

THE GRIN



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APRIL 5, 2024

Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo Celebrates '60 Years of Unity'

GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community held the annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo (MCT) at the Sacaton Fairgrounds on March 15-17, celebrating 60 years of

The weekend kicked off with a Junior Rodeo and Community Day on Friday, March 15, where the winners of the Tribal Education Department's Art and Essay contest were awarded, and Urban Giff, District 6, and Eugenia Apkaw, District 4, were presented with the Elder of the Year awards. Donald Sabori, District 6, U.S. Marine Corps, was awarded Veteran of the Year.

The evening provided free carnival rides, a community dinner, and featured a commemorative 60th Annual MCT T-shirt for



Thousands attend the 60th annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo at the Sacaton Fairgrounds. CPAO Photo

attendees. It was followed by the Gila River Royalty coronation dance for the new 2024-2025 Miss Gila River Susanne Osife, District 2, Jr., Miss Gila River

Shayla Davis, District 4, and their court, with live music provided by Gertie & the T.O. Boyz.

As the three-day event evolved, the theme of unity permeated each event. People from

around the Valley and out of state traveled to the Community for the festivities, including the All-Indian Rodeo, where the arena's

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Veteran of the Year awardee Donald Sabori, and Lt. Gov. Regina Antone during the MCT Community Day events on March 15. Velia Moncada/GRIN

bleachers filled with spectators to watch competitors compete in team roping, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, and much more.

"Friday was the most exciting to watch. The children did woolly riding, mid-size bull riding, calf and steer riding... it was great to see the bleachers full," said Wayne Allison, District 3, director of the Department of Housing Development and first-time coordinator of the MCT rodeo.

Allison described watching rodeo patrons and noticing people from all different backgrounds bonding and communicating with one another about their favorite riders in the competition. To him, the crowd emitted the symbol of unity by getting together and supporting their riders for entertain-

On Saturday morning, March 16, hundreds lined up along Bluebird Road in Sacaton for the annual parade to enjoy over 60 entries.

Many floats embodied the unity theme, with Community and other Tribal leaders, royalty, veterans, schools, businesses, and even sports mascots.

"We're so excited about having a great weekend," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during the parade, where he welcomed everyone to the weekend's events, "I want to thank all our tribal dignitaries and royalty; we have O'otham and Pee Posh unity all throughout the parade."

Continued on Page 4



Elder of the Year award to Eugenia Apkaw (center right), District 4. Velia Moncada/GRIN

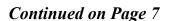
GRIC Honors National Vietnam Veterans Day

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

March 29 marks National Vietnam Veterans Day, honoring those who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War. The Gila River Indian Community's Veteran & Family Services Office (VFSO) held a special luncheon to honor those brave men and women at the District 5 Multipurpose Building on March 28.

The event brought together veterans, families, and supporters for a day of appreciation and recognition with remarks from Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, District 5 Council Rep. Franklin Pablo Sr., and VFSO Coordinator Eric White.





Vietnam veterans who attended the event at the District 5 Multipurpose Building on March 28. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.

grhc.org



MASK UPDATE: Starting April 1, 2024

Masks are available, recommended for patients and visitors ages 2 years and above:

- With flu, cold, or COVID-like symptoms
- With weak immunity (Ex. Elders, on dialysis or cancer treatments)
- Positive COVID-19 test in the past 5 days

Masks are available upon entry.

If you have flu, cold or COVID-like symptoms, please report to our staff members upon arrival.

FOOTHEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



TIPS FOR HEALTHY FEET

- 1. Inspect your feet daily, including the bottoms of your feet. A good time to check is after bathing.
- 2. Use a handheld mirror to see those hard-to-see/hard-to-reach places.
- 3. Dry well in between toes after bathing to reduce the risk of athlete's foot
- 4. Use lotion on dry skin areas to avoid cracks/fissures. It is best to apply within 15 minutes after bathing, sparing the spaces between toes.
- 5. Replace walking shoes every six months or 500 miles whichever comes first
- 6. Do not walk barefoot. Well fitted shoes serve as armor to protect your feet from the environment.



If you have questions and would like to schedule an podiatry appointment: Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital (520) 562-3321 ext. 1258 Komatke Health Center (520) 550-6000 ext. 6520 Hau'pal (Red Tail) Hawk Health Center





(520) 796-2600 ext. 2664

LIFE CENTER DIABETES, ENDOCRINOLOGY & WELLNESS

Thought of exercising but thought personal training is too pricey?

Life Center Fitness
 Centers offer
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kids (10 +) and adults at no cost to GRIC Members

 Prefer working out independently but would like some guidance, our fitness staff can create an individualized workout routine for you.

For more information please stop by any of our Life Center locations or call: 520-562-3321 Ext. 7940

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988



Governor

Stephen Roe Lewis

Lt. Governor **Regina Antone**

Community Council Representatives

> District 1 Arzie Hogg Joey Whitman

District 2
Ann M. Lucas

District 3Avery White
Joseph Manuel Jr.

District 4Jennifer Allison
Lalena Jackson
Christopher Mendoza

Nada Celaya

District 5

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

District 6

Anthony Villareal, Sr. Terrance B. Evans Charles Goldtooth

District 7Devin Redbird

Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer Shannon White, Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

Roberto A. Jackson

roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us CPAO Director (520) 562-9851

Emma Hughes

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

Velia Moncada

Velia.Moncada@gric.nsn.us Community Newsperson (520) 562-9718

For more information

grin@gric.nsn.us (520) 562-9715

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

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grammar, spelling and content.

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

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Community



GRIC receives donation from the Phoenix Suns during MCT

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury Foundation presented the Gila River Indian Community with a \$10,000 grant for youth athletics on Friday, March 15, during the 60th annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo (MCT). This grant is intended to support the development of sports facilities, training programs, and equipment for youth.

As part of their commitment to honoring and recognizing tribal communities, representatives from the foundation joined the GRIC for the MCT Community Day events, where they presented the check to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Regina Antone.

"We're here giving back and making sure we're connecting with all of you," said Shawn Martinez, senior director of live presentation for the Phoenix Suns.

Gov. Lewis thanked the



Phoenix Suns presented a check to the Gila River Indian Community during the 60th annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo's Community Day events on March 15. Emma Hughes/GRIN

foundation for the grant and highlighted the Suns commitment to tribes with their on-going ORIG-INATIV games, an initiative that

began in 2022, by the Phoenix Suns to recognize all 22 tribes in the state.

Community members were taken by surprise as the Suns gorilla mascot arrived, hyping up the crowd and waving a turquoise Suns flag. Suns dancers and representatives accompanied him, all wearing the City Edition uniform, which debuted as part of ORIGINATIV.

The crowd received Suns merchandise and one lucky youth was presented with a turquoise basketball signed by Suns players. Gov. Lewis was also presented with a custom Suns jersey.

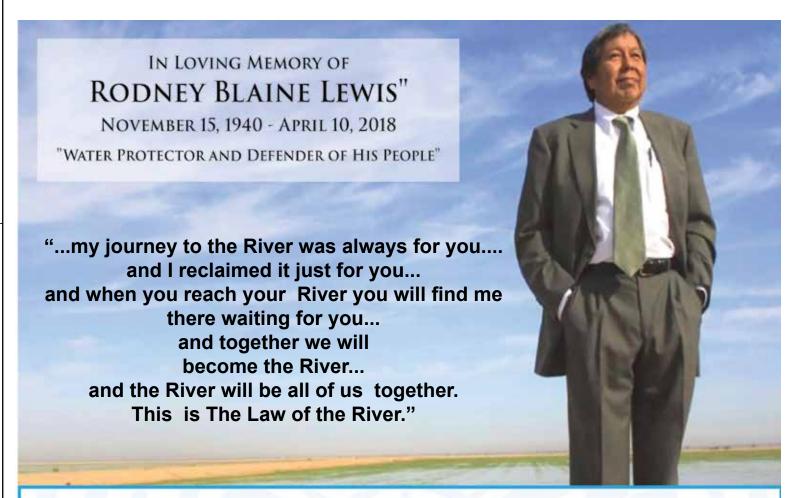
The Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury Foundation distributes more than \$2.5 million annually to hundreds of local and diverse communities throughout the state, impacting more than 400,000 children. Since its inception, the foundation has donated over \$43 million to state organizations focusing on basketball-inspired programs.

The ORIGINATIV games has made a lasting impact on Indigenous communities in the state and worldwide. It focuses on providing resources and support to tribal communities through basketball-inspired programs, contributing to the development of sports infrastructure, and promoting cultural exchange.

The Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury foundation continues to use basketball as a platform to provide meaningful resources and support to strengthen and bring together diverse communities across the state.



Youth receives a basketball signed by the Phoenix Suns team during the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo's Community Day. Velia Moncada/GRIN



For he was the Heart of The River. And now he is The River. We will feel his absence forever. May God continue to keep him in His heavenly care. Until we meet again at the River.

The Lewis Family

Community Member Pursues Dream, Opens First Nail Salon in Sacaton

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

Rita Mendivil, a proud Hopi and GRIC member from District 4, has achieved a significant milestone in her entrepreneurial journey with the grand opening of the first nail boutique in Sacaton. Aptly named 'Bling by Rita,' the boutique opened its doors on March 2 at 78 W. Pima St., Suite 1, next to the Post Office.

"I have always loved nails, beauty, makeup, everything beauty," Mendivil shared. Her interest in nail artistry began when she acquired a nail kit at age eight.

For Mendivil, the journey to opening her boutique has been a relentless pursuit of her dreams. While working for 13 years as a teacher at Head Start, she balanced her hobby with her day job, eventually obtaining her nail tech license in 2023.

"During the pandemic is when I really got into doing nails. I was doing my nails, and my friends and family would ask me to do theirs," said Mendivil, explaining how she started her small business inside her laundry room. Her clients, co-teachers, friends, and family all encouraged



Rita Mendivil, owner of 'Bling by Rita', works on a client. Velia Moncada/GRIN

her to pursue her passion on a grander scale.

"I didn't really have the funding then," Mendivil explained when she decided to attend B5 Beauty School in Mesa. However, with solid support from her eight children, she sold burritos to make money for a down payment on tuition and won awards for scholarships. Mendivil graduated with her certificate in Nail Technology in May

The grand opening of 'Bling by Rita' celebrated her triumphs and served as a testament to the support she has garnered from her friends, family, and the Community.

Attendees eagerly explored the chic and inviting interior of the boutique, adorned with sparkling décor and elegant furnishings.

Raffle prizes were up for grabs, ranging from a first customer appointment to beaded earrings by Unique

Additionally, guests were served food and refreshments by Haujin Kitchen and Alyssa's Kosin, while DJ Whoa (Jacob Antone) provided musical support for the newly opened business.

"They tell you when you do God's work, you gain an abundance of love and blessings, and your cup will overflow," said Mendivil, "I sit here, and I cry tears of joy because my cup is overflowing. I would have never thought I would have this."

Bling by Rita is more than just a nail boutique; it is a testament to the power of perseverance and the fulfillment of a lifelong ambi-

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH EVENT



Tuesday, April 23, 2024 **District 3 Multi-Purpose Building** 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Education Booth | Speakers | Raffle | Food

For educational booth registration, please contact Victim Services at 520-562-410









tion. Mendivil's journey inspires aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere, proving that with determination and passion, anything is possible. As her boutique remains open to welcome

customers old and new, she looks forward to continuing her success journey and making a lasting impact on the Community.

If interested, you can follow Mendivil's business page on Instagram at 'Blingedoutbyrita' or send her a text message at (480) 799-3804 to schedule an appointment.



Grand Entry begins at the MCT Pow-wow. Velia Moncada/GRIN

From the Front Page

Saturday's events included the Master's Rodeo and Wild Horse Race, pow-wow, cultural performances, Battle of the Bands competition, live art, and local musical performances. The day was finished off with electric entertainment by rap artists

Too \$hort, Chingy, and Lil Jon, performing their hits to a packed crowd to close out the night.

with gourd dancing, leading into the competition of traditional men's and women's dances, jingle dress, and grass dances by age, gender, and category.

"You can make a lot of friends at Pow Wows; it's just an atmosphere that makes you feel good. Es-The pow-wow, held pecially hearing that drum, March 16-17, kicked off you just get good feelings hearing that drum," said Marc Sekayouma, member of the Nez Perce tribe and lead coordinator of the pow-wow.

Sekayouma said that

before pow-wows became competitive, they were always social. There were no rules, and people from different tribes would gather and socialize. His favorite part was just being there and observing the immersion of new people as they came together to witness the dancers and the drums.

On Sunday morning, March 17, O'otham cultural games Thoka and Songuvil were played outside the MCT fairgrounds.

This year, 14 Thoka teams competed for the tournament trophy. The game is played by O'otham women and girls between the ages of 5-65.

Angelia Allison, District 4, has played Thoka for 20 years and was a referee for the Akimel O'otham team. Allison stated that the theme of unity related to the game by "bringing all the tribes together."

On that same day, the MCT car show took place



Classic cars and low riders were on display at the Matthew B. Juan - Ira Hayes Veterans Memorial Park for the Mul-Chu-Tha Car Show. Velia Moncada/GRIN

at the Matthew B. Juan— Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, in Sacaton, with over 20 classic, customized, and lowrider cars in attendance.

Luis Favela, from the Casa Grande group, said this is the second year he and his group have participated in the car show event; he looks forward to the food and the people in the Community who make him feel welcome.

The battle of the bands and dance competition, cultural performances, live art and musical performances, comedic entertainment, food and craft vendors, and carnival rides all continued at the Sacaton Fairgrounds, where reggae band Common Kings closed out the night for a successful 60th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo.



O'otham singers and dancers perform at the MCT Cultural Circle. Velia Moncada/



Teams compete in the MCT Thoka Tournament on March 17. Velia Moncada/GRIN

Student Services host College Fair

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

Gila River's Student Services Department hosted a spring college fair at the Sacaton Head Start on March 22. Prospective students visited booths of several Arizona community

colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

The school booths advertised their student programs and gave out promotional items to Community members as they explored the educational options offered through Student Ser-

mixture here of vocational, community colleges, and universities. We have something here for everybody," said Jennifer Hinton, Student Services Adult Education Manager.

Hinton explained to the GRIN that the Commu-

"We have a good nity scholarship program is not just for youth graduating high school but for all Community members interested in pursuing their educational journeys.

"Some of these schools are schools Community members were interested in." said Hinton, adding that the newest addition to the GRIC Higher Education Scholarship policy includes a revised list of vocational schools Community members can attend

that were not able to before.

Vocational and Student Advisor Danielle Allen, District 3, visited the booths to gain more information for her students. She said that the new policy would give students more opportunities in education. However, if a former applicant has already utilized the program and received a degree, associate, or certificate through a community college or a university,

Student Services held a College Fair at the Sacaton Headstart on March 22. Velia Moncada/GRIN

they cannot apply again for funding to a vocational school, per the policy rules.

"We want you to go forward and not backwards," said Allen.

A community member from District 4 and parent, Star Pratt, said she attended the college fair with her son Sky Pratt, District 4, to spark his interest in colleges. He will soon be graduating from high school, and she hopes he will go on to the following levels of schooling.

"All these opportunities, hopefully we take advantage of more," said Pratt

For more information regarding the Higher Education Scholarship Program, visit the Tribal Education Department's website at www.gricted. com or call the Student Services office at (520) 562-3316.



Community members receive information at the college fair on March 22. Velia Moncada/GRIN

VE THE DATE! Early Childhood Fair "Healthy Development" *April* **27**[™] Sacaton Boys & Girls Club, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. TRIBAL EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE



2024 GRICUA HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Students will learn about the tasks and responsibilities of the employees who provide electric service to the Community.

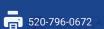
JOIN OUR TEAM!

- Students will work 40 hours per week, (Monday-Friday).
- Pay will be \$14.35 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
- · Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse supervisors, meter technicians, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the
- · Students must be 16 years of age.
- · Students must be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
- Students should have basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets.
- Students must pass a drug screen and background check.
- · Students MUST complete the GRICUA Application of Employment which can be found at http://www.gricua.net/emplyment.html. • The deadline for filling out applications is May 10, 2024.
- . Applications will be evaluated upon receipt and interviews may be scheduled before the closing
- · Selected students will be notified on or before May 31st.
- · Apply online: www.gricua.net.

COLLEGE INFO

- Must be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
- Program for students will be based on his/her major course of study (business or accounting will work primarily in the Finance Department; an engineering or technical major will work primarily in the Operations Department of GRICUA).
- Must have a clear Arizona driver's license.





GRIC Employee's First Novel Wins Reader Views' Bronze Award in Fantasy



Robert Russin during a book signing event on Feb. 18. Photo Courtesy of Robert Russin.

Velia Moncada

Gila River Indian News

Professionally speaking, Robert Russin has spent the past 23 years as the Community's Financial Compliance Manager. But now it's what Russin does away from his day job that is earning him recognition. His first novel, "Light Burns" - an imaginative tale smudging the connections between life and the afterlife, - recently earned the bronze award in Fantasy by the Reader Views Literary Awards.

"Back in October of 2013, my mother passed, and I had a, for lack of a better term, a vision or a religious experience that gave me the guidance for this book," Russin said in a phone interview with the GRIN.

As Russin explains it, he recognized years ago that he had a talent for writing. However, the self-proclaimed "just a

normal guy," was reluctant to pursue the craft of story-making because it required digging into some strange experiences, still, he kept working, he says. It took him 10 years to write "Light Burns."

"After I finished it and I really looked at it more critically, this book is about second chances," said Russin, a Phoenix resident. "This is what a lot of people out there need is a second chance. ... I'm hoping that this book might be the guide in that direction."

Published in June 2023, by London-based Olympia Publishers, Russin's novel focuses on Dawn Allegary, who is killed by lightning. As the book's Amazon blurb explains, "Upon waking from her death, Dawn finds herself given another chance at life, her eternal life. However, this chance at a new beginning isn't as easy as it might seem."

Russin's story follows

a diverse cast of characters navigating the earth world from their earthly human selves into pulsating light beings confronting challenges, pursuing redemption, and uncovering the great interconnection of the universe.

So far, Russin's exploration of the themes of existence, love and salvation has amassed six five-star reviews on Amazon, where it's for sale in paperback for \$11.99. The book is also available through Barnes and Noble.

"The author's style is natural and easy, but there is a philosophical thread that runs throughout it," said Tammy Ruggles, who reviewed "Light Burns" for Reader Views. "The dialogue is engaging and realistic, which grounds the fantasy aspects nicely. I love how the author is able to blend the commonplace with the imaginative elements."

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Rural Development

LoneButteSolar, LLC: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utility Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service(RUS)has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Lone Butte Solar, LLC for the construction of the Lone Butte Solar Project located in Districts 4 and 6 of the Gila River Indian Community in Maricopa County, Arizona.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the environmental assessment (EA) and FONSI, or for further information,contact: Alan Hachey at email:RUSPublicComments@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are available for public review on the USDA Rural Development web site at: https://www. rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/lone-butte-solar-llc and physical copies of the documents are available at the Gila River Indian Community District No. 6 Service Center located at 5230 West St. Johns Road, Laveen, Arizona 85339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Project consists of a 50-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generating facility interconnecting to the existing Lone Butte Substation on Community land. The proposed facility will cover approximately 355 acres of tribal trust land in portions of District 4 and District 6 of the Community in Maricopa County, Arizona. The Project will consist of solar PV arrays and the following components: perimeter fencing, a battery energy storage system (BESS), a substation, collector lines and inverters, a step-up transformer, an overhead transmission line, and access roads. The 50-MW BESS may be constructed in the future if it is determined to be necessary based on future needs and is included in the EA for analysis. The purpose of the overhead transmission line is to interconnect the solar energy facility to the central Arizona transmission grid at the proposed point of interconnection at the Lone Butte Substation. The Project is expected to operate for 35 years. Lone Butte Solar, LLC is in the process of being sold to the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA), who will retain ownership and operation of the Project to serve the Community's energy needs.

Alternatives considered by RUS and Lone Butte Solar, LLC include No Action and the Proposed Action Alternative. The alternatives are discussed in the Lone Butte Solar Project EA. RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed Project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the Gila River Indian NewsonFebruary15,2024. A14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice. The EA was available for public review at the USDA Rural Development web site at:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/environmental-studies/assessment/lone-butte-solar-llc and a physical copy was made available at the Gila River Indian Community District No. 6 Service Center located at 5230 West St. Johns Road, Laveen, Arizona 85339. RUS received one comment on the FA from the Western Area Power Administration

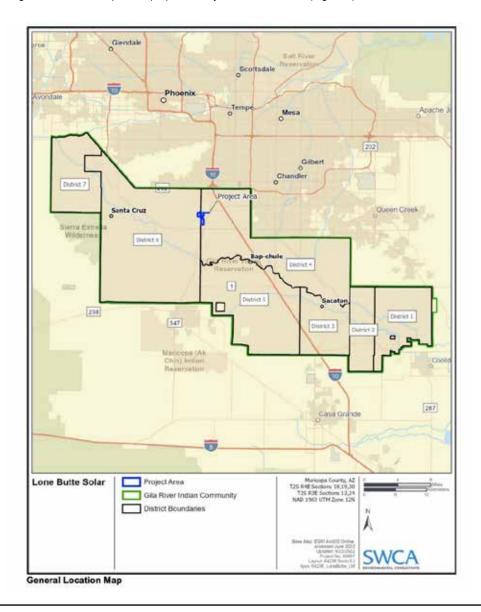
Based on the EA and mitigation commitments made by Lone Butte Solar, LLC, RUS has concluded that the Project will have no adverse effects to Indian Trust assets, wetlands, air quality, socioeconomic resources, noise, transportation, and human health and safety. The Project would have no significant adverse effects on land use, important farmlands, floodplains, water resources, biological resources, and aesthetics.

If implemented, the proposed Project will convert approximately 0.32 acre of floodplain for the construction of a proposed access road. The proposed Project will have no adverse effect on resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has concluded that the proposed Project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed Project would also not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed Project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 United States Code §§ 4231–4347), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the Project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed Project have been adequately addressed. RUS's potential federal action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such RUS will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed Project.

A general location map of the proposed Project is shown below (Figure 1). Dated: March 2024



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Pima Agency P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85147

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Branch of Real Estate Services

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING

Environmental Assessment for Allotment 4520, Proposed in District 4 of the Gila River Indian Community

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 grant of right-of-way associated with Allotment 4520 in District 4 of the Community. The proposal includes the development of the allotment to improve drainage conditions at the existing Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway intersection and allow for the relocation of a traffics signal pole, installation of a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramp, sidewalk construction, and general landscaping (Project).

This notice is intended to provide details about the proposed Project and to request your

Proposed Action

The Casino Expansion Owner's Team (CEOT) anticipates pursuing a grant right-ofway through the BIA for Allotment 4520. The Project includes approximately 9.3 acres of allotted land within the Community located southeast of the Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway intersection. Key Project components would include the following:

- Construction of a stormwater ditch along Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway.
- Relocation of a traffic signal pole to the southeastern corner of the Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway intersection.
- Construction of a new ADA curb ramp on the southeastern corner of the Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway intersection.
- Extension of an 8-foot-wide concrete sidewalk along the east side of Gilbert Road.
- General landscaping improvements.

Vehicle access along Hunt Highway and Gilbert Road would be maintained throughout

construction; however, vehicle traffic could experience occasional short-term temporary delays. No transportation detours or changes in transportation access are anticipated as a result of Project development.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed Project is to improve drainage conditions and transportation access at the Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway intersection and adjacent to Community Trust Land by the construction of a new stormwater ditch, the relocation of a traffic signal, installation of a new ADA curb ramp, and the extension of sidewalk, respectively.

Overall, this Project will alleviate flooding which is impacting the Gilbert Road and Hunt Highway intersection and improve the pedestrian and vehicle access at the intersection. The Project would also

generate payment to the allottee as part of the grant of right-of-way, representing a direct quality of life improvement.

Scoping Period

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act, federal agencies are required to consider the potential social and environmental impacts of proposed actions. This letter serves as the BIA's invitation to you or your agency to submit comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed action. All comments received become part of the public record associated with the 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 within 30 days, to:

Rachael Larson, Superintendent Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85147 Telephone: (520) 562-3543 Email: rachael.larson@bia.gov

Brady Kent, acting Environmental Specialist Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85147 Telephone: (206) 458-9975

Email: brady.kent@northwind.grp

★ VETERANS ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Native Americans long-standing service in the Military



Submitted by Veteran & Family Services Office

Native Americans have made a significant contribution to this country during times of war and conflict. American Indians served as auxiliary troops and as scouts from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War. Indian Scouts were established in 1866 and deactivated in 1947.



Americans served in the military during World War I. Four American Indians from the Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division received the Croix de Guerre (War Cross) medal from France.

About 12,000 Native

Between 1941 and 1945, over 44,000 Native Americans served (with a total population of less than 350,000 nationwide). Many worked as cryptologists, using their Native languages to encode messages that the enemies could not decipher.

gratitude directly to the

Department of Veterans Affairs, there are seven million living Vietnam veterans and 10 million families who have served during the Vietnam War. Within GRIC, there are currently 43 living Vietnam veterans, 143 deceased, and seven who were killed in action, according to VFSO.

During the event, a moment of silence was held in honor of the seven who were killed in action followed by the honor bell

On March 29, 1973,

Alaska Natives in the Alaska Combat Intelligence Detachment were the first ashore on each island occupied by Allied forces in the Aleutian Campaign.

Approximately 10,000 Native Americans served during the Korean War and three were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Over 90 percent of the 42,000 Native Americans that served during the Vietnam Era were volunteers.

American Indian / Alaska Natives have continued to serve in high numbers since the Vietnam

Era. They served in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Gulf War, and in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND).

Thank you to all who have served!

Veterans in need of long term health care/assisted living

If a veteran or a veteran's spouse is applying for ALTCS (State Long Term Health Care), DES (Department of Economic Security) requires that a form

be filled out by the VA as part of the application process. Our office can assist with the required form.

Veteran and Family Services Office 520-562-9704

Peer Support Specialist Wesley Rhodes -520-610-4383

Peer Support Specialist Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037

Veteran Service Officer Kim Skelton 520-610-

From the Front Page

"I'm truly humbled and honored to spend this time with you; it's touching to the heart," said Lt. Gov. Antone, during her remarks to the veterans and families who attended the event. "You're always the first to protect your family, your land, and your country, and so I am dearly honored to be here with you, and I appreciate and acknowledge your sacrifices and bravery.'

Lt. Gov. Antone also presented Vietnam veterans with a commemorative coin and families of veterans who have passed or

were unable to attend. "We want to make sure

that our Vietnam veterans are acknowledged, not just by us, the Community, but everywhere, and I thank you all for your service," said White. Amidst the camara-

derie and celebration, the event also provided an opportunity for reflection. It was a chance for veterans to connect, with some coming from as far as Phoenix, Eloy, and Tucson, who traveled to the Community for this special occasion. Those in attendance also received lunch and a gift

Throughout the luncheon, attendees had the chance to express their

According to the U.S.

and reading of their names.

the last U.S. combat troops



Veterans gather for the Vietnam Veterans Day Luncheon at the District 5 Multipurpose Building on March 28. Miyana Manus/CPAO

departed Vietnam, and the U.S. Military Assis-

(MACV) was disestablished. 58,307 names aptance Command, Vietnam pear on the Vietnam Vet-

erans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.



Lt. Gov. Regina Antone presents commemorative coins to veterans who served during the Vietnam War. Miyana Manus/CPAO



Veterans are treated to a lunch during the event on March 28. Miyana Manus/CPAO

Gila River Indian Community

Arizona Voter Registration & Outreach



Join us in District 5 to register for the upcoming 2024 Primary and General Elections.

District 5 Multipurpose Building 3456 W Casa Blanca Rd, Bapchule, AZ 85121

April 24, 2024 | 10AM - 2PM

- Registration
- Election Materials
- General Voter Assistance w/ Support from Pinal County



For more information, contact the Communications & Public Affairs Office at (520) 562-9715.





MCT All-Native Men's Basketball Tournament

Joseph Morales GRIN Intern

On Friday, March 15, the highly anticipated Men's All-Native Basketball Tournament, commenced in District 3 at the Sacaton Boys & Girls Club. This marked the beginning of an exciting weekend, coinciding with the 60th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo.

Spectators and players filled the gym, and teams from all over gathered in the Gila River Indian Community.

A total of 15 teams participated in the event, and 28 games were played throughout the weekend.

The first game of the tournament was between the teams 'Gila River' and 'W. Ties'. It was fast-paced, with some flair and cheerful crowds to set the tempo for the weekend. I had a chance to briefly talk to Nick Harrison, one of the players on team Gila River.

"It's great to see all the talent and competition from different tribes; each year, it gets bigger," Harrison said. "It's always fun to compete, to play with friends and family.'

The tournament reached its climax on Sunday, March 17, with the highly anticipated thirdplace and championship games. The third-place game showcased the 'Skoden Warriors' and 'Ft. Mc-Dowell', who would later

battle it out in the final game. The Skoden Warriors displayed their prowess, securing third-place and a \$500.00 reward. The championship game, a nail-biting clash between W. Ties and Ft. McDowell, ended with W. Ties emerging as the undefeated champions. The victorious team was awarded a \$1,000.00 check, while the runners-up took home a \$800.00 check, marking the end of a thrilling tournament.



Team Ft. McDowell and W. Ties compete in the All Native Men's Basketball Tournament. Photo Courtesy of Joseph Morales

Hot Spinach Apple Salad

YIELDS 10 SERVINGS

TOTAL PREP/COOK TIME: 20 MINUTES

Ingredients

- · 6 bacon strips, diced
- · 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- · 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- · 9 cups fresh baby spinach
- · 2 unpeeled large red apples, thinly sliced
- 1 medium red onion, chopped (about 3/4 cup)

Directions

- In a large skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Remove to paper towels. Drain, reserving 2 tablespoons drippings.
- 2. In same skillet, combine vinegar, brown sugar and reserved drippings. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until sugar is dissolved. Cool slightly.
- 3. Meanwhile, in a serving bowl, combine spinach, apples, onion and bacon. Drizzle with warm dressing; toss to coat. Serve immediately.

National Zucchini Bread Day

Nutrition Facts: 1 SERVING: 117 CALORIES, 78 FAT (2G SATURATED FAT), 11MG CHOLESTEROL, 135MG SODIUM, 11G CARBOHYDRATE (9G SUGARS, 2G FIBER), 3G PROTEIN

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL RECREATION & WELLNESS

Fitness Questions? Call (520) 562-2026 Sports Questions? Call (520) 562-2024 or 2025 Administrative Questions? Call (520) 562-6087 Email: Wellness.center@gric.nsn.us

D5 Elder Chair Yoga

5:30pm - D3 Hi-Energy Cycle 6pm - D7 Tough HIIT Out

D2 Elder Fitness

LOCATION: 315 W. CASA BLANCA RD. SACATON, AZ, 85147 GYM HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 6AM TO 7PM



FRIDAYS 6AM TO 5PM WE MO TU TH FR 3 D3 Elder Fitness 12pm - D3 Total Body Burn WP - Morning Walks **D5 Elder Chair Yoga** 10am D7 - Zumba Gold Five Tribes ECVB 12pm - D3 HBT D5 Elder Chair Yoga D2 Elder Fitness 12pm - DS Zumba TOURNAMENT 2pm - D3 Strength Bootor WC CLOSED 5:30pm - D3 Hi-Energy Cycle 5:30pm - D2 Zumba 5:30pm - D3 Kickboxing 6pm - D7 Tough HIIT Out 6:00pm - D7 Youth Strength D1 Full Body Burn 11 10 12 13 6:30an 6:30am WP - Morning Walks WP - Morning Walks 12pm - D3 Total Body Burn **D5 Elder Chair Yoga** 10am - D1 Elder Fitness D7 - Zumba Gold 12pm - 03 HHT D5 Elder Chair Yoga D2 Elder Fitness 12pm - D3 Strength Bootcamp 12pm - 03 TRX Fusion 12pm - D3 Friday Shree 5:30pm - D2 Zumba 5:30pm - D3 Hi-Energy Cycle 6pm - D7 Tough HIIT Out 5:30pm - D3 Kickboxing D3 Total Body Burn 6:00pm - D7 Youth Strength D1 Full Body Burn D5 Youth Circuit Training HEALTH EDU. - B&G CLUB AT 2PM 6:30am WP - Morning Walks 15 18 20 17 19 14 6:30am D3 Fider Fitness 12pm - D3 Total Body Burn WP - Morning Walks 10am D7 - Zumba Gold D5 Elder Chair Yoga 10am - D1 Elder Fitness 12pm - D3 HIIT D5 Elder Chair Yoga 12pm - D3 Strength Booles D2 Elder Fitness 5:30pm - D3 Kickboxing 12om - D3 TRX Puston 12pm - D3 Friday Shred D1 Full Body Burn 5:30pm - D3 Hi-Energy Cycle 5:30pm D3 Total Body Burn 5:30pm - D2 Zumba 6pm - D7 Tough HIIT Out FOOD DEMO - D7 AT 6PM 6:00pm - D7 Youth Strength **D5 Youth Circuit Training** WP -Morning Walks 10am - D1 Elder Fitness 6:30am 21 26 27 24 12µm - D3 Total Body 22 WP - Morning Walks 23 D3 Elder Fitness 10am 10am om - 03 TRX Fusi D7 - Zumba Gold **D5 Elder Chair Yoga** D5 Elder Chair Yoga 12pm - D3 Strength Bootcam 12pm - 03 HIIT BREAD DAY! 5:30pm - D3 Kickboxing D1 Full Body Burn 5:30pm - D3 Hi-Energy Cycle D3 Total Body Burn 12pm - D3 Friday Shred 5:30pm - D2 Zumba MERMAID & UNICORN CAMP D3 HDST AT 5:45PM 6pm - D7 Tough HIIT Out **D5 Youth Circuit Training** 6:00pm - D7 Youth Strength SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: 28 12pm - D3 Total Body 29 30 Mermaid & Unicorn Camp Sac City Jam: Boys & Girls High School Basketball Tournament April 25th-27th 6:30am April 23rd - D3 Headstart Bldg. Ages: 3-5yrs old Health Education WP - Morning Walks April 12th - Boys & Girls Club 1PM 10am - D7 - Zumba Gold Boys Tournament - D5 Girls Tournament - D3

April 16th - D7

April 19th-20th - D4

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY TRIBAL RECREATION & WELLNESS

Men's 35 & Older Basketball Tournament

5:30pm - D3 Kickboxing

D1 Full Body Burn



MUL-CHU-THA 2024 TOURNAMENT WINNERS



ELDER CHAIR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT







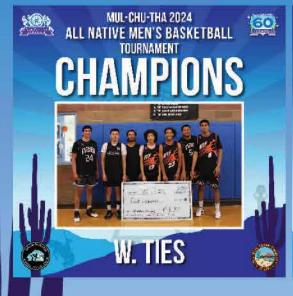
MODIFIED WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT







ALL NATIVE MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT









A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS
AND TO THOSE WHO CAME OUT TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!



60TH AN



MUL-CHU-THA

WEEKEND RECAP





















INUAL FAIR & RODEO



MARCH 15-17, 2024























Gila River Indian News Page 12 April 5, 2024



HEADLINES **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**





'Climate Change & You' lecture by Bill Nye, features Gov. Lewis

Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

Arizona State University's (ASU) Barrett. The Honors College presented the 2024 John J. Rhodes lecture "Climate Change & You" with science educator Bill Nye on March 12, at the Tempe Center for the

The John J. Rhodes lecture is named after the United States Representative for Arizona, who served from 1952-1982. Rhodes' commitment to public service and higher education is reflected in the lectures dedicated to discussions and dialogue about challenging issues facing today's society and impacting the future.

Nye, an engineer, comedian, television presenter, author, and inventor, is perhaps best known for his show "Bill Nye the Science Guy." His goal is to foster a scientifically literate society and help people of all light goes past it, but after ages understand and appreciate science.

Nye presented climate change and its harrowing effects, including the increasing temperature brought on by the earth's growing population. He recalled attending the New York World's Fair in 1965, where the United Nations had a total of the earth's population—he and his family just missed witnessing the total change from 2,999,999,999 to 3 billion people.

"Now it's well over 8 billion," said Nye, "So in my lifetime, it's almost tripled."

He explained that the earth's atmosphere is very thin, and with over 8 billion people living and breathing, it has increased its warmth

"The carbon dioxide molecule has this remarkable property where visible

the visible light strikes the Earth's surface, some of that energy is absorbed, it's re-radiated, comes back at a slightly longer wavelength, infrared, and it's held in by these molecules," Nye said.

"If we were talking about climate change the way we talk about a bunch of other stuff, we'd be getting (things) done." Nye urged people to openly discuss climate change and work collectively in order to make impactful changes.

Following the lecture, a panel discussion featured Gila River Indian Community's Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Amber Wutich, Center for Global Health president's professor and director, and Tara Williams, Barrett Honors College dean and moderator the discussion, which focused on climate change and water issues

"I was honored to be



Bill Nye and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during the 2024 John J. Rhodes lecture and discussion at the Tempe Center for the Arts on March 12. Emma Hughes/GRIN

invited," said Gov. Lewis, "I was able to talk about Gila River Indian Community, our linkage, our historical perspective to our ancestors, to the Huhugam."

Gov. Lewis appreciated the opportunity to share the Community's connection with water and serve as water protectors, especially

during the historic drought in the Colorado River Basin and what's being done to conserve it.

He shared the Community's solar panels over canals, the reclaimed pipeline, and Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 5 (MAR-5) which provides irrigation to support thousands of acres

of farmlands and the ecosystem native to the area.

Gov. Lewis said, "It's on us to respect the natural world, our water and our land and use science in a very productive way that brings us together, that we don't lose our humanity in the process."



PARADE WINNERS **CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF UNITY**







DANCE GROUP AWARD



2nd Place: Salt River Bird Dancers by the River 3rd Place: 5th Generation Basket Dancers

MARCHING UNIT AWARD



2nd Place: Sacaton Elementary Cheer Squad 3rd Place: Blackwater Community School



2nd Place: Miss Pisinemo and Royalty Court 3rd Place: Jr. Miss White Mountain Apache



2nd Place: Gila River Pride and Justice Tribal Court 3rd Place: Tohono O'odham Chairman & Vice-Chair

SCHOOL/CLUB



2nd Place: Gila River Basketball 3rd Place: Sacaton Elementary School District



GILA RIVER GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1988"
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aRiverTV @DigitalConnectInitiative

Miss Gila River attends Blackwater **Community School Award Ceremony**

GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

On March 25, Miss Gila River Susanna Osife joined the Blackwater Community School (BWCS) for their quarterly award presentation at the school's campus.

The event was held in front of the entire school and all grades to present awards to students for their educational achievements. Before Osife presented the awards, she gave a speech to the students in attendance, expressing the importance of education.

The awards presented were the Character Counts award, the A/B Honor award, and the Principal Honors award, which high-



Miss Gila River Susanna Osife and students from the Blackwater Community School. GRIN Photo

lights students' traits inside portance of it.' and outside the classroom.

I had the chance to talk with Osife herself. She stated, "Being an alumni to this school I enjoyed my time to meet and encourage the young students to continue their education and the im-

The students and families were grateful for Osife's presence and inspired by her visit. They lined up to take photos and expressed their appreciation for her time and message of encouragement.

Upcoming GRICUA Road Construction Project

Please be advised of upcoming road construction projects that will impact your daily commute on the following dates:

May 4th (Saturday)

- 6:00am-4:00pm
- San Tan Road and State Route 587
- m May 12th (Sunday)
- 6:00am-4:00pm
- Mile Post 219 (McDonald Road) and State Route 587
- m May 21st (Tuesday)
- 6:00am-4:00pm
- Hunt Highway and State Route 87

For more information call GRICUA: (520) 796-0600

Now Accepting Applications for the FBI's Teen Academy



FBI Press Release Phoenix Field Office

Arizona – Have you ever wanted to be part of a SWAT Team? Collect evidence or fingerprint a suspect? If so, then consider participating in the FBI Teen Academy.

The FBI Phoenix division invites all interested Arizona high school upcoming juniors and seniors (class of 2025/2026) to Teen Academy. Class will be held on June 12, for Phoenix students and June 14, for Tucson students from 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The FBI Teen Academy program provides an opportunity for students to learn about the different careers within the FBI, and actively engage with FBI agents to learn about apply to the FBI Phoenix crime prevention, evidence gathering, and investigative techniques.

Graduates of the Teen Academy program develop a keen understanding of how the FBI interacts and works with local law enforcement agencies to protect our communities.

Participation is free and volunteer organizations provide supplies for the events. Applicants must be rising juniors or seniors in high school in the state of Arizona.

This is a competitive program, and not all applicants will be selected. Student selection for the Teen Academy will be based on a quality application and written assignment. The application, release form, and supporting assignment must be received by the

FBI Phoenix office by April 23, 2024. Incomplete and/ or late applications will not be accepted.

To apply and for more information on the FBI Teen Academy, visit: https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/phoenix/community-outreach

MISSING P ERSON

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH UGALDE ANTHONY PORTER KERMIT BREAD CYNTHIA ACEVEDO TONY GUTIERREZ **CLAYTON WAHPETA PETER THOMAS**



Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black (shaved) Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190

Age: 47 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190



Age: 43 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 200

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

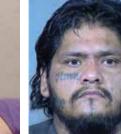
Age: 48 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 210



Age: 39 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 150

Last seen: 06/03/2005 Last seen: 08/03/2007 Last seen: 05/14/2009 Last seen: 10/15/2011 Last seen: 04/11/2014 Last seen: 08/31/2019

Age: 39 Sex: F Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4" Weight: 230



Last seen: 09/16/2022

Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 350

JAIME GONZALEZ KINGSTON DAVIS

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Age: 15 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4" Weight: 140

Age: 15 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 150

ABRAHAM ENOS



Age: 13 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 220

JOSEPH VALDEZ



Last seen: 01/19/2024 Last seen: 02/03/2024 Last seen: 02/12/2024 Last seen: 03/09/2024

Age: 15 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Dark Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 200

ANNISSA ENOS



Last seen: 03/16/2024

Age: 18 Sex: F Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 145

TRANT JACKSON



Last seen: 03/23/2024

Age: 15 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 110-120

NICHOLAS APKAW

Last seen: 04/12/2024

Age: 15 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 190

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 6, 2024

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, March 6, 2024, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:12 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- Arzie Hogg; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White ,Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D1- Joey Whitman (Personal)

D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr. (Meeting with D5 Elderly)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #6 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #4 AND #5, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #1, ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction – Rachael Larson, Superintendent Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region, Pima and Salt River Agencies

Presenter: Rachael Larson

MS. RACHAEL LARSON, SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS STATED SHE HAS BEEN WITH THIS AGENCY SINCE JUNE AND HAS BEEN SLOWLY MAKING CHANGES. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS WELCOMED MS. LARSON TO THE COMMUNITY AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH

2. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Introduction – Blake Katsnelson, Assistant Chief Operations Officer Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Blake Katsnelson MR. KENNETH MANUEL, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER INTRODUCED MR. BLAKE KATSNELSON AS THE NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER. MR. KATSNELSON HAS BEEN EMPLOYED WITH THE ENTERPRISE FOR 16 YEARS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS. MR. KATSNELSON WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BEING A PART OF THE BUILD FOR THE SANTAN MOUNTAIN CASINO. MR. KATSNELSON IS EXCITED TO BEGIN THIS NEW ROLE AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE TREMENDOUS WORK OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE ENTERPRISE. VARIOUS COUNCIL CONGRATULATED MR. KATSNELSON ON HIS NEW POSITION.

REPORTS

1. Haskell Osife Antone Post 51 1st Quarter Report Presenters: David Anderson, Belen Lawlor ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services 1st Quarter Report FY2024

Presenters: Sarah Youngblood

REPORT HEARD

3. 2024 State and Federal Voter Engagement Plan Presenters: Michael Preston, Roberto A. Jackson, Miyana Manus

REPORT HEARD

4. Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation Annual Report FYE 09/30/2023

Presenter: Teresa Mandelin

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. GRTI 4th Quarter Report 2023

Presenters: Jennifer Burkhalter, Craig Baumgartner, GRTI Board

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Action Plan Report

Presenter: Lt. Governor Regina Antone TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council January 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gaming Commission, M. Scott Sanderson, Lydia Acosta

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT

8. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report January 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Richard Strafella, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT

9. Schedule of Investments ending January 31, 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT

RESOLUTIONS

>1. A Resolution Revising The Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Local Exchange And Intrastate Access Tariff To Add Emergency Access Line Effective As Of December 1, 2023 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Jennifer Burkhalter, Craig Baumgartner, GRTI Board

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGEN-DA

2. A Resolution Approving The System Conservation Agreement To Conserve 78,000 Acre-Feet Community CAP Water As Agreed Under The Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project Financial Assistant Agreement (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Javier G. Ramos, Don Pongrace, Jason Hauter

APPROVED

ORDINANCES UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS

 Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacancy (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)
 Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY AND ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

2. Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention April 8-11, 2024 – Anaheim, CA (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTER-ESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

3. Native American Healthcare Conference June 18-19, 2024 in Temecula, California (H&SSC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenters: Health & Social Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTER-ESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

4. 42nd Annual Protecting Our Children Conference April 7-10, 2024 – Seattle, WA (H&SSC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenters: Health & Social Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

 2024 Community Council Candidate Certification (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the candidates for the 2024 Community Council Elections for District (1) Arzie T. Hogg and Duane Jackson, Jr.) (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the candidates for the 2024 Community Council Elections for District (4) Christopher Mendoza and Leah A. Williams) (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the candidate for the 2024 Community Council Elections for District (5) Gordon Santos, Jr.) (LSC forwards to Community Council with a recommendation to certify the candidates for the 2024 Community Council Elections for District (6) Angelina Flores and Anthony "Chris" Villareal, Sr.)

Presenters: Shannon White, Javier Ramos, Valerie Rivera COUNCILMAN ARZIE HOGG RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1, ARZIE T. HOGG AND DUANE JACKSON, JR

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDI-DATES FOR DISTRICT 4, CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA AND LEAH A. WILLIAMS

COUNCILMAN GORDON SANTOS, JR. RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 5, GORDON SANTOS, JR. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR. RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY CANDI-DATES FOR DISTRICT 6, ANGELINA FLORES AND ANTHONY VILLAREAL, SR.

6. Native American Cannabis and Hemp Conference June 18-19, 2024 in Temecula, California (EDSC forwards to Council for any interested Council Member to attend utilizing Dues and Delegations)

Presenters: Economic Development Standing Committee MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ALLOW ANY INTER-ESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES AND DELEGATIONS

7. GRGE FY 2023 Final Audit Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept) Presenters: Tony DeMark, Mike Dierlam, Anthony Gerlach MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Recommended Federal Priorities for 2024 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept)

Presenters: Javier G. Ramos, Don Pongrace, Jason Hauter

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MINUTES

1. February 21, 2024 (Regular) APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BIRTHDAY WISHES TO COUNCILWOMAN
 NADA CELAYA
- GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION SUMMIT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024
- MISS GILA RIVER PAGEANT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 IN DISTRICT 4
- WILD HORSE PASS DEVELOPMENT AU-THORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024
- GOVERNOR WILL BE TOURING THE NEW GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:36 A.M.

- * Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
- > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Page 16 Gila River Indian News April 5, 2024



MMIP Response Team: KNOW THE CODES

Excerpts from GRIC's Criminal Code

Facts on GRIC Codes involving:

Interference (Custody, Law Enforcement), Contributing to the Delinquency Obstructing a Criminal Investigation, Refusing to Aid Law Enforcement

What does this mean?

The Missing and Murdered Indian People/Persons Response Team is sharing the following information for those who may be in contact with runaways or missing youth. These codes will be enforced if you are committing the following:

5.504. Interfering with Law Enforcement of Jail Employee. (abbr.)

A person commits the offense of interfering with a law enforcement officer or jail employee if he intentionally or knowingly engages in conduct with the intent to impair, obstruct, hinder, or prevent a law enforcement officer or jail employee from discharging his official duties...

5.505. Refusing to Aid Law Enforcement Officer. (abbr.)

A person commits the offense of refusing to aid a law enforcement officer if upon a reasonable command by a person reasonably known to be a law enforcement office he intentionally or knowingly refuses to aid such law enforcement officer...

5.517. Obstructing a Criminal Investigation or Prosecution. (abbr.)

A person commits the offense of obstructing a criminal investigation or prosecution if he knowingly:

Bribes, misrepresents, intimidates, or forces or uses threats of force to obstruct, delay or prevent the communication
of information or testimony relating to a violation of any criminal offense to a public officer,
Community judge, prosecutor or Jury...

5.708. Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. (abbr.)

A person commits the offense of contributing to the delinquency of a minor when he intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or negligently contributes, encourages or causes a minor...

5.709. Interference with Custody. (abbr.)

A person commits the offense of interference with custody if, with knowledge that he has no privilege or right to do so, he takes, entices, keeps from lawful custody, or harbors a minor child from the lawful custody of a parent, guardian or custodian, or incompetent entrusted by authority of law to the custody of another person or institution...





If you have any information regarding a missing child or person, please contact the Gila River Police Department at (520) 562-4511.

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Pima Agency P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85147

IN REPLY REFER TO: Branch of Real Estate Services

NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS FOR LEASING OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pima Agency, on behalf of the allotted landowners, provides notice under Sealed Bids for the advertisement of available land for agriculture lease on trust or restricted Indian lands. We will be accepting SEALED BIDS ONLY for the purpose of leasing agricultural lands to the highest bidder through April 30, 2024. All bids must be delivered to the Pima Agency's Superintendent by U.S. Postal Mail or personally deliver sealed bids to the Pima Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs. The bid must be received at Pima Agency by April 30, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., to be considered as an acceptable bid offer. Bids will be opened and read at Pima Agency at 2:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024.

Bids must be enclosed in separate envelopes and each plainly marked, "SEALED BID ON FARMING LEASE, ITEM NO. ___, TO BE OPENED ON April 30, 2024." Mail bids to Pima Agency, P.O. Box 8, Sacaton, Arizona 85147 or deliver to 104 North Main Street, Sacaton, Arizona 85147.

| ITEM | DISTRICT | TRACTS AND ACRES AVAILABLE |
|-------|----------|--|
| No. 1 | 5 | See attachment Exhibit "A" - 89.57 acres |

Each offer of the bid must include the allotment number and legal description of the land to be leased, proposed conditions being offered including Bid/Dollar Per Acre Price and Term of Lease, being from one to ten years. In order to submit an acceptable bid, the bidder must propose a fair market value bid offer. The term of any lease bid accepted will begin on June 1, 2024, and will expire on the date negotiated under the lease terms. If your bid is accepted, the Superintendent, Pima Agency will provide notification that your bid has been accepted and will provide you with the lease documents and instructions to submit the executed lease agreement along with the supporting documentation needed to execute and approve the lease. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject any and all bids that do not meet the bid advertisement requirements. Bids may also be rejected by the Superintendent using her discretionary authority for any terms and rent. If this occurs, negotiation may resolve the issue(s) before any final rejection of a successful sealed bid.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Big Knife, Realty Specialist, at the Pima Agency at (520) 562-3376 or samantha.bigknife@bia.gov.

EXHIBIT "A" SCHEDULE OF LANDS

| Allotment No | Section | Township | Range | Acres |
|--------------|---------|----------|----------------|-------|
| 1116 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.135 |
| 1134 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.065 |
| 1135 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.061 |
| 1249-A | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 8.465 |
| 1250 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 8.465 |
| 1251 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.061 |
| 1252 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.061 |
| 1253 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.061 |
| 2591 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.061 |
| 3498 | 26 | 03 South | 04 East | 9.135 |
| | | | TOTAL ACRES | 89.57 |

CROSSROADS: HORSESHOE ROAD AND NELSON ROAD DISTRICT #5 AREA

| Bureau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency |
|--------------------------------------|
| Bid on Agriculture Lease |

| Item No. | Bid per acre | Term of Lease |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | |
| Bid submitted by: | | |
| Mailing Address: | NAME | |
| | | |
| Phone Number: | | |
| Email Address: _ | | |
| Are you a GRIC Tri | bal MemberYes | No |

GRIC Tribal ID Number: _

Announcements & Notices

GRIC COURT NOTICE OF HEARING

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

ALEXIS MARIE LEYVAS, Petitioner/Plaintiff

JAMES LEROY PEREZ, Respondent/Defendant

CASE number: FM-2023-0009-PT

CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING

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

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

Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.

DATED this 19th day of March, 2024

GRIC COURT NOTICE OF HEARING

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

DAVID JAMES MIRANDA, Petitioner/Plaintiff

SENA MARIE STONE, Respondent/Defendant

Case Number: FM-2024-0015-PT

SUMMONS Civil Division

TO: Sena Marie Stone 1010 N. Park Ave. Casa Grande, AZ 85122

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian

Community Court.

YOU may respond at an <u>Answer/Response Hearing</u> regarding this matter on:

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM in Courtroom I, AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI, 721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.

YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.

If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 2nd day of April, 2024

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department

Blotter

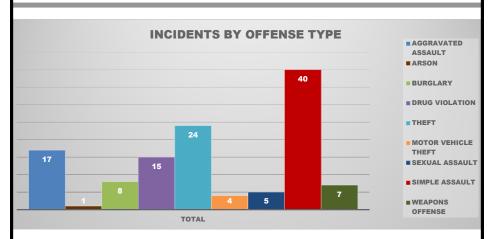
Police Department CRIME

Blotter ANALYSIS

Report UNIT

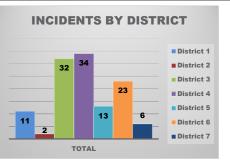
FOR: GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS

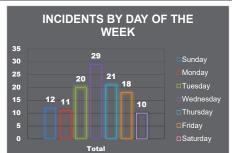
REPORTING DATE: 03/11 - 03/31/2024



TOP Community Wide Crimes

From March 11 to March 31, 2024 the crimes most frequently committed were Simple Assault (40), Theft (24), Aggravated Assault (17), and Drug Violations (15).





Incidents by District and Day of the Week

From March 11 - 31, 2024 the district with the highest reported crimes was District 4 (34), and the district with the second highest reported crimes was District 3 (32).

Between March 11 - 31, 2024 the day of the week with the highest reported crimes were on Wednesdays Most crimes were reported to have occurred between the hours of 8 P.M. to 2 A.M.

04/01/2024

Page 1 of 1

ACC.

FIRST NATIONS EAGLE



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SAVE THE DATE

The Gila River Indian Community Court presents

Law Day 2024

May 1, 2024

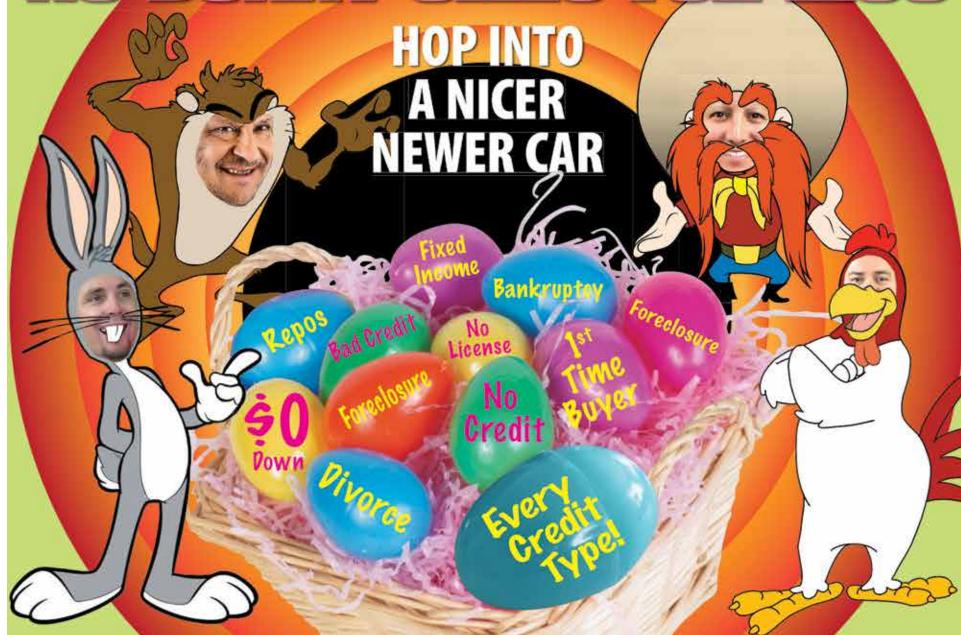






For more information please contact Starsha **Dosela** starsha.dosela.JUD@gric.nsn.us





2021 Hyundai **Palisade**



2022 Dodge Challenger



2021 Dodge Durango



2020 F150 Reg. Cab HARD TO FIND DONT MISS IT

2023 Kia



2020 Kia **Forte** ONLY \$289/mo. 2023 Toyota Corolla



2021 Hyundai Sonata CAN'T MISS WITH

2021 Nissan Altima SR



2022 Toyota Camry QUALITY AND



INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL

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ICE CUBE & E-40 SATURDAY, APRIL 6 | 9PM



A QUEEN EXPERIENCE WITH QUEEN NATION SATURDAY, APRIL 13 | 8PM



LOS LONELY BOYS FRIDAY, APRIL 19 | 8PM



MARLON WAYANS SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | 8PM



DWIGHT YOAKAM SUNDAY, APRIL 21 | 8PM MONDAY, APRIL 22 | 8PM

MORE **UPCOMING** SHOWS

APRIL 24 | WIZ KHALIFA AT WILD HORSE PASS APRIL 26 | CLINT BLACK *AT WILD HORSE PASS* MAY 3 | PAQUITA LA DEL BARRIO AT WILD HORSE PASS MAY 4 | MI BANDA EL MEXICANO AT WILD HORSE PASS





TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE! BUY TICKETS AT PLAYATGILA.COM

