read "Remember Them" on the back.

The one-mile walkers and 5k runners each had their own course to follow. The top three finishers of the 5k are:

First place – Ryland Schweitzer – age 11-17, member of GRIC  
Second place – Nikoli Harrison – age 13, member of Navajo Nation  
Third place – Charles Laws-Albano – age 17, member of GRIC

"This event brings awareness to MMIP. The 5k run/walk was added this year. The MMIP turnout was amazing. There are so many people here today," said Ryan Brown, lead fitness instructor for TRW.





# Community Vigil held for Karen Peter

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
Communications & Public  
Affairs Office

The Victim Services Department assisted the family of the late Karen Peter to hold a prayer walk and candlelight vigil in Sacaton on April 11. A large group of supporters attended and marched from the Peter’s residence and through the nearby residential area. During the vigil, supporters lit candles to pay respect to Ms. Peter whose family also spoke during the event along with Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Police (GRPD) Chief Jesse Crabtree and former District 3 Community Council Representative Rodney Jackson among others.



A candle light vigil is held at the home of Karen Peter in Sacaton on April 11. Roberto Jackson/CPAO



Family and friends gather for a Community march in Sacaton in honor of Karen Peter on April 11. Roberto Jackson/CPAO

Basket dancers led the march followed by traditional singers and those holding a banner in honor

of the late Ms. Peter who was passed away after sustaining injuries from an attack, which took place on March 22 in Sacaton. According to GRPD, three individuals—two juveniles and one adult, all members of the Gila River Indian Community—were arrested in connection with this case.

Marchers wore red in honor of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), which is the movement that raises awareness about the high rates of violence against Indigenous people. Singers

and musicians performed along the route and GRPD was present for the safety of the marchers.

Gov. Lewis addressed the crowd and the level of concern throughout the Community regarding violent crime. Gov. Lewis issued a public safety order and enhanced curfew for minors beginning in February of this year. The Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo and the Miss Gila River Pageant were cancelled out of concern as well on Feb. 27.

“It’s a testament that everyone is here supporting this family,” said Gov.



Community members and family of Karen Peter march through Sacaton. Roberto Jackson/CPAO

Lewis of those who attended the walk and vigil. Ms. Peter was laid to rest on April 18 in Sacaton.

Chief Crabtree followed Gov. Lewis and described Ms. Peter’s passing as a “tragic event,” before offering condolences to the family and the full support of the Gila River Police Department.

“What happened to Karen was senseless. It was heartbreaking and it never should have happened,” said Chief Crabtree.

Katherine Lewis, Director of Victim Services, became involved with the march and vigil after seeing a social media post encouraging the Community to come together in memory of Ms. Peter.

“It all came together really fast,” said Lewis.

Lewis also said that GRIC departments and other volunteers started reaching out immediately to provide assistance and donations.

## 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

MAELEEN PERCY



Last seen: 03/29/2025  
Age: 19  
Sex: F  
Hair: Black  
Eyes: Brown  
Height: 4'9"  
Weight: 115lbs

ORLANZO HUGO



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

HENRY VILLAR



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

ADRIAN VILLAR



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

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



★ VETERANS ★  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VFSO Peer Support Specialists



Submitted by  
Veteran & Family Services  
Office

The Veteran and Family Services Office has two Peer Support Specialists: Wesley Rhodes and Darrell Whitman! Get to know them!

Both Peer Support Specialists are Veterans who can communicate with you through shared experiences. They are your go-to for military active duty, Veterans and Veteran families when it comes to understanding VA benefits and resources within GRIC. Many Veterans are eligible for State and Federal benefits, so they help navigate and connect you with available resources.

Do you know Veterans that need to have a well-check? Wesley and Darrell will visit the Veteran at their home or living facility. If you work for a GRIC Department and you have concerns about a Veteran or

know of a Veteran in need, please contact us. If the Veteran needs to file forms or claims with the VA, the Peer Support Specialists will bring needed documents for signatures. They will do the majority, if not all of the paperwork to apply for benefits.

Have you misplaced your DD214? VFSO can help you order another one. This is an extremely important document. It's not just your first step to VA health care, but it is required for you to have Military Honors upon your passing. It's a keepsake for your family to remember your proud military service. Our Peer Support Specialists will assist with ordering military gravestones and markers. They will also assist with having them set into place at the cemetery.

Are you a Veteran in court? You are not alone in your walk. You can be connected to resources for many situations. Know that there are Veteran resources available to you.

If your VA disability rating is under 50% and you are an enrolled tribal member (any tribe), Darrell

and Wesley can assist with filling out a Tribal Copay Waiver to eliminate all of your VA Copays!

Our office maintains a local listing of veterans: living and deceased with obituaries. If you have military family history that you would like to share, please contact us.

VFSO wants you to know that we are here to support the Veteran community and their families. This includes Urban members and GRIC employees who are Veterans!

We host and participate in outreaches and community events. VFSO has some upcoming outreaches, so save the dates! June 20, 2025 will be a Veteran's Round Table and we are planning a special event on August 22, 2025. More details coming soon on both outreaches.

Peer Support Specialist - Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4384

Peer Support Specialist - Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037

Veteran Service Officer - Kim Skelton 520-610-7644



**FREE TO ATTEND**

Shelde Building | 5692 W. North Loop Road,  
Chandler, Arizona 85226

**JUNE 10-13, 2025**  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. MST DAILY

Facilitated by Waylon Pahona Jr. & Johanna Corepro

**REGISTER NOW!**

To SIGN UP  
contact, Alex Villalobos at  
520-562-3396  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

**\*LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS\***

**COMMUNITY HEALING AFTER COVID**

The community healing gathering is centered on activities that encourage the community to work through trauma, grief, and loss due to violence and COVID. Activities include discussion on violence and provide survivors the tools to work through their trauma, and by extension help the community on a path towards healing. We recommend that those attending be at least age 18+.

## INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

## Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

**\$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS. THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.**

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government. \$38 million is available to pay heirs and awards could be significant.



### Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by **June 30, 2025**. More details are available on the website.

### Here's what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or
- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.

A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate's Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds may be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible

for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

**You must act quickly.**  
**The deadline to file is June 30, 2025.**

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

**LEARN MORE**

**CobellSettlement.com**

800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement  
c/o Kroll Settlement Administration  
P.O. Box 5324  
New York, NY 10150-5324



# District 3 Elders deliver Easter Baskets to Caring House

Jeston Morris  
Gila River Indian News

The District 3 Senior Citizens Organization (SCO) delivered the Easter baskets to the residents of The Caring House on April

17. According to Cathy Jackson, Lead Organizer of the Easter basket project, District 3 SCO consists of members who are 55 plus. “Some of our members are homebound for health rea-

sons and meals are delivered to them. Our seniors gather at District 3 Elder Center on a daily basis for meals, activities and projects,” said Jackson. “One of our projects was the Easter baskets.”

In the past, District 3 SCO delivered Easter baskets to children at the Early Education Center. However, this year, they decided to deliver baskets to the residents of The Caring House.

“They rarely get visitors, no one stops by to say hello and have a conversation with them. That is the reason for our decision. In fact, many of us have family member staying there,” said Jackson.

Jackson’s team arrived at The Caring House at 10 a.m. The team includes Francine Siweyumptewa, Gloria Osife and Carol Stewart. They placed all the baskets in the cart and rolled it inside.

“I especially asked Carol to come with us because she can speak O’otham. During our delivery



District 3 Senior Citizens Organization deliver Easter baskets to Caring House residents on April 17. Jeston Morris/GRIN

visit, Carol spoke with a resident in O’otham. The resident was rejoiced to hear and speak the O’otham,” said Jackson.

Jackson mentioned that they did the Easter basket project out of the good-

ness of their hearts. They spread God’s love especially during Easter and their message is the residents of The Caring House are not forgotten; they are truly treasured and loved especially during Easter.

## Fun in the Sun... HEAT SAFETY TIPS

### STAY HYDRATED

Drink water regularly, hydrate before activities, avoid caffeine and sugar

### AVOID MIDDAY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The sun’s rays are at their strongest between 10 A.M to 4 P.M. Avoid these hours!

### CHECK ON ELDERS AND NEIGHBORS

Also check on those with health concerns and pets

### WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEAT ILLNESS

TEXT GRIC to 520-485-5040

Provides community text alerts

Protect yourself today!



Caring House residents receive Easter baskets on April 17. Jeston Morris/GRIN

# Tribal Social Services host Child Abuse Prevention event



Community departments share information and services they provide during the event at the District 1 Service Center on April 25. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Jeston Morris  
Gila River Indian News

Tribal Social Services (TSS) hosted the Child Abuse Prevention Movie Night in Blackwater at District 1 Service Center gymnasium on April 25 and invited families to watch “Sonic 3.”

“The purpose of this event is to promote awareness of the child abuse prevention month,” said Alex-

ander Villalobos, training coordinator with TSS, on average, “Around 200 Community members participate.”

TSS treated the guest with drinks, pizza and popcorn as they enjoyed the movie.

“We are aiming for a mixed audience of parents and their children,” said Villalobos, “Last year’s event was tailored toward

the parents. This year we have tailored toward to the children. We want to get the children involved and provide essential information about child abuse to the parents.”

In addition to the movie, families had the opportunity to visit informational booths from departments in the Community and learned more about important programs.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CASA/GAL

### Every Child Deserves a Voice.

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

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

### Be the Voice. Change a Life.

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

“We have many different departments with information booths,” said Villalobos, “We also have activities, t-shirts and toys for participants.”

Probation Department, Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council (AOPPYC),

Gila River Health Care, GRIC Court CASA, and Forensic Nursing Department also participated in the event among others.

“We are here today to support the Child Abuse Prevention movie night,” AOPPYC Coordinator Jo-

seph Davis said.

TSS also provided promotional T-shirts to raise awareness for child abuse by incorporating O’otham in the message. All the participants received a T-shirt.



# GRTI



"PROUDLY SERVING THE  
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1988"

## On The Horizon

District Days:  
D3 Multipurpose Center: **May 8th**  
D6 Learning Center: **May 9th**  
Closure Dates:  
Memorial Day: **May 26th**

# WHAT IS LIFELINE?

<https://www.usac.org/lifeline/>

**Lifeline is a federal program that offers a monthly benefit of up to \$9.25 towards phone or internet services for eligible subscribers (up to \$34.25 for those living on Tribal lands).**

Consumers may qualify for the Lifeline program if they have a gross household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty

The table below reflects 135% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).

Household Size	48 Contiguous States, DC, & Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1 person	\$21,128	\$26,393	\$24,287
2 people	\$28,553	\$35,681	\$32,832
3 people	\$35,978	\$44,969	\$41,378
4 people	\$43,403	\$54,257	\$49,923
5 people	\$50,828	\$63,545	\$58,469
6 people	\$58,253	\$72,833	\$67,014
7 people	\$65,678	\$82,121	\$75,560
8 people	\$73,103	\$91,409	\$84,105
For each additional person, add	\$7,425	\$9,288	\$8,546



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

**GILARIVERTEL.COM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR GIVE US A CALL TODAY!**



@GilaRiverTelco



@NativeTechAZ



@AlluvionCom



@GilaRiverTV



@DigitalConnectInitiative

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



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

**AKEEM BLAINE AVERY**  
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

**SABRINA KIM'LEE ALLISON**  
Respondent/Defendant

**Case No. FM-2025-0005-PT**

Please take notice that a(n) **Review Hearing** has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

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

**Monday, June 16, 2025**  
at 10:00 AM in Courtroom I,  
**AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,**  
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA

**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.



# SEEKING INFORMATION

## EMILY PIKE

**Murder Victim**  
**Arizona**  
**January to February 2025**




**REWARD**

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

**DETAILS**

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

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



## Gila River Police Department

### Crime Analysis Unit (CAU)

# 2025 APRIL CRIME REPORT



**Crime Data Report**

Summarizes crime incidents that were reported to the Gila River Police Department (GRPD). The metrics included in this report are the Crimes by Type, District and Day of the Week. This report includes data from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**\*\*Data is subject to change if new information or revisions are made\*\***

### COMMUNITY WIDE CRIME TYPES

WEAPONS OFFENSE	16
VANDALISM	40
SIMPLE ASSAULT	64
SEX CRIME	1
RUNAWAY	7
ROBBERY	2
RAPE	6
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	3
LIQUOR VIOLATION	5
THEFT	18
FRAUD	2
FAMILY OFFENSE	2
DRUNKENNESS	12
DRUG VIOLATION	18
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	26
BURGLARY	12
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	23

### CRIMES BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT 1	16
DISTRICT 2	11
DISTRICT 3	75
DISTRICT 4	64
DISTRICT 5	51
DISTRICT 6	29
DISTRICT 7	11

### DAY OF THE WEEK

Sun	13%
Mon	14%
Tue	16%
Wed	14%
Thu	13%
Fri	11%
Sat	19%

May 1, 2025

Gila River Police Department

Crime Analysis Unit

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT STATE OF ARIZONA

**FIRST CREDIT UNION,**  
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

**FREDRICO J. MOLINA,**  
Respondent/Defendant

Case No. CV-2025-0017-MO

**CIVIL SUMMONS**

**TO: Fredrico J. Molina**  
P.O. Box 1871, Sacaton, AZ, 85147

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

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

You shall appear and respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING on:  
**Monday, June 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,**  
**721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ**

You may respond in writing. However, your presence at the Answer/ Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court. **The Court staff is not allowed to give you legal advice but staff is available to assist you with general information such as scheduling and procedures.**

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • April 16, 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, April 16, 2025, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:04 a.m.

### INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman

### ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present:  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present:  
D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Leah Williams(9:11), Nada Celaya; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird  
Executive Officers Absent:  
Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
Council Members Absent:  
D4- Lalena Jackson (Illness)  
D4- Jennifer Allison (Personal)  
D6- Charles Goldtooth (Personal)

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE RESOLUTIONS #5 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 AND #2, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 AND #2, #4, #6, AND #7 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

### PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction – Assistant Community Manager, Mr. Jeffery Martin  
Presenters: Suzanne Jones, Jeffery Martin  
MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED MR. JEFFERY MARTIN AS THE RECENTLY HIRED ASSISTANT COMMUNITY MANAGER. MR. MARTIN HAS A BACHELOR’S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AND A MASTER’S DEGREE FROM KELLER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND A CONCENTRATION IN HUMAN RESOURCES. MR. MARTIN HAS 28 YEARS WITH GAMING AND OVERSIGHT OF HUMAN RESOURCES WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.  
MR. MARTIN IS FROM DISTRICT 5 AND THE SON OF THE LATE JEAN REED AND EMMETT WHITE. MR. MARTIN IS HAPPY TO BE HERE AND LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MR. MARTIN ON HIS NEW POSITION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM.

### REPORTS

>1. Pee-Posh Veterans’ Association 1st Quarter Budget Report  
Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. Pee-Posh Veterans’ Association 2nd Quarter Budget Report  
Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
3. Executive Travel Report ending December 31, 2024  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
ACCEPTED  
4. FY2025 Financial Activity Report ending March 31, 2025 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
ACCEPTED  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
>1. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Proposed Tower Construction At The Seed Farm Rd. Tower Site Under Business Lease BL-0011 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation of approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and EDSC concur)  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Rachel Wierson, Alan Waters, Joan Burke, GRTI Board of Directors  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Proposed Tower Construction At The Blackwater Co Tower Site Under Business Lease B-GR-192 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation of approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and EDSC concur)  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Rachel Wierson, Alan Waters, Joan Burke, GRTI Board of Directors  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>3. A Resolution Approving Membership Of The Gila River Indian Community In The Indian Gaming Association For Calendar Year 2025 And Authorizing Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) For The Community’s Annual Dues (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Shannon White  
APPROVED  
>4. A Resolution Approving The Professional Services Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Department Of Environmental Quality And Jill Grant & Associates (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Lisa Gover, Ryan Eberle  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>5. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona, Inc. And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Tribal Health Department For The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Good Health And Wellness In Indian Country Contract GHWIC-GRIC-00 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Calista Rocha, LaDawn Yazzie, Candlerian Preston  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>6. A Resolution Approving The Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Arizona Department Of Transportation And Gila River Indian Community To Facilitate The Arizona Department Of Transportation’s Construction Of The Koli Road Traffic Interchange On Interstate-10 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Javier Ramos, Ian Shavitz  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>7. A Resolution Approving The Grant Of Easement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The State Of Arizona, Department Of Transportation For The Expansion And Improvement Of Interstate 10 Highway Between Mile Posts 177 And 187 All Located On Tribal Lands For A 99 Year Term And Authorizing Submittal To The U.S. Department Of Interior, Bureau Of Indian Affairs, For Approval (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Javier Ramos, Denten Robinson  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
8. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directing The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval) Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Neomi Martinez  
APPROVED  
**ORDINANCES**  
[LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE APPOINTS COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. AS PRESIDING CHAIRMAN]  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
1. Action Plan Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under Unfinished Business as FYI)  
Presenter: Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION  
[LT. GOVERNOR ANTONE RETUNS AS PRESIDING CHAIRWOMAN]  
**NEW BUSINESS**  
1. Joint Work Session with NRSC, G&MSC, and LSC May 8 – 10, 2025 Tucson, Arizona (NRSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenters: Natural Resources Standing Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER AND TREASURER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS  
2. 2025 Arizona Historic Preservation Conference, May 14-17, 2025, Phoenix, AZ (CRSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenters: Reylynne Williams, Larry Benallie, Jr., Darius Enos  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS  
3. Internal Audit Department FY2025 2nd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)  
Presenters: Dena Thomas, Kyromi Martinez-Pablo  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT  
**MINUTES**  
1. January 15, 2025 (Regular)  
APPROVED  
2. March 19, 2025 (Regular)  
APPROVED  
3. April 2, 2025 (Regular)  
APPROVED  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
• THE I-10 BRIDGE DEMOLITION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025. MEETING POINT IS AT RAWHIDE FOR THE SAFETY MEETING  
• MR. RAMOS WILL BE ATTENDING WATER MEETINGS IN PHOENIX WITH GOVERNOR HOBBS AND SENATOR T.J. SHOPE  
• SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.  
• LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON APRIL 22, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.  
• LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON APRIL 23, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.  
**ADJOURNMENT**  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:48 A.M.  
\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)  
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY



# Summer Day Camp

Dates

5/27/25 - 7/24/25

Time

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Ages

5 - 18

Meals

Breakfast & Lunch Daily

Activities

Sports, Culture Classes, Arts & Crafts & More!!

Join us!

Register Here!



Vah-Ki Site Bus

9:00 am pick up at the D5 Service Center  
No return drop off service

Non-Community Fees

Membership: \$15  
Daily/Weekly: \$10/\$45

Field Trips:

- Odysea Aquarium
- Main Event
- Jakes Unlimited
- Much More!!

For More Information : 520-562-3890 or info@bgcgric.org





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

# SUMMER DAY CAMP

KOMATKE BRANCH

5/27/25 - 7/31/25

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

5 - 18 Years Old

JOIN US FOR:

- Field trips to Odysea Aquarium, Harkins Theatre, Science Center & Many More!
- Daily Breakfast & Lunch
- Sports, Culture Classes, Arts & Crafts
- Much More!!!

REGISTER HERE!



NON-COMMUNITY FEES:

Membership: \$15  
Daily/Weekly: \$10/\$45

For More Information: 520-550-1113 or info@bgcgric.org









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



*Digital Connect exists to help people improve their quality of life using modern technology.*

**We recently updated our website!**

**View our new Annual Report!**





**Please visit us:**  
**digitalconnect.org**

**Scan QR code for report**

**f @: @digitalconnectinitiative**





CAP provides

# WATER SECURITY

for ARIZONA

Eleven of Arizona's 22 tribes have rights to Central Arizona Project water. That's more than one-third of the 30 tribes in the Colorado River Basin. CAP delivers more tribal water than any other organization in the United States.

**YOUR WATER. YOUR FUTURE.**  
Learn more at [KnowYourWaterNews.com](https://www.knowyourwaternews.com)





# CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER

## Happy Cinco de Buy-0

Easy,  
Fast,  
Local

Apply  
Now!



View Our  
Inventory!



**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 Jeep  
Grand Cherokee**



FAMILY FUN  
AND COMFORT

**2023 Nissan  
Versa**



GREAT ECONOMY  
AND COMFORT

**2021 Dodge  
Durango RT Hemi**



3RD ROW SEAT  
THIS IS A UNICORN!

**2023 GMC  
Acadia SLT AWD**



3RD ROW SEAT  
BEAUTIFUL SUV, WON'T LAST

**2023 Kia Forte  
GT Line Sporty**



GAS STINGY WITH POWER  
WON'T LAST

**2023 Kia K5  
GT Line Style**



GREAT MILEAGE AND  
JUST 23K MILES

**2023 Nissan  
Altima SR**



ROOMY STYLISH AND  
GREAT FUEL ECONOMY

**2024 CHEVY  
TRAX LT**



JUST 15K MILES STYLE AND  
ECONOMY AND POWER

**2023 Chevy  
Malibu LT**



GREAT FUEL ECONOMY &  
COMFORT - JUST 36K MILES

**2015 Honda  
CR-V Touring**



ALL-WHEEL DRIVE  
GREAT VALUE AT \$13,999!

**2022 Chevy  
Traverse**



3RD ROW SEAT AND  
GREAT FAMILY RIDE

**2023 Chevy  
Equinox**



PERFECT SMALL SUV  
WITH SPACE AND FUEL ECONOMY



# CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER

1026 N. PINAL AVE., CASA GRANDE

Call or Text

**520-836-2112**

INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL

[www.crossroadsauto.org](http://www.crossroadsauto.org)



\*Not valid with other offers. \*\*Subject to Credit Approval. Not all Buyers Will Qualify. \*\*\*Payments after Tax, Title, License, Doc Fee and \$2,000 Down. 72 Months @ 7.87% A.P.R. Must present ad at time of purchase. Not all vehicles qualify. Ask manager for details. Photos for illustration purposes only. Actual units may vary.





**LOS LONELY BOYS**  
THURSDAY, MAY 1 | 8PM



**THE BEACH BOYS**  
FRIDAY, MAY 2 | 8PM



**SELENA FEATURING  
EMILY FLORES**  
FRIDAY, MAY 2 | 8PM



**THE STRUTS**  
SATURDAY, MAY 3 | 8PM



**CHRIS ISAAK**  
FRIDAY, MAY 9 | 8PM

**MORE  
UPCOMING  
SHOWS**

MAY 10 | DON FELDER AT *WILD HORSE PASS*  
MAY 17 | DẠ VŨ CUỐI MÙA XUÂN AT *WILD HORSE PASS*  
MAY 18 | KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND AT *WILD HORSE PASS*



**TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE!**  
BUY TICKETS AT **PLAYATGILA.COM**