



## U of A and Gila River Health Care Launch Landmark Tribal Land Medical Program

**Miguel Sallard**  
Gila River Indian News

CHANDLER, Ariz. — The Gila River Indian Community and University of Arizona are moving ahead with a landmark plan to create the nation's first MD-granting medical school branch on tribal land — a project tribal leaders say is historic and sorely needed. But with details of the initiative still emerging, one question remains unanswered: Who will be eligible for the full-tuition scholarships that will fund each student admitted to the new program?

The partnership, announced August 18, creates the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Regional Medical Branch in Sacaton, where 10 students a year will train in the tribally run health system of Gila River Health Care.

GRHC has committed more than \$25 million to support faculty positions, educational infrastructure and full-tuition

scholarships for students in the accelerated three-year primary care track through 2034.

The program is designed to help address long-standing shortages of physicians in Tribal, rural and underserved communities — shortages that have worsened as Arizona's population continues to grow. The Indian Health Service had a 38% physician vacancy rate in fiscal 2024, versus a 30% vacancy rate for all health care providers, according to the Government Accountability Office. The number of American Indian doctors is still very low nationwide. In 2024, they made up just 0.3% of active physicians in the United States.

"The initiative is a purposeful step toward community-based medical education," University of Arizona President Suresh Garimella said. "Tribal and rural communities have some of the country's most significant unmet primary care needs," Garimella said. "This partnership to create

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University of Arizona President Suresh Garimella  
Miguel Sallard/GRIN

## New Gila River Police Chief Is Sworn In



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## Sister Martha Honored during D-Backs Game



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## Interior Department Finalizes Plans for 2027-2028 Colorado River Operations



Photo credit: Amineah/Adobe Stock

### Department of The Interior PRESS RELEASE:

*Secretary Burgum signs 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines and Record of Decision*

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior issued the 2027-2028 Operating

Guidelines and the Record of Decision for the Post-2026 Colorado River Operations Final EIS, establishing a 10-year Decision Framework with a broad operational range that will be used to develop future operational guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Together these decisions provide for reliable operations of the Colorado River system,

delivery of vital water supplies, and protect critical federal infrastructure while preserving the flexibility necessary to respond to Basin states' voluntary actions, consensus recommendations and the continued prolonged drought. The combined contents of Lake Powell and Lake Mead have not been this low since before Lake Powell began filling following the closure of the gates at Glen Canyon Dam in 1963, with both Lake Powell and Lake Mead hitting record lows the last few weeks.

"We are grateful for the Seven Basin States, the thirty Basin Tribes, Mexico, and many other basin stakeholders who have provided the feedback and voluntary arrangements necessary for the development of the 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines," said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. "Forty million people, millions of acres of farmland and ranchland, industries that pow-

er the American West, and some of our nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas depend on the Colorado River."

The 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines respond to hydrologic conditions and provide flexible tools to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam. They were developed after extensive engagement with the seven Basin States and incorporate concepts from proposals from both the Upper and Lower Basins and Basin tribes.

These 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines:

- Provide objective criteria to determine releases from Lake Powell based on actual hydrology and maintaining a minimum elevation of 3,510 feet to support continued operational reliability at Glen Canyon Dam.
- Provides for reductions in deliveries of Colorado River

*See 2027-2028 Colorado River on Page 8*

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**MIKE EPPS**

SAT, SEPT 26 | 8PM

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**JOSH TURNER**

FRI, OCT 2 | 8PM

WILD HORSE PASS



**JEFF DUNHAM**

SAT, OCT 3 | 8PM



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# Gila River welcomes new police chief as Michael Angstead take oath of office

**Miguel Sallard**  
Gila River Indian News

*Veteran law-enforcement leader take oath before Community members, tribal officials, and regional police partners, making a pivotal transition for the department.*

SACATON, Ariz. — After nine months without a permanent police chief, the Gila River Indian Community entered a new era of leadership as Michael Angstead was officially sworn in during a ceremony attended by more than 100 Community members, tribal leaders, and officers from the neighboring City of Gilbert, where Angstead worked for several years, including six as assistant chief overseeing the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

The event, held inside the police department building, marked both a symbolic and practical turning point for a department that has navigated uncertainty and transition for nearly a year.

Angstead, a law enforcement veteran with nearly three decades of experience, was selected from a national pool of more than 40 candidates. He emerged as one of four finalists in a rigorous, community informed process that included input from Community members, department employees and tribal elders, a reflection of the Community's commitment to inclusive decision-making and its expectations for public safety leadership.



Chief Judge Anthony Hill administers the oath to Michael Angstead, joined by his wife Lisa and son Tom during the swearing-in ceremony. Miguel Sallard/GRIN

Williams Lewis, who served as acting chief during this period, said he felt more at ease knowing the Community had chosen the right person to lead the department.

Angstead, took his oath of office alongside his wife Lisa and his son Tom, a police officer with the City of Mesa, Arizona. His son Joe, a heavy equipment operator, was unable to attend the ceremony. The oath was administered by the Community's Chief Judge, Anthony Hill.

"It is an honor to stand before all of you today and express my gratitude to everyone present,

especially Governor Lewis, Lt. Governor Antone, Community Manager Jones, the Community Council, employees, elders, and youth who have placed their trust in me to lead this department," Angstead said during the ceremony.

His remarks were brief but pointed. Angstead pledged to lead with respect, transparency, and partnership, principles that resonated strongly with those in attendance.

Although his professional background is extensive, the challenges ahead will require more than experience. The Gila

River Indian Community operates withing a cultural framework shaped by O'odham and Pee Posh traditions, tribal governance, and a long history of navigating relationships with external law enforcement agencies. Understanding this landscape will be essential to his leadership.

In the next edition of GRIN, a one-on-one interview with the new police chief is expected, where he will discuss priorities, vision, and first steps in leading the department.

# American Legion Post 62 in Peoria Honors Ira H. Hayes as Veteran of the Month

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, the American Legion John J. Morris Post 62 in Peoria, held a special flag ceremony for Ira H. Hayes, United States Marine Corps., who has been selected as their Veteran of the Month.

Family of Ira Hayes and members of American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post 84 were welcomed by a motorcycle escort of several veterans from Post 62 and surrounding areas. They arrived at Post 62 and were greeted by fellow veterans and the public for the flag raising ceremony.

Each month, Post 62 selects a veteran to recognize by flying a flag at their post in Peoria throughout the month. SSgt Orris Galland, U.S. Army – WWII, was selected for the month of August.

"The American Legion John J. Morris Post 62 is honored to recognize Ira Hamilton Hayes as our veteran of the month and proudly fly his flag for all members and visitors to recognize his service and sacrifice, to his legacy," said Post 62 Commander



Family of Ira Hayes and members of American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post 84 attended the ceremony on Spet. 1. Emma Hughes/GRIN

Noah McMullen.

Ceremonies began with taps and the posting of colors. Galland's flag was then presented to the family, and the flag for Hayes was raised.

Hayes, a member of the Gila River Indian Community, is recognized for his part in the flag raising over Mount Suribachi during World War II on Feb. 23, 1945. He is featured in the iconic photograph by Joe Rosenthal.

On Oct. 1, Hayes' family will return to Post 62 to be given the flag for their keeping. Family members in attendance were Augustine Enas, Duane Jackson Jr., Leatrice Davis, Nicholas Rodgers, Tina Notah-Enas, and Suzanne Lewis.

"I really enjoyed it; that outside our community there's others, other posts out here that are still remembering our Native American veterans and what

they've done," said Duane Jackson Jr. "So for them to honor Ira Hayes was an amazing thing this morning, for them to share the history with their members here was amazing. I think it was a really good ceremony, especially for my grandma."

He explained that his grandmother, Leatrice Davis (Whitaker) is one of the eldest living relative of Hayes.

# Sister Martha Honored during D-Backs Game



Sister Martha Carpenter is presented with the Nicole Hazen 4 Kindess Award through the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation on Aug. 25. Photo Courtesy of Dbacks Give Back

**GRIN Staff**  
Gila River Indian News

The Arizona Diamondbacks through their D-backs Give Back charity foundation recently recognized Sister Marth Carpenter, with the third annual Nicole Hazen 4 Kindness Award during their Aug. 25 game against the Chicago Cubs at Chase Field.

For over 40 years, Sister Martha has served the Gila River Indian Community as a teacher and principal at Saint Peter In-

dian Mission School in Bapchule, District 5. She’s made it her life’s work to provide joy, movement, cultural pride, and quality education for the thousands of children who’ve attended the school during her tenure.

“Thank you Dbacks for honoring such an amazing Sister who, by the grace of God, was able to serve so many generations of students on the Gila River Indian Reservation at St. Peter Indian Mission School,” the school said in a statement on social media. “She is the family to so many. She also

# CALL FOR ARTISTS

TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES INVITES INDIGENOUS ARTISTS TO SUBMIT ARTWORK FOR OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TRIBAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

THIS YEAR’S THEME:  
**Beyond Resilience:  
Rooted in Prevention, Rising in Strength**

### SELECTED ARTWORK

The selected artwork will serve as the primary visual identity for the conference and may be featured on:

- T-SHIRTS
- PROGRAMS
- SIGNAGE
- PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS
- SOCIAL MEDIA

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit:

- Original digital artwork in a high-resolution format
- Artist name and contact information
- Tribal affiliation, if applicable
- A brief artist statement describing the artwork and its connection to “Rooted in Prevention, Rising in Strength”

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
NOVEMBER 13, 2026

**SUBMIT ARTWORK TO**  
TSS.EVENTS@GRIC.NSN.US

served 14 years with the Menominees and touch many of their hearts as well.”

The Nicol Hazen 4 Kindness Award honors the late Nicole Haze, who was the wife of Diamondbacks General Manager Mike Hazen.

The mission of the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation is to support three main

areas of need: homelessness, indigent healthcare and children’s programs of all types including education and youth baseball. In addition, the Foundation has created strategic programs that address the needs of our community including veterans, police, teachers, firefighters, first responders and more.

## DISTRICT 6 COMMUNITY NATIVE AMERICAN WEEK

**MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026**

**O'ODHAM TRADITIONAL GAMES**  
w/ Youth Council  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
D6 KALKA PARK

**TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026:**

**STORIES OF OUR STARS**  
w/ Anthony Gray  
6:00PM-8:00PM  
D6 KALKA PARK

**WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026**

**O'ODHAM & PEE-POSH PRESENTATION w/ Leonard Bruce**  
• POTLUCK  
6:00PM - 8:00PM  
D6 LEARNING CENTER

**THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**WAILA NIGHT**  
feat. D Faktion Nyne  
7:00PM - 10:00PM  
D6 KALKA PARK

**FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**NATIVE AMERICAN CELEBRATION DAY**  
5:00PM - 9:00PM  
KALKA PARK

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT D6 RECREATION  
(520) 610-7975 OR (520) 550-3805 EXT 2345

A photograph of a band performing on stage. A woman in the foreground is playing a guitar and singing into a microphone. Behind her, a man is playing a guitar. There are other musicians and instruments visible in the background.

# WAILA NIGHT

feat.D Faktion Nyne

Thursday, September 17, 2026

7:00pm- 10:00pm

Kalka Park  
5230 W St. John's Rd, Laveen AZ, 85339

Drug and alcohol free event  
All youth MUST be accompanied by an adult

For more information contact D6 Rec Dept. at  
(520)550-3805 #2345 or (520)610-7975



Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE

Project Name:

Revell-Scannell Commercial Park

For:

Zoning Change

Location:

South Side of Loop 202 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street

Date and Time of Public Hearing:

October 3, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Place:

District Six Learning Center

Notice is hereby given that the Gila River Indian Community’s Natural Resources Standing Committee on **Saturday, October 3, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** in District Six at the Learning Center, 5230 St Johns Rd, Laveen Village, AZ 85339, will hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a Zoning Change Application submitted by Revell-Scannell for their Commercial Park site to be used for commercial and light industrial use.

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](mailto:LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us) and cc [PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us](mailto:PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us). Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at [PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us](mailto:PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us) or at (520) 562-6003.



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



Gila River Indian Community

2026 GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULE

Districts 1-7



|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 24, 2026      | GRIC members who possess the qualifications defined in Article VI of the GRIC Constitution and Bylaws, may file a <b>DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY (DOC)</b> for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge or Associate Judge |
| July 15, 2026      | <b>DEADLINE DATE</b> to submit a completed Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) forms to the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                             |
| July 16, 2026      | Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) forms are routed to ascertain qualifications to Enrollment, Law Office and Human Resources Departments.                                                                                                  |
| July 21, 2026      | Special Election Board meeting to verify candidate residency requirements                                                                                                                                                               |
| August 5, 2026     | At the first Council meeting in August, the Community Council shall certify that all candidates for General Office meet the qualifications set forth in the Community Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community        |
| August 10, 2026    | <b>VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES</b> 5:00 p.m. for the Primary Election                                                                                                                                                                    |
| August 13, 2026    | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS</b> for the Primary Election; absentee ballots will be available upon request from your District Judge or the Tribal Elections Office.                                                                         |
| September 14, 2026 | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING CLOSSES</b> for the Primary Election all absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                                   |
| September 15, 2026 | <b>GRIC PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</b><br><b>Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7; ALL POLLING SITES OPEN 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.</b>                                                                                                            |
| September 16, 2026 | <b>VOTER REGISTRATION OPENS</b> for the General Election November 3, 2026                                                                                                                                                               |
| September 21, 2026 | <b>PROTEST PERIOD ENDS</b> any registered voter can file a protest to the election in writing to the Election Board Chairperson, by 5:00 p.m.                                                                                           |
| September 22, 2026 | <b>VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES</b> 5:00 p.m. for the General Election                                                                                                                                                                    |
| October 7, 2026    | <b>Certification of the Primary Election results</b> shall be conducted by the Community Council                                                                                                                                        |
| October 8, 2026    | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS</b> for the General Election; absentee ballots will be available upon request from your District Judge or the Tribal Elections Office.                                                                         |
| November 2, 2026   | <b>ABSENTEE VOTING CLOSSES</b> for the General Election. All absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                                  |
| November 3, 2026   | <b>GRIC GENERAL ELECTION DAY</b><br><b>Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7; ALL POLLING SITES OPEN 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.</b>                                                                                                            |
| November 6, 2026   | <b>DEADLINE TO PROTEST THE ELECTION:</b> any registered voter can file a protest in writing to the Election Board Chairperson by 5:00 p.m.                                                                                              |
| December 2, 2026   | <b>Certification of the General Election results</b> shall be conducted by the Community Council                                                                                                                                        |
| January 1, 2027    | Newly elected candidates for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge and Associate Judges are sworn into office.                                                                                                       |



For questions regarding this schedule, call the Tribal Elections office at (520) 562-9735, 9758, or email at [TEP@gric.nsn.us](mailto:TEP@gric.nsn.us)

# Saint Peter Indian Mission Catholic School Students Win Aerial Drone Piloting Award

**Submitted by:**  
Anna Prakash, Co-founder/CEO of Education Empowers

BAPCHULE, Ariz. — Gila River Indian Community students from Saint Peter Indian Mission Catholic School won the Best Aerial Drone Piloting Award for the Middle School Division at the 2026 Annual Aerial Drone Competition, held on May 2nd at Saint Peter Indian Mission School in the Gila River Indian Community.

Organized by Education Empowers Inc., a local nonprofit, the annual drone competition brought together approximately 300 students in grades 4–12 from across Arizona, including students from the Gila River Indian Community, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix, and Apache Junction.

Throughout the spring, students spent two months preparing for the competition by learning how to pilot and program aerial drones to accomplish missions. Teams met regularly at schools, libraries, and Boys & Girls Clubs, where students developed skills in drone piloting, autonomous coding, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication.

The competition provided students an opportunity to put those skills into action through a series of piloting and autonomous flight challenges while working collaboratively with their teammates.

For the Saint Peter Indian Mission School students, months of practice with their teacher Mrs. Kinnamon, and teamwork paid off as the team captured the skills award as well as the Best Aerial Drone Piloting Award in the Middle School Division, recognizing their outstanding piloting skills during the competition.

The Middle School Division Championship was awarded to the Chandler community team, while the High School Division Championship was won by a team from the Superstition Mountain Branch of the Boys & Girls Club based in Apache Junction. The Judge’s Award was won by Eisenhower Boys & Girls club, Mesa, Arizona.



Picture: Award winning Aerial Drone Team “Ooatham Road Runners” from Saint Peter Indian Mission Catholic School, Bapchule, Arizona  
Sister Martha (Principal Emeritus), Sister Pamela (Principal), Emmett & Joshia

Beyond competition and awards, the Aerial Drone Program is designed to give students meaningful, hands-on exposure to emerging technologies and STEM career pathways.

About Education Empowers Inc.  
Education Empowers Inc. is a Chandler, Arizona-based nonprofit organization founded in 2017 by mother-daughter team Anna Prakash-Ashton and Elaina Ashton. The organization provides STEM and STEAM educational opportunities to students at more than 50 locations across Arizona, with a focus on expanding access to hands-on learning opportunities for youth in underserved and underrepresented communities.

Education Empowers' mission is to

welcome, engage, educate, and inspire youth while empowering diverse communities through education. Programs include robotics, aerial drones, coding, AI, 3D printing, computer-aided design (CAD), soldering, sustainability education, and STEM career exploration.

Through hands-on learning, mentorship, teamwork, and real-world applications of science and technology, Education Empowers seeks to help students develop a passion for learning and discovery, build confidence, and explore educational, scholarship, and career opportunities.

Event: 2026 Annual Aerial Drone Competition

Date: May 2, 2026

Location: Saint Peter Indian Mission

School, Bapchule, Arizona

Organizer: Education Empowers Inc.

Website: <https://educationempowers.org/>

- 20 competitive drone teams participated at our annual Aerial Drone Competition

We are especially proud that:

- 50% of participating teams represented the Gila River Indigenous Community

- 40% of teams came from Boys & Girls Clubs in Mesa, Gilbert, Apache Junction, and Chandler

- 10% represented local Chandler and Coolidge community teams.



# State of Arizona, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo Nation Sign MOU to Create Economic Opportunity in Four Corners Region

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Arizona Governor's Office on Tribal Relations  
August 19, 2026

*Signatories are pioneering new models for State-Tribal coordination to honor Tribal sovereignty and champion economic development.*

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Hopi Tribe Chairman Lamar Keevama, and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance economic resilience for Tribal communities in the Four Corners region, which has been impacted by the decline of the coal industry.

“I am proud to enter into this agreement with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation, reinforcing our shared commitment to State-Tribal cooperation and promoting new economic opportunities for Tribal communities,” said Governor Katie Hobbs. “Creating partnerships that affirm Tribal sovereignty and strengthen Arizona’s economy is key to delivering the Arizona Promise.”

The agreement will increase intergovernmental coordination, facilitate local and regional dialogue, and enable collaborative

research and analysis towards improved economic and workforce development opportunities and outcomes. Activities will include conducting strategic planning to prepare for potential coal facility closures and sharing economic and workforce data with Tribal data sovereignty at the forefront.

“For decades, it was Navajo energy that helped power the Southwest, fueling the growth of states like Arizona, Nevada, and California, where populations continue to rise despite Navajo water being debated for use,” said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. “Meeting the energy demands of the future will require everyone to work together. This is about more than strengthening our economies - it is about protecting our land, embracing responsible innovation, and making sure Navajo families are thriving here 100 years from now.”

“Northeastern Arizona has been home to the Hopi people since time immemorial and to generations of our neighbors in the region. This MOU reflects our shared commitment to working together to strengthen economic resilience across the Four Corners Region,” said Hopi Chairman Lamar Keevama. “By bringing together our knowledge, resources, and priorities, this agreement strengthens intergovernmental coordination and commits to lasting eco-

nom ic and workforce development opportunities that will uplift all our communities.”

Coal mines and power plants in the Four Corners region laid the foundation for a flourishing Arizona economy. With the closure of coal facilities such as the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) and Kayenta Mine, communities lost access to life-sustaining wages and opportunities. This includes approximately 700 direct job losses, 3,000 indirect job losses, and \$50 million in annual revenue losses for the Navajo Nation following the NGS and Kayenta closures. After these closures, the Hopi Tribe also experienced a devastating 85% reduction in total revenue and lost approximately 1,900 total jobs — a staggering figure given the Tribe’s overall population of approximately 14,000 people.

“Recognizing the pivotal role that Tribal nations play in the development of Arizona’s economy, this agreement reinforces the need for innovative State-Tribal efforts to provide new avenues for job and revenue creation throughout the region,” said Jason Chavez, Director of Tribal Affairs for the Governor’s Office.

As part of the agreement, staff from the State of Arizona, Navajo Nation, and Hopi Tribe will convene regularly to discuss shared challenges and opportunities,

share resources, and build strategies for direct support to coal-impacted communities. The MOU builds upon existing collaborations between the State of Arizona, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo Nation, including a prestigious award received by the three governments in March of 2026 to pursue collaborative research in partnership with Harvard’s Growth Lab and Project on Indigenous Governance and Development.

“In addition to this MOU and our collaborative research with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation, our office is promoting multiple initiatives that support Tribal energy and economic development,” said Governor’s Office of Resiliency Director Maren Mahoney. “Additionally, in June 2026, the Governor’s Office on Tribal Relations and the Governor’s Office of Resiliency launched the State-Tribal Clean Energy Partnership, making technical assistance and other resources available to all of Arizona’s federally recognized Tribes to facilitate Tribal energy and economic development.”

On September 22, 2026, the Office on Tribal Relations and Office of Resiliency will host the Arizona Tribal Energy Summit and Workshop, where Tribal leaders will gather alongside a range of stakeholders to discuss Tribal energy development opportunities.

## 2027-2028 Colorado River from front Page

water among the Lower Basin States of 1.25 million acre-feet in each year of the next two years. If the Lower Basin States implement their proposed sharing agreement, the reduction per State would be:

- o Arizona: 760,000 acre-feet
- o California: 440,000 acre-feet
- o Nevada: 50,000 acre-feet
- Provide for Lower Basin States to voluntarily conserve and store at least 700,000 acre-feet of water over the two-year period to protect the system, in addition to the 1.25 million acre-feet per year of reductions.
- Provide for the Upper Basin States to enter into an agreement, in consultation with Lower Basin States and Basin tribes, using the Secretary's authorities to operate the Colorado River Storage Project Upper Initial Units (i.e. Aspinall (CO), Flaming Gorge (UT/WY) and Navajo (CO/NM) Reservoirs) to help protect Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure.
- Provide tools and flexibility in the Lower Basin to respond to drought conditions by allowing water users to store water.
- Provides for a Federally managed pool to help meet tribal firming obligations and provide limited offsetting to reduce tribal impacts.
- Provide elevation triggers for coordination and consultations to determine additional actions, if necessary, to minimize operational risks to infrastructure, and manage risks to the urban, agricultural, and natural systems that rely on the Colorado River.

Reclamation also released today the August 2026 24-Month Study, determining the 2027 operations based on the new guidelines. Lake Powell will begin the October 1 water year between elevations 3,540 and 3,510 feet, placing operations in the Lower Elevation Infrastructure Protection Range with an expected water year release between 6.0 and 7.0 million acre-feet. Reclamation will begin the water year with lower releases between 6.0 and 7.0 million acre-feet in order to attempt to maintain an elevation of 3,510 feet or high-

er and will adjust releases through April to continue to maintain elevation 3,510 feet. The water year 2027 release volume will be determined in April. For Lake Mead, water deliveries to the Lower Basin States will be reduced by 1.25 million-acre feet for calendar year 2027.

The Decision Framework establishes an operational range that provides the flexibility to develop specific operating guidelines within the 10-year period while preserving the opportunity for Colorado River Basin negotiations to continue and, if successful, be incorporated into years three or four or longer for future operational guidelines. Operational elements include enhanced coordinated reservoir operations and expanded opportunities for the storage and delivery of conserved water in system reservoirs and other flexible water management tools. The Decision Framework prioritizes consensus agreements, voluntary actions, and a commitment to coordination and consultation throughout the period of adoption.

The Decision Framework anticipates operating guidelines in two-year periods and can be scaled longer depending on evolving Basin circumstances. This mechanism leaves room for the Basin States, tribes and stakeholders to adjust these parameters with their own voluntary actions

and consensus whenever such agreements are reached.

“These decisions provide a water management strategy for Basin stakeholders to respond to the prolonged drought by incorporating flexible tools and voluntary actions while leaving room for consensus agreements,” said Assistant Secretary — Water and Science Andrea Travnicek.



Photo credit: Amineah/Adobe Stock

“The Department and Reclamation will continue to work with all Basin stakeholders to identify areas to maximize efforts throughout the Basin to modernize infrastructure, develop conservation programs, and identify innovative approaches to deliver water under changing conditions”.

Since the beginning of the Trump administration, President Trump has made delivering water to people a high priority. The administration has demonstrated a commitment to improving and enhancing water supply within the Colorado River Basin through investments in water storage, distribution, treatment, and improving water efficiency. Specifically in the Lower Basin investments over \$3 billion have been made since January 2025.

In April 2026, the Secretary asked for feedback from the seven Basin States on potential water supply and conservation projects throughout the Colorado River

Basin during a time of shortage. The administration continues to review the submittals and will work with the Basin States and Basin Tribes to identify opportunities to use available Working Families Tax Cuts funds, and other federal cost-share programs related to water storage and expansion and optimization; desalination and advanced water treatment; and water movement, exchanges and infrastructure.

Background

The NEPA process was initiated in June 2023. Over this three-year period the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation engaged extensively with Basin stakeholders and that input is reflected in the alternatives analyzed in the Final EIS and the Preferred Alternative of a Decision Framework that would guide future operational guidelines, released on July 31, 2026. The 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines and ROD released today further incorporate extensive feedback from Basin stakeholders. The Final EIS, ROD and 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines are available on Reclamation’s website.

For the past 26 years, the Colorado River Basin has been experiencing an unprecedented multidecadal drought, resulting in historically low runoff and reservoir levels. Conditions worsened during 2026, driven in part by the lowest observed snowpack on record during the winter of 2025-2026.

A separate binational process addressing water deliveries to Mexico is nearing completion and the Department is committed to continued collaboration with Mexico. The Department will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding post-2026 operations and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the International Boundary and Water Commission in consultation with the Department of State.

The Colorado River provides water for more than 40 million people and generates hydropower for seven states. It serves as a vital resource for 30 tribes and two Mexican states, sustaining 5.5 million acres of farmland and agricultural communities throughout the West, while also supporting critical ecosystems and protecting endangered species.

# READY SET GO!

READY

**Prepare now.**  
Register for local emergency alerts. Have a plan & an emergency go kit. Follow local officials on social media.

SET

**Be alert.**  
Be packed up & ready to go. Monitor news & local official sources. Consider relocating to a safer area.

GO!

**Evacuate!**  
Follow instructions from officials, stay on designated evacuation routes & avoid closed areas.



## BE GRIC READY



# THE GRD BULLETIN



SEPT ISSUE 2026

### FEATURED STORIES



#### JOB FAIR DELIVERS REAL RESULTS

A big thank you to everyone who attended the recent Gila River Development Job Fair at Rawhide! The event welcomed 290 job seekers and 23 employers, creating opportunities for community members to connect directly with hiring teams. Even better, more than 40 job offers were extended for positions within GRD entities, helping community members take the next step toward a rewarding career. We appreciate everyone who participated and helped make the event a success.



#### ROLLING INTO YOUR NEXT EVENT

Have you checked out the Rawhide Grill food truck yet? Whether you're planning a birthday party, family gathering, community event, or special celebration, Rawhide Grill offers a delicious and convenient catering option right here in and around the Community. From crowd favorites to friendly service, they're ready to help make your event memorable. Follow them on Instagram @rawhidegrill and keep them in mind for your next gathering!



#### ELDERS HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE

In July, Gila River Development presented the Arts & Crafts Center project during the Elder Concerns - Informational Meeting in District 3. Community feedback continues to play a critical role in shaping the vision for the future center. Survey results showed strong support for preserving O'otham and Pee Posh culture and history, providing opportunities for local artists and vendors, creating gathering spaces for the community, and including a restaurant or café. The message from participants was clear: Community benefit and cultural preservation should remain at the heart of the project.



#### 8 SECOND SATURDAYS ARE BACK!

Dust off your boots because 8 Second Saturdays return to the Buck-N Rodeo Grounds on October 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for an evening packed with bull riding, steer riding, calf riding, mutton bustin', live country music, food trucks, giveaways, inflatables, and family-friendly fun. Community members can also take advantage of GRIC, Military, and First Responder discounts. This is the perfect opportunity to gather family and friends for an exciting night under the arena lights. Don't wait to grab your tickets and be part of the action!

See you around the Community this fall! As always, thank you for supporting Gila River Development, its properties, and the many programs and opportunities that help strengthen our Community.

### U of A and GRHC From Front Page

the first medical school branch in the country within a Tribal Nation will train physicians in an accelerated three-year MD program, support them with full scholarships to free them of debt burden and provide residency opportunities that anchor them to the places and patients they know. “That is how you build a physician workforce that stays in the communities that need them the most.”

Students accepted into the program will spend their first 18 months of foundational medical education in Phoenix before transferring to Sacaton for 18 months of clinical training at GRHC. Under faculty supervision, they will treat patients in a variety of clinical settings, learning firsthand how history, culture and social factors shape health outcomes in Native communities.

“This program is a generational shift,” Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said. “For too long, many of our young people who dreamed of becoming doctors had to leave home to pursue that dream,” said Lewis. “This partnership with the University of Arizona is changing that. “It allows them to learn, train and develop their careers right here in the community where they can make a real difference for the people they serve.”

GRHC Board Chairman Robert Pablo echoed the urgency of the effort. “There’s a real challenge for rural health hospitals to recruit trained professionals to come and work in their communities,” said Pablo. “We are very lucky to launch this first-of-its-kind partnership... which will set a starting ground for these young doctors to jumpstart their careers.”

Although the program’s stated mission is to serve Tribal health systems and in-



**GRHC Board Chairman Robert Pablo**  
**“There’s a real challenge for rural health hospitals to recruit trained professionals to come and work in their communities”**  
Miguel Sallard/GRIN

crease the number of Native people in medicine, neither GRHC nor the university has said whether the full-tuition scholarships will be limited to members of the Gila River Indian Community, open to students from other Tribal Nations, or open to any student who is admitted to the program. The lack of clarity has prompted questions from prospective students, educators and community members trying to understand who will benefit from the historic investment.

The first group of students is due to start training in summer 2027.

District Six Recreation Presents...

# Native American Celebration

ard social, O’odham cu:dk ,Giveaway, Food vendors  
Arts & Craft vendors  
All singers and dancers are welcome

Friday, September 18, 2026

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Komadk Kalka Park  
16580 S 51st Ave, Laveen AZ

For further information, please  
call D6 Recreation  
(520) 550- 3805 ext 2345 or  
(520) 610-7975

## October 5-9 is National Digital Inclusion Week!

At Digital Connect, we are obsessed with making sure you have the tools, skills, and resources to make the most of your broadband connection. We exist to help you improve your quality of life using modern technology.

Our goal is to help our community overcome the everyday obstacles created by the Digital Divide. Every day we help improve the lives of Gila River Indian Community members and residents by providing public Wi-Fi at the GRIC service centers, a home internet discount for Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI) customers, device distribution for those who need laptops, in-person Digital Navigator services, essential digital skills training, and STEM programs. This is our work. This is Digital Inclusion.

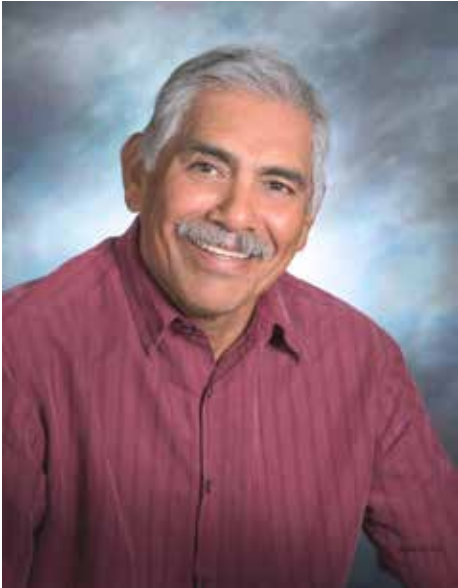
Broadband connections and digital literacy are just the beginning. We believe technology is a powerful tool that can elevate our community and, when used wisely, can help keep our traditions alive and build a stronger, more connected future for generations to come.

### DIGITAL CONNECT

an initiative of Gila River Telecommunications Inc.

DIGITALCONNECT.ORG | @DIGITALCONNECTINITIATIVE

# A’AGA: Something to be Told or Talked About



Submitted By  
Bill Allen

It's human to wonder about one's origins. Origin stories laid out footprints we walk with today. Where will our footprints lead?

Our Gila River Indian Community accepts Huhugam as the spelling for the Hohokam. In O’otham, huhug means ‘no more,’ so Huhugam are the ‘no more people.’

Huhugam culture existed for about 1,000 years, then the culture seemed to disappear around 1450 CE. (CE refers to the Common Era or year 0.)

Huhugam did not leave written records, chronicles, or record their language, what we have learned is from their man-made structures and artifacts. We know they marked their territory. What they left behind may tell us about what they valued.

Let us look at what is generally accepted about the Huhugam.

In the early stage of their development, Huhugam lived in groups of pit-housed or clusters, referred to as ‘courtyard groups.’ This arrangement was repeated and became known as the Snaketown style. Of course, no air conditioning or Wifi back then. The people—not just kids—lived most of the day outside. Those Snaketown ‘courtyard group’ villages raised Huhugam children. Now how are our children raised?

Along the Salt River, stone was used to make tools for digging irrigation canals and small, beautiful, delicate artifacts. At this time, Huhugam cremated their dead. Some Piipaash follow the cremation custom today.

Travel and trade lead to borrowing styles and materials. (And now we travel over the internet and ‘influencers’ have women wearing spider eyelashes and men putting big holes in their earlobes. Ha’u, I am a keli.) Our southern cousins deep in Mexico started making ballcourts about 600-900 CE, ballcourts began to appear here around 700 CE. A distinctive red-on-buff pottery became common and has been found far beyond the Salt and Gila Rivers. The trading of Huhugam red-on-buff pottery continued for another 200 years. Such trading must have had ideas going in both directions. O’otham of today are following a northern USA/southern Canadian style in wearing ribbon skirts/shirts which evolved in the 1800s. Google it.

Along the Salt River, more and longer canals had to be dug as additional lands were cleared for irrigation. Raised high dirt mounds appeared. Were the high mounds used to observe the lay of the land when digging canals? Or were they used to watch over the people, like ‘flock’ cameras of today? Or were they used as dance platforms, like a stage?

During the peak of Huhugam devel-

opment, ballcourt construction declined. (I don’t know, maybe the players were just getting too soft.) The Huhugam style of grouping houses, canal irrigation, and staying in one place was continued along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers. The settlements looked Huhugam, as the early Spanish explorers noted. The building of platform mounds continued.

Then at about 1190 CE, cremations fell out of favor. When individuals were buried, they were laid facing east. (What was the significance of facing east, for the Huhugam?)

During the late Classic Huhugam Period, 1300-1450 CE, pottery with black and red painted designs became the style. Morning trips to the river and seeing nature may have inspired potters to paint fish, toads, snakes, lizards, water birds. Red-on-buff pottery, carved stone, and shell work almost disappeared. Today, we can appreciate O’otham artisans who have revived stone carving and shell work.

Then the building of tall, large, multi-storied buildings, surrounded by adobe walls appeared, looking more like a pueblo. The tall buildings required long beams for the floors/roof and the closest timber of that kind was up in the Pinal mountains south of Globe. Changing to life in a ‘modern’ world, people moved towards these settlements. The Snaketown style of living around a plaza continued. New groups of houses were built but some houses were rebuilt on top of old houses. Archaeologists have suggested that by staying within a group, houses and property rights were passed within families. Disputes could be limited. Today we have wills, hopefully.

Platform mounds plastered on the sides and top were made bigger. Mounds became the focus of Huhugam settlements.

Such construction involved planning, organization, and supervision.

Did someone or a group of someones take control? It seemed like a different people had moved on to our keli akimel, old river (Gila).

All of a sudden, the multi-storied buildings and settlements were abandoned. People moved away. Life changed again for our ancestors. Did the someone or someones battle each other? Mesquite was a mainstay—the best wood for carving articles of war, cooking fires. Was too much mesquite being used for enlarging one story-houses? Huhugam in the Phoenix area stopped making platform mounds and the thick wall adobe houses. Smaller villages appeared reflecting a return to a simpler life. Even with those changes, the land itself was not abandoned. The Creation Story tells of how O’otham reclaimed this land.

Much later when the Spanish explorers came through our area, canals irrigated crops, pit-houses stood, red-on-brown pottery was being made. They saw a less rigid village structure and reasoned O’otham did not build the big houses. Traveling along the rivers, they noted each village seemed to rule on their own but would help neighboring villages. This would give rise to the O’otham – Piipaash Confederacy.

Our seven districts are a bit similar to that confederacy. What changes might come with the upcoming GRIC election? What footprints will be laid down for future O’otham? What will our descendants' treasure that we leave behind?

Information was taken from The Hohokam Millennium edited by Suzanne Fish and Paul Fish. A key article; Houses, Households and Household Organization by Douglas B. Craig and T. Kathleen Henderson.

## New Arizona Law Requires Updated ID Photos Every 16 Years

### PRESS RELEASE Arizona Department of Transportation

Starting this month, drivers may need to update their photo on file with the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division.

Beginning September 12, Arizona law, A.R.S. 28-3173, adjusts the time frame to update a photo from 12 years to 16 years.

The standard driver license typically expires when a person turns 65, but an updated photo is required to ensure the credential photo resembles you. The updated photo requirement will be the same if you have the standard Arizona driver license or the federally compliant Arizona Travel ID.

Many Arizonans have switched to the federally compliant Arizona Travel ID, which is valid for eight years and will satisfy TSA ID requirements at domestic airports, which the standard driver license does not.



Nearly half of all credentials in Arizona are now federally compliant Arizona Travel IDs. The new timeframe will require a new photo at every other Arizona Travel ID license renewal.

Those with a standard driver license or ID and an old photo may receive a letter in the mail explaining it is time to update your photo. Stop by an MVD office, or

schedule an appointment for a convenient time in your schedule by visiting [azmvdnow.gov](http://azmvdnow.gov). Even if you haven’t activated your AZ MVD NOW account, you can still schedule an appointment.

To learn more about the Arizona driver license and state IDs, please visit the driver license and ID webpage.



### Honoring Those We Lost, Supporting Those Left Behind

**A National Day of Remembrance Gathering for  
the Families of Murder Victims and Our  
Community**

**Thursday, September 24, 2026**  
**5pm-7pm**

**Gila River Indian Community  
Police Department-Sacaton, AZ**  
**Dinner Provided**

- Connect with GRIC Victim Services
- Meet the GRIC PD Cold Case Unit and update family contact information for Cold Cases
- Learn about available resources

**Remembering Our Loved Ones While Working  
Together to Bring Awareness and Justice to Families**

**For More Information Contact GRIC Victim  
Services  
(520) 562-4106**



Announcements & Notices

|                       |   |                              |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Susan Austin          | ) | Case Number: CV-2026-0158-RO |
| Plaintiff(s)          | ) |                              |
| Vs                    | ) |                              |
| Amelia Shaylyne Pablo | ) | TEMPORARY                    |
| Defendant(s).         | ) | CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER      |

THE ABOVE ENTITLED MATTER HAVING COME BEFORE THIS COURT, upon a motion for a RESTRAINING ORDER; and it appearing that a Restraining Order is needed and the Court finding good cause to issue and place into effect, this date, a Restraining Order against the named defendant, *AMELIA SHAYLYNE PABLO*.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE NAMED DEFENDANT IS RESTRAINED FROM COMING ABOUT THE NAMED *SUSAN AUSTIN, R. B. R. Y. B. R. B. R. B.* IN ANY MANNER:

UNTIL THE RESTRAINING ORDER HEARING SCHEDULED ON Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

FURTHER, A WARRANT OF ARREST WILL BE ISSUED, IF DEFENDANT VIOLATES THIS RESTRAINING ORDER.

Date: July 1, 2026

JUDGE of the Community Court

Gonzalez, Denise Michelle  
JV-26-0025  
In The Matter of: A.S.M. (D.O.B.:12/14/2018)  
To: Denise Michelle Gonzalez, RESPONDENT/PARENT

1. A Complaint / Petition has been filed against you in this Court and your immediate attention to this fact is urgent if you do not want judgment entered against you.

2. The Court record reflects that you have failed to respond to defend by filing an answer, motion to dismiss, request for extension of time or other responsive pleading and you have failed to attend hearings at the Court called for this matter.

3. If you do not defend against this suit within Thirty (30) days from the date the Process Server hands you this or you are served with it otherwise as permitted under the Community Code, the Court may enter default judgment against you.

4. A default judgment may have serious, adverse, and irreversible consequences against you.

5. If you want to defend against the claim and avoid default judgment entered against you, you must file a written answer, motion to dismiss or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days from when you are served with this Notice. The Court will not extend time for your response and you must make your response in writing, no oral responses will be accepted

6. If you do nothing, the Court may give Judgment for what the Complaint demands. (Section 5-16.1, Judgment by Default) Call 480-362-6315 for copy of documents.

DATED this 14th of July, 2026.  
Clerk of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Court

|                          |   |                              |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Deangela Angelica Garcia | ) | Case Number: CV-2026-0199-RO |
| Plaintiff(s)             | ) |                              |
| Vs                       | ) |                              |
| Kelvin Robert Santos     | ) | TEMPORARY                    |
| Defendant(s).            | ) | CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER      |

THE ABOVE ENTITLED MATTER HAVING COME BEFORE THIS COURT, upon a motion for a RESTRAINING ORDER; and it appearing that a Restraining Order is needed and the Court finding good cause to issue and place into effect, this date, a Restraining Order against the named defendant, *KELVIN ROBERT SANTOS*.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE NAMED DEFENDANT IS RESTRAINED FROM COMING ABOUT THE NAMED *DEANGELA ANGELICA GARCIA, A. G. L. G.* IN ANY MANNER:

UNTIL THE RESTRAINING ORDER HEARING SCHEDULED ON Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 9:30 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

FURTHER, A WARRANT OF ARREST WILL BE ISSUED, IF DEFENDANT VIOLATES THIS RESTRAINING ORDER.

Date: July 29, 2026

JUDGE of the Community Court

|                          |   |                              |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Margaret Vickie Johnson  | ) | Case Number: CV-2026-0202-RO |
| Plaintiff(s)             | ) |                              |
| Vs                       | ) |                              |
| Fletcher Allen Marrietta | ) | TEMPORARY                    |
| Defendant(s).            | ) | CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER      |

THE ABOVE ENTITLED MATTER HAVING COME BEFORE THIS COURT, upon a motion for a RESTRAINING ORDER; and it appearing that a Restraining Order is needed and the Court finding good cause to issue and place into effect, this date, a Restraining Order against the named defendant, *FLETCHER ALLEN MARRIETTA*.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE NAMED DEFENDANT IS RESTRAINED FROM COMING ABOUT THE NAMED *MARGARET VICKIE JOHNSON,* IN ANY MANNER:

UNTIL THE RESTRAINING ORDER HEARING SCHEDULED ON Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ

FURTHER, A WARRANT OF ARREST WILL BE ISSUED, IF DEFENDANT VIOLATES THIS RESTRAINING ORDER.

Date: July 29, 2026

JUDGE of the Community Court

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA

|                                                      |                              |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WILLIAM JAMES WILLIAMS JR. ,<br>Petitioner/Plaintiff | CASE Number: FM-2026-0048-PT |
| VS.                                                  | CIVIL                        |
| ENNADINA MARIE FIGUEROA,<br>Respondent/Defendant     | NOTICE OF HEARING            |

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, October 5, 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 13th day of July, 2026

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

Copy of the foregoing served by  
☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail ☐ Certified Mail  
This 13th day of July, 2026 to:

Ennadina Marie Figueroa  
14302 S. Durango Rd, Unit #4  
Arizona City, AZ, 85123

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA

|                                            |                              |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| KELLY MARIE LAWS ,<br>Petitioner/Plaintiff | CASE Number: FM-2026-0058-PT |
| VS.                                        | CIVIL                        |
| ROBERT LEE BLAINE,<br>Respondent/Defendant | NOTICE OF HEARING            |

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, November 2, 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 10th day of August, 2026

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

Copy of the foregoing served by  
☒ 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail ☐ Certified Mail  
This 10th day of August, 2026 to:

Robert Lee Blaine  
P.O. Box 1951  
Sacaton, AZ, 85147

Announcements & Notices



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Finance Department

The following list contains the names of individuals and other parties with outstanding checks recorded as of June 30, 2026. In accordance with Escheat Ordinance GR 10-09, the Community will publish the Escheat Public Notice. Public notice of unclaimed checks will be published in the Gila River Indian Newspaper and GRIC’s official web site. The department, program, or entity shall also post notice at all District Service Centers. For the funds to be claimed, the owner must make the claim in person within 30 days of publication or posting. In addition, to making claim, the person must provide the department, program, or entity with positive identification, including photo identification showing the person claiming the check is the last known owner. If the check is unclaimed for 60 days after publication, it shall escheat and title thereof shall vest in the Community, or as applicable to Federal, State, or other funding agencies.

If you are an owner of unclaimed property, please contact Virgilene Edwards of Finance Department at (520) 562-9596 for further instructions.

HANNAH VAVAGES  
JOAQUIN ESTEVAN  
MANUEL  
ROBERT GALVAN  
RYAN LEWIS  
BUNAC, FELIX  
CATHA, SAMMY  
ELIAS, RENEE A  
ENIS, EMERY R  
HARVEY, PANCRETIUS  
JAMES, FABIAN E  
JOHNS, PATRICK S  
JUAN, DANIEL P  
MEDINA, GEORGE G  
MIGUEL, TRINA R  
NELSON, LAMUAL C  
NORTHWIND, CHERI  
OCHOA, GLORIA J  
(MANUEL)  
PINKNEY, VEADA S  
ROBLES, MARGARET A  
ROBLES, RICHARD  
  
WILLIAM T. MORAGO  
NATIONAL NOTARY  
ASSOCIATION  
CAROL L. ARMSTRONG  
DISTRICT SEVEN  
COMMUNITY  
GLORIA F. SUNNA  
RONALD ALLISON JR.  
AMIL L. PEDRO  
DISTRICT FIVE  
COMMUNITY DISTRICT  
SIX COMMUNITY  
KISA MARIE CORCORAN  
PATRICIA Q. ALLEN  
TIMOTHY PIERSON  
CHERYL JOHNS  
EDWARD MENDOZA  
SHANE LINDSTROM  
JOHN R. STIREWALT JR  
CHERYL ESCHIEF  
JOHN HESTAND  
ALYTA HILLIARD  
JODY DON HAYNES  
HENRIETTA LOPEZ  
JANIS LAWS  
SHANE LINDSTROM  
DAVID BAKER  
CORNELIA GARCIA  
URBAN GIFF  
JOSEPH JACKSON JR

SHELDE, DAVID M  
SHIPLEY ESTATE,  
GEORGIANO (LEWIS)  
TEWA, MELVIN S  
TEWA, SAMUEL  
WEBB, LEO A  
YORK, JASON H  
DISTRICT ONE  
COMMUNITY  
ROSA MACAZAN  
PETSMART  
HUGHES, EMMETT  
JOHNSON, ARLENE P  
PETERS, SHELDON Z  
THOMAS, ROCHINDA S  
THOMAS, LEANNA K  
VINCENT, GREGORY L  
ROBERT MENDEZ JR  
KIERSTEN REHLING  
MIRIAM ACEVER-  
MENDEZ  
MICHAEL BOWERS  
  
DISTRICT SEVEN  
COMMUNITY  
DEJA SUSTAITA  
MARCHELLO FABIAN  
JOHNS  
JUAN CARMONA  
RUEBEN MATTIA  
CARMEN M. BALDWIN  
ORTEGA  
CLAYTON MARFORI  
CITLALLI CELAYA  
TRAVIS ORIAN  
DALLAS DELOWE  
JAMES CUTTER  
EDWARD MIGUEL SR  
LINDA PABLO  
TIMOTHY PIERSON  
MIX, DARVIN D.  
HULL, TODD T.  
ANTONE, AMANDA M.  
PABLO, SHEA L.  
TORRES, TRISTIAN A.  
SMITH, CLIFTON J.  
BUSTAMAMTE, GARRET  
Z.  
GORDON, TYLER P.  
RAMBLER, LOLA G.  
CARRA Jr, LARRY  
ORTIZ, ANGEL R.  
PABLO, CIERRA R.

PAUL OKONKWO  
MICHAEL PEREA  
KRISTOPHER  
STRICKLETT  
DAVID CARDOLA  
LAURA CLARK  
MELDOY LEE  
CAULLIN HUMPHI  
ANGEL ANN TRUI  
ANAHI ROBLES  
SAINT PETER INDI  
MISSION SCHOOL  
BOYD JONES  
DELORES LUGO  
CHASE WALKER  
KATHLEEN T. DAI  
TNT SHREDDING I  
GERALD A. STEW  
GILA RIVER HEAL  
CARE CORPORATI  
STARRIE SMITH  
JONATHAN MILES  
  
CITY OF TOLLESON  
ASSOCIATION OF  
HEALTHCARE INTERNAL  
AUDITORS  
LORENZO HARRISON  
DISTRICT ONE  
COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT SEVEN  
COMMUNITY  
  
JUAN Jr, CHESLEY E.  
SANCHEZ, LANCE H.  
LYONS, CLAYTON D.  
CATHA Jr, PATRICK A.  
NORRIS BURNETT,  
JAZMYN M.  
SOKE, DEVAN P.  
PRATT, DAVINA I  
JOSE, MIRA F.  
OROZCO, ANGELO  
ANTONE, ANTONELLI C.  
ANTONE, LONNIE B.  
ORTIZ, ANTONIO J.  
KISTO, SAMANTHA E.  
VOLTARES, ISSAC L.  
ANTONE, RAYANNE R.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • July 1, 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, July 1, 2026, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:02 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Ann Lucas

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present: D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Kristina Morago (9:10); Joseph Manuel, Jr. (9:06); D4- Leah Williams, Amy Morago, Nada Celaya, Alicia Ochoa; D5- James De La Rosa (9:06); Verna Sunna, Donovan Kyvitan, Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr. (9:12), Charles Goldtooth (9:13) Terrance Evans; D7- Jeanette Blasingim  
Council Members Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO

ACCEPT REPORT #1 AND #2; RESOLUTIONS #1 AND #2; AND NEW BUSINESS #6 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED  
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY  
Chief Judge Anthony Hill administered the Oath of Office to Gary T. Mix, Community Treasurer (15-Minute Reception in Chambers Lobby)  
[GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:40 A.M.]

P R E S E N T A T I O N S / INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS

>1. Gila River Asset Management – 2026 Great Call Report (Q1 and Q2)  
Presenters: Dayshawn Hendricks, Rachael Wierson, GRTI Board of Directors  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. Look Ahead Close Out Report  
Presenters: Leslie J. Baier, Mary Hoskin  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #3, #4, AND #5  
3. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council May 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Gila River Gaming Commission, Jerry Higginson  
ACCEPTED

4. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report May 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnelson, Tony DeMark, Majdi Kayyali, Oversight & Planning Committee  
ACCEPTED  
5. Schedule of Investments May 31, 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
ACCEPTED

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community and Maricopa County For Street Lighting On 51st Avenue/Beltline Road, 83rd Avenue, 87th Avenue, and 91st Avenue and Rescinding Resolution GR-048-23 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenter: Cheyenne Campbell  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. A Resolution Approving the Submission of Year Five of the Five-Year Grant Application To The United States Department of Health And Human Services, Administration for Children And Families, Office of Head Start, American Indian and Alaska Native Programs For Renewed Funding for The Gila River Indian Community Head Start/Early Head Start Program (G&MSC forwards to

Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)  
Presenter: Lance Reyna  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
3. A Resolution Rescinding GR-061-23 And Approving The 2026 Community Council Standing Committee Policies and Procedures (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Michael Carter  
APPROVED  
ORDINANCES  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
1. Oversight & Planning Committee One (1) Appointment  
Presenter: Community Council  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT COUNCILMAN JOSEPH MANUEL, JR. TO THE OVERSIGHT & PLANNING COMMITTEE  
NEW BUSINESS  
1. GRIC Grants Fund Independent Auditor’s Report and Single Audit Reporting Package (G&MSC forwards to Council and approves the Community Treasurer to submit the FY 2025 Single Audit Report to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse by the June 30, 2026, deadline)  
Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Ryan Luetkemeyer, Andy Osborn, Mark Graham, Neomi Martinez, Jesse Contreras, Faye Patton  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE GRIC GRANTS FUND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT AND SINGLE AUDIT REPORTING PACKAGE

2. Educational Engagement Featuring Indigenous Scientists (H&SSC forwards to Council under New Business)  
Presenter: Leslie J. Baier  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND  
3. National Tribal Health Conference 2026 August 16-21, 2026, Chandler, AZ (H&SSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenter: Nada Celaya  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS  
4. Letter of Resignation (ESC forwards to Council to Declare One (1) Vacancy and to open to any interested Council member)  
Presenter: Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE ONE (1) VACANCY AND TO OPEN TO ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT COUNCILMAN TERRANCE EVANS TO THE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
5. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Director’s Declaration of One (1) Vacancy (EDSC forwards to Council to declare one (1) vacancy for 60 days subject to a background check)  
Presenter: Shannon White  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE ONE (1)

VACANCY AND ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK  
>6. FY2026 Internal Audit Department 2nd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session and placement on the consent agenda with a recommendation to accept)  
Presenters: Laura Ryan, Derrith Lewis  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MINUTES

1. June 3, 2026 (Regular)  
APPROVED  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
• PRAYERS WERE REQUESTED FOR THE FAMILY OF MILDRED CLARICE SUNDUST  
• INFORMATION WAS REQUESTED ON VOTING FOR THE STATE, A REPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON  
• GILA RIVER DEVELOPMENT MEETING ON THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026  
• BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR COUNCILWOMAN AMY MORAGO  
• WELL WISHES FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY  
ADJOURNMENT  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:44 A.M.  
\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)  
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • July 15, 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, July 15, 2026, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:06 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Terrance Evans

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis (9:20)  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present: D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Joseph Manuel, Jr. (9:08); Kristina Morago, D4- Leah Williams, Amy Morago, Nada Celaya, Alicia Ochoa; D5- James De La Rosa (9:11), Verna Sunna, Donovan Kyvitan, D6- Anthony Villareal, Terrance Evans; Charles Goldtooth D7- Jeanette Blasingim  
Council Members Absent: Gordon Santos Jr. (Medical)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #1; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1, #2, AND #3; ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #1, #2, #6, AND #8 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS

>1. RRC Report to Council Regarding NIH Manuscripts  
Presenters: Nada Celaya, Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr., Kristina Morago, Amy Morago, Dr. Santiago, Dr. Murugavel  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
2. Gila River People Foundation Quarterly Report (January – March 2026)  
Presenters: GRPF Board of Directors, Veronica Vaughn, Judith Roth, Dr. Anthony Santiago

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT  
3. GRICUA FY26 Q2 Report  
Presenter: Ken Stock  
REPORT HEARD

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Recognizing The Amended Bylaws Of The Hashan-Kehk Elders Group of District Two (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Carol Schurz  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. 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  
>3. A Resolution Approving The Amended And Restated Articles Of Incorporation Of Native Technology Solutions, Inc. For Purposes Of Authorizing Native Technology Solutions, Inc. To Waive It’s Sovereign Immunity On A Limited Basis (EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Clarice Chiago-Jones, GRTI Board of Directors  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION  
4. A Resolution Approving The Attached Attorney Contract For A Water Rights Attorney (Executive Session) G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval in Executive Session)  
Presenter: Javier G. Ramos, Michael S. Carter  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION  
APPROVED

ORDINANCES UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS

>1. Housing Advisory Committee Appointment - District Five (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval under New Business and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Derwin Cooper, Trina Fasthorse

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. Housing Advisory Committee Appointment - District Six (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval under New Business and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Derwin Cooper, Trina Fasthorse  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
3. Housing Owner’s Team Vacancies (2) (G&MSC forwards to Council to declare 2 vacancies on the Housing Owner’s Team for Districts 4 and 6, and appoint at the July 15, 2026 Council meeting)  
Presenters: Housing Owner’s Team  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE TWO VACANCIES ON THE HOUSING OWNER’S TEAM  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT COUNCILWOMAN LEAH WILLIAMS AND TERRANCE EVANS TO THE HOUSING OWNER’S TEAM  
4. Investment Managers Presentation Request to Schedule Council Work Session (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and sets October 23, 2026 at Wild Horse Pass Casino as the date and place for the work session)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON OCTOBER 23, 2026 AT WILD HORSE PASS CASINO  
5. Enterprise Fleet Management Strategy (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Megan Gallagher, Richard Bono, Suzanne Jones, Tecumseh Manuel, Ronald Gritman, Fleet, Finance & Procurement Staff  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE  
>6. TribalNet Conference & Tradeshow (G&MSC forwards to Council for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues and Delegations and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Government & Management Standing Committee  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
7. GRHC Orientation Request to GRIC Community Council (H&SSC forwards to Council under New Business the GRHC Strategic Summit Request, September 21-22, 2026 at the Viola L. Johnson Administration Building)  
Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, Dr. Anthony Santiago  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE

THE GRHC STRATEGIC SUMMIT REQUEST, SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE VIOLA L. JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
>8. 2026 Connect America Fund – Intercarrier Compensation Data Submission (EDSC forwards to Council and for placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, GRTI Board of Directors  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
9..Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. – Notice of Board of Directors Vacancy (1) (EDSC forwards to Council to declare vacancy and appoint at the July 15, 2026 Council meeting)  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, GRTI Board of Directors  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE ONE (1) VACANCY FOR THE GILA RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT ANN LUCAS TO THE GILA RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
10. Honoring our Indigenous Partners through Art (CRSC forwards to Council with recommendation to approve the photographs for the new NIH Facility)  
Presenter: Leslie Baier  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE NEW NIH FACILITY

MINUTES

1. June 17, 2026 (Regular)  
APPROVED  
2. July 1, 2026 (Regular)  
APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• THE GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT WORK SESSION WILL BE HELD JULY 16-18, 2026 BEGINNING AT 9:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:11 A.M.  
\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)  
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • August 5, 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 August 5, 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.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

**ROLL CALL**

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present: Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present: D1-Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2-Ann Lucas; D3-Kristina Morago, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4-Leah Williams, Amy Morago, Nada Celaya, Alicia Ochoa; D5-James De La Rosa, Verna Sunna, Donovan Kyyitan; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Jeanette Blasingim  
Council Members Absent: D5-Gordon Santos, Jr.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND ADD DON PONGRACE, KATRINA WESBECKER, JEFF MOLINAR, AND RICHARD VERRI AS PRESENTERS  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE INTRODUCTION #1, REPORT #3, AND NEW BUSINESS #5 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1 AND #2; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #4, #8, #10 THROUGH #15; ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #3 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

Introduction – Tribal Education Department Director, Mr. Lance Reyna  
Presenters: Michael Preston, Lance Reyna

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
REPORTS

>1. Community Technology Center FY2025/2026 3rd Quarter Report  
Presenter: Connie Jackson  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51  
Presenters: Rechelle Jackson, Pamela Thompson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
3. Quality Assurance & Compliance Officer Report  
Presenter: Gregory Mitchem

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. Akin Gump FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Jason Hauter Don Pongrace  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
5. Dorsey & Whitney, LLP FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Andrew B. Brantingham Katrina Wesbecker  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
6. DR Law, PLLC FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Denten Robinson  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
7. Linus Everling FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Linus Everling  
HEARD AFTER REPORT #14 IN EXECUTIVE SESSION  
8. Keller-Bliesner Engineering, LLC FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Brian Westfall

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Lippes Mathias LLP FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Ian Shavitz  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Osborn Maledon, P.A. FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: David Rosenbaum Jeff Molinar

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Peter Mock Groundwater Consulting, Inc., FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Peter Mock  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. Public Policy Partners (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Meghaen Dell’Artino

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. Rosette, LLP FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Wyatt Rosette Richared Verri

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. Rothstein Donatelli, LLP FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Eric Dahlstrom

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. Linus Everling FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Linus Everling

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. The Center for Applied Research, Inc., FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Chad Linse

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. Yoder & Langford, P.C., FY26 Annual Report (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Robert Yoder

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report To The Community Council For June 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Gaming Commissioners, Jerry Higginson

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

18. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report For June 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnelson, Tony Demark, Majdi Kayyali

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. Schedule of Investments - June 30, 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

**RESOLUTIONS**

>1. A Resolution Approving The Fiscal Year 2027 Gila River Indian Community Indian Housing Plan For Implementation And Submittal To The United States Department Of Housing And Urban Development (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Derwin Cooper, Trina Fasthorse

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Indian Community To Apply For The Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)  
Presenter: Ron Lopez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding Regarding Expanded Non-National Historic Preservation Act And Non-State Historic Preservation Act Mandated Consultation With Tribal Nations Between The Gila River Indian Community And The City Of Tempe (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; CRSC concurs)  
Presenter: Reylynnne Williams

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License

To Active Family Development Foundation For Use At The Rawhide Western Town, The Event Center And The Sonoran Lawn On September 11, 2026, And September 12, 2026 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Bartley Harris

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2027 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

NOT APPROVED

6. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 65 To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Years 2027 Through 2031 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

DISPENSED

7. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Operating Budget And Capital Projects Budget For Fiscal Year 2027 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Tony Demark, Majdi Kayyali

APPROVED

>8. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Internal Audit’s Department Annual Audit Plan For Fiscal Year 2027 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with the additional information in Executive Session, recommends approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Laura Ryan, Derrith Lewis

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

9. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Tower And Land Sublease Agreement For The Santan Road Tower Site Between Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. And Gila River Cellular General Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless And Authorizing Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. To Waive Its Sovereign Immunity On A Limited Basis (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections to #5 Section 7 Rent of the supporting documentation; EDSC concurs with corrections)  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Alan Waters, Joan Burke, Todd Araujo, GRTI Board of Directors

APPROVED

>10. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Special Use Permit For Loop 202 Temporary Outdoor Storage Facility As Shown In Drawing No. 40426 0140 TP (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Planning Development Team, Sal Diccicio, Stephanie Stone, Sara Lucas

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. A Resolution Authorizing Personnel From The United States Census Bureau To Collect Data For The Current Population Survey Within The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Sara Duenez, Charles Tippeconnic

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>12. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Brannon Edward Garcia Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Sara Duenez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>13. Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Mackenzie Lauren Grey Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and

placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Sara Duenez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>14. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Keith Eric Antone Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Sara Duenez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>15. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Jonathan Pasqual Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Sara Duenez

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16. A Resolution Approving And Ratifying The Tower And Land Sublease Agreement For The Seed Farm Road Tower Site Between Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. And Gila River Cellular General Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless And Authorizing Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. To Waive Its Sovereign Immunity On A Limited Basis (EDSC motions to forward to Council for approval)  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Alan Waters, Joan Burke, Todd Araujo, GRTI Board of Directors

APPROVED

**ORDINANCES**  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request for Special Council Meeting – Code of Conduct Complaint Review of Investigative Report  
Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO REVIEW THE CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FILED ON GWENDOLYN MORAGO TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 28, 2026 AT 1:00 P.M.

2. Request for Work Session – Enterprise Orientation (G&MSC forwards to Council to select a suggested date)  
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnelson, Tony Demark, Majdi Kayyali

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A WORK SESSION REGARDING AN ENTERPRISE ORIENTATION, GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS TO COUNCIL TO SCHEDULE AUGUST 31, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE GILA RIVER CASINO & RESORT AT WILD HORSE PASS

>3. FY2026 Internal Audit Department 3rd Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session on the consent agenda with a recommendation to accept)  
Presenters: Laura Ryan, Derrith Lewis

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. 2026 Primary Election Candidates – Certification of Qualifications (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to certify, the candidate for Governor, Regina Antone, Stephen

Roe Lewis, Joseph Manuel, Jr., Monica Antone for the 2026 Primary Election) (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to certify, the candidate for Lt. Governor, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Amanda Mitchell, Miguel Valencia, James De La Rosa, Jewel Whitman for the 2026 Primary Election) (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to certify the candidate for Chief Judge, Brianna L. Rhodes, Anthony James Hill for the 2026 General Election) (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to certify the candidate for Associate Judge, Darren Pedro-Martinez, Lorina Allison, Christina D. Rodriguez, LaQuinta Allison, Gwendolyn P. Morago, Salvador De Luca, Kyle Hill, Charles W.

Aragon for the 2026 General Election)  
Presenters: Shannon White, Audrey L. Evans

THOSE RUNNING FOR OFFICE WERE REQUESTED TO RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM THIS ITEM.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT COUNCILWOMAN ANN LUCAS AS THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS ITEM

MOTION MADE AND SECOND REGARDING THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

CANDIDATES CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR, LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS TO COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO CERTIFY REGINA ANTONE, STEPHEN ROE LEWIS, JOSEPH MANUEL, JR., AND MONICA ANTONE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND REGARDING THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

CANDIDATES CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS TO COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO CERTIFY FRANKLIN PABLO, SR., BRIAN E. DAVIS, SR., AMANDA MITCHELL, MIGUEL VALENCIA, JAMES DE LA ROSA, AND JEWEL WHITMAN

MOTION MADE AND SECOND REGARDING THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

CANDIDATES CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF CHIEF JUDGE, LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS TO COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO CERTIFY BRIANNA L. RHODES AND ANTHONY JAMES HILL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND REGARDING THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

CANDIDATES CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE, LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS TO COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO CERTIFY DARREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ, LORINA ALLISON, CHRISTINA D. RODRIGUEZ, LAQUINTA ALLISON, GWENDOLYN P. MORAGO, SALVADOR DE LUCA, KYLE HILL, CHARLES W. ARAGON

5. Invitation to Fall NAFIS Conference (ESC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues and Delegations)

Presenters: Robert Lewandowski, Karen White

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Hiawatha Indian Asylum Annual Honoring (CRSC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenters: Reylynnne Williams, Darius Enos

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

**MINUTES**

1. July 15, 2026 (Regular)  
APPROVED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• THE LITIGATION TEAM MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 5, 2026 AT 3:00 P.M.

• A MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026 REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR THE I-10 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE DISTRICT 5 MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

**ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:56 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 • August 19, 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 August 19, 2026, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Joey Whitman

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present:  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present:  
D1-Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2-Ann Lucas; D3-Kristina Morago, Joseph Manuel, Jr (9:03); D4-Leah Williams (9:04), Amy Morago, Nada Celaya, Alicia Ochoa; D5-James De La Rosa, Verna Sunna, Donovan Kyyitan, Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth (9:15), Terrance Evans (9:30); D7- Jeanette Blasingim  
Executive Officers Absent:  
Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #2 AND #3; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #9 AND #12 THROUGH #49 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

\*1. Introduction – Tribal Education Department Director, Mr. Lance Reyna  
Presenters: Michael Preston, Lance Reyna  
MR. MICHAEL PRESTON MR. REYNA IS A COMMUNITY MEMBER AND RESIDES IN DISTRICT 2, HASHAN KEHK. MR. REYNA SERVED IN THE US ARMY AND HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MULTILINGUAL/ MULTICULTURAL K-12 EDUCATION WITH A MINOR IN SIGN LANGUAGE, AND HAS A MASTERS DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH AN EMPASIS IN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. MR. REYNA HAS WORKED IN THE COMMUNITY AS A TEACHER, K-12 MANAGER AND THE ASSISTANT TRIBAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR. MR. REYNA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS THE TRIBAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR AND LOOKS FORWARD TO FINDING NEW WAYS TO APPROACH THE NEED FOR EDUCATION.  
VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MR. REYNA ON HIS POSITION AND OFFERED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.  
2. Introduction - Human Resources Department Director, Dr. Gail Criss  
Presenters: Suzanne Jones, Gail Criss  
MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, MS. GAIL CRISS. MS. CRIS HAS 27 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN RESOURCES, TALENT ACQUISITION, ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND STRATEGIC OPERATIONS.  
DR. CRISS HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MASTERS IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, AND HAS TWO DOCTORATES, ONE IN ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ANOTHER IN BUSINESS. MS CRISS IS HAPPY TO BE HERE TO BRING HER PASSION AND DRIVE TO PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF.  
VARIOUS COUNCIL WELCOMED MS. CRISS TO THE COMMUNITY AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS WITH THE CURRENT HIRING PROCESS AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPROVEMENTS.  
REPORTS  
\*1. Quality Assurance & Compliance Officer Report  
Presenter: Gregory Mitchem  
REPORT HEARD  
>2. FY2026 Four Rivers Indian Legal Service 3rd Quarter Report April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026  
Presenters: Sarah Youngblood  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>3. Gila River Asset Management - Great Call Rapid Response System  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Dayshown Hendricks, GRTI Board of Directors  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORT #4  
4. FY2026 Financial Activity Report ending July 31, 2026 (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
ACCEPTED

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Approving A Child And Adult Care Food Program Permanent Agreement Between The Arizona Department Of Education Child Nutrition Programs And The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; ESC concurs)  
Presenters; Michelle Tohtsoni, Lance Reyna  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. A Resolution Consenting To A Non Transferable Fifty Year Residential Homesite Lease On Allotment 2569 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Sara Lucas  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>3. A Resolution Consenting To A Non Transferable Fifty Year Residential Homesite Lease On Allotment 2646 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Sara Lucas  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>4. A Resolution Consenting To A Non Transferable Fifty Year Residential Homesite Lease On Allotment 316 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda with a minor clerical correction to the name Denis and adding an e to the end to read "Denise"; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Sara Lucas  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>5. A Resolution Rescinding Resolutions GR-031-26 And GR-032-26 Pertaining To Purchase And Lease Agreements Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Jason Hauter, Javier Ramos  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #2 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; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Javier Ramos, Michael Carter  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>7. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Dorsey & Whitney, LLP For Fiscal Year 2026 (C7809) (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  
>8. A Resolution Approving The Public Safety Facility 105L Lease Between The Gila River Indian Community And The United States Department Of The Interior (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and LSC concur)  
Presenter: Todd Araujo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>9. A Resolution Approving The Addition Of The "I.T. Generative AI Acceptable Use Policy" To The Gila River Indian Community's "Employee Policies And Procedures Reference Guide" Under Section III Of The "Information Technology Policy" (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Chris Cabanillas  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
10. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 2 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  
11. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 65 To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Years 2026 Through 2030 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
APPROVED

>12. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Goodyear For 1n10 DBA One-N-Ten, Goodyear LGBTQ+ Youth Attending Satellite Programs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>13. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Goodyear For Sounds Of Autism, Unified Responders Community Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>14. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Peoria For Zuri's Circle – My Beautiful Circle, Growing Minds & Feeding Future: Garden Education And Youth Entrepreneurship Expansion (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>15. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Scottsdale For Scottsdale Human Services Department Youth Education And Recreation Programs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>16. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Advance Community, Show Up! Youth Community Health Educator Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>17. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Arizona State University Foundation For A New American University, Living Archives: Contemporary Indigenous Voices For The 21st Century Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>18. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Encircle Families, Maricopa County Transition Institute For Youth And Young Adults With Disabilities (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>19. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Elevate Phoenix, Kinetic Kids: Igniting Future Success For Underserved Youth Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>20. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Elevate Phoenix, Kinetic Kids: Igniting Future Success For Underserved Youth Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>21. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Foundation For Blind Children, Preschool For Blind And Visually Impaired Children (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>22. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus-Pine Council 2026 Girl Scout Leadership Experience (G&MSC forwards to Council with

a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>23. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For Imprints Of Honor, FY27 Character And Civic Education Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>24. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For The Opportunity Tree, Tree Fort Youth Transitions Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>25. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For School Connect, 2026 Programs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>26. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County For St. Joseph's Youth Camp Inc., Counselor-In-Training Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>27. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Pima County For Pueblo High School Wrestling, Facilities Replacements And Upgrades (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>28. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Yuma County For Yuma County Superintendent's Office, Rural Schools Support Services Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>29. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Avondale For Avondale Parks Recreation And Libraries, Books For Literacy Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>30. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Casa Grande For The Boys And Girls Clubs Of The Sun Corridor, Project Learn (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>31. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Casa Grande For Casa Grande Arts And Culture Commission, Educational Mini Grants (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>32. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Casa Grande For Casa Grande Friends Of The Arts, Kratzka House Preservation And Community Arts Enhancement Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>33. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Casa Grande For Casa Grande Union High School District, Court Improvement Project, Casa Grande Union High School (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>34. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Casa Grande For The Natural Resource Education Center, Fun Filled AG-Ventures Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>35. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Casa Grande For Pinal Hispanic Council, Celebrating Pinal Community Scholars Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>36. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Chandler For Chandler Education Foundation, Culturally Grounded After-School Enrichment And Chandler Unified Pow Wow (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>37. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Chandler For ICAN Positive Programs For Youth, Helping Youth Thrive Through Positive Youth Development Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>38. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Chandler For Si Se Puede Foundation DBA Fire wheel Stem Institute, Stem Enrichment Programming (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>39. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Arizona Educational Foundation, Story Sprouts Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>40. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Arizona Jewish Historical Society, Museum Without Walls: Holocaust Education In The Classroom Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>41. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Arizona Science Center, Stem Learning Programs For Children In Need (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>42. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Delivering Dreams Of Arizona, Delivering Dreams Bus Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>43. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Friends Of Public Radio Arizona, Spot 127 Youth Media Center Recording Studio Build-OU (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>44. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For New Pathways For Youth, Inc., Level Up Program (G&MSC forwards to

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • August 19, 2026

Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>45. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For Phoenix Coding Academy, Phoenix Union High School District (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>46. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Phoenix For The Phoenix Symphony, In-School Assembly Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>47. A Resolution Designating The Right Of Way Negotiation Team To Serve As The Negotiation Team For The Renewal Of Southwest Gas Corporation's Right Of Ways Throughout The Gila River Indian Reservation (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  
>48. A Resolution Approving A Grant Of A Right Of Way To Tucson Electric Power Company Covering 51.455 Acres Of Fee Land Owned By GRIC Land Holdings, LLC And Located In Sections 11 And 12, Township 2 South, Range 1 West, In Maricopa County And Outside The Gila River Indian Reservation (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  
>49. A Resolution Approving The Administrative Modification To The Grant Of Right-Of-Way Easement No. RW00000174 Approved On March 5, 2015 Between The Gila River Indian Community, Certain Allotted Landowners, The U.S. Department Of The Interior, Bureau Of Indian Affairs And El Paso Natural Gas Company, L.L.C., Which Adds 0.0185 Acres Of Tribal Land That Was Inadvertently Excluded From The Original Grant Of Easement (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda, EDSC concurs)  
Presenter: Todd Araujo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ORDINANCES UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS**  
\*1. Invitation to Fall NAFIS Conference (ESC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues and Delegations)  
Presenters: Robert Lewandowski, Karen White  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS  
2. Investment Manager Meeting Invitation (G&MSC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing dues and delegations)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS  
3. NAFOA Fall Conference (G&MSC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues and Delegations)

Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS  
4. Gila River Health Care Corporation (including the Caring House) FY2025 Audit Presentation (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept; H&SSC concurs)  
Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, REDW  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT  
**MINUTES ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
• PRAYERS WERE REQUESTED FOR THE FAMILY OF KENNETH PABLO  
**ADJOURNMENT**  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:57 A.M.  
\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)  
> Denotes a CONSENT AGEDA ITEM

### Announcements & Notices

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for air quality operating permits for the following facilities:

| Facility Name               | Facility Type         | Permit Action          | District | Significant Air Pollutants Emitted*      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|
| Vulcan Asphalt San Tan      | Hot Mix Asphalt Plant | Modification/ Renewal  | 4        | NOx, VOC, SOx, CO, PM, PM10, PM2.5, HAPs |
| Vulcan Asphalt Maricopa     | Hot Mix Asphalt Plant | Modification/ Renewal  | 4        | NOx, VOC, SOx, CO, PM, PM10, PM2.5, HAPs |
| CEMEX – San Tan             | Concrete Batch Plant  | Modification/ Renewal  | 4        | PM, PM10                                 |
| CEMEX - Maricopa            | Concrete Batch Plant  | Modification/ Renewal  | 4        | PM, PM10                                 |
| Rock Solid                  | Concrete Batch Plant  | Renewal                | 4        | PM, PM10                                 |
| Martin Marietta - Sacaton   | Concrete Batch Plant  | Renewal                | 4        | PM, PM10, PM2.5                          |
| Lone Butte Trade Center #2  | Gas Station           | Renewal                | 4        | VOC                                      |
| Love's #328                 | Gas Station           | Modification / Renewal | 4        | VOC                                      |
| Wild Horse Pass Chevron     | Gas Station           | Renewal                | 4        | VOC                                      |
| Toka Sticks Service Station | Gas Station           | Renewal                | 4        | VOC                                      |

\* “Significant” means the following air pollutants have the potential to be emitted at quantities greater than one ton per year: NOx = Nitrogen Oxides; VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds; SOx = Sulfur Oxides; CO = Carbon Monoxide; PM = Particulate Matter; PM10 = PM <10 Microns; PM2.5 = PM <2.5 Microns; HAPs = Hazardous Air Pollutants

Public Notice Start Date: **September 11, 2026**  
Public Notice End Date: **October 10, 2026**

Public comments will be accepted in writing until the public notice end date, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received.

Any person may submit a written comment or a request to the DEQ to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving oral or written comments on the proposed air quality operating permits. Such comments and requests shall be received by the DEQ within 30 days of the date of the first publication notice. A written comment shall state the name and mailing address of the person, shall be signed by the person, his agent or his attorney and shall clearly set forth reasons why the permit should or should not be issued. Grounds for comment are limited to whether the proposed permit meets the criteria for issuance prescribed in the GRIC Code: Title 17, Chapter 9 of the Air Quality Management Plan. Only persons who submit written comments may appeal a permit decision.

Copies of the permit application, the proposed permit, and relevant background material will be available for review on the AQP website at:

<http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/education–outreach/public-notices>.

Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to:

Gila River Indian Community  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Ryan Eberle  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2139, Sacaton, AZ 85147

For further information or to schedule an in-person review, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520) 796-3781 / [air@gric.msn.us](mailto:air@gric.msn.us).

### ATTENTION

IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THIS LIST; PLEASE CONTACT THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ROW OFFICE AT 480-362-6870.

| THOMAS ROAD MATCHING UTILITY EASMENT |           |              |          |    |            |                      |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|----|------------|----------------------|
| 1                                    | JONATHAN  | ANDREW       | AGENT    | 42 | ERIC       | MATTHEWS             |
| 2                                    | ANTHONY   | RAY          | ALLISON  | 43 | AMANDA     | CELIA MITCHELL       |
| 3                                    | ANGELA    | MAY          | ANTONE   | 44 | ALSHOUN    | RICHE MOORE          |
| 4                                    | LAWRENCE  | D.           | BEGAY    | 45 | BRYANNA    | GRACE MORGAN         |
| 5                                    | ISABEL    |              | BENITEZ  | 46 | ALTHEA     | ROBERTA RAY          |
| 6                                    | JOSEPHINE | KAYE         | BENITEZ  | 47 | PHILLIP    | MARK SANTOS          |
| 7                                    | FELIX     |              | BUNAC    | 48 | JERRY      | SAVALA               |
| 8                                    | ASHLEY    | VERONICA     | CACHORA  | 49 | JENNIFER   | ANN SMITH            |
| 9                                    | CODY      | M.           | CACHORA  | 50 | APRIL      | VICTORIA STRANGE     |
| 10                                   | CLIFTON   |              | CARD     | 51 | THELMA     | ANTON TERRY          |
| 11                                   | CONRAD    | KENNETH      | CARMEN   | 52 | PEGGY      | A. WAGNER            |
| 12                                   | EDGAR     | CRAZYHORSE   | CHAPMAN  | 53 | MARCELLINE | WALKER               |
| 13                                   | TINO      |              | CHAPMAN  | 54 | ANGELINE   | LUANNE WASHINGTON    |
| 14                                   | NORA      |              | CHIAGO   | 55 | JOYCELYN   | MARIE WHITE          |
| 15                                   | PAUL      | LELAND       | CONSEEN  | 56 | MICHAEL    | THOMAS WHITE         |
| 16                                   | CARRIE    | LYNN         | DALLAS   | 57 | ADAINE     | RAY WILLIAMS         |
| 17                                   | RICHARD   | LEE          | ENIS     | 58 | AUBREE     | RAY WILLIAMS         |
| 18                                   | DERRICK   | EARL         | ENOS     | 59 | HAILEY     | NANCY MARIE WILLIAMS |
| 19                                   | JEANETTE  | DORIS        | ENOS     | 60 | JOSHUA     | DALE WILLIAMS        |
| 20                                   | LAWRENCE  |              | ENOS     |    |            |                      |
| 21                                   | LORI      | ALICE        | ENOS     |    |            |                      |
| 22                                   | PATRICIO  | MATUS        | GOMEZ    |    |            |                      |
| 23                                   | DANIEL    |              | GONZALES |    |            |                      |
| 24                                   | DEANNA    | RAE          | HARRIS   |    |            |                      |
| 25                                   | CARLEENA  | MARIA        | HARVEY   |    |            |                      |
| 26                                   | RACHEL    | MARIE        | HAYNES   |    |            |                      |
| 27                                   | VICTOR    | E.           | JACKSON  |    |            |                      |
| 28                                   | CHRISTINE | LURLEEN      | JOSE     |    |            |                      |
| 29                                   | CODY      | MCQUEEN      | JUAN     |    |            |                      |
| 30                                   | CHARITY   | LYNN         | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 31                                   | HAZEL     | GILDA        | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 32                                   | LANCELOT  | D.           | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 33                                   | LEANDER   | RONALD       | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 34                                   | MONICA    | ANDREA       | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 35                                   | RICKY     |              | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 36                                   | SANDRA    | LYN          | LEWIS    |    |            |                      |
| 37                                   | SHIRLEY   | A.           | LOPEZ    |    |            |                      |
| 38                                   | CARESSA   | PURPLE SKY   | MANUEL   |    |            |                      |
| 39                                   | JASON     | SOARING HAWK | MANUEL   |    |            |                      |
| 40                                   | OLIVIA    | ELIZABETH    | MANUEL   |    |            |                      |
| 41                                   | ADRIENE   | CHRISTINE    | MATTHEWS |    |            |                      |

On behalf of the O’Odham Women Veterans Group we would like to respectfully thank all that contributed their time and donations to our event on Saturday, July 18, 2026. This was a day to appreciate all the O’Odham Women Veterans that served our great country. It has been a long time coming and most of all deserving. We had a total of (89) attendees representing the Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Tohono O’Odham Nation and other Tribes as well. We had Women Veterans attend from Texas and Colorado. Everyone had a great time, meeting each other and participating in the activities throughout the day.

We acknowledge and are grateful to the following:

Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor – Gila River Indian Community  
Haskell Osife-Antone Post#51  
Haskell Osife-Antone Unit#51 Women’s Auxillary  
Ira H. Hayes Post#84  
Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council-Gila River Indian Community  
Robert Stone/Blessing  
Mr. Sam/Blessing  
Leland Thomas-Singer/ Basket Dancers  
District Five Basket Dancers  
Kim Skelton/Darrell Whitman-Veteran and Family Services Office  
Joey Whitman, District One Councilmen  
Duane Jackson, Jr., District One Councilmen  
DJ-Juantime, Beading Stations, Tissue Flower Station, Masseur Station, Coloring, Nail Stations  
Cooper’s Concessions & Catering  
Doreen Atkinson-Juan  
O’Odham Sweets  
District Four Multi-Purpose Staff  
District Five Multi-Purpose Staff  
Family and Friends/All the Volunteers

If there is anyone we forgot to mention, you have our heartfelt thanks as well.

Respectfully,

O’Odham Women Veterans Group

★ VETERANS ★  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VA awards more than \$3M in grant to Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 2, 2026

WASHINGTON —The Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announced today that it has awarded a grant of up to \$3,109,391 to Arizona for the expansion of the Southern Arizona Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista.

The cemetery serves more than 104,000 Veterans and their eligible family members in the region. The grant will fund the construction of 2,600 columbarium niches, hardscape, landscape, irrigation and supporting infrastructure.

"These grants enable the states to better serve Veterans and their families where they live" said VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Sam Brown.

"Because of this program, more than 94% of Veterans living in the United States have access to the burial benefits they have earned at a cemetery within 75 miles of where they live."

Since 1980, VA has awarded 525 grants totaling over \$1 billion to establish, expand, improve, operate, or maintain 125 Veterans cemeteries.

In 2025, VA grant-funded cemeteries interred more than 44,705 Veterans and eligible family members, which is approximately 25% of the 174,398 total annual interments in all national and VA grant-funded Veterans cemeteries.

For more information about Southern Arizona Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery, contact Cemetery Director Joe Larson at 520-458-7144 or avmcsv@azdvs.gov

## Navajo Code Talkers Day

**PRESS RELEASE**  
Arizona Governor’s Office on Tribal Relations

For the second year in a row, the Governor’s Office on Tribal Relations was honored to collaborate with the Phoenix Indian Center to recognize Navajo Code Talker Day at the Arizona State Capitol.

On August 14, the community gathered to reflect on the bravery and extraordinary service of the Dine’ Marines who used Dine’ bizaad (the Navajo language) to create an unbreakable code that contributed to victory in the Pacific in World War II.

President Ronald Reagan designated August 14 as National Navajo Code Talker Day and in his proclamation wrote, “equipped with the only foolproof, unbreakable code in the history of warfare, the code talkers confused the enemy with an earful of sounds never before heard by code experts. The dedication and unswerving devotion to duty shown by the men of the Navajo Nation in serving as radio code talkers in the Marine Corps during World War II should serve as a fine example for all Americans.”

Jason Chavez, Tribal Affairs Director,

led as Master of Ceremony for the event which also included participation from David Z. Bean, Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, journalist Colton Shone, and Corporal Lawrence Lano, Vice Commander of the Ganado Veterans Organization. Also in attendance were descendants of Navajo Code Talkers, numerous veterans’ organizations, and Lance Corporal Thomas H. Begay. Mr. Begay enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1943 and deployed as a Navajo Code Talker with the 5th Marine Division to the Pacific Islands. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, Begay transmitted hundreds of secret messages over the radio network. He was honorably discharged from the Marines in 1946 and went on to serve in the United States Army during the Korean War. Among his many awards are the Presidential Unit Citation with three Bronze Stars, and the Meritorious Unit Citation with the Korean Service Medal with five Bronze Stars. In 2001, he received the Congressional Silver Medal from President George W. Bush.

Dylan Dalzotto, Assistant Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services, presented a proclamation from Governor Katie Hobbs designating August 14, 2026, as Navajo Code Talkers Day in Arizona.

### PHOTOS FROM PAGE 3



Veterans escort family of Ira Hayes and members of American Legion Post 84 to Post 62. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Family of Ira Hayes and veterans during the flag raising outside of Post 62 in Peoria. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Veterans raise the flag during the ceremony. Emma Hughes/GRIN



Veteran salute during the flag raising. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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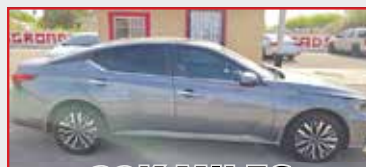
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(2) Nissan Altima 27/38 mpg  
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17/25 mpg  
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26/33 mpg  
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25/30 mpg  
2021 Chrysler 300  
19/30 mpg  
2025 Kia K4 29/39 mpg  
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## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

*Save The Date!!*

# WELLNESS FAIR

**September 24, 2026**

**10 am - 12 pm**

**District 4 Service Center**



Call us, for more information,  
Public Health Nursing  
(520) 550-6042



## September 2026 Health Update Newsletter

- National Fruit & Veggies Month Recipes
- September Health Observances
- Suicide Prevention Month: Every Conversation Matters
- Childhood Cancer Awareness: Supporting Our Young Warriors
- Prostate Cancer Awareness: Take Charge of Your Health
- National Recovery Month: Recovery is Possible
- Behavioral Health Services Presents: 988 Fest and Yes To Life! RV Tour



SCAN ME



## Upcoming Holiday Closure

GRHC Administrative and Outpatient clinics will be **CLOSED** Friday, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th 2026 for Native American Recognition Day.

Please call (520) 562-3321 if you have any questions.

**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988**

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