



## Arizona Governor Doug Ducey Signs Historic Gaming Compact

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

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis took part in the historic Tribal-State Gaming Compact Amendment signing with Arizona tribal leaders and Gov. Doug Ducey at the Heard Museum in Phoenix on April 15. The amended compacts modernize gaming for the 21st Century and will expand the number of gaming devices and allow for new casinos.

Arizona's Tribal-State Gaming Compacts were first signed in 1992. The compact was updated through Proposition 202, which state voters approved in 2002.

Ducey led off the proceedings with opening remarks calling the event, "truly historic" and noting the ties between the state and the tribes in Arizona. The compact amendments and the associated legislation took more than five



Gov. Lewis signs a copy of the amended tribal gaming compact on April 15 at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

years to negotiate, said Ducey, calling the signing a "win-win-win for the tribes, for the state and for the taxpayers."

Ducey noted that gaming employs thousands across Arizona and generates millions in tax revenue while providing funding sources for tribal self-sufficiency.

Ducey introduced Gov. Lewis while applauding the hard work

and commitment the Community's governor demonstrated during negotiations. "You have been invaluable to the process and invaluable as a partner," said Ducey.

Gov. Lewis called the compact signing a "momentous occasion," and like Ducey said that all the stakeholders will benefit from the agreement. "I'm filled with



GRIC leadership hold a copy of the signed compact during historic signing event at the Heard Museum on April 15. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

gratitude and appreciation," said Gov. Lewis in his remarks.

Gov. Lewis recalled the early negotiation process between the state and the tribes and the doubts among stakeholders, which made the signing event more meaningful. "It's taken years to bring full-circle," said Gov. Lewis of the compact amendments. "Thank you for your leadership

and all my fellow tribal leaders here."

National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. was also on hand to witness the signing and show support to the tribes in Arizona.

"Today, is a good day to move Indian Country forward and move Arizona forward," said Stevens.

## New Mobile Vaccine Units Begin Rolling Out into the Community

*"We now have a resource that can bring the vaccine to your household and local districts"*  
- Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community has unveiled a new way to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to Community members. In a series of opportunities to reach Community members, the GRIC COVID-19 task force held a vaccination clinic at the Rawhide Event Center at Wild Horse Pass on April 26.

The event also offered Community members and partners on the COVID-19 vaccine initiatives, an opportunity to see the unveiling of the new Mobile Vaccination Unit. Referred to as an MVU, these vehicles have been outfitted to provide vaccinations across the Community at various locations.

"I am excited to share the Community's latest resource in our fight against COVID-19," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. He said the MVUs are part of the Community's efforts to get vaccinations to GRIC members who have not been able to attend previous vaccination events.

"We now have a resource that can bring the vaccine to your household and local districts," said Lewis. "These MVUs represent our Community, our ability to seek



L-R: Bob Pablo, GRHC Board Member, Dr. Ty Reidhead, IHS Phoenix Area Director, Rep. Tom O'Halleran, Gov. Lewis and Lt. Gov. Antone, unveiled the new MVU's at the vaccination clinic on April 26. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

innovative solutions to challenges confronting our community."

Larry Borden, the Founder & CEO of Aardvark Mobile Health, attended the unveiling. "It's truly an hour to be here today, as we deliver the first mobile vaccination unit to your community," said Borden. He said the most rewarding part of his team's work is seeing the mobile units being utilized to deliver vaccines to families in rural areas of the country, such as the Community.

Borden said it is the first time Aardvark has worked with a tribal nation. According to Borden, when his company saw the pandemic impacting communities across the U.S., he realized how important it would be to for healthcare

workers to have a mobile testing and vaccination unit available.

"Today represents all of the reasons why we at Aardvark Mobile Health do what we do," said Borden.

Lewis was joined by Congressman Tom O'Halleran, who has supported the Community's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

O'Halleran said during the pandemic, he has kept the needs of tribal communities as a top priority. "I have been committed to making sure the Community receives the funding for healthcare, housing vaccinations, broadband and tribal governmental needs," said O'Halleran. He added, "This is such an important and innovative way to make sure the



Paulo Tulle is administered the Pfizer vaccine at the vaccination clinic on April 26. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

entire community has access to the vaccine."

According to Gov. Lewis, currently 41 percent of the Community has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We realized, in order to get to the level of 'Community Immunity,' we need an individualized approach to bringing the vaccine out to Community members," the Lewis explained.

The MVU's can be customized to the end users' needs, including being used after the pandemic subsides for everything from healthcare tests to delivering medical services.

"I want to thank the Community's COVID-19 task force, who worked through the

logistics to bring [these] MVU's to our community," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, who added that there has been a great deal of collaboration toward making the Community an even safer place as vaccines become widely available to GRIC members.

"There is a lot more work ahead as we move through this pandemic, but with many individuals working tirelessly behind the scenes, we have many to thank for getting the vaccines out to our people," said Antone.

Antone, said it is important to get vaccinated for individual protection, for families and the Community in order to reach "Community Immunity." Antone

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**Local MMA Fighter Finds Success in the Ring.**

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**COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY**

**MAY 2021 SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>TIME:</b>
May 11	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
May 12	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
May 13	D2 Service Center	TBA
May 15	Mobile Vaccine Unit	TBA
May 16	Mobile Vaccine Unit	TBA
May 17	Rawhide Vaccine Event	12 am - 8 pm
May 18	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
May 19	D3 Boys & Girls Club	9 am - 4 pm
May 20	D4 Service Center	9 am - 3 pm
May 21	D6 Service Center	9 am - 3 pm
May 22	D7 Service Center	9 am - 3 pm
May 24	Mobile Vaccine Unit	TBA



**CONGRATULATIONS! The Caring House receives a five-star Long Stay Quality Measure rating from CMS.**

The Caring House underwent a recent audit by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Quality Control Measures in both long stay (more than 100 days) and short stay (less than 100 days) residencies.

In the long-stay category, officials reviewed various data, including the percentage of residents experiencing one more injury falls and the rate of high-risk residents with pressure sores. For the short stay category, officials looked at the percentage of residents with pressure injuries and those who improved during their stay. The Caring House scored five stars in the long-stay category (which includes most residents) and three stars in the short-stay category. The average rating for The Caring House rose from 2020, going from three stars to four.



*Reminder*  
**MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURE**  
Gila River Health Care's Administrative Offices  
and Outpatient Clinics will be  
**CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021**





Governor  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Monica Antone**

Community Council  
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Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Carol Schurz

**District 3**  
Avery White  
Rodney Jackson

**District 4**  
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**District 6**  
Anthony Villareal, Sr.  
Terrance B. Evans  
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**District 7**  
Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer  
Shannon White,  
Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us  
CPAO Acting Director  
(520) 562-9719

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
christopher.lomahquahu@gric.nsn.us  
GRIN Acting Managing Editor  
(520) 562-9718

**Emma Hughes**  
Emma.Hughes-Juan@gric.nsn.us  
Community Newsperson  
(520) 562-9852

**Kyle Knox**  
Kyle.Knox@gric.nsn.us  
Community Newsperson  
(520) 562-9717

**Gina Goodman**  
gina.goodman@gric.nsn.us  
GRIN Secretary II  
(520) 562-9715

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

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

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# Phoenix Rising FC Plays First Game in the Community

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Rising Football Club made their debut at their new stadium at Wild Horse Pass on Friday, April 30. Phoenix Rising officially kicked off their 2021 season with a 4-1 victory against the San Diego Loyal SC to a roaring crowd of fans and supporters Friday evening.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was present for the opening ceremony before the match began. "Phoenix Rising, welcome to the Gila River Indian Community for your first game. It is truly an honor to host the Phoenix Rising organization. We are so fortunate to be the host some of the top athletes in the spirit and discipline of soccer," said Lewis.

As part of the ceremony, Gov. Lewis also opened the season by scoring the "first goal" in the new stadium. Local American Legion



**Phoenix Rising fans get charged-up before the start of their match against San Diego Loyal SC.**  
Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



**Gov. Lewis makes the "first goal" before the start of the game on April 30 at Phoenix Rising Stadium.**  
Emma Hughes/GRIN

Post 51 color guard presented the colors for the national anthem. And a brief tribute was paid to former EMS Chief Lawrence White, who recently passed away, where his photo was displayed on the large digital scoreboard.

"It was awesome, I felt that vibe, the red smoke when we scored goals. And when I got that feeling, I was like, 'okay, we're home'...It was fantastic, I was so happy and so proud of the boys."

said Phoenix Rising head coach Rick Schantz in a post-game interview.

There are thirteen more home games set for the remainder of the season that goes all the way until October. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, stadium attendance is capped at 50 percent. Everyone is also required to wear a mask at the stadium.

Fans enjoyed the new stadium setting and location in the valley

despite the COVID-19 restrictions. Season ticket holder Kristy Medina said, "The stadium is beautiful, parking is amazing, there are two ways to get to the stadium versus one, it is awesome."

Phoenix Rising's next match is against Oakland Roots SC Saturday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. The game will be broadcasted on the local CW61 channel 61.1 and on the ABC 15 mobile app for cell phones and smart devices.

# GRIC Youth Hosts Virtual Presentation with Former Miss Indian World

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Former Miss Indian World (MIW) 2019-2021 Cheyenne "Eete" Kippenberger shared her extraordinary life journey during a presentation for youth hosted by the Akimel O'otham/ Pee-Posh Youth Council on Sunday, May 2.

Cheyenne Kippenberger is from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She served as Miss Indian World for two years, a first for a titleholder. She officially ended her reign on Saturday, April 24 but continues to pursue working with Native youth around the country.

Kippenberger's presentation recounted her struggles with her mental health growing up while overcoming numerous challenges in pursuing her dreams. The presentation provided youth a chance to dialogue as a group with Kippenberger about her experiences. Kippenberger also shared how she was able to persevere through therapy and counseling in order for her to find balance and continue to build

upon her success.

"I think mental health is extremely important to the general health of all of our communities, and I think we should normalize the conversations about it and destigmatize the negative connotations about mental health," said Kippenberger.

Kippenberger said the event was "really awesome" as everyone could still connect as if it were an in-person event despite being held over Zoom. Furthermore, she feels it is a win when everyone in the presentation participates and learns something new. Part of Kippenberger's presentation also highlighted "generational trauma" found among tribal communities that can continue with our youth without knowing it.

AOPPYC President Susanna Osife found many takeaways from the presentation and enjoyed everything that Kippenberger shared. "As a youth, it is one thing to be told how to get better, but it is another thing to go through that experience and not know



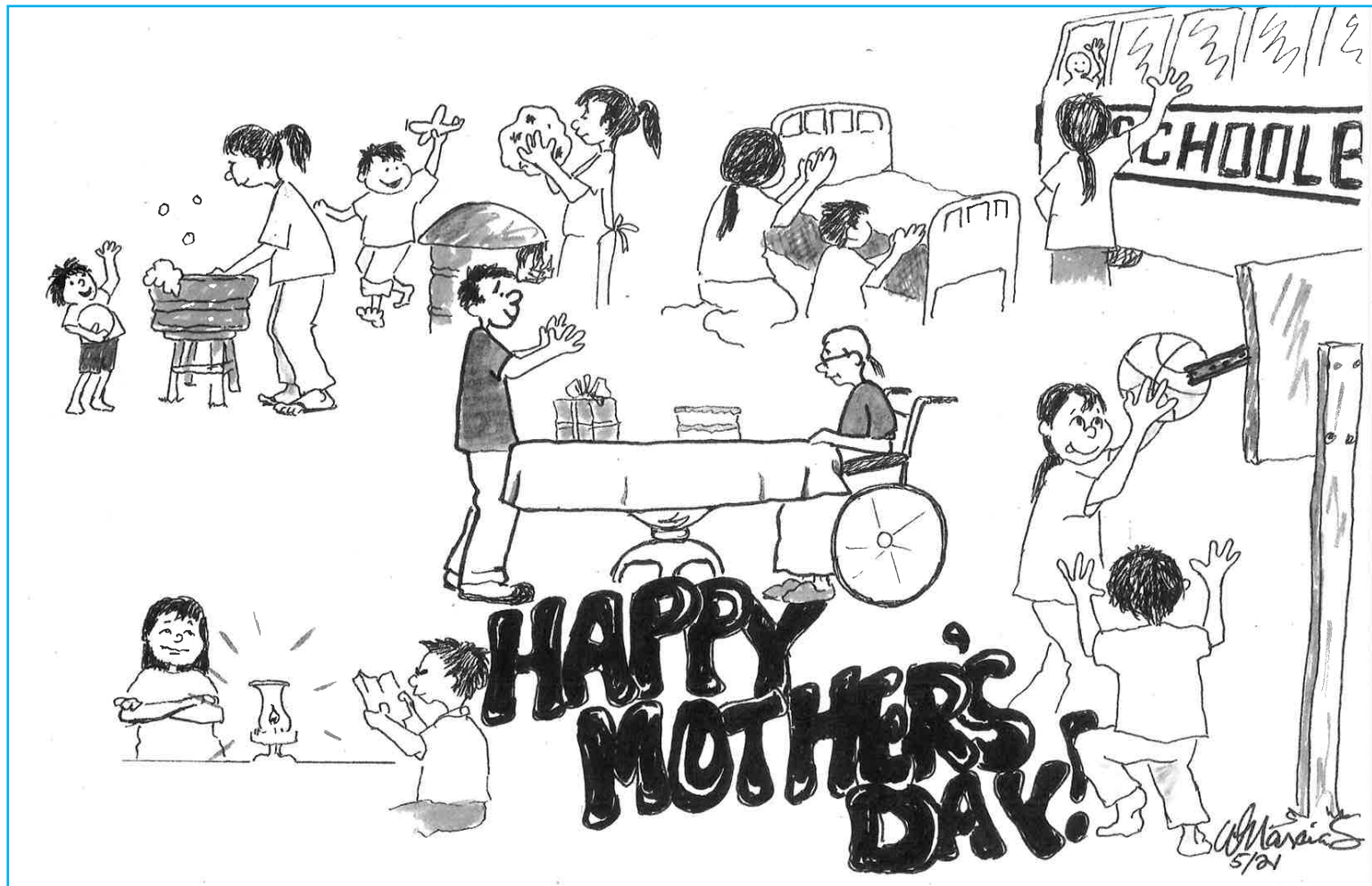
**Miss Indian World Kippenberger (top right), interacts with participants during the mental health and empowerment presentation on May 2.** Kyle Knox/GRIN

which road to take. And hearing others share their own story of ups and downs, we learn that this is something that every single person goes through," said Osife.

Jada Young enjoyed the presentation and said, "I feel presentations are crucial for native youth because some teenagers and even kids might feel like they are the only ones dealing with these problems. And no one should have to be in this deep dark hole

wondering what is wrong with them and having no one to help them."

Closing out the presentation, Kippenberger encouraged all the youth and said, "You all have the power to change your community, you don't have to be MIW, part of the government, some prominent figure, just being a Community member using language, culture, art for example, and I encourage everyone to explore that idea."





# Community Member Finds Success in the Ring as Top Contender

Currently Ranked No. 1 in the Arizona Amateur Heavyweight Division

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

Coming off of a March victory, Deran Martinez, an amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter from District 5 in the Gila River Indian Community, is currently ranked No. 1 in the Arizona amateur heavyweight division.

Martinez, who began wrestling in high school, has parlayed his love of MMA into success early in his career. When he trains and steps into the ring, it's always with his community in mind.

As he puts it, "I started fighting to help give back to my district and family."

Martinez began training in 2016 and entered his first fight the following year. Martinez now claims the top spot in the regional rankings



**Martinez was declared the winner by unanimous decision over contender Mashonte Mailboy on March 13.** Courtesy of MMA Stalker.

out of 14 active Arizona Amateur Heavyweights, as ranked by Tapology.com.

He also ranks No. 22 among U.S. Southwest Amateur Heavyweights. Martinez defeated Mashonte Mailboy in a unanimous decision on

March 13 at the Glendale Civic Center to improve his overall record. He says he has achieved an important goal with his current ranking, but he is still focused on his future in combat sports.

"The next step is definitely going to be a bigger step," said Martinez who discussed the possibility of fighting for a title or taking on the sport professionally, which would also allow him to fight internationally. "It's hard work for sure but once the Community supports you, that's really all you need. It's really humbling to have that support."

Martinez's amateur career took a pause with COVID-19. Last year when the pandemic hit, matches were cancelled and training in the gym was no longer an

option.

"It was hard, but at the same time it was what I needed," said Martinez who took his training outdoors, something he had already been familiar with growing up in Casa Blanca.

He has two consecutive wins and doesn't plan on slowing down. He trains three to four times a week and at least two times a day when preparing for a fight.

"I always liked just being active and (there's) just something about combat sports. It helps me mentally, physically; it's like therapy for me."

Martinez currently trains in Mesa with Power MMA. He says he is hoping to fight again this coming August.

# GRIC Youth Sets Sights on University Life Across the Country

**Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

For one Gila River Indian Community member, caring and being active in extracurricular activities has been a lifelong journey. As the high school year comes to a close, Mary Elias has been looking forward to completing her senior year at McClintock High School in Tempe and starting college across the country.

"Going through the pandemic, it has been a very stressful time," said Elias, while balancing school, college courses and sports. How Elias managed her last year of high school? "Looking back, I just knew I had to take it one step-at-a-time." Elias said she will be attending

Cornell University located in Ithaca New York, with an emphasis on animal science. She said caring for animals has always been an interest of hers, starting from an early age, which has influenced her to pursue a career as a veterinarian.

"My family has always rescued animals throughout my whole life. It has really helped me realize how helping animals and treating for them has created a bond with them," said Elias. Although she is not sure what kind of animals to specialize in, she does envision treating large animals like cattle and horses.

Regarding sports, Elias said she will focus on the hitting the books as opposed to playing a sport at the collegiate level. "I have gotten



**McClintock High School Varsity Basketball Student Mary Elias committed to attending Cornell University in Ithaca New York.** Photo courtesy of Elias family

offers to play basketball at universities, but I wanted to focus on my academics for my college career, because

my parents have always encouraged me to try new things and help me develop a sense of what's available to

me," said Elias.

"She's done a bit of everything," said Reuben Elias, Mary's father. "She's been playing basketball since the age of four. She has always had an interest in being active and finding interests and pursuing them," said Reuben.

He said the family has always been active in rescuing small animals such as dogs, cats and any animal in need of help. "It's grown from being a little kid working with animals to now wanting to do it as a career," said Elias.

Reuben said Mary's older sister Grace is also active in sports and is a junior at UCLA on the rowing team. Although Elias has elected to focus on her academics, she said participation in sports is not totally out of the question

and is considering joining a basketball club to maintain her participation in the sport.

In her last two years of high school Elias took-up golf, just to see how well she would adapt to a different activity. "It was sorta a 'last minute' sport, that took-up during my junior year. I wanted to see what playing a new sport would be like and to learn a new skill at the same time," said Elias.

Looking forward to university life, Elias said that it is going to be an exciting experience being away in a new place.

"I really have to give credit to my parents, for always being there and pushing me to do what interests me," said Elias.

# International Museum Day at Pueblo Grande Museum

*New Outdoor Exhibit Incorporates O'otham Language with help of Community Elders*

**Press Release**  
Pueblo Grande Museum

Phoenix, AZ – Looking for a fun way to celebrate International Museum Day on May 18, 2021? Check out the new outdoor exhibit at Pueblo Grande Museum ... for free!

Pueblo Grande Museum is a National Historic Landmark and Phoenix Point of Pride. It is the largest preserved archaeological site within Phoenix.

Recently, the Museum was awarded National Park Service Heritage Partnerships Program funding to update the interpretive signage located along the trail that winds around the 1,500-year-old platform mound. The impetus for updating the signs came from input received during consultations with O'odham tribal representatives who are the descendants of the ancestral Sonoran Desert peoples who lived at the site.

Tribal representatives from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

and the Gila River Indian Community participated in the preparation of the new sign texts. Tribal Elders were also important sources for the interpretation and translation of songs and vocabulary in the O'odham language.

The input the museum and collaborating archaeologist J. Andrew Darling received via consultation with affiliated tribal communities was not only appreciated, it was essential to developing a new approach to museum signage. Overall, a new narrative and perspective were introduced, which included terminology that better reflects tribal perspectives and cultural sensitivity, as well as provides an historical perspective based on O'odham traditions and worldview.

At Pueblo Grande Museum we continue to learn and, in turn, share these lessons with you through exhibits and programs. Although the indoor galleries remain temporarily closed, Pueblo

Grande Museum invites you to celebrate International Museum Day with us!

The worldwide community of museums will celebrate International Museum Day on and around May 18, 2021. The theme chosen this year is The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.

The objective of International Museum Day is to raise awareness of the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples."

Participation in International Museum Day is growing among museums all over the world. In 2020, more than 50,000 museums participated in the event in some 142 countries. – International Council of Museums Website.

Pueblo Grande Museum  
4619 E. Washington St.,



**New outdoor interpretive signs for outdoor exhibit at the Pueblo Grande Museum, include the O'otham language, with help of Community elders.** Photo courtesy of Pueblo Grande Museum

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Stop  
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Outdoor COVID Hours: Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
CLOSED Sunday and most major holidays

Museum Campus: Two outdoor interpretive walking trails are currently free.

All indoor facilities, including restrooms, remain closed to the public.

No dogs or bicycles allowed on main interpretive trail.



# Annual Earth Day Celebrates DEQ's 25th Anniversary

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

On Thursday, April 22, the nation and the Community celebrated Earth Day. This year, the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hosted a virtual presentation for the Community. The event was also a celebration of DEQ's 25-year anniversary as a department, established in 1996 by former Governor Mary Thomas. Nationally, this Earth Day marked its 51st year of celebration.

"DEQ is a key stakeholder when it comes to protecting our environment, protecting our air, water, wildlife, and dealing with pesticides," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during his opening remarks. "And, DEQ as a

department is highly skilled all around. I am proud to say that DEQ is made up of at least 50 percent of our Community Members."

Gov. Lewis' speech also acknowledged the historical confirmation of Deb Haaland as the U.S. Secretary of Interior. "She has an intrinsic respect for tribal lands and tribal resources and making sure tribes get that government respect as sovereign nations, in regards to the development of federal policy," said Lewis.

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone also spoke. "We are so blessed as GRIC and indigenous people because the Creator gave us our land," said Lt. Gov. Antone, "And our land is where we built upon and survived on

for many, many years."

Lt. Gov. Antone acknowledged DEQ's programs for keeping natural resources thriving for continued use by basket weavers and ceremonies in the Community.

During the Earth Day event, DEQ staff members from every program shared brief presentations on their work, including Wildlife and Ecosystems, Air Quality, the Pesticides Control Office, Water Quality Program, and Waste Management Program. Each presentation highlighted various aspects of the programs, such as Wildlife and Ecosystems' annual Winter Bird Count.

As part of the program, DEQ screened a video featuring DEQ Director Willard Antone III. Director Antone provided a brief



The Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5, is one of the wildlife ecosystems overseen by DEQ in the Community. Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

history of DEQ's founding under former GRIC Governor Mary Thomas. He shared that DEQ began as a two-person department. Its early focus was on pesticides used in the Community farm

areas and waste disposal from industrial parks located within the GRIC's boundaries.

Rounding out the program was a showcase of the 2021 Earth Day

Poster Contest Winners. All 13 winning posters, were submitted by Community youth grades one through six and were presented to the audience and recognized for their excellence.

### Continued from front page

specifically mentioned the work of external partners like Rep. O'Halleran, Indian Health Services and the new Administration in Washington D.C.

Also on hand for the event was Dr. Ty Reidhead, director of the IHS Phoenix Area Office.

"I've have been to [your] other vaccine events, which have been great to see the Community getting the vaccines out to fight

this pandemic," said Dr. Reidhead, who applauded the Community's use of its sovereignty to get federal funding and resources to meet the challenges ahead.

Reidhead said the MVU's are one example of how the Community is preparing to meet the next surge of the pandemic, by being prepared and having the right resources available to vaccinate its members.

Gov. Lewis echoed

Reidhead's remarks and cited the ability of tribal communities to succeed when given the right tools to face a challenge.

"We know the solutions for our communities, when provided the resources, are successful time and time again," said Gov. Lewis.

For more information about when the MVU will be in a district near you, contact GRHC COVID-19 hotline at: 1-800-259-3449. Community members can also visit [grhc.org/hub](http://grhc.org/hub).



The MVU is already being deployed out to Community districts, starting in the month of May. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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# GreatCall

GreatCall is a 24/7 medical alert service available to qualifying Gila River Indian Community members. The GreatCall unit is great for individuals who lead an independent lifestyle, as well as for family or loved ones who would like peace of mind knowing they are a press of a button away from emergency services.

## GreatCall Features Include:

**5 Star Service** - Highly trained 5 Star Agents to help you at anytime.

**GreatCall Link App** - Stay connected with family and caregivers using the app.

**Urgent Care** - 24/7 access to registered nurses and board certified doctors.

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## GreatCall Link Smartphone App

The app works with the GreatCall device allowing family members and caregivers the ability to get notifications on a loved one's activity. Available for download on Android and Apple devices.



GreatCall is provided by GRTI in partnership with the Tribal Health Department-Injury Prevention Program. View the GreatCall page on the GRTI website for more information or contact the Tribal Health Department at (520) 562-5114.



# Gila River Hotels & Casinos and Arizona Coyotes “Pay It Forward” with \$50,000 Check to Human Services Campus

*Funds will be used to help people experiencing homelessness*

**Press Release**

Gila River Hotels & Casinos

PHOENIX, Ariz. (April 28, 2021) – In the spirit of “Pay It Forward Day,” Gila River Cares, the philanthropic arm of Gila River Hotels & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte & Vee Quiva, and the Arizona Coyotes Foundation joined forces today to present a \$50,000 check to Human Services Campus, Inc., (HSC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness. Gila River also donated 4,000 towels to assist with daily shower services. “Pay It Forward Day” is a global initiative that exists to make a difference by creating a huge ripple of kindness felt across the world.

Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos, and Xavier Gutierrez, president & CEO of the Arizona Coyotes presented the check to Amy Schwabenlender, executive director of Human Services Campus, Inc. The nonprofit

owns and operates a 13-acre campus at 12th Avenue and Madison that is home to 16 independent nonprofit organizations providing wrap-around services and resources to people experiencing homelessness.

On any given night, there are an estimated 7,500 individuals experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County, according to the last Point-in-Time (PIT) count in January 2020. Of those, some 3,700 people are unsheltered. The last PIT count also reflects a nearly 20% increase in unsheltered individuals from 2019 to 2020 and nearly 800 more people experiencing homelessness year-over-year.

“We are so fortunate to have an agency like Human Services Campus in our community,” said Gila River Hotels & Casinos CEO Kenneth Manuel. “The work they do to help the homeless and other vulnerable populations is truly remarkable. Our Gila team is aligned with the Arizona Coyotes in

supporting these critical community initiatives.”

Gila River Hotels & Casinos and the Arizona Coyotes have been partnering on philanthropic events since 2007.

“We are thrilled to team up with our great partner Gila River Hotels & Casinos to make this significant donation to the Human Services Campus on Pay It Forward Day,” said Coyotes President & CEO Xavier A. Gutierrez. “It’s our responsibility to give back and be a leader in our community and we are proud to be able to make an impact and help so many individuals who are in need.”

HSC Executive Director Amy Schwabenlender said that the funds will enhance multiple initiatives including, but not limited to, temporary shelter, behavioral health services, housing navigation, and day-to-day campus operations needed to support the 15 on-campus collaborative partners.

“We are truly



Arizona Coyotes President & CEO Xavier A. Gutierrez, Human Services Campus Executive Director Amy Schwabenlender, and Kenneth Manuel, CEO of Gila River Hotels & Casinos, pose with a \$50,000 check made out to Human Services Campus. The joint donation from Gila River and the Coyotes took place on April 28, “Pay It Forward Day,” and funds will help people experiencing homelessness. Gila River Hotels & Casinos also donated 4,000 towels to assist with shower services. Photo courtesy of Kelsey Grant/Arizona Coyotes

overwhelmed by the generosity and breadth of these two donations and the overall impact they will have on the individuals experiencing homelessness we serve every day,” she said. “For an individual experiencing homelessness, the simple act of taking a shower is a chance to

cleanse, refresh both physically and emotionally, and feel a sense of dignity. Having this massive inventory of clean, fresh towels is a wonderful gift.”

For details about Gila River Hotels & Casinos’ philanthropic arm, Gila River Cares, visit PlayAtGila.com.

For more information about the Arizona Coyotes Foundation, visit <https://www.nhl.com/coyotes/community/foundation>.

To learn about Human Services Campus, or to make a donation, visit [www.hsc-az.org](http://www.hsc-az.org).



## MEMORIAL DAY 2021

### 2 MILE VIRTUAL WALK/RUN

**Do on your own time and in a safe place. Post or send to Facebook: Haskell Osife-Antone Email: [adj51@gilanet.net](mailto:adj51@gilanet.net)**

**Start April 16 - May 28**

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVE TO PICK UP SHIRTS ON DAY OF 05.31.2021 @ POST 51**



**Haskell Osife-Antone**  
Post 51  
Blackwater, AZ



Unit 51

200 shirts available - 1060 West Blackwater School Rd. - District one - annex - Veterans Hall - May 31 - 9am-1030am

**Questions call: Darrell Whitman (520) 610-0316 or Andrew Antone (520) 215-0185**

## National Poppy Day

### Honor the Fallen, Support the Living

#### May 28, 2021

**Submitted by**  
Haskell Osife-Antone  
Post 51

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms

**History of Red Poppy**  
After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem “In Flanders Fields.” The poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation’s uniform.

On Memorial Day, the ALA Unit 51 will “Honor the Fallen and Support the Living” by providing Memorial Day hats to the first 50 participants who pick up their Memorial Day Virtual Walk/Run T-Shirt at Haskell Osife -Antone Post 51 on 5/31/2021.

**Submitted by:**  
Haskell Osife -Antone, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51, Blackwater, Arizona: In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the

American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. If you or your military family would like to know more about our service or if you would like information on membership eligibility please contact us at: Haskell Osife - Antone, American Legion Axillary Unit 51

A Memorial Day virtual walk is being hosted until May 28. Participants can sign-up at: [adj51@gilanet.net](mailto:adj51@gilanet.net)

**Mailing Address:** 1060 W. Blackwater School Rd, Suite 2, Coolidge, Arizona 85128. Email: [auxunit51@gilanet.net](mailto:auxunit51@gilanet.net)

**Job Announcement**

**Casa Blanca Community School**  
3455 W. Casa Blanca Road  
Bapchule, AZ 85121  
**Vacancy Announcement:**  
Elementary Teacher  
Culture Instructor  
F.A.C.E. Early Childhood Teacher  
F.A.C.E. Adult Educator  
(All positions are open until filled)

**How to apply:**  
For more information and online application please visit: [www.cbcschools.com](http://www.cbcschools.com)  
**Benefits:**  
Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, 401K Retirement Plan, Competitive Salaries.

**School Information:**  
School is located 15 miles from Phoenix Metropolitan Area (15-17-minute drive).  
**Contact Information:**  
For additional information regarding a position, contact the Human Resources Office at (520) 315-3489 ext. 2531.

**In Memoriam: Sylvia Porter McCabe**

**Submitted by**  
Danita Yocom

**Sylvia Porter McCabe**  
Social justice advocate and Gila River Indian Community elder Sylvia Porter McCabe joined her husband James L. McCabe in the meeting in the sky on April 15, 2021; she succumbed to complications from diabetes at age 82. Sylvia was born March 4, 1939 in Stotonic village to Ethel Porter, daughter of Narcissus Porter and

Eliza Juan; her father was Lyman Ray Nelson. She had fond memories of life with her sisters, Ruthie Cole and Sandy Cawker, and their cousins on her grandparents’ farm where she learned to fluently speak her native language.  
After Eliza died, Sylvia moved to Phoenix. Initially facing housing discrimination, her family was welcomed to a neighborhood near Carl Hayden High School, from which Sylvia graduated in 1959.

In her 20’s, Sylvia was a single mother working multiple jobs while attending Phoenix College. Soon she discovered her passion for helping others, particularly seniors, children and the neediest. As a community organizer for the Sacaton Model Cities Program she helped organize and empower tribal districts and their members; later she was the Director of the Phoenix Urban Indian Center.  
In 1975, she married Jim and began managing a lively household filled with

her three children and four of Jim’s children. In the 1980’s, they moved their family to Gallup, New Mexico. Sylvia worked as Director of Toyei which served adults with special needs in the Navajo Nation. She attended the University of New Mexico, commuting 2 hours each way to Albuquerque with her daughter-in-law Catherine Bennett, who left us too soon.  
In 1996, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with a minor in business and sociology.

Returning to Gila River, Sylvia coordinated construction of housing and the District 6 community service center. She also served on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club – Gila River, the local School Board and the Gila River Elder Council.  
A breast cancer survivor, Sylvia was a caregiver for Jim and her grandchildren. She was a brilliant woman with a big laugh and an even bigger presence.  
Sylvia is survived by her three children,

nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and many friends. Due to covid restrictions, funeral arrangements are private.  
In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Boys and Girls Club – Gila River by contacting [Jason.Jones@bgcgrc.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@bgcgrc.org).  
Phoenix Urban Indian Center Model Cities Program Sacaton Directed program for adults with special needs



# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • April 21, 2021

## ACTION SHEET

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

## CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, April 21, 2021, by WebEx Platform was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

## INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone-Smith

## ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone (9:21)

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3-Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4-Jennifer Allison, Delmar Jones, Regina Antone-Smith; D5-James De La Rosa, Marlin Dixon, Brian Davis, Sr., Thomas White; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7-Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4-Vacant

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

REPORT #1 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL; ACCEPT AND APPROVE REPORT #3; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #2 THROUGH #4 AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #2

### MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE

REPORT #4 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL AND APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

## PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

\*1. Introduction of Chas Damo- Grant Specialist

Presenters: Isaac Salcido; Chas Damo

MR. SALCIDO INTRODUCED MR. CHAS

DAMO AS THE NEW GRANT SPECIALIST. MR. DAMO WILL FOCUS ON ALL TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GRANTS.

## REPORTS

>1. BGCGRIC 2021 2nd Quarter Report

Presenters: Jason Jones; Mark Clavell; Jocelyn Young; Nancy House; Anita Leon; Soyet Antone; Emiliano Morondos; Travis Jack; Guru Khalsa

## TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. COVID-19 Taskforce Update

Presenters: COVID-19 Task Force

## REPORT HEARD

>3. Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Grant Report

Presenters: Sienna Whittington; Isaac Salcido

ITEM ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Draft Education Code

Presenters: Isaac Salcido; Naomi Bebo; Rebecca

## Hall

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. WHPDA FY2021 Overview

Presenters: David White; WHPDA Board; Alex Yazza, Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado

## REPORT HEARD

6. WHPDA First Quarterly Report

Presenters: David White; WHPDA Board; Alex Yazza, Martin Sepulveda; Michelle Bowman; Mark Grado

## REPORT HEARD

7. GRICUA Report FY21 Q1

Presenters: Pamela Thomas; Leonard Gold

## REPORT HEARD

## RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving Modification No. 49

To The Gila River Indian Community Capital Projects Fund Budget For Fiscal Years 2021 Through 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

## APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Approving An Amendment To Part I, Of The Home Energy Assistance Program To Provide Home Energy Assistance For Eligible Community Members Residing Outside The Community Temporarily And Receiving Temporary Rental Assistance (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Laurie Thomas; Javier Ramos; Suzanne Jones

## ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. 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 for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert Keller

## ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Amending Resolution GR-197-20 And Approving Waiver Of Compensation And Right-Of-Way Application For A Perpetual Right Of Way To Facilitate Extension Of Sundust Road At Lone Butte Development Park (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and for placement on the consent agenda; NRSC and EDSC concur)

Presenters: Christina Waquie; Esther Manuel

## ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## ORDINANCES

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

\*1. Vaccine Trackers for Tribal Education

Department Programs and Community Schools (ESC forwards to Council under New Business as FYI)

Presenter: Isaac Salcido

## ITEM HEARD

>2. Gila River Farms 2nd Quarter Tribal Budget Report (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept and for placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Cletus Shirley

## ITEM ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Gila River Farms Olive Oil Name Request (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Stephanie Saucedo-Manuel

## APPROVED

4. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Occupancy Plan (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with additional material)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel; GRGE Executive Team; Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

## APPROVED

5. Title 1.105 Special Duties of The Chief Judge (Executive Session) (LSC forwards to Council for discussion and action)

Presenters: Legislative Standing Committee

## ITEM HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SUSPEND CHIEF JUDGE PENDING OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATION

6. WHPDA Reporting Process Amendment (EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for WHPDA to report to EDSC monthly)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR WHPDA TO REPORT MONTHLY

7. Phoenix Rising Preliminary Planning Information (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business)

Presenters: David White; Mark Grado

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT MINUTES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

~SERVICES FOR MS. SYLVIA MCCABE MAY 8, 2021 9 AM TO 12 PM

~PRAYERS FOR FORMER COUNCILMAN

LAWRENCE WHITE

## ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:04 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

## Arizona Organization Congratulates Big Brother & Mentor to Community Youth

### Press Release

Big Brother Big Sisters Arizona

On Friday April 9, 2021 Big Brother Mentor/Officer James Milano was recognized as the Site Based Big of the Year at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona's Big Night Out Event in Phoenix. The program was attended by many, both online and in-person,

and honored the impact of mentorship and the unlimited possibilities it can create for the youth in our community. Officer Milano has been a volunteer Big Brother in the Gila River Site Based mentoring program at the Sacaton Boys & Girls Club for over 3 years and currently mentors two Little Brother Mentees from the Gila River community. Milano was

recognized for his consistent positive influence with his Littles and efforts to help promote the program within the Gila River Police Department and community at large. The Gila River Police Department, Sacaton Boys & Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona congratulate Big Brother Mentor/Officer James Milano on being selected

as this year's Site Based Big of the Year!

Right: Big Brother Big Sisters Arizona CEO Laura Capello, (far left) and Board Chair Teresa Strunk, presented GRPD Officer James Milano (center) with the "Site Based Big of the Year" award. Photo courtesy of BBBSAZ





## Job Announcement

**Job Title: Salary: Status: Reports To:**  
**Real Estate Leasing Manager**  
**\$72,000 - \$95,000 (DOE)**  
 Exempt and Non-Supervisory Executive Director  
 The Real Estate Leasing Manager

leads the efforts of Pima Leasing & Finance Company (PLFC) in leasing land within the Gila River Indian Community, including advising GRIC regarding the establishment of competitive target lease rates and leasing strategies based on comparable

economic and demographic data. The Real Estate Leasing Manager assists with identification of strategic long-term land use objectives in order to achieve complimentary and cohesive land uses, while maximizing lease

income. This includes representing PLFC through appropriate local and regional real estate channels while assisting with lease/development proposal analysis and lease negotiations as well as effectively acquire, analyze,

abstract and disseminate pertinent lease transaction information of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) in coordination with the GRIC Office of Legal Counsel (OGC), to outside legal counsel, tenants, Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation (PLFC) Board of

Directors, and other interested parties. Additionally, the Real Estate Leasing Manager work to ensure leases and lessors are compliant with applicable federal laws and regulations and laws of the Gila River Indian Community.

## Tribal Court Summons

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

**In the Matter of: X.B.**  
**Docket Number: JC-2020-0210-JC,**  
**Parent(s): Phillayne Begay and Antonio Yazzie**

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court. Due to the public health concerns, you may request to appear by phone. Please provide the Court with a valid contact number at least one hour

before your scheduled hearing at (520) 562-9860. Answer/Response Hearing: DATE: July 7, 2021 TIME: 11:00 AM LOCATION: AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI 721 West Seed Farm Road Sacaton, AZ 85147

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

**In the Matter of: J.A.**  
**Parent(s): Destiny Davis**  
**Docket Number: JC-2020-0205-JC**

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court. YOU MAY REQUEST TO APPEAR BY PHONE. PLEASE CALL ONE HOUR BEFORE

YOUR SCHEDULED DATE AND TIME. (520)562-9860. Answer/Response Hearing: DATE: July 7, 2021 TIME: 11:00 AM LOCATION: AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI 721 West Seed Farm Road Sacaton, AZ 85147

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

**In the Matter of: A Minors Parent(s): Larissa Amavisca and Melvin Natani Sr. Docket Number: JC-2020-0047-JC, JC-2020-0048**

This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court. YOU MAY REQUEST TO APPEAR BY PHONE.

PLEASE CALL ONE HOUR BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED DATE AND TIME. (520)562-9860. Answer/Response Hearing: DATE: July 7, 2021 TIME: 11:00 AM LOCATION: AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI 721 West Seed Farm Road Sacaton, AZ 85147

People of Gila River Indian Community,

My name is Scott and I am a travel respiratory therapist. I live in Gilbert with my family. I also work at Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert. I have had the opportunity to care for your loved ones here over the past year at Hu Hu

## Submissions

Kam Memorial Hospital. I'd like to say thank you for this opportunity. Getting to know you has been a true pleasure. I won't forget the patients that I took care of, the ones that passed from covid, and the ones who miraculously made it, and that was a great joy! I'd also like to say thank you to the Hu

Hu Kam staff. You have a great hospital and maybe someday if they decide to have a permanent respiratory department I can be part of the awesome team here.

Once again thank you and peace to you, Scott Killian, RRT

## Public Notice

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency

Notice of Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Hunt Highway Improvement Project – Phase 5

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Pima Agency and the Gila River Indian Community (Community) are releasing this notice in support of an environmental assessment for the proposed Hunt Highway Improvement Project – Phase 5 (project) in District One of the Community. The project would include roadway improvements along portions of Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road.

The project proponent,

Pinal County Public Works Department, has submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to the BIA for roadway improvements on Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road, which would constitute the final phase of the Hunt Highway Improvement Project. Primary project components would include acquiring approximately 19 acres of new permanent roadway ROW, realigning the western terminus of the existing Arizona Farms Road, widening approximately 4,200 feet of existing Hunt Highway to match the newly reconstructed roadway dimensions both north and south of the project area,

and installing a new light-controlled intersection at Hunt Highway and the realigned Arizona Farms Road.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in January 2023 and be completed in approximately 8 months. No traffic detours would be required. Traffic delays would be short-term and temporary. The grant of easement for ROW, if approved by BIA, would formalize the alignments for both Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms Road within the Community.

The purpose of the project is for Pinal County to complete the final phase of their planned improvements along the Hunt Highway

corridor, through the widening of the existing Hunt Highway alignment and the realignment of Arizona Farms Road.

Hunt Highway both north and south of the project area have been improved and widened to four lanes; however, the older roadway within the project area is only two lanes. The lane reduction in the project area presents a potential safety concern for existing vehicle traffic on Hunt Highway. The project would widen Hunt Highway through the project area to match the new roadway and lane configurations to both the north and south. Additionally, the Hunt Highway and Arizona Farms

Road intersection currently presents line-of-sight safety concerns for drivers on Arizona Farms Road. The project would realign this traffic intersection and replace the stop-controlled intersection with a traffic light to improve traffic flow and safety.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal agencies are required to consider the potential social and environmental impacts of proposed actions. This letter serves as the BIA's invitation for comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed action. All comments received become part of the public record associated

with this proposed action. Accordingly, your comments (including your name and address) will be available for review by any person that wishes to view the record. At your request, we will withhold your contact information to the extent allowed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please submit your comments to the following: Cecilia Baker, Superintendent - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency.

P.O. Box 8  
 Sacaton, AZ 85147  
 Telephone: (520) 562-3326 or email at: cecilia.baker@bia.gov.

## Submission

GRIC WIC Program

Harriet Allen, GRIC WIC Program Registered Dietician, received the Madeline Francisco Award from the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona WIC Program. The award was presented during the state-wide ITCA WIC Virtual Conference held in April 2021.

Madeline Francisco worked with the WIC program

in her community, the Tohono O'odham Nation for nearly 30 years and was one of the first WIC employees in the country. Madeline was dedicated to the families she served and was valued by her community and fellow staff members. Madeline is missed by all who knew her. In honor of Madeline's dedication to the WIC program, the Madeline Francisco Award was established to recognize outstanding service and dedication to the ITCA WIC

program by a local agency WIC staff person.

Harriet was nominated by her co-worker: "I am nominating Harriet Allen for the Madeline Francisco award because she truly deserves it. She has worked for WIC for over 2 decades; starting her career with WIC in 1999. She deserves the recognition for being in the game for this long! It is not often that you will find a Registered Dietician who has stuck it out with the same

program for as long as she has! She is very dedicated to the program and even works the Saturday clinic by herself. She is not only a great professional, she is also a great cook. In the recent years, in addition to her WIC responsibilities, she also assists with the Elder Meals Program as well as the Commodity Foods Program- everyone there enjoys tasting her unique recipes during food demonstrations."

The Madeline Francisco

award originated in 2006 and is not given out yearly. This is the 7th time someone was recognized with this award. Past Gila River Indian Community WIC recipients include: the initial recipient, Deborah Morago in 2006 and Mary Dixon in 2011.

**Right: Harriet Allen with the Madeline Francisco Award, presented by ITCA.**



## In Memoriam: Rod McAfee

Rod McAfee was Akimel O'odham, a proud member of the Gila River Indian Community, an agriculturally rich and generous society which was the first Indian reservation created in Arizona. He was born on the summer solstice in 1931 in Phoenix, Arizona, the youngest

of five children born to Johnson McAfee and Sara Patton. Johnson was a printer who became tribal governor and later tribal judge. Sara's father owned a general store in Sacaton. As a child, Rod loved spending time with his grandfather, Mason McAfee, and

other traditional elders who taught him the O'odham dances and culture. His parents, however, converted to the Presbyterian religion and wanted all their children to become educated in the Western Culture ways, so they sent him to school. He first attended a local elementary school for a few years, and then was sent to Tucson Indian School, a Presbyterian-run boarding school whose goal was to create Indian Christian leaders by teaching the bible and the English language. Rod ran away from that school when he was in the sixth grade and never returned. Instead, he rode horses and worked for white ranchers in the area. He was a good rider and loved breaking horses. He made a little money riding bucking horses in local rodeos when he was a teenager, against his parents' wishes, who were convinced that Rod was going down an "evil" path. Rod married Jeanette, also Akimel O'odham, in 1949 and had eight children: Jackie, Faye, Ivory, Casey, Myrna, Rosa, Rodney Jr., and Arlen. In 1964 he left the reservation and worked picking fruit, and as a ranch hand until he wound up in Potlach, Washington, where he worked as a logger and had his own rodeo school. Rod battled alcoholism for the first half of his life, and in the late 1970's ended up on the streets of Portland, where he was found by a Native American Rehabilitation Association outreach worker who asked him if he wanted to sober up and go into treatment. He

said yes. Rod's treatment and recovery from alcoholism led him into an entirely new life. He soon became a drug and alcohol counselor for NARA, and later was the spirituality director. He began working with incarcerated native men around the Northwest and built sweat lodges at many prisons. Rod's sweat lodge ceremonies were open to all, and soon his work expanded beyond NARA and the prisons to include people from all races and religions. He became a Sundancer and danced at the Mt. Hood Sundance, and later at 4 Nations near Medford, and was a helper at Sungleska Oyate and the lead helper for the Pilot Rock Sundance near Ashland. He met his future wife Linda Neale in 1990. They married in 1995 and moved to their home in SW Portland where they began to hold monthly community sweat lodge ceremonies. Together, Linda & Rod founded the Earth & Spirit Council, and encouraged a lifestyle he called the Natural Way. Linda & Rod hosted dozens of indigenous elders from around the globe to speak their truth to people from the dominant culture – many of those talks were recorded and saved for posterity. Rod continued his ceremony work after his retirement from NARA, sometimes leading as many as four sweat lodge ceremonies each week. He and Linda travelled around the US, Mexico, South America, and Europe leading ceremonies, connecting with other

indigenous elders, and speaking to various groups. Wherever he spoke, he would say, "You are all good people, you see I know that. You all breathe the same air and drink the same water that I do...". He said this in prisons, in schools, in churches, in Native American gatherings... everywhere. Rod's words went deeper than tribal affiliation, deeper than race, penetrating into the very essence of what it is to be a human being. He taught people to Go Beyond their human limitations, to go beyond their suffering, to go beyond their own limits for themselves. In the lodge, each person felt like he was speaking directly to them. Rod was the lead singer for several pow-wow drums, including the NARA drum, the Stone People drum, and the Eagle Spirit Learning Drum. He passed on pow-wow and ceremonial songs to many people in the Eagle Spirit community and elsewhere. Wherever he went, he talked about the sacredness of women's voices, women's leadership, and women's spiritual lives. Rod was recognized as an elder in numerous communities, including Sungleska Oyate and the Portland-area urban Native community. In 2000, Rod and Linda, with the help of friends and family, restored Linda's family homestead in Harney County. Rod loved the homestead – the wide open spaces, the cowboys, the brandings, the rodeo, the birds, and the desert. It all reminded him of home.

In his later years, he went beyond serious horse and car accidents, stage 4 lymphoma, and a debilitating spinal cord injury. He always maintained his sense of humor and rarely complained, giving his full attention to anyone who consulted him. He continued to attend sundances, now as a supporter – talking to and fanning the dancers in the arbor. Rod was naturally a quiet man, and rarely spoke unless he was asked. However, in his ceremonies, he was known for various teachings, including "Learn to Listen and Listen to Learn", "Spirituality is being real", "There's no one right way to pray", "You must follow your own guidance if you don't want an ass-kicking", and "We are all related – we all breathe the same air and drink the same water". Rod became an ancestor on March 23rd, 2021, surrounded by members of his family and community who held him in love. He is survived by his wife Linda Neale, his children Jackie, Faye, Ivory, Casey, Myrna and Rosa, his stepdaughter Joanna, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. As a friend said of him, Rod changed many lives and affected so many people by simply being quiet and minding his own business.



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**PREMIER MITSUBISHI**

**4 Oil Changes for \$40** / 4 Synthetic Oil Changes for \$70

Valid Monday-Saturday. Offer expires 6/30/21. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

**PREMIER MITSUBISHI**

**Tires at dealer cost**

\*must be installed at dealership

Valid Monday-Saturday. Offer expires 6/30/21. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

**PREMIER MITSUBISHI**

**4 Alignments for the price of 1**

\*some specialty vehicles may not qualify  
\*adjustment and parts needed above  
factory alignment adjustments not included  
\*good for 3 years after purchase.

Valid Monday-Saturday. Offer expires 6/30/21. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

For more details contact  
**520-800-1084**  
or visit

[www.premiermitsubishi.com/service/](http://www.premiermitsubishi.com/service/)

**1648 N Pinal Ave Casa Grande, AZ 85122**



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Presents

# Cinco de Buy-0

# HELD OVER!!!

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

# \$5

## Down Payment

# \$5

## Payment

(1st Payment OAC)



**BLOW OUT PRICING**



**\$10,995**  
Low Miles  
**2017 Kia Soul**



**Super Clean!**  
**2017 Nissan Titan SV**



**\$215/mo.**  
Great Gas Mileage  
**2019 Nissan Versa**



**Hard to Find**  
**2018 Toyota Tacoma**



**\$255/mo.**  
**2019 Nissan Sentra SV**



**\$245/mo.**  
10,000 Miles  
**2020 Kia Rio**



**\$205/mo.**  
**2016 Hyundai Elantra**



**\$275/mo.**  
**2018 Chevy Malibu**



**Save Gas and Money**  
**2019 Ford Fusion Hybrid**



**\$375/mo.**  
**2018 Chevy Equinox LT**



**\$385/mo.**  
Fully Loaded  
**2017 Ford Edge Titanium**



**Only \$385/mo.**  
18,000 Miles  
**2018 Jeep Renegade**



**\$195/mo.**  
29,000 Miles  
**2017 Toyota Corolla iM**



**Don't Miss Out!**  
**2018 Ford F150 EcoBoost**



**\$355/mo.**  
15,000 Miles  
**2020 Toyota Corolla**



**Sporty and Affordable**  
**2016 Nissan Altima SR**



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# Play for good.

## Play for Ryan House



When you play with Gila River Hotels & Casinos, you play for good, something that many players may not realize.

Funds generated from Gila River Hotels & Casinos not only have a positive social and economic impact on the Gila River Indian Community, but also the state of Arizona. Under the Arizona Tribal-State Gaming compacts, 12% of the tribe's contribution to the state has been invested back into Arizona to improve education, healthcare, conservation and the economy of local communities throughout the state.

This month we're highlighting Ryan House, a local 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on respite care, palliative care, life-enhancing therapeutic activities, end-of-life care, and bereavement care to families. Now in its 10th year, this wonderful nonprofit provides a welcoming, home-like environment where families navigate life-limiting or end-of-life journeys. Parents get a much-needed break, while children receive care from a world-class caregiving team. At a highly sensitive time, Ryan House provides a rare opportunity to focus on being a family and living life to the fullest.

The 12,500-square-foot home is equipped with accessible facilities that provide an escape from the realities visiting families face, including a backyard memorial garden, creative therapy rooms, eight themed rooms for the children and teens that stay at Ryan House, as well as three family suites, handicap accessible bathrooms and a non-denominational sanctuary. Since opening its doors in 2010, Ryan House remains the only free-standing facility of its kind in Arizona and one of just three in the country.

Ryan House is instrumental in supporting families through their child's end-of-life journey and the grant from Gila River helped enhance these efforts, providing care and support to families facing these difficult times. Part of end-of-life care includes the Treasured Memories bereavement box that celebrates the life and love of a child. Most often they contain fingerprints, hand molds and other keepsakes for families to remember their child by and provide a small comfort to struggling and grieving families. End-of-life care also includes grief support as families navigate life after their child has passed.

## GILA RIVER *Cares*

This support provides a breath, a short rest and the courage to move forward.

At Gila River Hotels & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva, we're proud to support Ryan House, and we thank our players for helping us contribute to this worthy nonprofit organization.

For more information on organizations our Play for Good initiative supports, check out our blog at [playatgila.com/corporate-giving](http://playatgila.com/corporate-giving).



**GILA RIVER**  
HOTELS & CASINOS

vee quiva • wild horse pass • lone butte