



Deputy Secretary of the Interior Kate MacGregor visits Gila River Police Department

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

SACATON, Ariz. — Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis welcomed Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of the Interior Kate MacGregor for a tour of the Gila River Police Department on April 15.

MacGregor was born and raised in Pennsylvania and studied history and classics at University of Pennsylvania. She joined the Department of Interior in 2017 and was confirmed as deputy secretary in 2020. According to the Interior Department, she has led efforts to expand energy production and streamline permitting process for states and tribal governments.

Gov. Lewis and MacGregor arrived midmorning at the police department, where acting Chief William Lewis began the tour in the lobby. Community Council Representative Lalena Jackson

met with MacGregor before the group visited the department's chronological history hall, which features art, photographs, and written displays.

The tour continued through the state of the art kitchen, and a gym room. The kitchen includes a glass garage door and a large dining and cooking area. The gym features modern fitness equipment and free weights, and the matted wrestling room is used for defensive tactics training.

The final stop was the department's forensic lab and communications dispatch center. The lab analyzes and temporarily stores crime evidence, with a warehouse available for long term storage. The communications center integrates dispatch services for police, fire, and emergency medical response, using advanced computer systems with multiple screens on adjustable desks.



L-R: Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Acting Commander Caroline Johnson, U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Kate MacGregor, Acting Chief William Lewis, and Acting Commander Jimmy Walker. Jeston Morris/GRIN

SkyBridge Arizona Breaks Ground for Wingate Hawthorn Hotel at Mesa Gateway Airport

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

MESA, Ariz. — SkyBridge Arizona breaks ground for dual brand Wingate Hawthorn hotel at Mesa Gateway Airport on April 13. The hotel by Wyndham will be in proximity of the airport terminal along Sossaman Road.

The Mesa Gateway Airport Authority (MGAA) consisting of Apache Junction, Mesa, Queen Creek, and the Gila River Indian Community. Lt. Gov. Regina Antone is the chairwoman, and Mark Freeman is the vice chairman, for the MGAA.

The SkyBridge groundbreaking speakers include Lt. Gov. Antone, Mayor Freeman, Hennie van Niekirk (Preconstruction Manager at Alston Construction), Alan Picker (Vice President of New Development at PeakAir Development), and Ariel Picker (President of PeakAir Developments).

In her remark, Lt. Gov. Antone said, "The Mesa Airport Authority Board is proud to stand with you today. The economic impact is significant. It will create over 250 construction jobs and 110 operation jobs."



L-R: Brian O'Neill, Will Mosesley, Alan Picker, Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, Ariel Picker, Mesa Mayor Mark Freeman, and Vice Mayor Scott Somers. Jeston Morris/GRIN

"I like heavy equipment, I like dirt, and I like groundbreaking because it shows the future of what will happen here in our community," Mayor Freeman said.

The dual brand Wingate Hawthorn hotel will have 129

rooms, gym, pool, meeting spaces and ample parking. Airport shuttle will be available. The property will sit on 350 acres near the intersection of Sossaman and Pecos.

"Projects like this don't began with construction. They

began with a vision. A vision to create something beyond a single asset," said VP Picker.

"An airport is like a vineyard. You plant a seed, it starts growing. It takes time. This airport will blossom," said President Picker.

Honoring the Strength of Gila River: A Mother's Day Tribute

This Mother's Day serves as a moment to pause and recognize the sacred bond that hold the Community together, a strength rooted in the heart of its families.

Motherhood in this region transcends a simple title; it represents the guardianship of culture, the teaching of traditions, and the backbone of every household. These women provide the steady guidance that honors ancestral roots while encouraging the next generation to reach for the dreams. From the grandmothers who preserve the stories of the past to the young mothers shaping the future, their influence remains the primary engine of progress.

Mother's Day is a celebration of their strength, their wisdom, and an unconditional love that knows no bounds. To all the mothers, aunts, and maternal figures who care for the Community, there is deep gratitude for their sacrifice and for being the light that illuminates the path forward. May this day be filled with the peace and affection they so highly deserve.

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Gila River Indian Community Hosts Vital Outreach Event in Los Angeles



Several GRIC departments were on-site to assist members with information and services during the outreach event on April 24-25. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Emma Hughes
Gila River Indian News

LOS ANGELES, Ca — In a continued effort to better serve its members, the Gila River Indian Community partnered with the United American Indian Involvement, Inc. (UAI) to organize its annual outreach event for Community members residing in Los Angeles area, on April 24-25.

The two-day event at Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites brought together GRIC leadership, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, and Community Council Rep. Kristina Morago. Representatives from several departments, including

the Communications & Public Affairs Office, Executive, Enrollment, Tribal Education, Per Capita Office, Urban Members Association, Veteran & Family Services, Tribal Social Services, and more—to provide essential services and community support.

For many attendees, the visit provided a rare and meaningful opportunity to engage face-to-face with leadership and departments without the need to travel to Arizona. It also allowed Community members to reconnect and strengthen ties despite living off the reservation.

Services offered during the outreach included enrollment assistance, tribal IDs, education

program information, and updates on housing and social services. Department staff were on-site to answer questions, guide members through paperwork, and provide referrals. In many cases, the visit helped streamline processes that might otherwise require multiple trips or extended wait times.

Gov. Lewis noted that outreach efforts like this are increasingly important as more members live outside the Community. By meeting people where they are, he said, the tribe continues to uphold its commitment to inclusivity and service.

Attendees expressed appreciation for the convenience and care brought directly to them.

Many said the outreach not only addressed practical needs but also reinforced a sense of belonging and connection.

Visiting departments and leadership also toured the UAI center and the Boys & Girls Club of United American Indian Involvement, Inc.

Founded in 1974, UAI is a nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services for American Indians and Alaska Natives living in Southern California. It is the region's largest comprehensive provider for health and human services.



Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis joins Community members during a tour of the Boys & Girls Club of United American Indian Involvement, Inc. Emma Hughes/GRIN

ADOT Career Day Inspires Students at Casa Blanca Community School

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

VAH-KI, Ariz. — Casa Blanca Community School (CBCS) partnered with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for a spectacular career day for the students on April 24. The teachers brought their students to the event in the parking lot.

The machinery and equipment include a Volvo front loader, Cat skid steer, dump truck, flatbed trailer, truck-mounted attenuator, and crew cab work truck. Students talked and interacted with ADOT crewmembers. They climbed inside heavy machinery and honked the horn. Not only that, but they drew on the blades of the Cat skid steer and Volvo loader.

“We are really excited about ADOT career day. The kids learn about the road construction and equipment. They will also learn about jobs such as heavy machinery operator that are available with ADOT. Certain jobs need a college degree, and some need a license and certification. Military personnel and veterans are valued here in our community. There are military pathways to a career with ADOT. Our kids focus on building, creating, and coding, and it fits into ADOT career day,” said Principal Kim Franklin.

The ADOT kids career program was created to spark school



Teachers are leading their students through each station at the Casa Blanca Community School and ADOT career day. Jeston Morris/GRIN

children's imagination and curiosity. The program is meant to entertain and educate students about careers. There are many kinds of careers, ranging from engineers and geologists to accountants and truck drivers, as cited on the ADOT website. The CBCS students were excited to experience the career day with the ADOT crew.

The ADOT crew brought machines and operating tools. We have the Cat skid steer, which is popular among kids. It's a universal tool with several attachments depending on work requirements. It can plow, it has forks for lifting, and it has a bucket attachment. It's a handy tool for construction and building highways,” said Marcel Daniels, ADOT crew member.



Staff from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) at Casa Blanca Community School Career Day. Photo by/ADOT

Casa Blanca Community School Carries on the Tradition of the Big Chief Music Festival

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

“Take it, take it, take it, BIG CHIEF.”

VAH-KI, Ariz. — Community members attended the Big Chief Russell Moore Music Festival at Casa Blanca Community School (CBCS) on April 9. The local bands include Thadai Rock Band, Huerta Brothers Band, Keenan Suke, and Molina Music.

Russell Moore was born in an olas kih (round mud house) on August 13, 1912. His parents are Jose Newton Moore and Amy Rose Bending Moore. He grew up in a village called “Gila Crossing” near the foothills of the Estrella Mountains, as cited in Douglas Yeo’s article.

Moore, the legendary trombonist, had a significant impact on jazz music. He played with Oscar “Papa” Celestin, Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton, Miles Davis, and Sidney Bechet. Moore joined Armstrong’s Orchestra in the mid-1940s, as cited in Lew Shaw’s article.

The Russell Moore Music Fest was established in 1998. In 2000, at the 3rd annual music fest, over 2,500 fans attended the two-day event that featured 17 native bands that performed, as cited in Jean Harmon’s article. The Scottsdale Jazz Festival honored Russell “Big Chief” Moore at the Western Spirit Scottsdale’s Museum of the West on April 24, 2025. Casa Blanca Community School carried on the tradition of honoring Moore in 2026. The festival is getting bigger every year. Ted Huerta and



Thadai Rock Band (Casa Blanca Community School Band) performed the opening gig at the Big Chief Music Fest. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Harrietta Boy spearheaded the event.

Organizers produced a beautiful festival t-shirt. The text on the back of the shirt reads, “I wish every Indian schoolboy and schoolgirl would think about the study of music,” by Big Chief Russell Moore, May 6, 1967. The front of the shirt features the man-in-the-maze art with Moore playing trombone.

Boy, administrative assistant to the board of trustees, said, “Here at Casa Blanca Community School, we incorporate our language and culture into the school curriculum. Our culture and heritage include Big Chief Russell Moore. All the musicians who are playing tonight are local. They’re from Gila River.”

“The kids who are playing tonight, they love music. Music makes you feel good. Russell Moore set the example that Natives can play a wide variety of music. He went into jazz and played with the best musicians,” said Huerta, who is the art and music teacher at CBCS. “My students inspire me. Tom is an exceptional keyboardist. They play their hearts out,” he added.

Keenan Suke, who is a Community member, discussed the importance of having music in schools. He said, “Music has benefits in so many ways. Music makes it possible for the youth to express themselves positively, especially on the reservation.” Musicians are able to express their surroundings through their music. It’s

also possible for music to heal.

“When someone said “Big Chief” in the jazz scene back in the day, everyone knew who they were talking about. He was an extraordinary trombonist. He set the example for what is possible for native musicians. We can come from Gila River, and we can make it out there,” he added.

James Perez, who plays with Molina Music, reflected on the festival. His music career started at CBCS. He has gone full circle. Now, he encourages young, aspiring musicians to keep playing. He said, “At the original Casa Blanca Community School, Mr. Huerta started me on drums. He encouraged me to keep going. Now, I play with bands such as Gertie and the T.O. Boys, Native Thunder, and Molina Music. It’s good to see the kids play music at the school’s music festival.”



L-R: Ted Huerta, James Perez, and Principal Kim Franklin. Jeston Morris/GRIN

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE



ENTER CONTACT INFO IN SURVEY TO BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE DRAWING!!!!

Bring a screenshot of completed questionnaire to Tison Gill at the DEQ Office (124 Skill Center Rd. Sacaton, AZ) to receive 2 color adjustable LED bulbs!

GET INVOLVED

The Department of Environmental Quality wants to hear your opinion to inform the planning process to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Community activities. Your input will help guide how we set and implement goals related to electricity, transportation, food, and energy. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

Department of Environmental Quality - 124 S. Skill Center Road, Sacaton, AZ 85147 (520) 562-2234



Student Services



Fall Scholarship Deadline

Monday June 1, 2026



Application Checklist:

- Application Form
- Typed 200 word Essay- summarizing educational goal and future plans
- Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)
- Copy of Acceptance Letter
- Copy of Enrollment Agreement (Vocational School Only)
- Program of Study
- Class Schedule
- 2026-2027 FAFSA Submission Summary
- High School Diploma or G.E.D



Vocational/Trade Schools Applications are due: Two Months prior to the start date! Ex. If you start July 20th, 2026, your complete application is due May 15th, 2026.

**For More Information: (520) 562-3316 ;
Student.services@gric.nsn.us ;
www.GRICTED.com PO Box 97 Sacaton, AZ 85147
Main Office Location: 7050 W. Allison Rd.,
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Lady Mustangs Dominates Bengals on Senior Night



Lady Mustangs Flag Football Team posing before the senior night game. Kameryne Marion, Jayne Webb-Holguin and Natalie Garcia are standing in the front. Head Coach Darius Turner is standing on right side. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Jeston Morris Gila River Indian News

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Lady Mustangs dominated a sister school, Skyline Prep Academy Bengals, at Skyline Multi-Purpose Field on senior night, April 16. Senior night ceremony was held on the field before the game at 6:30 pm. The three seniors who played their final high school flag football home game are Kameryne Marion, Jayne Webb-Holguin, and Natalie Garcia. They're all co-captains of the team. The final score was 42 to 0.

Head Coach Darius Turner led the Skyline Gila River girls flag football team to capturing the state championship during the inaugural season on May 4, 2024. There are 12 members on the team. The players include Lexi, Jazzy, Kam, Brie, Natalie, Sariyah, Lucy, Alaizia, Breiah,

Indy, Destiny, and Jayne. Skyline Gila River's senior night is a high school tradition held during the last home game. The seniors—Marion, Webb-Holguin, and Garcia—were called one-by-one onto the field. They were escorted by family members and friends across the field. Flowers, gifts, and balloons were bestowed upon each senior. The fans, classmates, coaches, and school staff cheered on the special ceremony. It was a moving and joyful event for everyone.

"I am proud of my team, especially the seniors who played their last home game. After graduating from Skyline Gila River, I am planning on attending Arizona State University to study sports medicine," said Garcia.

"It's our senior night. I am proud of all the girls on my team because they have worked very hard. As seniors, we played

our last home game. After graduating, I am planning on attending college to study veterinary," said Webb-Holguin.

"This season was hard work. We all came together as a team and won our last home game. It was amazing. After graduating, I am planning on attending college to study nursing and play football. I aim to take football to the next level," said Marion.

"Our girls played amazingly tonight. They stayed focused the entire game. All three seniors—Kam, Natalie, and Jayne—scored touchdowns. It was a great win against our sister school, the Skyline Bengals," said Coach Joe.

"Our girls played amazing. Our senior players went out with a bang! Skyline Gila River created the flag football program three years ago, and it's thriving," said Head Coach Turner.

It's Time To Put It On!

GRADUATION STOLE

THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT will provide students with an honorary stole to wear during graduation ceremonies. Students must be enrolled as members of the Gila River Indian Community and graduate from a qualified institution.

- > High Schools
- > Vocational School
- > Community Colleges
- > Universities

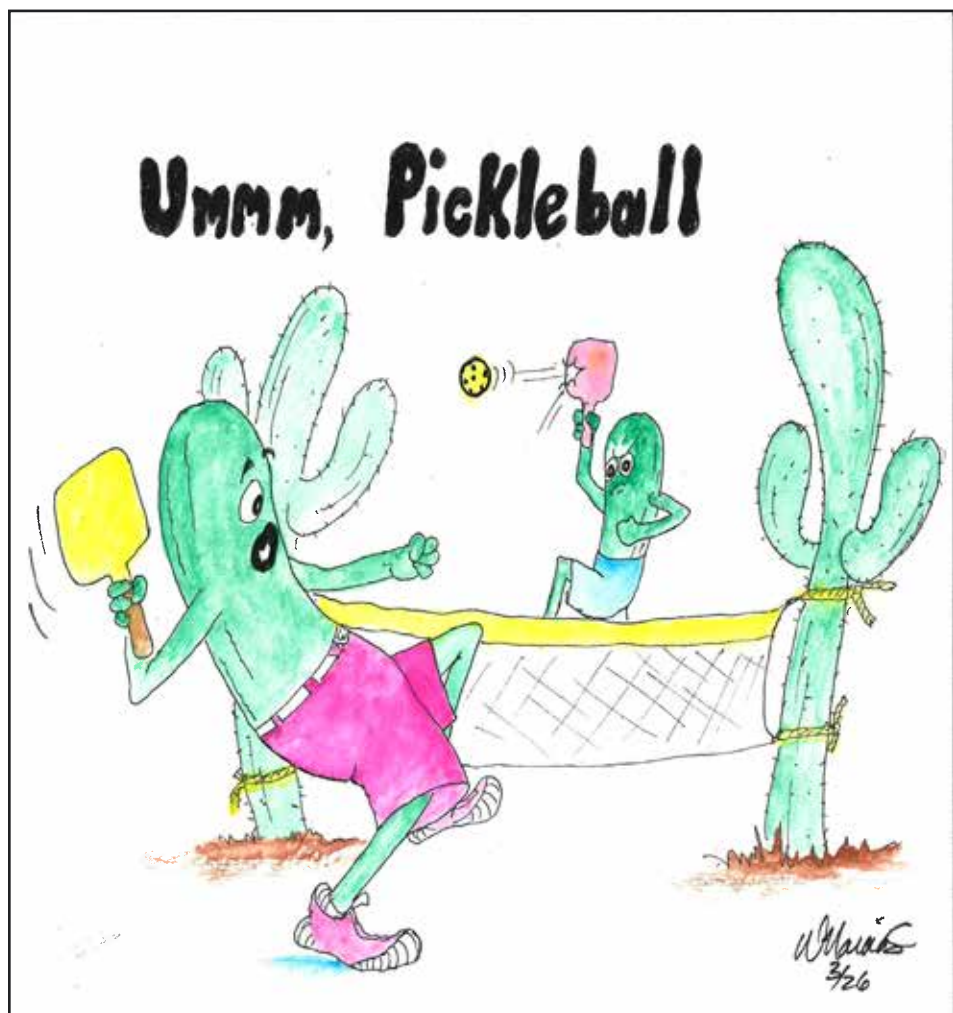
Please contact your K-12 Student Advisor at Coolidge High School, Coolidge Alternative Program, Casa Grande High School, Vista Grande High School, Cesar Chavez High School, Betty Fairfax High School, Chandler Unified School District, or Skyline Gila River.

University and Community College graduates please call your Student Advisor with Student Services at 520-562-3316.

Parents of students attending Boarding Schools, contact Suzie Breazier at 520-562-3662.

Please get in touch with the Tribal Education Department if you are not funded through the Scholarship Program or do not have a K-12 Student Advisor located at your school.

Contact the Tribal Education Department for more information. Phone: 520-562-3662
<https://www.gricted.com>



High School, GED, and College Graduates

2026 GRADUATION

RECOGNITION BANQUET

Saturday, June 6, 2026
Check-in Time 12:30 p.m.
Event Begins at 1:00 p.m.
WILD HORSE PASS CASINO
Palo Verde Ballroom
5040 Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Chandler, AZ 85226

RSVP REQUIRED BY: May 20, 2026
 Use link: <https://forms.gle/v3PZU7WkKqYRkSSn9>
 or scan QR code to register.

520-562-3662 * <https://www.gricted.com>

I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Construction Updates



Submitted By
ADOT

10 Bridges Over the Gila River Project.

Crews completed the new westbound I-10 bridge over the Gila River in March and temporarily shifted all east- and westbound traffic on to the new bridge so they can complete construction on the rest of the new eastbound bridge.

This is the final phase of the project. After removing the original eastbound I-10 bridge structure, crews got to work constructing 16 drilled shafts that will be part of the substructure for the new bridge. Next, crews will construct the piers and pier caps, lay girders and complete construction of the bridge deck to tie it into the segment of the eastbound bridge that

was completed in April 2025. Construction on the bridge is expected to wrap up in late summer or early fall of 2026.

1-10 Gas Line Road to south of State Route 387 Project

A new construction work zone is now in place for drivers traveling on I-10 between Gas Line Road and south of state Route 387, as construction in this segment is now underway. Crews are placing barriers, milling shoulders, and preparing the median to add additional lanes of travel in each direction. Improvements to this segment include reconstructing and widening the Gas Line Road bridge, constructing a new traffic interchange at Seed Farm Road, reconstructing the traffic interchange at Pinal Avenue JSR 387, and removing the

bridge at Dirk Lay Road. Construction for this segment is expected to last through the end of 2027.

1-10 Gila River Indian Community Project

Construction is scheduled to begin near the end of summer, on the project's most northern segment of the corridor, the 1-10 Gila River Indian Community Project. The project team for this segment is finalizing the design and construction

plans for the busiest segment of the corridor between Loop 202 in the Chandler/Phoenix area and the I-10 Gila River bridges. Planned improvements in this segment include a third general purpose travel lane in each direction, an additional HOV lane between Loop 202 and Riggs Road in each direction, improved interchanges at Wild Horse Pass Blvd., SR 347/Queen Creek Road, and Riggs Road, and an updated bridge over I-10 at Goodyear Road.



EPA to Invest \$90 Million to Strengthen Water Infrastructure for Tribes and Rural Communities

PRESS RELEASE

April 24, 2026

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it will use \$90 million in grant funding to develop and revitalize drinking water and wastewater infrastructure that supports Tribal communities and rural America. This funding will accelerate water infrastructure upgrades that are critical to public health, environmental protection, and economic opportunity.

“Clean and safe water provides a foundation for thriving communities by keeping people healthy while strengthening local waterbodies and natural resources,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Jess Kramer. “The Trump EPA is investing \$90 million in water infrastructure to help ensure access to safe drinking water and wastewater management to strengthen Tribal Nations as well as small and rural communities.”

EPA will invest \$30 million in partnership with the Indian Health Service

to support drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects that benefit Tribes. These projects will advance key water infrastructure needs, such as increasing access to centralized drinking water and wastewater treatment, improving and repairing aged drinking water infrastructure, improving compliance by reducing contaminants in drinking water, and replacing deteriorated sewage collection systems and wastewater treatment systems.

“EPA has a long and successful partnership with the Indian Health Service, and under this Administration, we are delivering results,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs Usha Turner. “This partnership leverages our collective resources to deploy real solutions and accelerate results for Tribes across the nation.”

The agency also will invest \$60 million in existing EPA programs that support small, rural, and Tribal communities, including RealWaterTA. RealWaterTA is a back-to-basics approach supporting drinking water

and wastewater systems using proven best-practice approaches that will most effectively address local needs. The agency recently issued a call to action to align all technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater systems with tried-and-true services, such as engineering and design expertise, operational support, workforce development, and financial management. The goals of RealWaterTA focus on public health and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act.

This newly available funding continues EPA’s commitment to supporting Tribal communities and rural America through water infrastructure programs. In 2025 alone, EPA announced nearly \$300 million to improve drinking water and wastewater in these communities, including:

- \$240 million to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure through the Clean Water Indian Set Aside and Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants.
- \$49 million for technical support for small,

rural and Tribal communities working to make wastewater infrastructure improvements.

- \$3 million for three projects to reduce lead in drinking water in

Tribal communities.

- \$1 million in grant funding for Tribes to develop underground injection control programs that protect sources of drinking water while sup-

porting industry and energy projects.

Contact Information:
EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Culture Patch Assembly

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

10:00 - 11:00 AM in the GYM

We are honored to have students recognize who have earned the Culture Patches during this last assembly. Students will receive a bucket hat to display their patches.

We would be honored for Parents/Guardians to give the hats to their student along with the new patches they have earned.

Letters will go home to let Parent/Guardian know it their student is receiving a special patch.

CONTACT US Front Office (520) 315 - 3489

Shred In The Name of Love Skateboard Clinic at Kalka Park

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

KOMATKE, Ariz. — The District 6 Recreation Department and the Seven Layer Army partnered for the Skateboard Clinic series at Kalka Skate Park on April 25. Several dozen GRIC youth came out for the clinic on a perfect day. Community members came out supporting the youth learning skateboard fundamentals and tricks. The clinic series was 3 months.

Seven Layer Army (SLA) skateboard company is owned by Reuben Ringleiro and Paul Molina, who are GRIC members. They promote skateboarding among the youth. For example, SLA has provided skateboard clinics to young skateboarders across the Gila River Indian Community and other tribal nations since they were established in 2008. There is a skateboard competition in the works for the month of June.

SLA partnered with District 6 Recre-

ation and Cowtown Skateboards, and they came up with skateboards for the clinic. “What the young skateboarders don’t know is they will get to keep the skateboard they have used during the clinics,” said Ringleiro.

Ringleiro and Molina led the youth in a dynamic full body stretching exercise. They gave a demonstration of picking up the board and carrying it. To pick up your board, you put your foot in the middle of the tail and push down. The opposite end of the board lifts, and you pick it up. You carry the board by its side, not the truck.

Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes gave the welcome remark to start the clinic. She assisted with the clinic raffle and posed with skateboarders throughout the event. The skateboard clinic series was a success. The young skateboarders not only received a professional custom board but also learned fundamentals and some tricks. They’re eagerly awaiting the skateboard competition in June.



Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes poses with the young skateboarders at Kalka Park. Jeston Morris/GRIN



Young skateboarders are posing with Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes (bottom left), Reuben Ringleiro and Paul Molina far right. Jeston Morris/GRIN



Reuben Ringleiro gives a demonstration of dropping in off the ramp. Jeston Morris/GRIN

Interior Department Launches New Task Force to Combat Violent Crime in Indian Country

**Department of the Interior
PRESS RELEASE:**

May 5, 2026

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior is launching a new Indian Country Violent Crime Task Force to strengthen law enforcement coordination, protect families in tribal communities, and crack down on violent crime and drug activity.

The Secretary’s Order titled “Honoring Our Commitment to Protecting Indian Country Communities” builds on the first Trump administration’s work to bring national attention and resources to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis, which included Operation Lady Justice. The new task force expands that work with a broader focus on violent crime prevention, investigations and public safety across Indian Country.

“Protecting communities in Indian Country is central to our trust responsibility, and under President Trump’s leadership, we are taking a zero-tolerance approach to violent crime,

drug trafficking and those who prey on vulnerable populations,” said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. “This order builds on the strong foundation of Operation Lady Justice and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Murdered Unit, delivering decisive action to restore law and order, strengthen tribal sovereignty and equip tribal law enforcement with the tools they need to protect their communities. We are committed to ensuring every family can live in safety and security.”

The Secretary’s Order directs the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services to lead a coordinated effort with federal, tribal and state partners. It also strengthens criminal investigations, increases deployments of mobile enforcement teams, enhances opioid enforcement efforts and establishes a new unit focused on crimes against children.

“This task force reinforces President Trump’s tough-on-crime approach and Interior’s efforts to bring justice, accountability and closure to families impacted by violence in

Indian Country,” said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Billy Kirkland. “By working closely with tribal communities, federal law enforcement and local partners, we are honoring victims, strengthening public safety, and helping prevent future crime by improving coordination, early intervention and community based protection initiatives.”

The order realigns federal investigative resources to improve case management and prosecution outcomes, while refocusing efforts on solving missing persons and homicide cases. A new Predatory Crimes Unit will target offenders who exploit children, and expanded training programs will help grow the law enforcement workforce serving tribal communities.

In addition, the department will use data-driven strategies to identify high-crime areas and deploy resources where they are needed most, working directly with tribal leaders to develop solutions tailored to their communities.

This effort continues to build on the Trump administration’s efforts across

the federal government to improve public safety in Indian Country.

May 5 is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day. The Bureau of Indian Affairs’s Missing and Murdered Unit works tirelessly to ana-

lyze and ultimately solve missing, murdered and human trafficking cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives. Investigators and other specialists leverage tribal, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies

and other stakeholders to enhance the criminal justice system and address the legitimate concerns of Native communities regarding missing and murdered people – specifically missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

CARING FOR YOUR CULTURAL MEMORIES

DO YOU HAVE...

*A traditional dress your grandmother sewed for you?
A basket your uncle passed onto you?
Family photos and are not sure how to store them?*

Collections staff will give behind-the-scenes insight into the world of museum object storage and share knowledge on how you can care for your own collection of cherished family belongings at home.

Come See Us!

SAT. 03/21 Huhugam Heritage Center 1pm-2:30pm

SAT. 04/18 District 7 Service Center 1pm-2:30pm

SAT. 06/13 District 5 Service Center 1pm-2:30pm

SAT. 07/18 District 2 Service Center 1pm-2:30pm



HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER
21359 S. Maricopa Rd. Chandler, AZ 85226 | 520.796.3500

163rd Annual Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration Shines in District 7

Jeston Morris
Gila River Indian News

MARICOPA COLONY, Ariz. — Community members gathered April 11 to celebrate the 163rd Annual Five Tribes Treaty of Peace. The festivities included a flag salute, parade, posting of colors, welcome remarks, bird dancing, a luncheon catered by Café Zupas, youth activities, and evening entertainment by Walia Style 87.

The Five Tribes — Maricopa, Pima, Yuma, Hualapai and Chemehuevi — first recorded their peace talks at Fort Yuma on April 7–11, 1863, when Arizona was still part of the New Mexico Territory. The inaugural Treaty of Peace festival was held at Maricopa Colony on April 11, 1940. The tribes are recognized for agreeing to protect Arizona settlers, as cited in the original treaty document.

The celebration opened with a flag salute at the Maricopa Colony Cemetery by the Pee Posh Veterans Association Honor Guard. The parade followed along Baseline Road and 83rd Avenue, with the announcement stand at the Service Center bus stop. Community Council Representative Jeanette Blasingim served as master of ceremonies under the ramada, and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Regina Antone delivered welcome remarks.

The Estrella Mountain Bird Singers and Dancers, led by Nathan Mercado, “sang in” the colors for the posting ceremony. Bird dancers Nancy Ahmsaty, Michelle Mercado and Samantha Mercado took part in a special presentation.

Michelle Mercado also performed the national anthem in Pee Posh. “I am thankful to the District 7 elders for composing



Three youth walk at the front of the parade, carrying the banner for the Annual Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration. Jeston Morris/GRIN

the song in our language. Our language and songs give us a sense of belonging. I learned bird dancing as a young girl,” she said.

The Gila River Royalt Court, led by Ms. Eliana Rhodes, recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Community member Cher Thomas read the treaty of peace document. Xvik A’an of the Komatke Boys and Girls

Club performed O’otham traditional singing, and Gov. Lewis led the O’otham social dance.

District 7 Coordinator Jasmine Reece announced Lloyd Sundust and Martha Miller as parade grand marshals. Sundust, an elder and native Pee Posh speaker, teaches weekly language lessons. Miller, a former Community Council representa-

tive, is known for her advocacy for youth and community members. Marina Molina was recognized as Volunteer of the Year.

Parade Results

- First place: Blackwater Color Guard
- Second place: Gila Crossing Aristocats
- Third place: Blackwater Cheer Squad



The Estrella Mountain Bird Dancers offer their performance, with bird dancers Nancy Ahmsaty, Michelle Mercado and Samantha Mercado honoring the tradition through their movements. Jeston Morris/GRIN

**** NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ****

**PROPOSED LEASE FOR
GILA RIVER ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.**

The Natural Resource Standing Committee (“NRSC”) will be considering the Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) from Gila River Asset Management, Inc. regarding a proposed lease of approximately .517 acres of Community Trust land for the purposes of developing and operating a new wireless telecommunication facility at SR 87 and SR 187 in District 3 of The Gila River Indian Reservation, at their regular meeting on **June 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**, located in Conference Room C of the Community Council Secretary’s Office. A copy of the EAF in its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary’s Office.

If you are interested in providing comments to the EAF, please attend the scheduled NRSC meeting. You may also contact your Council representative or the NRSC Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Written comments may be received until June 7, 2026 via email to Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation on behalf of the Natural Resources Standing Committee at info@theplfc.com or mailed to Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation, 5350 N. 48th St., Suite #245, Chandler, AZ 85226.



Free Do It Yourself Bike Repair
Big White Bus Located at 56 Voak Dr. Sacaton
(Behind Baptist Church)
Late Spring & Summer Schedule
8:00am—11:00am on the following Saturdays:
April 25th, May 9th and 16th, June 6th and
20th, July 11th and 25th

Gila River’s community bicycle shop inside of an old transit bus. This is a free community resource to teach you how to fix and maintain your bicycle. We provide use of tools, supplies, tubes, tires, chains, cables and limited parts are provided thanks to a fundraising bike ride called Rez Gravel.

Questions: Call/Text Elisha Bishop 520-858-2774





The Lifeline Program & Link-Up for Tribal Lands

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

Reduce Phone & Internet Costs Get Discounts with Lifeline.


The Lifeline Program helps eligible households save up to **\$34.25** per month on phone and broadband services.

You may qualify if you:
Meet income guidelines (see chart)
OR participate in programs like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, etc.


Household Size	48 Contiguous States, DC, & Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1 person	\$21,546	\$26,933	\$24,786
2 people	\$29,214	\$36,518	\$33,602
3 people	\$36,882	\$46,103	\$42,417
4 people	\$44,550	\$55,688	\$51,233
5 people	\$52,218	\$65,273	\$60,048
6 people	\$59,886	\$74,858	\$68,864
7 people	\$67,554	\$84,443	\$77,679
8 people	\$75,222	\$94,028	\$86,495
For each additional person, add	\$7,668	\$9,585	\$8,816

Monthly Benefits include

GILA RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
"PROUDLY SERVING THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1988"



\$9.75 Discount
on broadband service



\$24.50 Discount
on phone service

Additional qualifications may apply. Visit website or call for full details.

 **ONLY ONE LIFELINE BENEFIT**
is allowed per household.

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

GILARIVERTEL.COM



Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

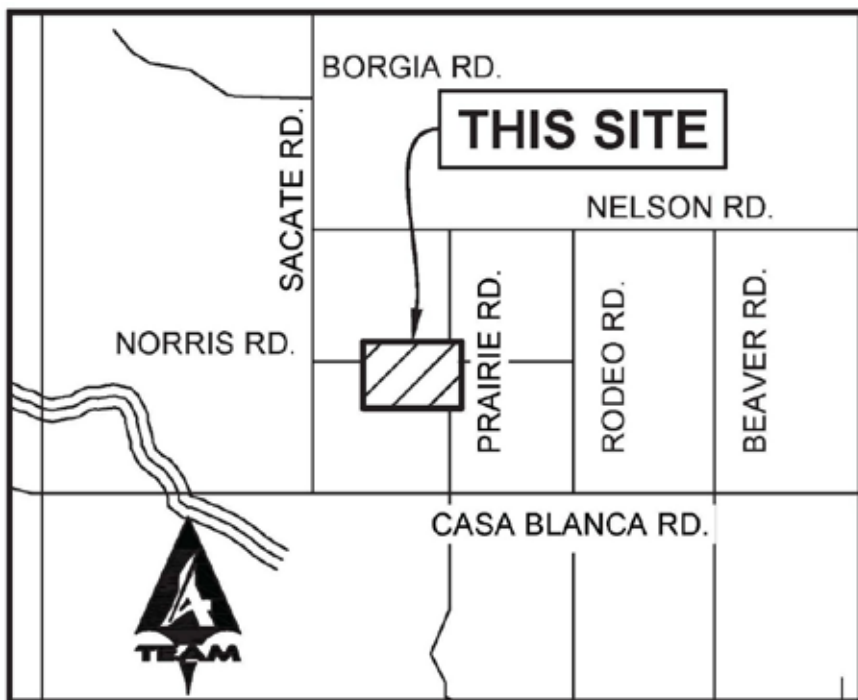
Project(s) Name: Mesquite Tree Subdivision & Wild Horse Village Subdivision
 For: Sketch Plan(s) Review
 Location(s): Mesquite Tree Subdivision- NE Casa Blanca Rd & Sacate Rd Intersection
 Wild Horse Village Subdivision- NE Nelson Rd & Murphy Rd Intersection
 Date and Time: Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 3:00pm
 Place: District Five Multipurpose Facility

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Land Use Planning & Zoning’s Planning Development Team will hold a public hearing to review and discuss sketch plans for two proposed residential subdivisions on **Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** at the District Five Multipurpose Facility.

The public hearing is to solicit public comments on the proposed projects that will allow the developer to consider recommendations whilst developing the subdivision(s). Community members input is imperative in assisting all parties in identifying potential issues and layout recommendations that enhance and promote the public’s health and safety.

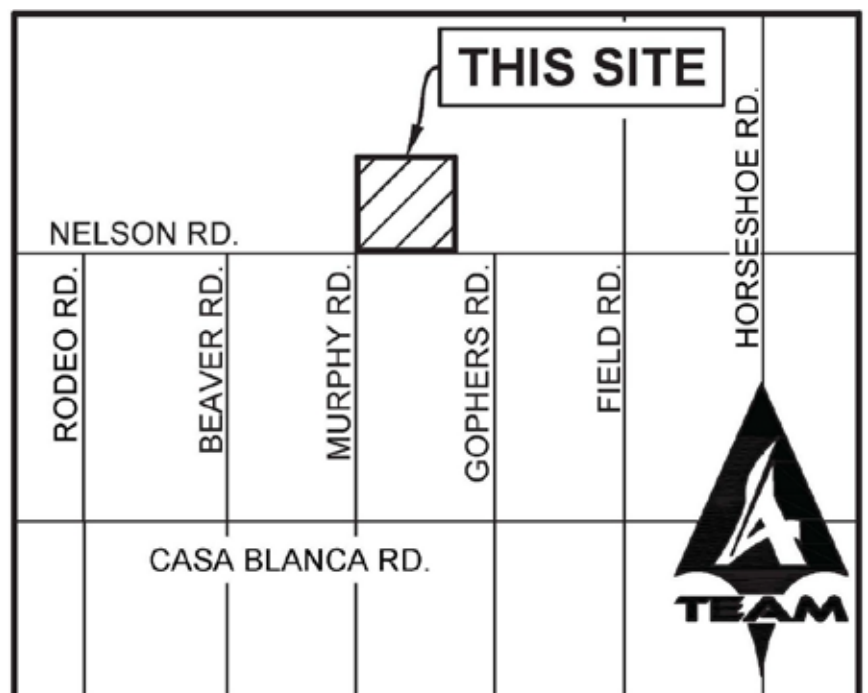
Public comments can be submitted prior to the public hearing by emailing the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and cc PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us. Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us or (520) 562-6003. Office hours are Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) 8:00am to 5:00pm.

PUBLIC HEARING IS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY ONLY.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.



Mesquite Tree Subdivision

“Site 4”



Wild Horse Village

“Site 2”



Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Project(s) Name: Site # 3 Subdivision & Site # 7 Subdivision

For: Sketch Plan(s) Review

Location(s): Site # 3 Subdivision- W of 51st Ave/ South of the 51st Ave Subd. Unit 2
Site # 7 Subdivision- W & E of St Johns Road/ North & NE of the Squawberry Subdivision No. 2

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 3:00pm

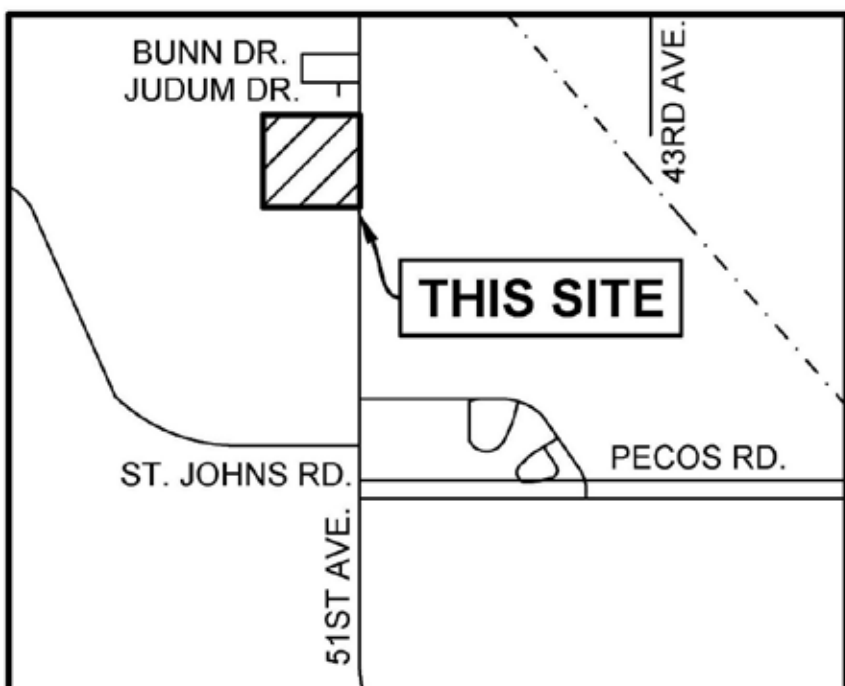
Place: District Six Service Center

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Land Use Planning & Zoning’s Planning Development Team will hold a public hearing to review and discuss sketch plans for two proposed residential subdivisions on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** at the District Six Service Center.

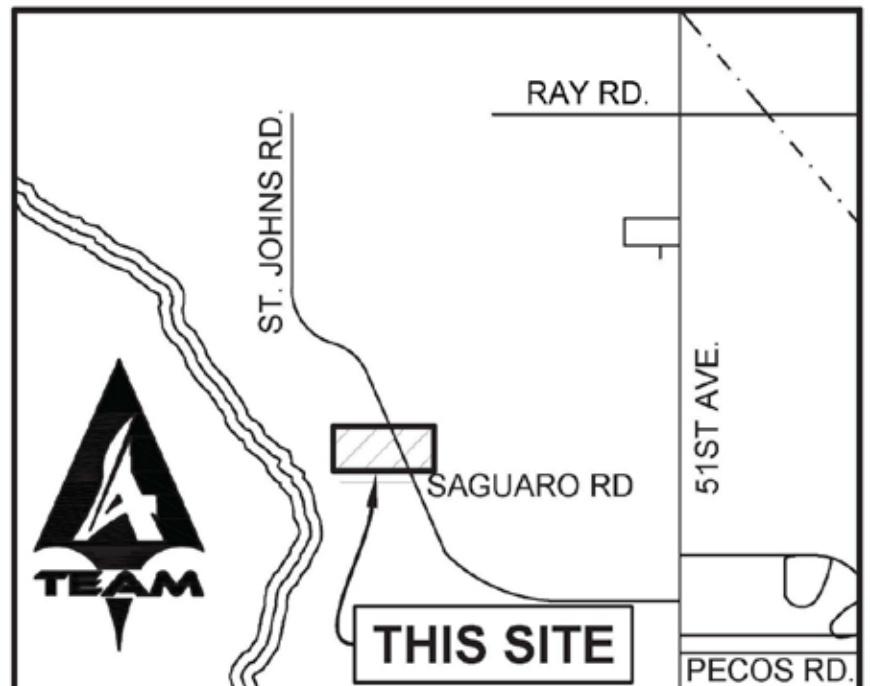
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Public comments can be submitted prior to the public hearing by emailing the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and cc PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us. Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us or (520) 562-6003. Office hours are Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) 8:00am to 5:00pm.

PUBLIC HEARING IS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY ONLY.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.



Site # 3 Subdivision



Site # 7 Subdivision

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • April 15, 2026

ACTION SHEET

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

ALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, April 15, 2026, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:08 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Ann Lucas

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Lt. Governor Regina Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman(9:27), Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Joseph Manuel, Jr.(9:11), Kristina Morago; D4- Leah Williams, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Donovan Kyyitan, Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth(9:13), Terrance Evans(9:17); D7- Jeanette Blasingim

Executive Officers Absent:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Council Members Absent:

D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr. (Personal)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE RESOLUTION #2 AND #4 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL, AND REMOVE RESOLUTION #1 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #3, #5, #6, #8, AND #10; ACCEPT AND APPROVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS #1, ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

REPORTS

>1. Executive Travel Report – FY2026 Quarter ending December 31, 2025

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. FY2026 Financial Activity Report ending March 31, 2026 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA]

>1.A Resolution Authorizing A Tribal Grant To The St. Peter Indian Mission Catholic School In An Amount Not To Exceed \$2,500,000.00 To Provide Supplemental Funds For The Current 2025-2026 School Year And Upcoming 2026-2027 School Year (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Authorizing The Signing And Execution Of A Public Law (P.L.) 93-638, Title V Construction Project Agreement With The Indian Health Service (Project No. PH-24-G06, IHS Identification No. DES-26-V-0002) For The Installation Of Sewer And Water Services For 113 Houses Throughout The Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Ronald Gritman

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Approving An Appropriation Not To Exceed \$10,500,000 From The Water Fund For Use By The Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project To Cure Certain Deferred Maintenance Of The Community's Irrigation Delivery System (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: David DeJong

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Approving A Grant Of Right-Of-Way To GRICDOT For A Transportation Road And Utility Corridor Along Gilbert Road Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 4520-B) As Described In LUPZ Survey #25-0047 (G&MSC forwards to

Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Steven Johnson

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Transportation Improvement Program For Fiscal Year 2026 Through Fiscal Year 2029 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Steven Johnson

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP For Fiscal Year 2026 (C7808) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Javier Ramos, Michael Carter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. A Resolution Approving An Increase In The Project Budget To Convert The Manual Doors At The Blackwater Community School To Americans With Disabilities Act Compliant Doors (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval, ESC concurs)

Presenter: Todd Araujo

APPROVED

>8. A Resolution Approving A New Gila River Indian Community Travel Policy And Rescinding The Travel Policy Authorized Under Resolution GR-125-12 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

9. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 1 To The Gila River Indian Community Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2026 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

APPROVED

>10. 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)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

11. A Resolution Approving The Relinquishment Of Amber Gabrielle Lewis From The Gila River Indian Community Membership Roll (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Sara Duenez

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*1. AZDOT Launch of the New GRIC Special License Plate (G&MSC forwards to Council under Unfinished Business as information and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Miguel Sallard

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES

1. March 4, 2026 (Regular)

APPROVED

2. April 1, 2026 (Regular)

APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING JOINT WORK SESSION WITH NATURAL RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE, AND LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE APRIL 16-18, 2026

• HEALTH & SOCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 20, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE NEW BEGINNINGS BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM

• POLICE DEPARTMENT TOUR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

• THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE HAS FINISHED THE LAST ROUND OF THE ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

• PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026


• TODAY IS TAX DAY, THE VITA PROGRAM WILL BE THERE ALL DAY

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:35 A.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



Discover Your Future at Gila River Health Care

POSITION TITLE: FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POSITION SUMMARY


In consultation with the Gila River People Foundation (GRPF) Board and the Chief Executive Officer, the Foundation Executive Director provides strategic leadership, operational oversight, and fundraising direction to the advance the mission of the Foundation in support of Native American Healthcare Initiatives. This role is responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive fundraising strategies, including major gifts, grants, endowments, and trust-base giving programs that strengthen the long-term financial stability of native healthcare services.

The Executive Director leads a team dedicated to philanthropic development and donor engagement while building strong relationships with community leaders, philanthropic organizations, corporate partners, and individual donors. Will serve to support the GRPF Board of Directors and improve the visibility of the foundation in the community. Additionally, the Executive Director responds to inquiries from departments, the community, and/or external agencies and supervises the Philanthropy department.

Required Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree is required; a Master's degree is preferred.
- A minimum of seven (7) years of experience in fundraising, including at least three years specializing in foundation or donor relationship management, is required.
- Experience with philanthropy and/or working with nonprofit boards.
- Demonstrated success securing major gifts, grants, and philanthropic partnerships.
- Must be a member of a federally recognized tribe, GRIC member preferred.
- Experience in the healthcare sector preferred.
- Experience in leading fundraising teams and managing development

Contact:
Mark Walter, HR Recruiting Manager
 (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1629 | wwalter@grhc.org



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- Teachers – Starting Salary @ \$53,690
- Food Service Worker (1) – Starting Salary @ \$17.96
- E.S.S. Instructional Assistants (2) – Starting Salary @ \$20.23
- Bus Drivers – Starting Salary @ \$27.77
- Bus Monitors – Starting Salary @ \$17.96
- Maintenance Technician - Starting Salary @ \$21.46
- Human Resources Administrative Assistant (1) – Starting Salary @ \$22.78


School Information:
 Casa Blanca Community School is in District 5 in Bapchule, Arizona, a few miles from Interstate 10 and 25 miles south of the Phoenix Metropolitan Area (15–20-minute drive). Our district and school are on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Chandler, Arizona.

At Casa Blanca Community School, we are always seeking talented, high-quality professionals to work with our students and in our schools. We may be small in size, but we have great spirit and dedication to our students' education. Each day, our goal is to ignite a never-ending thirst for knowledge in our students. If you want to join our collaborative team, we encourage you to explore our current job openings above. We invite you to apply.

How to apply:
 For more information and online application, please visit: www.cbcschools.com
<https://www.cbcschools.com/Employment>

Contact Information & School Location:
 For additional information regarding a position, contact the Human Resources Office at (520) 315-3489 ext. 2531.

Casa Blanca Community School is located at 5297 West Nelson Road, Bapchule, Arizona.



Updated 04.13.2026

*****NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION*****

REVISIONS TO TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, DANCES

The Legislative Standing Committee (“LSC”) is considering proposed revisions to Title 8, Chapter 4, Dances, of the GRIC Code (“Dances ordinance”). **A copy of this proposed ordinance in its entirety is on file and available for review at all District Service Center coordinators’ offices and the Community Council Secretary’s Office.**

The Office of General Counsel will present and answer questions on the proposed revisions to the Dances ordinance at the **Legislative Standing Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Council Secretary’s Office, Conference Room B & C** in Sacaton, Arizona. Community members may comment on the proposed ordinance at the LSC meeting, or by contacting their Council Representative and/or the chairperson of the LSC.

Community members may also provide written comments on the proposed revisions to the Dances ordinance via email at OGC.HelpDesk@gric.nsn.us, or by mail at Office of General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147.

**TITLE 8
CIVIL CODE
Chapter 4. Dances**

- 8.401. Definitions.
- 8.402. Purpose and Applicability.
- 8.403. Dance Permits Required; Notice Requirements; Cancellations; Refunds.
- 8.404. Dance Regulations.
- 8.405. Chaperones Required.
- 8.406. Presence of Police Officers.
- 8.407. Penalties for Violation.
- 8.408. Dance Violation Actions
- 8.409. Time Limitation
- 8.410. Severability.
- 8.411. No Waiver of Sovereign Immunity.
- 8.412. Rules and Regulations.
- 8.413. Effective Date.

**CHAPTER 4.
DANCES**

8.401. Definitions.

Whenever used in this chapter, the terms listed below have the meaning indicated which are applicable to both the singular and plural thereof. Said terms will be capitalized.

- A. *Amplified music system* means a mechanical or electrical musical instrument, or music-producing device, equipped with an electrical amplifier or loudspeaker.
- B. *Code* means the GRIC Code.
- C. *Community* means the Gila River Indian Community and its lands as established and geographically defined under the laws of the United States, encompassing all territory within its exterior boundaries as now or hereafter prescribed or ascertained, including fee patented and allotted lands used or claimed by any person, without regard to such person’s membership in the Gila River Indian Community.
- D. *Community Member* means an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
- E. *Community Treasurer* means the Treasurer of the Gila River Indian Community or such person as the Council designates to carry out the duties of the Community Treasurer, and may include such subordinate official(s) as the Community Treasurer designates to carry out any provisions of this chapter.
- F. *Dance* means a social event occurring after 7:00 p.m. where live or amplified music is provided for the attendees to encourage or induce the attendees to dance.

**IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

MYRA A DIAZ, Petitioner/Plaintiff VS. JESSE MANUEL DIAZ, Respondent/Defendant	CASE Number: FM-2026-0032-DV CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
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Please take notice that a(n) **Answer/Response 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 15, 2026
at 10:30 AM in Courtroom VII,
Westend Judicial Center,
4751 West Pecos Road, Sacaton, AZ.**

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 6th day of May, 2026

/s/ Danielle Lewis
Clerk of the Gila River Indian Community Court

Copy of the foregoing served by
 The GRIN, Gila River Indian Newspaper Publication
 This 6th day of May, 2026 to:

Jesse Manuel Diaz
 Jesse M Diaz, G176983
 Maricopa County Jail 4th Avenue Jail
 201 S. 4th Ave
 Phoenix, AZ, 85003

**IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

CHARITY MARQUEZ, Petitioner/Plaintiff VS. CHRISTIAN TAYLOR GOODIN, Respondent/Defendant	CASE Number: FM-2025-0081-PT CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
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Please take notice that a(n) **Motion 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, May 18, 2026
at 3:00 PM in Courtroom I,
AKIMEL O’OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.**

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 10th day of April, 2026

/s/ Katherine Search
Clerk of the Gila River Indian Community Court

Copy of the foregoing served by
 1st Class Mail Certified Mail
 This 10th day of April, 2026 to:

 Christian Taylor Goodin
 371 E Congress Ave
 Coolidge, AZ, 85128

**IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

VALENTINA ROSE MORENO, Petitioner/Plaintiff VS. NINA RAQUEL JONES, Respondent/Defendant	CASE Number: CV-2026-0104-RO CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
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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:

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026
at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I,
AKIMEL O’OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.**

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 8th day of April, 2026

/s/ Katherine Search
Clerk of the Gila River Indian Community Court

Copy of the foregoing served by
 1st Class Mail Certified Mail
 This 8th day of April, 2026 to:

Nina Raquel Jones

**IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

IN THE MATTER OF : GERALD HAYES, Subject.	CASE Number: CV-2022-0278-ZGA CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING
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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 1, 2026
at 11:00 AM in Courtroom VII,
Westend Judicial Center,
4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ 85339.**

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.

DATED this 25th day of March, 2026

/s/ Dorthene E Silver
Clerk of the Gila River Indian Community Court

Copy of the foregoing served by
 The GRIN, Gila River Indian Newspaper Publication
 This 25th day of March, 2026 to:

Loretta Marie Felix



2026 Elder Prom

June 19, 2026 5PM-7:30 PM

Sonoran Sunset

District 1 Service Center

Must be 55+
Enrolled in a federally recognized tribe,
living within
The Gila River Indian Community
or a GRIC Urban Member



Registration opens
April 09, 2026
Until Full
For the first 250

To register call
Elderly Nutrition Program
520-562-9696



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

SUMMER DAY CAMP

PLAY ALL DAY, THE CLUB WAY!



AGES 5-18

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

FIRST DAY - MAY 26TH

NON-COMMUNITY
MEMBER FEES:
MEMBERSHIP FEE \$15
DAILY FEE \$10
WEEKLY FEE \$45



REGISTER HERE

JOIN US FOR:
SPORT & WELLNESS
S.T.E.A.M.
ARTS & CRAFTS
FIELD TRIPS
& MORE!

LOCATIONS
SACATON & KOMATKE

520-610-6238

info@bgcgric.org

www.gricbgc.org

T H E G R D B U L L E T I N



MAY ISSUE 2026

FEATURED STORIES

GILA RIVER DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES MMIP

May 5 is Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness Day in the Gila River Indian Community. Gila River Development stands in support of the families affected by violence across Indian Country for the entire month of May.



BUSY SEASON WAS...BUSY!

The Wild Horse Pass area was the place to be in March. From championship racing and golf to rodeos and the Ostrich Festival, it was truly one for the books. The NHRA brought tremendous energy to Firebird Motorsports Park for the Arizona Nationals, showcasing some of the most passionate fans in racing. Meanwhile, it was déjà vu at Whirlwind Golf Club as Hyo Joo Kim captured another win at the Ford Championship, repeating her victory from last year. Expect even bigger and better things next year. Xtreme Bulls lit up the Buck-N-Rodeo Grounds at Rawhide with the top bull riders in the country, and the Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival made a fresh start at Rawhide. It is safe to say the ostrich may now be our newest favorite bird. We are grateful to have hosted so many exciting events across our properties and sincerely appreciate the Community members who came out to support them.



LAST 8 SECOND SATURDAYS RODEO OF THE SEASON ENDS MAY 9

After five great rodeos, 8 Second Saturdays will be hanging them up until the fall. There's still time to enjoy the final performance on May 9 at Buck-N-Rodeo Grounds. Tickets are on sale on Rawhide.com with discounts for GRIC/Military/First Responders.



EASTER BUNNY VISITS SACATON MARKET

The Easter Bunny took time out of his busy schedule to spread joy at Sacaton Market. Families enjoyed photo opportunities and fun activities thanks to the staff who helped make the event possible. A special shout-out to Lt. Gov. Regina Antone for joining in on the fun as well. We hope everyone had a happy Easter!

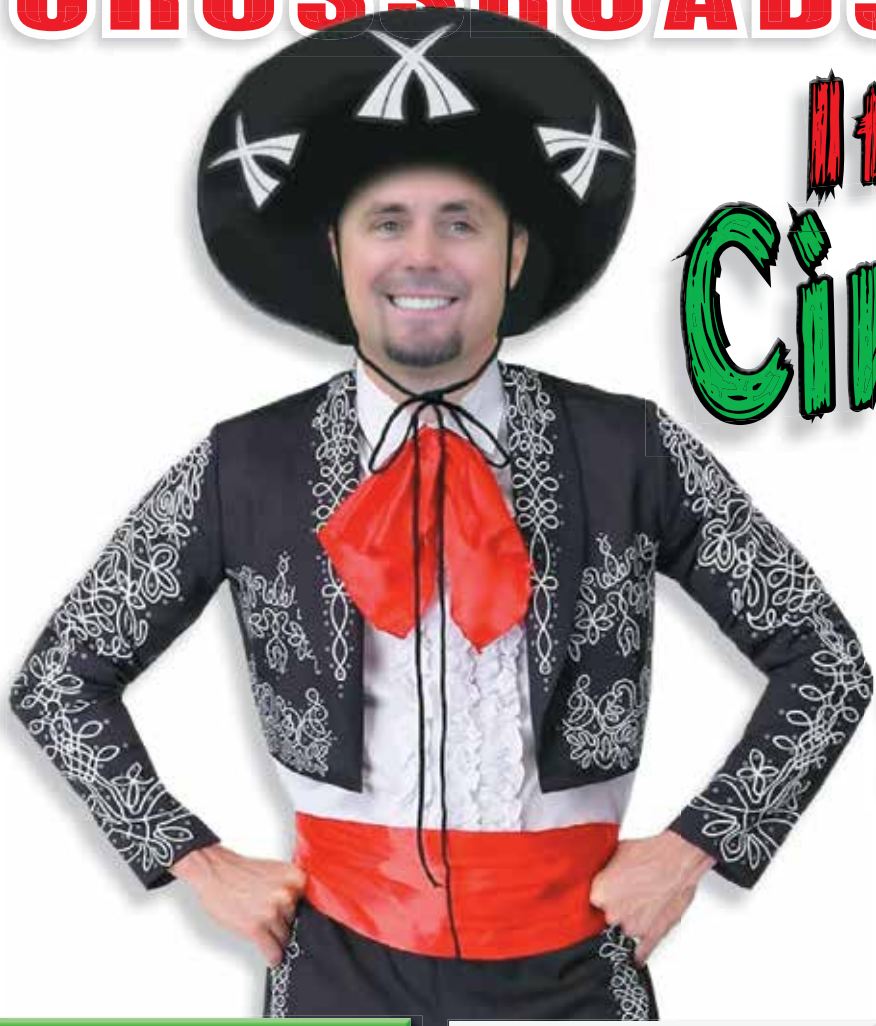


POKÉMON CARDS JUST DROPPED

No need to drive all over town to find Pokémon cards, they're now available at Sacaton Market and all Gila Gas & Goods locations. For \$7.99 per pack, you'll be ready to join the Pokémon League and battle fellow trainers across GRIC. Limit five packs per person, while supplies last.



CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER



It's **Cinco de Buy-O**

**Easy,
Fast,
Local**

2023 Nissan Altima



**AWD S
26 CITY / 34 HWY**

2025 Kia K4



**LOW MILES, STYLISH
30 CITY / 40 HWY**

2022 Toyota Camry SE



**NIGHTSHADE HYBRID
44 CITY / 47 HWY**

2025 Chevy Trax LT



**TURBO • CLEAN
28 CITY / 32 HWY**

2018 Dodge Durango



**LOW, LOW MILES
3RD SEAT • CLEAN**

2024 Kia Sportage



**LOW MILES, FUN TO DRIVE
25 CITY / 33 HWY**

2017 Ram 1500 Tradesman



**LOW MILES • CLEAN
A UNICORN!**

2023 Ford F-150



**4X4 • 3.5L ECOBOOST
FX4 • NICE TRUCK**

2022 Ram 1500 Big Horn



**JUST 34K MILES
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- (2) Chevy Equinox 26/31 mpg
- 2020 Chevy Traverse 18/27 mpg
- 2022 Chevy Trax 23/30 mpg
- 2023 Chevy Malibu 27/35 mpg
- 2021 Ford Escape 26/31 mpg
- 2021 Ford EcoSport 27/29 mpg
- 2018 Mazda CX5 25/31 mpg
- (2) Nissan Altima 26/34 mpg
- 2024 Toyota Camry 28/34 mpg
- 2023 Nissan Murano V6
20/28 mpg
- 2016 Ram 1500 4x4
- 2020 Dodge Gr. Caravan
17/25 mpg
- 2022 Kia K5 29/38 mpg
- 2021 Chrysler 300 19/30 mpg

All published mileage based on EPA estimates. Your actual mileage may vary predicated by driving habits and other conditions.



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Gila River
HEALTH CARE

VISIT US ONLINE:
GRHC.ORG

Behavioral Health Services
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

MENTAL HEALTH EXPO 2026

Interactive Learning Topics:

- Mental Health Wellness
- Opioid Awareness & Narcan Education
- Yes To Life! Suicide Prevention
- Culture
- Family Activity Stations
- And more!

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Join Behavioral Health Services for a day
of fun, food and appreciation items.

SATURDAY
16
MAY
9 AM-1 PM

NEW BEGINNINGS
BUILDING 4
SACATON



Questions?
(520) 610-2394
lyazzie@grhc.org



Memorial Day Closure

Gila River Health Care Administrative, Outpatient Clinics, and Pharmacy will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

We Are HIRING! GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

Where Care Meets Community

Crisis Support Specialist

Provides crisis intervention expertise and counseling directly to patients during evening and weekend/holiday hours by performing the following duties personally. Responsible for ensuring that all critical tasks are fulfilled on a timely basis. The following is required:

- Master's Degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field.
- Associate Licensure in good standing with the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners required (LAC, LASAC, LMSW, LAMFT), Independent Licensure preferred (LPC, LIAC, LCSW, LMFT).
- Experience with the Native American population preferred.
- Arizona Department of Public Safety Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card required
- Current and continuing CPR/FA and/or BLS training and certification required
- State of Arizona driver's license with no significant violations during the last 5 years
- Demonstrates ability to relate to diverse cultures and specifically the Gila River Community and/or other Native American cultures and community health services.

Explore Careers at: GRHC.org/Careers

Foundation Executive Director

In consultation with the Gila River People Foundation (GRPF) Board and the Chief Executive Officer, the Foundation Executive Director provides strategic leadership, operational oversight, and fundraising direction to the advance the mission of the Foundation in support of Native American Healthcare Initiatives.

This role is responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive fundraising strategies, including major gifts, grants, endowments, and trust-base giving programs that strengthen the long-term financial stability of native healthcare services.

Must be a member of a federally recognized tribe, GRIC member preferred.

Contact Mark Walter, HR Recruiting Manager at (520) 562-3321 Ext. 1629 or email: wwalter@grhc.org.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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