THE GRIN

VOL. 29, NO.4 | GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS || www.GRICNEWS.org | FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Iwo Jima Parade Marks 81 Years Since Iconic Flag Raising

Native communities, veterans' groups and dignitaries gather in Sacaton to honor Ira H. Hayes

GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

Junior Air Force ROTC Color Guard members from Hamilton High School and Arizona College Prep taking part in the 81st Annual Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade. Miguel Sallard/GRIN

SACATON, Ariz. — The 81st Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising military parade was held Feb. 21 in Sacaton, hosted by the American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post 84 and Auxiliary Unit 84. The event featured a flyover and ceremonies at the Mathew B. Juan–Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park.

This year's commemoration drew a strong showing of Native communities and veteran organizations from across the country, all gathering to honor the legacy of Pima Marine Ira H. Hayes and the six flag raisers of Iwo Jima. More than 60 floats participated in the parade, making it one of the largest recent turnouts.

Among the honored guests was Grand Marshal Thomas H. Begay, a 101 year old Navajo Code Talker and one of the last surviving members of the elite WWII communications unit. His presence drew emotional applause from spectators and veterans alike.

Several Native nations and veteran groups joined the procession, including the Yakama Warriors Association from Toppenish, Washington; the Jicarilla Apache Nation Warriors; Tolani Lake Veterans; and the Navajo Hopi Riders. Additional organizations included the American Legion Post 410 Mayetta, Kansas; the Marine Corps League 1328 of Silver, New Mexico; and

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Community Farewell Honoring Gila River Royalty

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Bald Eagle Watching Over GRIC

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Skyline Gila River Lady Mustangs Capture CAA Division I State Title

Rivers Leads Lady Mustangs to State Championship Victory Skyline Gila River point guard earns MVP

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

The Skyline Gila River Lady Mustangs celebrate their championship victory after the post-game ceremony. Jeston Morris/GRIN

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Skyline Gila River Lady Mustangs defeated the Ville de Marie Crusaders at Desert Financial Arena on Feb. 14 to claim the 2025-2026 Arizona CAA Division 1 State Championship. The match up was a déjà vu rematch of the last year's title game, and this time the Mustangs persevered in a close contest. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River fans, Principal Brown and school staff filled the arena to cheer on their home team.

The Lady Mustangs' championship journey unfolded during the second week of February. They hosted the quarterfinal on the home court, played the semifinal at Thunderbird high school and returned to Arizona State University's Desert Financial Arena for the championship game.

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Ira Hayes Memorial Dinner

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The Flag Raiser From Gila River

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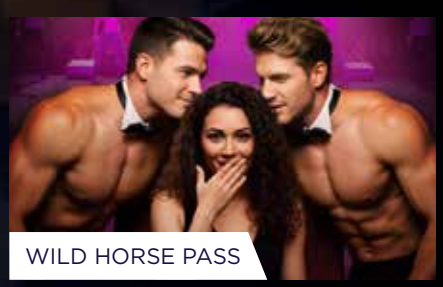
88 KEYS SUPPER CLUB WITH ROBIN THICKE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | 8PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | 8PM



CHIPPENDALES

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 | 8PM

TOBY: THE EXPERIENCE

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 8PM

LED ZEPAGAIN

TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 8PM

MARGARITAS IN PARADISE

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY BUFFET

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 | 3PM

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS

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MAR 20 | JOHN WAITE & JOHN CAFFERTY & THE BEAVER BROWN BAND
MAR 21 | DRAI'S NIGHTCLUB APPEARANCE BY SNOOP DOGG

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INDIGENOUS Journalists Association

Gila River Royalty Farewell

L-R: Miss Gila River First Attendant Virgina Rossel, Miss Gila River Gabrielle Garcia, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Jr. Miss Gila River Paige Thomas, and Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant Peyton Thomas. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Royalty 2025-2026 celebrated their reign with a special dinner among family and friends followed by a waila dance open to the public and the Community, with live music from Gertie & the T.O. Boyz at the Huhugam Heritage Center on Feb. 21.

Miss Gila River Gabrielle Garcia, First Attendant Virgina Rossel, Jr. Miss Gila River Paige Thomas and First Attendant Peyton Thomas shared words of gratitude for family and friends and featured remarks from Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Garcia and Thomas each spoke before their guests and presented gifts to family and friends.

Gov. Lewis congratulated the Gila River Royalty court on their reign and thanked their families for their continued support and encouragement.

Post 84 Honors Ira Hayes at Memorial Dinner in Vah-Ki

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

VAH-KI, Ariz. — More than 200 veterans attended the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 memorial dinner at District 5 Service Center on the evening of Feb. 20.

The Ira H. Hayes Post 84 Honor Guard posted the colors, and Delane Enos provided a traditional blessing. District 5 Council Rep. Franklin Pablo Sr. offered welcoming remarks, followed by Lt. Gov. Regina Antone. The event featured a keynote address by Joey Strickland, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, and a slide presentation by William Allen. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis provided closing remarks.

"First of all, welcome! All the Marines, raise your hands. You're home," Pablo said. "What I mean by that is this is Ira Hayes' home. This is where Ira Hayes is from. This is his homeland".

"As a young man, I met Ira Hayes' father, Joe Hayes and his mother, Nancy Hayes. Every morning Joe would pull his wagon all over the village looking for firewood. After completing his round, he would come to the Bapchule trading post to check his mail," he added.

Whenever the trading post changed ownership, Joe Hayes made a point to educate the new owners about his son's contribution to World War II. He often carried four binders filled with historical documents and photographs taken during the flag-raising dedication in Washington D.C., including photos of Ira Hayes posing with the president of the United States. Joe and Nancy were very proud of their son.

"As O'otham people, we don't like to be in the limelight. We like to be behind the limelight," Pablo said. "In Ira Hayes' case, he was placed front and center. In reality, he was a quiet and honest man. He did what he was told. He served his country and community. That's an honor for not only him but also for his family and community."

"Ira Hamilton Hayes was a Marine who did his job. Recognize Hayes for who he was not how they put him as. Focus on the life he lived," Pablo added.

Lt. Gov. Antone expressed her gratitude to those in attendance. "It's humbling to honor, and always remember our past, and what the servicemen and women have sacrificed," she said, noting that the event grows larger every year.

Gov. Lewis highlighted the significance of the gathering, which brought together veterans from across Indian country.

"With the annual Iwo Jima flag raising, we honor the veterans who contributed, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice," Lewis said. He also acknowledged the presence of Navajo Code Talker Thomas Begay and thanked the students from St. Peter Indian Mission Catholic School for their service during the dinner.

Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 Honor Guard is posting the colors. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Post 84 members presented Joey Strickland with a pendleton blanket. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Yakama Warriors Association delegation honored Navajo Code Talker, Thomas H. Begay, with a beautiful native design blanket. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Desert Nesting Bald Eagles

Male Bald Eagle watching over a nest site in the Community.
Photo Submitted By: Laurie Nessel

Submitted By
Alexander Greenwood and
Laurie Nessel.

GRIC Department of Environmental Quality Wildlife & Ecosystems Management Program.

Our understanding of the natural universe is based on the relationship and knowledge that our He:kiu O'otham developed through living on this land since time immemorial, a relationship that includes birds that inhabit our community to this day.

Certain birds are mentioned in our Creation Epic, are very sacred to us, and are the center of our cosmology, or way of relating to the natural universe. There are birds that have a special "spirit power" and are very important within our Himthag, or Way of Life. These birds include Ñui (Turkey Vulture); Ba'ag (Golden and Bald Eagles); Haupal (Red-tailed Hawk); and others, all of whom must never be harmed in any way. Each of these sacred birds' remains intertwined within our ceremonies, songs, and religious practices. For example, the primary feathers of Eagles, Hawks and the Great Horned Owl are used in ceremony for curing, giving thanks and requesting rain. Several birds appear in our traditional stories as role models and teach us what we should and shouldn't do under certain circumstances. In days gone by, Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh captured certain young raptors from the mountain ranges, raised them for their feathers, then released them back into the wild after a few years.

When the river ran free and cottonwoods towered along a riparian ribbon that cut across the landscape, it is conceivable that Bald Eagle (Ba'ag) pairs raised chicks every 2 - 6 miles along the entire length of the Gila River, drinking from its shores, plucking Gila chub, razorback sucker, and roundtail chub from the flowing waters to feed their chicks. Bald Eagle populations across the continent plummeted in the early 19th century from habitat loss, inadvertent poisoning and persecution. About 60 years ago, people started taking action to recover the species including banning the pesticide DDT that thinned eagle eggs. Additionally, new regulations enforced the protection of bald eagles and their nest sites; and intensive reintroductions began. Bald Eagles are adaptable, resilient, and respond well given basic requirements - food, nest and perch sites.

The northern populations have made a remarkable recovery. However, Bald Eagles are slower to recover in areas that suffered greater habitat loss such as along the Gila and lower Salt rivers. These desert-nesting eagles still benefit from human support. Through an enduring and critical partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality works to assure that our eagles have the best chances at reproduction. Since 2022, AZGFD has outfitted Bald Eagle nestlings with radio transmitters to track their migration from the GRIC nests. Together, we have learned that several of our eagles complete seasonal migrations to summer territories in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and other northern states. Their inter-state travel emphasizes the necessity for inter-organizational collaboration and working beyond borders.

Since 2010, the GRIC DEQ Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program (BENP) has hired seasonal nest watchers to monitor and collect data from breeding Bald Eagles, and to educate the public. After eight years of nest failures due to storms and weak nest trees, the BENP erected a sturdy, artificial nest in the Community with the help of the Salt River Project and AZGFD. Bald eagles readily exploit human-made structures to nest and perch. They forage on non-native fish from reservoirs and fishing ponds and small mammals from irrigated fields. Over the past 15 years, the BENP has overseen the fledging of 18 Bald Eagle chicks.

However, successful fledging is only half the battle. Bald Eagles are vagrants until they mature in 4-6 years when they return to their homeland to find a mate and a suitable site to raise their young. As recently as last year, the Community hosted two Bald Eagle nests. This season, due to a series of nest failures, one pair moved their nest several meters to a cell tower outside the Community. With continued collaboration between the BENP, AZGFD, and the Community, including providing more artificial structures near suitable hunting areas, DEQ hopes to encourage new eagles to nest within the Community, perhaps in MAR5, or other areas that offer their basic needs.

The BENP is excited to welcome community members to visit the Bald Eagle nest site. The Bald Eagles hatched their first of two chicks on February 2nd. Please contact DEQ Wildlife Biologist Alexander Greenwood at 520-562-2767 to request a tour to learn about their natural history and possibly observe the parents feed the chick. All ages welcome. Young ones may need adult supervision. Additionally, DEQ staff will be hosting a clean-up event at the nest site on March 21st, 2026. We need your help to clean up and improve the quality of the habitat to benefit the eagles and the many other types of wildlife that reside here.

We want to thank Robert Johnson, Language Specialist, HHC Language Program, for contributing invaluable historical knowledge on the cultural significance of birds to the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh for this article.

Bald Eagle Nestwatcher, Laurie Nessel, preparing to make her observation of the nest (visible in the distance). Photo By Laurie Nessel.

Auppa Hiosig Mashath, Vapkial ha Ñeo'ok (Cowboys Their Talk) 2026

HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

As the Mul-Chu-Tha 2026 rapidly approaches, we observe O'otham 'out and about' in preparation for the intense competition that will take place on footrace courses, in gymnasiums, the rodeo arena and other fields of competitions. When horses and cattle were introduced by Europeans, Akimel O'otham had readily adopted them into our Lifestyle. Today, Vapkial Himthag 'Cowboy's Way of Life' is firmly embedded in our community.

In his book A Pima Remembers, George Webb gives a detailed account of an O'otham horse round up. He embellished his writings with his personal knowledge and life experiences. In the chapter entitled, Horse Round-Up, he describes the activities undertaken by the Vapkial (Cowboys), as a working mounted team. He also gives an accurate account about the geographical location of New York Thicket and the surrounding landscape. Nowadays, wild horses and other wildlife still roam in those parts.

When O'otham experience the rodeo events, they may hear expressions in and around the rodeo arena. A few Akimel O'otham phrases that might be heard yelled out loud in the rodeo area include the following. When experiencing the calf roping event, O'otham might hear this from the trainer, "Nap th'o wu:g vakial heg visil?" (Did the cowboy rope the calf?). Most of the time, the trainer can't watch the riders, as they prepare the next competitor. At the bull riding event, O'otham might hear one final word of advice from the trainer before the chute opens, "Pi 'i sha 'e wig'ith!" (Don't get thrown!). Once out the chute, this phrase might be heard from the spotter, "Vakial 'e che:sch heg tholo!" (The cowboy is riding the bull!). Of course, before the buzzer sounds, this phrase is often heard from the timekeeper, "Vakial th'o 'i wi:g tholo thap!" (The cowboy got thrown off the bull!).

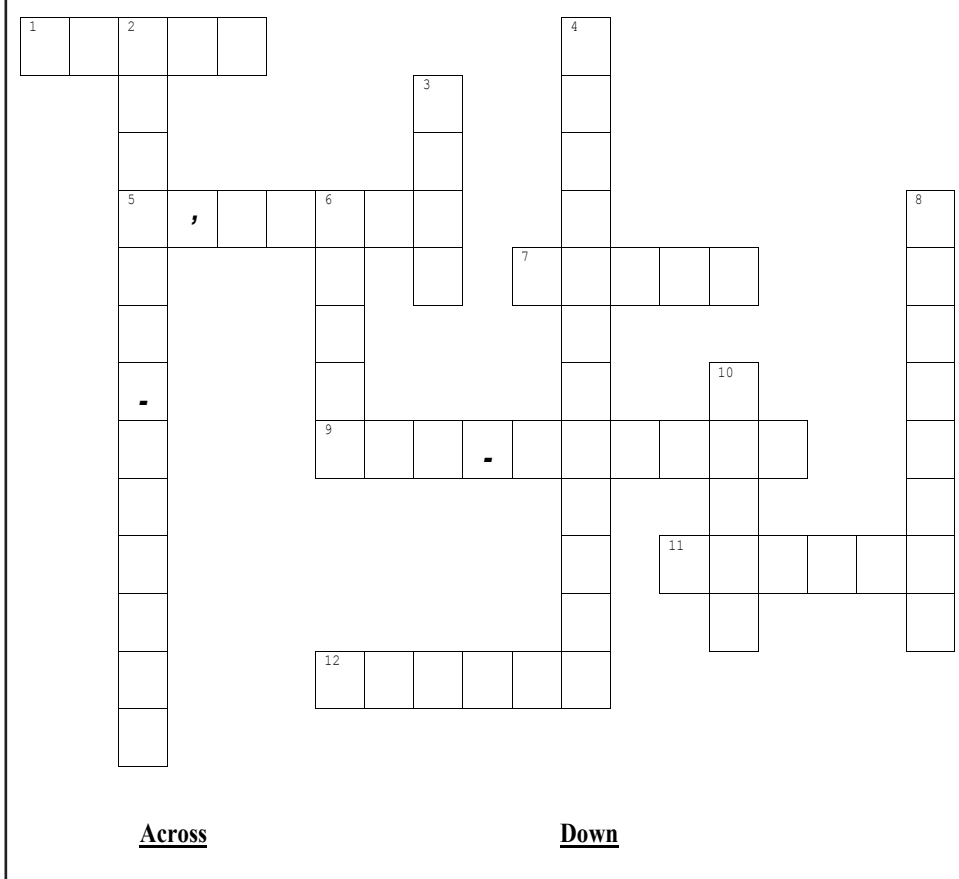
Along with the adoption of animal husbandry, came the personal apparel and items used out on the open range. Vapkial Eñiga (Cowboy belongings) includes:

Givuḍ (Belt)
Vonam (Cowboy hat)
I'ispul (Spurs)
Pu:sth (Saddle)
Vashodag (Saddle blanket)
Vijina (Rope)
Gevkuḍ (Quirt)
Piliñ (Bridle)
Vakial-shu:shk (Cowboy boots)
Chepostha kuḍ (Branding iron)
Koli (Corral)

This Month's crossword will challenge you to identify 12-items associated with cowboys. Speak with an Elder, or Speaker and learn to say the phrases and words. Phrases and words may be slightly different between the villages.

A special Thank You to community Elders, whose knowledge of Vapkial ha Ñeo'ok that made this article possible. Additional source related from A Pima Remembers, George Webb, University of Arizona Press, 1959.

Vapkial Eñiga Cross Word 2026



Across

1. Belt
5. Spurs
7. Hat
9. Chaps
11. Rope
12. Quirt

Down

2. Boots (Cowboy Shoes)
3. Corral
4. Branding Iron
6. Saddle
8. Saddle Blanket
10. Bridle

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Traditional Dancers ★ Bounce Houses & Games for the kids ★ Informational Booths ★ Food/Arts & Crafts Vendors ★ Evening walk/run ★ Dance ★

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

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Major Maintenance Underway at Gila River Interpretive Trail (GRIT)

Heavy equipment works along the Gila River Interpretive Trail as crews begin major maintenance. Photo Submitted By/DEQ

Submitted By
Department of Environmental Quality

The Gila River Interpretive Trail (GRIT) is currently undergoing substantial maintenance to enhance safety, and long-term sustainability of the trail system.

During this phase of construction, the trail will be closed on Thursdays and Fridays and open on Saturdays and Sundays until further notice. Community members are encouraged to plan their visits accordingly and to follow all posted signage while work is underway.

One of the primary projects currently taking place is the dredging of the trail's cells. This work will increase the capacity to hold more water, which will support healthier plant and tree growth throughout the area. Improving water retention within the cells is an important step in strengthening the ecosystem along the trail.

Following the dredging work, crews will begin widening sections of the trails and bridges to improve accessibility and safety for visitors. Vatho repairs will also be completed to preserve important structural and cultural elements within the trail system.

In addition, irrigation system will be repaired to ensure that trees and plants continue to receive adequate water during the months when the cells do not receive water. These improvements will help sustain vegetation year-round and support the long-term health of the landscape.

These upgrades reflect an ongoing commitment to maintaining GRIT as a safe, beautiful, and environmentally sustainable space for the Community. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as this important work continues.

For updates and additional information, please contact DEQ's Wildlife and Ecosystem's Management Program at (520) 562-2234.

The National Center and 17 Other Native Organizations Release New Economic Policy Brief

Brief Features 34 Consensus-Based Policy Priorities to Accelerate Economic Growth in Native Communities

PRESS RELEASE
February 11, 2026

MESA, AZ – Today, The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (National Center) and 17 endorsing Native organization partners jointly released a comprehensive brief outlining 34 critical policy actions the Administration and its agencies can take in 2026 to enhance and grow the federal government's support of Tribal Nations as they build and sustain vibrant economies that benefit not just Native people, but all Americans.

The brief, titled "Tribal Economic Development: Indian Country's Policy Priorities for the Federal Government," presents a progress report on the first year of the Administration's second term with respect to Indian Country economic development and outlines the key steps the Administration can take to grow this progress in 2026. It serves as a comprehensive update to the policy brief the endorsing Native organizations provided to the Trump Administration Transition Team in late 2024. The full brief can be found on The National Center's Policy and Advocacy page.

Importantly, the brief details how Indian Country's broad economic priorities align in key ways with those of the Administration, such as: modernizing the federal tax code; reducing federal red tape through deregulation; increasing federal and other investments in rural economic development; and strengthening local control to allow communities – including Native ones – to make decisions that fit their distinct needs and bolster economic sovereignty.

"President Trump has stated his top priority for Indian Country is to 'respect tribal sovereignty and self-determination' through a commitment 'to empower Native American communities with the resources they need to promote self-determination,'" said National Center President and CEO Chris James. "Empowering Native communities means fully embracing the sovereign status of Tribal Nations and supporting – through strengthened policies and regulations, effective and flexible programs, and ample funding – their proven ability to drive economic and job growth not just for Indian Country, but for all of America. This brief provides the Administration with a clear roadmap for reaching these worthy economic development goals."

In addition to The National Center, endorsing organizations are: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL), First Peoples Fund, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Indian Gaming Association (IGA), Intertribal Agriculture Council, National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Native CDFI Network (NCN), Native American Contractors Association (NACA), Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA), Native Farm Bill Coalition, Native Governance Center, Tribal Self-Governance, United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), and United South and Eastern Tribes (USET).

In the coming months, The National Center will work closely with its partners to share the brief with the Administration and educate key agency officials and staff about the brief's specific policy priorities and how and why they should implement them, including at the March 23-26 Reservation Economic Summit in Las Vegas.

★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flag Raiser from Gila River Indian Community

The journey of Ira H. Hayes continues to inspire as his community celebrates his legacy with ceremony, memory, and unity.

Miguel Sallard
Managing Editor

The photo portraying the six Marines raising the American flag includes "one of our own" Ira H. Hayes of the Gila River Indian Community. Photo courtesy of Arizona State Library Archives and Public Records

SACATON, Ariz. — Each February, the Gila River Indian Community, gather to honor one of their most recognized sons: Ira Hamilton Hayes, the Pima Marine who helped raise the flag on Iwo Jima and whose silhouette became an enduring symbol of the nation.

The annual celebration is far more than a solemn remembrance. It is a living gathering, filled with voices, drums, stories, and a deep sense of pride. For many young people in the community, Ira Hayes is a name they grew up hearing; for elders, he represents sacrifice, humility, and the complex history of Native peoples in wartime America. Throughout the park, among food stands and traditional artisans, the atmosphere blends commemoration with community life in a way that feels uniquely Gila River Indian Community.

Hayes' story has always carried two intertwined truths: the national hero who returned home as an icon, and the young Pima man who bore the weight of fame, trauma, and discrimination.

During the celebration, both truths are acknowledged. Veterans speak of him with reverence. Community leaders highlight his courage. Children look up at the large photograph of the flag raising and learn—sometimes for the first time, that one of the men in that historic moment was "one of our own."

As the afternoon unfolds, military honors are offered, family stories are shared, and recognition is given to Native veterans who followed in Hayes' footsteps. For many attendees, the event serves as a reminder that the story of Iwo Jima is not distant history, it is rooted in the land they walk, the families they come from, and the collective memory passed down through generations.

The celebration closes with a message repeated year after year: Ira Hayes did more than raise a flag; he lifted the visibility and dignity of Native people at one of the most defining moments of the 20th century. And in Gila River Indian Community, every February, his community lifts him once again.

Veterans Are Living History Books

Veteran & Family Services Office
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY 1939 ARIZONA

We took history classes in school. Some of us liked them and some of us didn't. We formed images in our minds about how things looked or how events happened. History books told stories about times past that were documented or passed down through the generations. Those stories were all before our time, and now they grace the pages of an open book as reminders.

The veteran living in your home, the one standing in front of you or wearing a baseball cap, is your current open history book. They have stories that you will not find written anywhere. Each played a part in the freedom and democracy of this country. They were given a job — a mission to accomplish— and they did what their country tasked them to do. Each of their stories is unique. While the history books give us an overview, many individual stories are still present for us to hear and learn from.

Have you ever sat down and really listened to what they have to say? This is your opportunity, because one day you will not have the chance to ask or listen. This is your moment to experience living history.

When speaking with veterans about their military experiences, prompt them with open-ended questions. Allow them to answer with as much or as little information as they are comfortable sharing. Remember, some memories can be painful and will not be shared.

What questions can you ask? Try: What branch of the military were you in? Why did you choose that branch? How long did you serve? In what era did you serve? Ask them to share a memory from basic training. Ask about their fondest memory while serving. Where were you stationed? What is something you learned in the military that you still practice today? Ask whether they would do it all again. Remember, no pressure, open-ended questions allow them to share freely without feeling pushed to discuss anything they prefer not to. You can ask if they were in combat, but avoid detailed questions about it.

Ask permission to document their stories while they talk. You don't need a fancy set-up., record it with your cellphone. Those moments will remain alive in their own words.

This is history that can be passed to future generations. Who is going to tell the veteran's story when they are no longer able?

Peer Support Specialist - Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037

Peer Support Specialist - Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4384

Veteran Service Officer –Kim Skelton 520-610-7644

81 Years Since Iconic Flag Raising

From Front Page

representatives from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, among many others.

A delegation from Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana, based in Wailuku, Hawaiʻi, also traveled to Sacaton to honor the connection between Kahoʻolawe and the Marines who trained there before deploying to Iwo Jima—including Ira H. Hayes. Kahoʻolawe, an island sacred to Kanaloa, served as a major U.S. Navy and Marine Corps training site during WWII.

Kyle Kajihiro, an Ethnic Studies instructor at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, carried sacred water from Kahoʻolawe and poured it with reverence at the Ira H. Hayes monument, symbolically linking the island's history, its cultural significance and the memory of Hayes' service.

The parade commemorates Feb. 23, 1945, when six Marines raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi during one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific War. The moment—captured by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal—became one of the most recognizable images of World War II. The document notes that "six Marines raised the American flag… including Ira H. Hayes, a member of the Gila River Indian Community."

Born in Bapchule in 1923, Hayes served in the Pacific and survived the Battle of Iwo Jima. After the war, he struggled with trauma and alcoholism, dying in 1955 at age 32. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

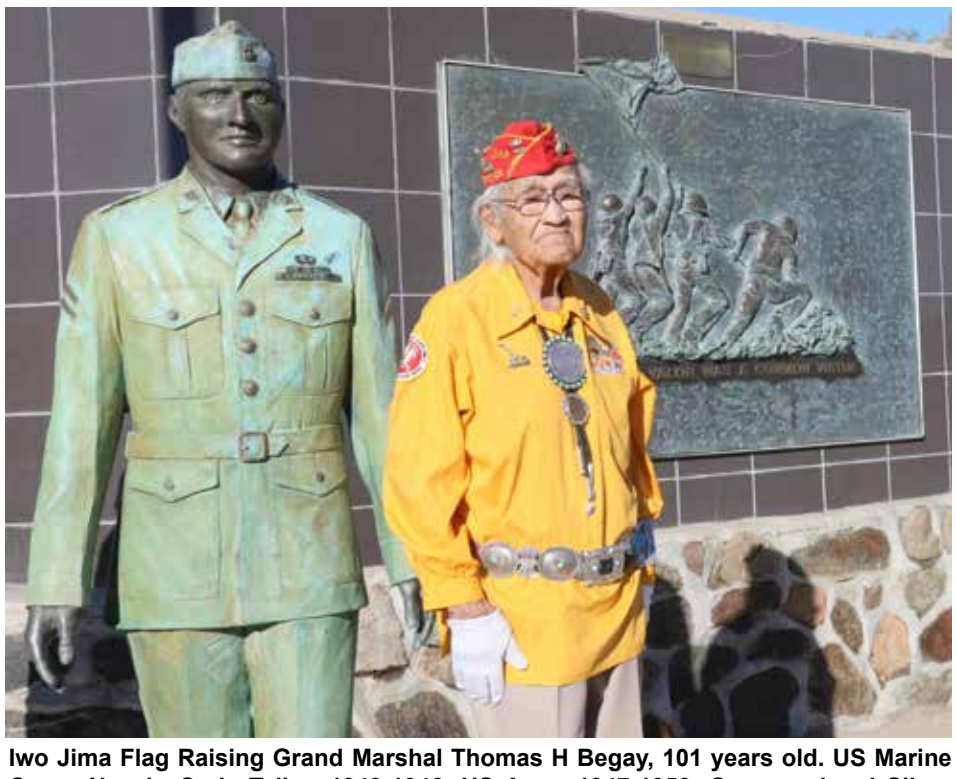
Hayes' legacy continues to resonate across Native communities and the nation. His story has been portrayed in film, music and literature, and remains central to conversations about the contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous service members.

In Sacaton, the annual parade stands as both a historical remembrance and a living expression of community pride, one that continues to grow as more Native nations, cultural organizations and veteran groups join in honoring the life and service of Ira H. Hayes.

Three aircraft opened the parade as they flew overhead. Miguel Sallard/GRIN

Ira Hayes, stands with two fellow members holding the flag they raised atop Mount Suribachi. Photo courtesy of Arizona State Library

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis delivering his statement to the veterans and the Community. Miguel Sallard/GRIN



Iwo Jima Flag Raising Grand Marshal Thomas H Begay, 101 years old. US Marine Corps Navajo Code Talker 1943-1946. US Army 1947-1953. Congressional Silver Medal (2001). WW II Survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima (5th Marine Division) Miguel Sallard/GRIN

Kyle Kajihiro, a philosophy instructor at the University of Hawaiʻi greets Lt. Gov. Regina Antone. Kajihiro carried water from the island where Ira Hayes trained before departing for Japan. Miguel Sallard/GRIN

Community members and veterans enjoying the parade from the front row. Miguel Sallard/GRIN

Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Project Name:	Riggs Road Storage
For:	Zoning Change
Location:	East of Interstate 10 & North of Riggs Road
Date and Time of Public Hearing:	March 7, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Place:	District Four Service Center

Notice is hereby given that the Gila River Indian Community's Natural Resources Standing Committee on **Saturday, March 7, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** in District Four at the Service Center 1510 West Sesame Street Sacaton, AZ 85147, will hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a Zoning Change Application submitted by Riggs Road Storage LLC for a proposed retail store and outdoor storage site.

The public hearing is to solicit public comments on the proposed Zoning Change and allow the Natural Resources Standing Committee to review and verify that the proposed Zoning Change, as it is submitted, contains such requirements and safeguards as are necessary to protect adjoining property and the public's health and safety.

Public comments can be submitted prior to the public hearing by emailing the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and cc PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us. Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us or (520) 562-6003.

PUBLIC HEARING IS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY ONLY.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

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

Lady Mustangs Capture State Title

Monica Benally tips the ball to her teammates during the quarter finals match up
Jeston Morris/GRIN

From Front Page

According to Athletic Director and Coach, Daveda Taylor, Lucianna Rivers was named the MVP of the CAA Division 1 Girls Varsity Basketball State Championship Game.

"Rivers is the heart and soul of our team. When she is on the floor, she makes everyone around her better," Taylor said. "Rivers isn't just a scorer, she's also able to pass the ball to the right player at the right time."

Taylor added that Rivers "played her very best during the playoffs, doing the little things that led to winning," noting her leadership over the past two seasons. "Skyline coaching staff is impressed by her growth on and off the court," said Taylor.

The 2025-26 season was a standout for the Lady Mustangs. After losing in last year's championship game, the team committed themselves to returning stronger. The girls stayed in the gym all summer working on their skills as well as participating in basketball tournaments, basketball leagues, and NABI.

"We added some new players in Jazmyne Mendivil and Indica Lugo, which made our team even stronger," Taylor said. "Throughout the season, Monica Benally was our most consistent player and did a great job of anchoring our defense. Mendivil and Alexis Lewis put constant pressure on our opponents, making them the best defensive back court in Division 1.

Taylor also praised Alai "Zia" Davis, whose confidence "grew tremendously throughout the season, giving us scoring when the team needed it the most. We are so proud of these young ladies for having a specific goal at the beginning of the season and being able to work towards accomplishing their goal by the end of the season," she added.

Quarterfinals

The Lady Mustangs opened the playoff journey at Skyline gymnasium on Feb. 11 against BASIS Prescott. Fans from both schools packed the gym for the 5:00 p.m. tipoff. Skyline won and advanced to the semifinals.

Post game reflection interviews

"This was a really big win for us. Our team is experiencing flu bug, and our energy level is not the best. Getting a 19-point win in a quarterfinal playoff is very good for us," Taylor said.

Rivers scored 27 points, while Biarco added 15 and delivered "excellent defense," Taylor said. Lewis sparked the team with three consecutive steals and several excellent layups.

Jazmyne Mendivil pushes the ball up the court, driving the offense into motion.
Jeston Morris/GRIN

Andre Murray, head coach of Skyline boys' basketball, praised the team's preparation and discipline, saying they "have a good chance of going all the way."

"We did really good. Our team communication and defense started clicking. Our win is awesome. We are looking forward to our next game," said Rivers.

"Tonight's win was a team effort. Everyone played their positions. We did excellent on defense," said Biarco.

"The team we played is really sounded. They are really good. We did our best," said Dan Buchanan, head coach for BASIS Prescott girls' basketball team.

Semifinals

The Lady Mustangs faced Tri City Christian Academy at Thunderbird High School on Feb. 13. After falling behind early, the Lady Mustangs rallied to win by seven and advanced to the championship.

Post game reflection interviews

"Man, that was an amazing win. For us to be down and for us to come back and win by 7 points, that's incredible," Taylor said. "My girls were determined. They did not give up. They gave 100% effort for the entire game. I am super proud of them right now," said Taylor.

Assistant Coach Darius Turner said the team "fought to the end" and was excited for the championship.

"I am glad we won. It was a close game. We finished off good. I am excited to play in the champion game tomorrow," said Rivers.

"I was nervous at the beginning of the game. After getting into the game, I felt like I pick up energy. I really enjoyed today's game," said Lewis.

"It was a close game. But we were able to push through and win. We're all excited to play in the championship tomorrow," said Biarco.

Championship Game

The Mustangs met the Crusaders once again at Desert Financial Arena on Feb. 14. Fans from both teams filled the arena for the noon tipoff.

Post championship reflection interviews

"Oh my goodness, it was hard work. We were here last year and we did not win." Taylor said. "One of our main goals was to get here again and get a chance to win. I am super proud of my girls. They had resilience for the entire season. I am super proud of them for pulling off a tough win. This was a tough game, and we were able to pull off a win. This is a wonderful season for my girls," said Taylor.

"I feel like all my players are top players. We had a big contribution from Mendivil. She was tough on defense the entire game. Rivers came in with some big buckets. Benally did an excellent job with defense and rebounding. It was an all-round team effort. Everybody played well in the championship game," she added.

"It was an exciting game. We have worked so hard for this moment. We were able to use our experience from last year to our advantage. We were able to persevere and bring home the championship to the community," said Turner.

"Awesome win. They fought all season and they finished what they started. The game was amazing to watch. Congratulations to Coach Taylor," said Coach Joe, English teacher at Skyline Gila River.

"I feel really good after winning the championship. Playing point guard can be challenging because it feels like everything is on you. But it's really rewarding especially after pulling off an amazing win. I received the MVP and I am proud of my team," said Rivers.

"It was a tough game. Our defense was really good and our offense was amazing. We pulled through and won the championship," said Mendivil.

"It feels so good to win the championship," Lewis said. "We played them last year and lost. Winning the championship is a huge milestone for our team. We're all elated and proud.

"We played a tough game. We played the same team from last year and lost. We communicated well on the court and pulled off a championship win," said Benally.

Vapkial Eñiga Cross Word 2026 SOLUTION!

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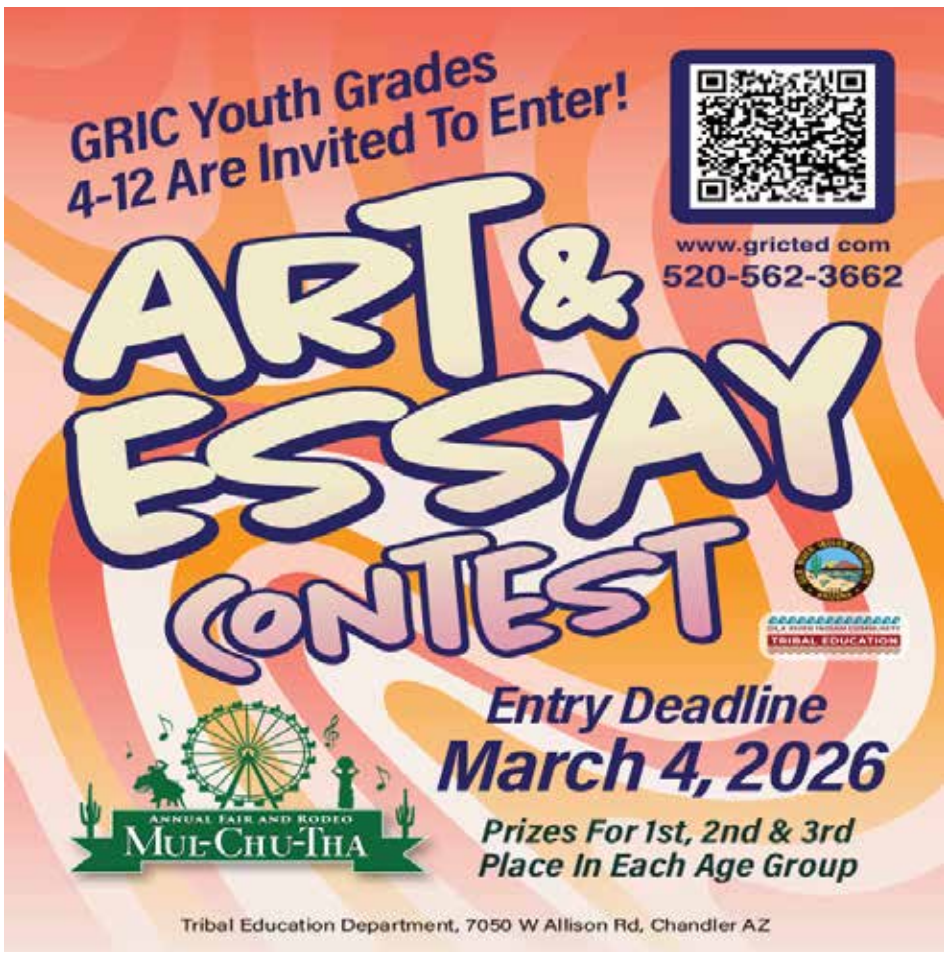

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • January 21, 2026

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, January 21, 2026, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:09 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; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Kristina Morago, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Leah Williams, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Donovan Kyyitan, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Jeanette Blasingim
Council Members Absent:
D1- Duane Jackson, Jr.
D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REMOVE NEW BUSINESS #2 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ADD TO THE AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS, #8 IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT ("ICE") CONCERNS
MOTION TO ADD MR. JEFF MARTIN AND MR. MIGUEL SALLARD AS PRESENTERS FOR NEW BUSINESS #2
MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 THROUGH #6, #8, #9, AND #10; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #5, #7, AND #8; ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1, #3, THROUGH #6
MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
REPORTS
>1. Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)
Presenter: David DeJong
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>2. Community Services Department – District Six Service Center FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)
Presenters: Rebecca Carpio, Rhonda Whempner, Laurie Thomas, Joanne Brewer
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>3. Huhugam Heritage Center - FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)
Presenter: Shirley Jackson
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. Cultural Resource Management Program FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)
Presenter: Linda Morgan
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>5. American Legion Post 51 Haskell Osife Antone 1st Quarter Budget
Presenter: Gary Rodriguez
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>6. Gila River Asset Management FY2025 Great Call Report Quarter 4
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Grant Kresicki, GRTI Board of Directors
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
7. Unauthorized Excavation and Trafficking of Archaeological Resources, THPO Report No. 2025-018
Presenters: Reylynne Williams, Larry Benallie, Jr., Darius Enos, Linda Morgan
REPORT HEARD
>8. Tribal Education Department Administration FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024– September 30, 2025)
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>9. Early Education Child Care Center (EECC) Program FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024–September 30, 2025)
Presenters: Alyssa Lopez, Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>10. Student Services Program - FY2025 Annual Report (October 1, 2024–September 30, 2025)
Presenters: Danielle Allen, Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
11. Sacaton Elementary School District 2025 NAFIS Fall Conference
Presenter: Robert Lewandowski
REPORT HEARD
12. Tribal Opioid Litigation Payments Permissible Uses Implementation Committee Report to Council (Executive Session)
Presenters: Implementation Committee and Stakeholders
REPORT HEARD
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION
13. Schedule of Investments – November 30, 2025 (Executive Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
14. FY2026 Financial Activity Report Ending December 30, 2025 (Executive Session)
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS
>1. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement For Aging Services And Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity For The Limited Purpose Of Arbitration And Enforcement Of Any Arbitration Award Between The State Of Arizona, Acting By And Through Its Department Of Economic Security And The Gila River Indian Community Through The Community Services Department (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)
Presenters: Mary Dixon, Laurie Thomas, Joanne Brewer
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>2. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Community Services Department To Accept Awarded Funds For Fiscal Year 2026 From The United States Department Of Agriculture On Behalf Of The Gila River Indian Community For The Food Distribution Program On Indian Reservations (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)
Presenters: Mary Dixon, Laurie Thomas, Joanne Brewer,
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>3. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And LD Consulting LLC To Assist In An Organizational Assessment Of The Gila River Police Department (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)
Presenter: Suzanne Jones
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Gila River Indian Community Through The Victim Services Department To Accept From The United States Department Of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Office Of Victims Of Crime, The 2025 Tribal Victim Services Set Aside Formula Grant (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)
Presenter: Katherine Lewis
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>5. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To Active Family Development Foundation For Use At The Rawhide Event Center And Sonoran Lawn On February 27, 2026 And February 28, 2026 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Bartley Harris, Kaleb Lester, Duncan Wiston
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. A Resolution Approving The Appointment Of Catherine Harris As A Children's Court Judge For The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; LSC concurs)
Presenter: Governor Stephen R. Lewis
APPROVED
>7. 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 and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Katrina Johnson
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>8. A Resolution Designating The Right Of Way Negotiation Team To Serve As The Negotiation Team For The Renewal Of Two Rights-Of-Way With Tucson Electric Power, Inc., On Fee Land Located Off The Gila River Indian Reservation And Owned By GRIC Land Holdings, LLC (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; CRSC and EDSC concur)
Presenter: Todd Araujo
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
>1. Housing Advisory Committee Appointment – District Six (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Derwin Cooper, Trina Fasthorse
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
2. Communications & Public Affairs Office Mul-Chu-Tha Update (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Roberto Jackson
ITEM HEARD
>3. Sacaton Elementary School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan for School Year 2025-2026 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Stephanie Celis, Robert Lewandowski
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan for School Year 2025-2026 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Claudia Dominguez, Robert Lewandowski
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>5. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan for School Year 2025-2026 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Holena Lebron
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>6. St. Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan for School Year 2025-2026 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenters: Sister Martha Mary Carpenter, Sister Pamela Catherine
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
7. NAFIS Spring Conference (ESC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend the NAFIS Conference, March 15-17, 2026 utilizing dues and delegations)
Presenter: Robert Lewandowski
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND THE NAFIS CONFERENCE, MARCH 15-17, 2026 UTILIZING DUES AND DELEGATIONS
[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]
+8. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") concerns
Presenters: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT GOVERNOR AND OGC TO 1) MONITOR AND DOCUMENT ALL FEDERAL ICE ACTIVITY IN OR NEAR THE COMMUNITY AND OFF-RESERVATION INVOLVING STOPS, DETENTIONS, OR ARRESTS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WITH OVERSIGHT FROM THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL; 2) DISTRIBUTE PRESS RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTE KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS MATERIALS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS, INCLUDING YOUTH AND ELDERS, REGARDING THEIR RIGHTS DURING FEDERAL ENCOUNTERS; 3) COORDINATE WITH ITCA, NARF, NCAI, AND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS TO RESPOND TO DETENTIONS, RAIDS, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF TRIBAL IDS

MINUTES
ANNOUNCEMENTS
• LITIGATION TEAM MEETING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 IN THE OGC LAW LIBRARY AND WEBEX
• PRAYERS WERE REQUESTED FOR COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. IN THE LOSS OF HIS MOTHER
• SPECIAL FARM BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:57 P.M.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • February 04, 2026

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, February 4, 2026, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:06 a.m.
I
NVOCATION
Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL
Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll
Executive Officers Present:
Governor Stephen R. Lewis
Lt. Governor Regina Antone
Council Members Present:
D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Kristina Morago; D4- Leah Williams, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- Donovan Kyyitan, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Charles Goldtooth(9:19), Terrance Evans(9:20); D7- Jeanette Blasingim
Council Members Absent:
D3- Joseph Manuel, Jr. (Personal)
D5- James De La Rosa (Illness)
D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (Bereavement)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #1 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2 THROUGH #8; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 AND #2, ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1, #2 AND #3 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS
REPORTS
>1. Community Technology Center FY2025/2026 1st Quarter Report
Presenter: Connie Jackson
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>2. FY25 Annual Report – Benefits
Presenter: Gustina McCandless
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>3. FY25 Annual Report – Pension
Presenter: Sharon Harvier
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>4. FY25 Annual Report – Per Capita
Presenters: Katrina Johnson, Neomi Martinez
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>5. FY25 Annual Report – Finance
Presenter: Mark Graham, Neomi Martinez
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>6. FY25 Annual Report – Office of Special Funding
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>7. FY25 Annual Report – Procurement
Presenter: Tecumseh Manuel
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>8. GRICUA FY25 Q4 Report
Presenter: Ken Stock
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS
>1. A Resolution Certifying The Membership Count Of The Gila River Indian Community As Of December 31, 2025 (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Sara Duenez
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>2. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Paula Michelle Cross Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Sara Duenez
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
>1. Gila River Police Department IGAN and Traffic Plan (LSC forwards to Council as an FYI, placement on the consent agenda under New Business)
Presenter: William Lewis
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>2. Request Guidance On Background Checks (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and directs the Community Council Secretary to reinstitute the guidelines of the previous Standing Committee Policy and Guidelines, specifically section 1.601, Sub Section B, Duties of the Community Council as the guideline for the background checks moving forward for any Standing Committee and forward to Council with a recommendation for approval)
Presenter: Shannon White
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
>3. Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Board Appointment For District 3 (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)
Presenter: Shannon White
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. 2026 UNITY Conference (ESC forwards to Council for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues and Delegations)
Presenters: Education Standing Committee
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES AND DELEGATIONS
5. Government to Government Consultation meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation
Presenters: Litigation Team
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A PREPARATION SESSION ON GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON FEBRUARY 19, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REGARDING ITS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR POST-2026 COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE AND RESERVOIR OPERATIONS

MINUTES
ANNOUNCEMENTS
• EXECUTIVE OFFICE CONTINUES THEIR ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS IN THE DISTRICTS
• SERVICES FOR COUNCILMAN VILLAREAL'S MOTHER WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 6 – 7, 2026
• CAP DINNER THIS EVENING AT ELEMENTS EVENT CENTER AT 6:00 P.M.
• COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUESTING NOTICE ON ENROLLMENT EVENTS BEING HELD IN THE DISTRICTS
• DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL CULTURAL SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
• CONCERNS WITH SEED FARM ROAD TRAFFIC AND TRUCKS DETOURING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY
• UPDATE ON ANIMAL CONTROL DUTIES AND SERVICES
• UPDATE ON HIRING A VETERINARIAN
• DISCUSSION ON THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
• DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE REVISION

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:38 A.M.
* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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- (2) Chevy Malibus
- 2018 Lincoln MKC
- 2023 Chrysler 300 GT
- 2018 Chevy Silverado 1500
- 2023 GMC Acadia SLT
- 2024 Hyundai Tucson
- 2024 Kia Sportage LX
- 2023 Kia Soul
- (2) Ram 1500 4WDs
- 2022 Toyota Camrys
- 2023 Nissan Murano
- 2018 Mazda CX-5
- 2024 Nissan Kicks

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