

Multi-Purpose Building opens in Hashan Kehk

Celebration marks special occasion for District 2

By Annie Gutierrez
Gila River Indian News

It was an emotional sight for District 2 residents when they saw community elders Everett Kisto and Elizabeth Pablo cut the ribbon of the long awaited Hashan Kehk Multi-Purpose Building, Nov. 22.

Tears of joy and smiles were among many faces that came out to celebrate the grand opening of the new service center. The evening ceremony began with a welcome from District 2 resident Jivik Siiki, followed by a traditional blessing from Tim Terry Jr. and the posting of the colors from Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51. The Hashan



Annie Gutierrez/GRIN

Crowds tour the Hashan Kehk Multi-Purpose Building at the grand opening on Nov. 22 in District 2.

Kehk basket dancers and singers also performed for guests and had people out of their seats dancing to a few social songs around the gym. Afterward, guests enjoyed food provided by St. Anthony's Church and music by chicken

scratch band Two Rivers.

Hashan Kehk staff gave curious spectators a tour around the new two-story center. The uniquely light green colored building is comprised of administration offices, a fitness room, and gymnasium

with an elevated indoor track. It also has a teen room, a large area with two pool tables, an education room equipped with computers, arts and crafts room, and a large kitchen that will be used to serve homebound meals daily. The outdoor patios also have two grills ready for chumuth making.

Elders were also pleased to see their long wait for an Elder Center was well worth it. They can now feel relaxed in their new home-style center on the first floor complete with a lounge, bathroom, kitchen and healthcare room nearby.

"We are a small community," says District 2 Coordinator and resident, Jeanne Gomez.

"We wanted it to be functional with our administration, recreation center and elder center...The community has been working on

getting a multi-purpose building since late '99," she said.

The District 2 Service Center finally has a home after the many changes over the years. The original service center was an old

Continued on Page 9

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Officers Sworn In



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

From left: Lt. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (governor-elect), Officer Samuel Burris, Officer Alexander Johnson, Officer Tania Martinez, Officer Joe Pacheco, Officer Frederick Powell, Officer Kelvin Boswell, Chief Kathleen Kirkham and District 4 Council Representative Monica Antone (lieutenant governor-elect).

Six New Officers Join Gila River Police Department

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Six new Gila River Police Department officers were sworn in as they recited the oath to uphold the law, which echoed throughout the courtroom of the tribal courts building in Sacaton, Nov. 24. Lt.

Gov. Lewis welcomed the new officers, who were accompanied by family and friends. He emphasized the importance of their duty to protect the Community, acknowledging the sacrifices associated with serving in the line of duty.

Police Chief Kathleen

Kirkham told the new officers, "Get to know the people that you're serving, and build those relationships."

In closing her remarks, she said, "I want you to work hard, work smart, find joy in your work, because you get to do [good] for a living."



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Angelia Allison is sworn in as a Community Council representative on Dec. 3 in Sacaton.

Newly Elected District 4 Council Member Takes Office

By GRIN Staff
Gila River Indian News

Angelia Allison, who won the District 4 Community Council special election, was sworn in as the newest Council representative.

Allison was given the oath of office by Chief Judge Anthony Hill at the first regular monthly meeting of the Community Council at the Governance Center in Sacaton on Dec 3. She defeated former District 4 Community Council Representative Darrell Gerlaugh on Nov. 4 with 54.04 percent of the vote. Community Council certified the District 4 special election results at the Nov. 19 regular monthly meeting.

Her sister is current District 4 representative and former lieutenant governor, Jennifer Allison.



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District 3Carolyn Williams
Rodney Jackson**District 4**Jennifer Allison
Christopher Mendoza
Monica Antone**District 5**Robert Stone
Franklin Pablo, Sr.
Brian E. Davis, Sr.
Janice Stewart**District 6**Albert Pablo
Anthony Villareal, Sr.
Sandra Nasewytewa**District 7**

Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer
Shannon White,
Community Council Secretary

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**Special Thank You from the Bert Rhodes Family**

It has been quite some time since we have experienced a loss in our immediate family, with the passing of our Brother Herbert "Bert Rhodes". The family greatly appreciates all the people who came and gave the support, prayers, food and assistance for Bert's journey home to our Lord to suffer no more.

We thank all the Groups and Individuals for all your assistance in our time of need:

St. Peter's Parrish/Father Ed & Sisters for the Beautiful Mass and Songs

Mr. Lloyd Notah for the Exceptional Eulogy you provided & Family Support

St. Anne's Parrish -the Rosary Group for the Blessing and Rosary

Gila River Tribal Council & Executive Office

Gila River Police Department Bryson and Singing Group for the Traditional

All the Rhodes Families

Angela Jose & Families

Gregory Williams & Apkaw Family

Mrs. Pamela Johnson

Mrs. Julia Manuel & Family

Bertha & Gene Laws

Mrs. Mary Francis Cruz

Oleta Brown & Brown Families

Mrs. Deborah Griffin & Family

Jeanette Milda & Family

District 5 Service Center for all

the assistance with whatever we

needed for the wake and funeral

Our Relatives from New Mexico

Rose Waiqui & Christine Marti-

nez & Families

All the Choirs

Pima Express thank you for fulfilling his wishes in adding him to your busy schedule!

It was amazing to see so many people come together and show the love and assistance to help us through this difficult time. Bert will truly be missed by all the people who knew, worked and came in contact with him, he was just a great guy who loved talking, laughing, joking around with everyone and he just loved teasing the little ones.

In the event we may have not listed all who assisted, please be assured we appreciate everyone who came to help our families.

In Loving Memory Carter Lee Jones

Our beloved Husband, Daddy and Father-In-Law it seems like only yesterday we laid you to rest but it will be a year on December 20, 2014 when God called you home. A big part of us went with you as you played a big role in our lives. We have cried our million tears and more. Everything around us reminds us of you. It is very hard to go where we as a family use to go without shedding our tears.

We are told time will heal our broken hearts, but no one knows when that will be. Our home was full of laughter, joking and loving one another, but today its not the same. In the midnight hour when all is quiet, I just wish we could talk to you or hear your laughter and silly jokes. All we do is remember and at times it brings a smile.

These upcoming holidays are the hardest, we pretend we are okay but on the inside we hurt and at times we cry. You were such an awesome person, quiet but if only people really knew you it would be a different thing.

The year is coming and we know we must let go, as God said "Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted" we have to rely on our faith and as God's word says, "Joy comes in the morning", we just don't know when but one day we will be able to smile and know that you are in God's hands. You have fought the good fight.

Time has passed but your memories will live on forever in our hearts.

With our Love,

Donna Kisto-Jones

Caralee Rodriguez

Christopher Rodriguez

Thank You

THANK YOU to all the voters that voted me back into my current position as Associate Judge and having the confidence that I will continue to hear my hearings to the best of my ability. This is a challenging job however, it is also an appreciative job. There are so many things to learn, and every day is something different but again these are the things that I do that allow me to appreciate helping my community you the people of Gila River and

the Urban Indian Community as well. I most of all thank my heavenly father for allowing me to be in this position as I walk close beside Him every day and he guides me. I do not lean upon my own understanding but I allow God to work through me. I will continue to see that justice prevails and do things to the best of my ability.

Thank you again and God Bless You all.

Donna Kisto-Jones

Gone, But Never Forgotten

The family of Josephine Ventura-Yesk would like to thank all those in attendance for helping us celebrate Josephine's life. Josephine was a bright, shining light in this world, and we take solace in the fact that she will live in our hearts and memories.

THANK YOU to family, friends, and Gila River community for extending so much love and support to our family.

Dorothy A. Ventura

Letter to Community

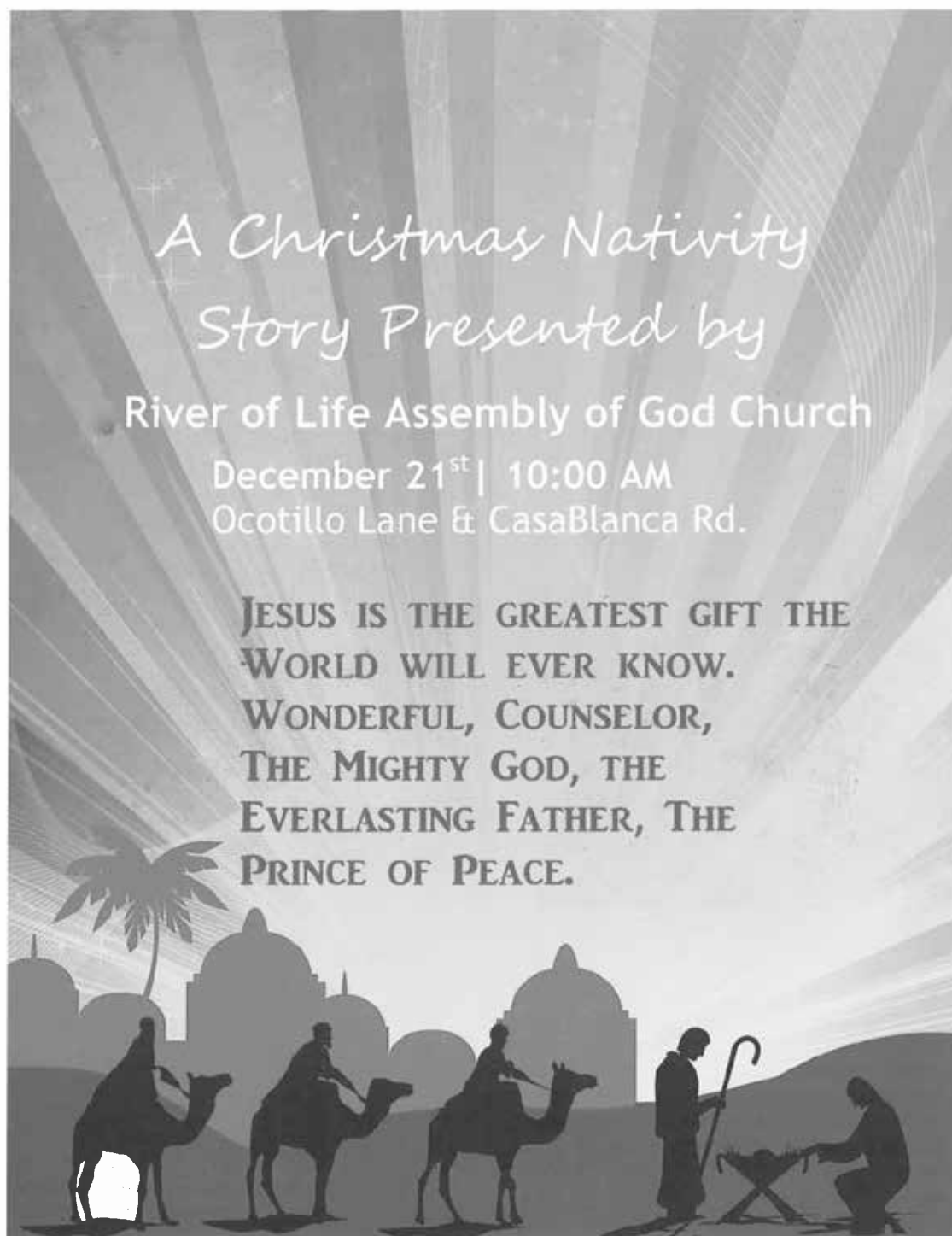
This is my letter for the MATRIX program from O.A.S.I.S. and the group.

I have lived out my 22 years. I had been who I was, Afraid, lonely, angry, embarrassed, nervous, and disappointed, but how my years came to this is remarkable. I could have been on either side of our stories, being a councilor, intern, custodian, receptionist, user. When entering the program I have had an opened mind and I had done affirmations to come into the group with something to say. It didn't feel uncomfortable until I heard the people who I had seen come in. I was again afraid, nervous. Disappointment came when I would look around the room and see the ones that came here that have no choice, they've worked, sacrificed, provided, and they had choices, and so did I, so I was looking at it through another side. Trying to use whatever empathy I had. My energy was the same; it was put into getting the information and stories I had heard and learn from them. The night group felt like class and my experiences where the lessons and my teachings. Even though I came in for myself, I was also there for others. The room became a second home. Nights sometimes filled with laughter, made it easier to surrender my problems of who I was, but still as said they are there till you can accept it and change the way you feel about it. It could be forgiver, but it won't work unless you feel something taken from it. Afraid to release myself was hard, but I understand it has got to be done by me for me. I would like to end this by releasing my positive energy out to the negative spaces.

CORRECTIONS

The thank you letter from the Bert Rhodes family was supposed to run in our November issue. We apologize to the family for the oversight.

To report an error call (520)562-9719 or email GRIN@gric.nsn.us



Gila River Youth Represents Community at D.C. Honors Event

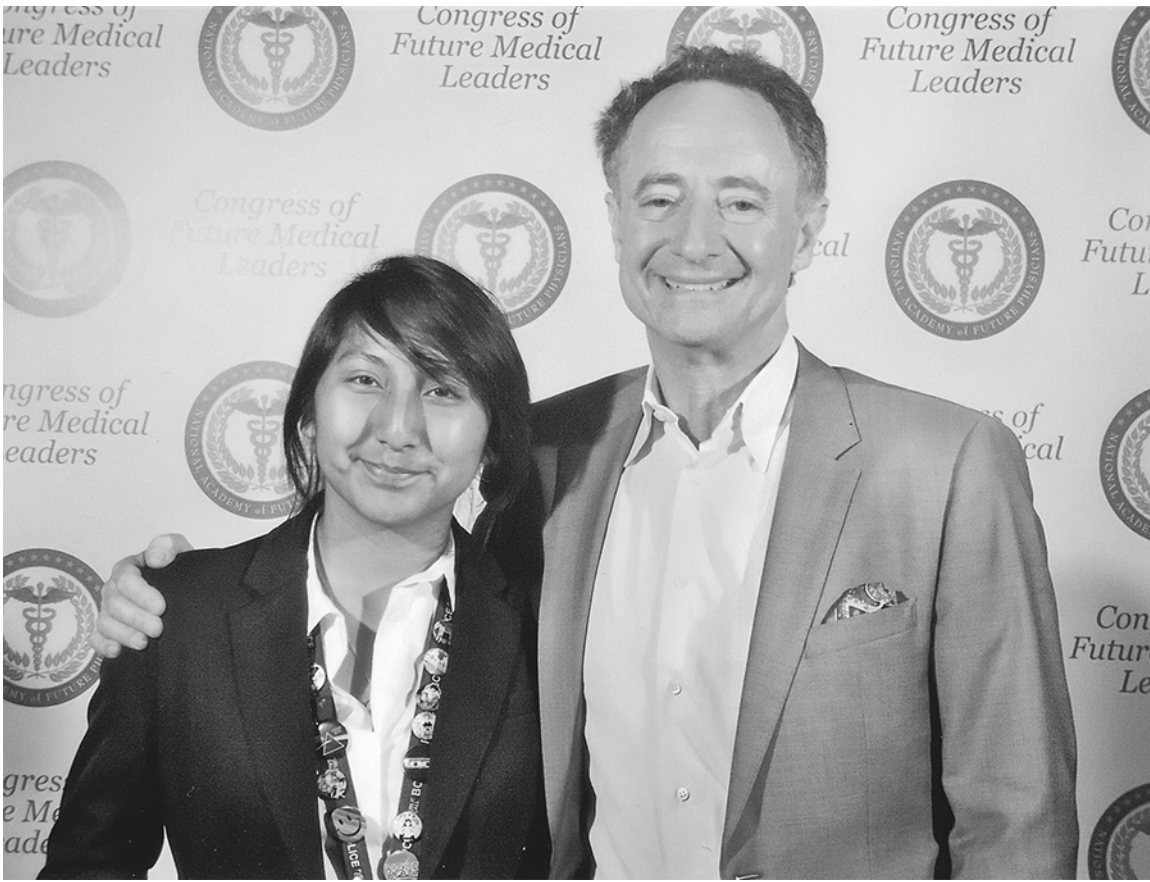


Photo Courtesy of Glorietta Antone

Taylor Antone stands with Richard Rossi, Founder and Executive Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Taylor Antone, District 6, had the honor of representing the Gila River Indian Community at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Washington, D.C. Nov. 14-16.

The Cesar Chavez High School junior from Co-op Village

was nominated by her school and Dr. Connie Mariano of the National Academy of Future Physicians, the CFML host organization.

Taylor attended the three-day congress with high school honors students from across the country to hear from physicians and researchers in the medical field.

The NAFF puts on the event

to encourage students to go into the medical field.

Students networked with professionals and representatives from academic institutions recruiting promising high school students.

Many of the leading authorities in the area of science and medicine, Nobel Prize winners

and National Medal of Science winners met with the students to answer their questions.

In a prepared statement, Richard Rossi, Executive Director of the host organization, said, "This is a crucial time in America when we need more doctors and medical scientists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially."

For Taylor, it wasn't luck that she was nominated to represent the state of Arizona and the Community at the congress. Taylor's nomination is accredited to her exceptional academic performance and ability to demonstrate leadership potential in the classroom.

Dr. Mariano sent a letter to Taylor announcing her invitation.

A retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and former Physician to the President of the United States for nine years, Dr. Mariano has contributed most of her time to aspiring students.

The opportunity to attend the congress was an honor for Taylor. "Just the thought of being recognized for my academic accomplishments and being selected to attend the Congress was really flattering and gratifying," she said.

Her parents, Glorietta and Willard Antone, were equally proud of her.

Her father Willard spoke about the progress their daughter has made throughout her school years. "Taylor has always been really good with academics, we are really proud of her, one of the highlights of her high school years is seeing her go off to Washington, D.C.," he said.

"I was so ecstatic that our

daughter was selected to attend the Congress that I cried tears of joy and pride," said Glorietta.

As for her plans after graduation, offers from several universities have been coming her way, including from Ivy League schools. Taylor's dad said she has always been interested in the medical field, but is not sure which specialty to focus on.

"She is still undecided, but hasn't really set in stone whether she wants to be a surgeon, pediatrician, or in the medical science field," said Willard.

With assistance from the office of Gov. Gregory Mendoza and District 7 Coordinator Terrence B. Evans, they were able to travel to the Congress. In gratitude for the help, Glorietta said, "Many heartfelt thanks go out to all that made this experience possible."

"Throughout the three day congress, I had the opportunity to meet and begin networking with other scholars from every state across the country," said Taylor.

To make the experience even more unique, students watched a live broadcast of a surgery from Chicago, Ill., while being able to ask questions at the same time.

In summarizing her experience attending the event, Taylor said, "It was amazing how advanced the medical field is becoming and how much we as future medical leaders will help change the world through science."

"I was able to meet and mingle with Nobel Prize winners and renowned physicians and surgeons of the medical and science field," said Taylor.

District 5 Youth Elected Co-President of NCAI Youth Commission

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Tyler Owens, District 5, was elected as the 2014-2016 female co-president of the National Congress of American Indians Youth Commission Oct. 30, thus adding a national title to her already impressive resume of elected appointments.

"I'm looking forward to working with the nine other youth that were elected to Youth Commission," said Owens over the phone. "It seems like we have a great group and it seems like we can make a lot of change in the next two years."

The Youth Commission is made up of 10 young people from various tribes around the nation, including members from the White Mountain Apache Tribe, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, the Muscogee Nation, the Aleut, the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Owens said there is a lot of teamwork and equality within the group so every one of them contributes and is heard, which makes her job as co-president less about pulling teeth or pushing an agenda and more about opening lines of communication. "Pretty much my duties are just to run meetings," she said. "We all have the same goals...and different achieve-

ments that we want to make."

One of the changes she and her peers would like to incite is to increase the visibility of the NCAI Youth Commission in the larger congress and the public.

"That was something we really wanted to do," she said, "present at the general assembly so then people can see what exactly [the youth] have to say."

To achieve this, they plan to organize a specifically youth-centric portion of the annual NCAI conference that is more interactive and engaging and they will reach out to tribal communities, encouraging them to send more Native youth interested in politics.

Another thing the group would like to do is use their political influence to help those in need in Indian Country.

The Youth Commission has its sights set on the Oglala Lakota Nation and helping that tribe's juvenile detention center fire up the educational program it has been lacking for years due to poor funding.

"One of the guys, Brian Barlow (Cherokee Nation), [said] that he wanted to see if there was any way that we could lobby on behalf of that in order to get funds."

The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council sponsored Owens at the 2014 NCAI Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Alex Pablo, Adrienne Dixon and Na-



Photo Courtesy of Tyler Owens

From Left: Nathaniel Talamantez, Adrienne Dixon, Tyler Owens and Alexander Pablo attended NCAI convention in Atlanta, Ga.

thaniel Talamantez of the AOP-PPYC also attended.

Owens, a former Miss Gila River First Attendant, former AOPPYC president, the sitting Inter-Tribal Youth Council of Arizona planning committee chair and sitting AOPPYC vice president is excited about her time with NCAI and is also looking forward to a Washington, D.C. internship with the Department of Justice next spring.

"It's going to be Jan. 18 to March 15 next year. During the 8-week internship, I'll be sitting in on hearings about pieces of legislation [related to] Indian Country and seeing how the Department of Justice operates." Specifically, she will be working in the Office of Tribal Justice within the DOJ.

She is excited to learn about and witness first-hand the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline: how it would affect tribes, the

land that it cuts through and the economy.

"I'm really thankful for [this] opportunity but now it's a matter of raising money." Owens has a GoFundMe account to raise money to help her pay for living expenses in D.C. Anyone can support her at www.gofundme.com/i2wv68; search "Tyler's DC Internship."

COMMUNITY UPDATES BY GRIN STAFF

Here are some regular updates on the on-going issues pertaining to the Gila River Indian Community.

FEIS Comment Period Extended to Dec. 27

The South Mountain Freeway Final Environmental Impact Statement comment period has been extended to Dec. 27 after the Federal Highway Administration and Arizona Department of Transportation issued an amendment to the EIS, adding 10 comments and official responses that were left out from the Draft EIS public comment

period. A Record of Decision on the proposed freeway is still expected in early 2015. In a press release, the Gila River Indian Community Communications & Public Affairs Director Zuzette Kisto said, "Of the more than 8,000 comments received during the public review period for the

South Mountain Freeway [DEIS], it was noted that 10 comments submitted in 2013 were inadvertently not relayed to the study team," but they have now been incorporated into the FEIS. The neglected comments, or errata, can be viewed at Service Centers throughout the Gila River Indian Community as well as

the Ira Hayes Library and Communications & Public Affairs Office in the Governance Center. Learn more about the proposed South Mountain Freeway at www.azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway.

PRESS RELEASE

Gila River Indian Community Super Bowl Game Day Ticket Distribution

Community members have the opportunity to win Super Bowl XLIX Tickets

Sacaton, Az. – Today, the Community Council approved the distribution process for Super Bowl XLIX Game Day tickets. A lottery drawing will be conducted on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, and will be open to any Gila River Indian Community enrolled member who resides within the state of Arizona, who is eighteen (18) years of age or older. GRIC members who meet the eligibility requirements noted above and have information updated with the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Enrollment Office will automatically be entered into the drawing. If your information is not up to date, please update your information with GRIC Enrollment Office no later than Friday, December 19, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. All updates must be

done in person. No phone calls will be accepted. The winners will be announced at the Governance Center Wednesday, January 7, 2015. The winners will be given until 5:00 p.m. (local time) on January 14, 2015 to accept their prize. Overall chances of winning depend on the total number of members per district who meet the eligibility requirements and are entered. Five (5) pairs of two (2) tickets to the Super Bowl XLIX game as part of GRIC's Sponsorship Agreement with the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee will be made available to all Districts. Four (4) pairs of two (2) tickets will be made available to the GRIC Urban Member Association. The game will feature the AFC and NFC Champions

in Glendale, Arizona on Sunday, February 1, 2015. Winners and their guest will receive game tickets and shuttle bus transportation from designated areas. All applicable taxes related to the value of this prize are the responsibility of the winner. District residency requirements will not apply. Ticket winners are allowed one guest who is a member of the Gila River Indian Community and must be eighteen (18) years or older at the time of the drawing. No substitution of prize or transfer/assignment of prize to others or request for cash equivalent is permitted. Winners will be required to sign a written agreement to comply with certain rules and obligations.

If a name is drawn by a Community member out of the Phoenix metro area, the individual's travel and accommodations are not included – ONLY the ticket(s). Any travel costs associated with attending the game would be the sole responsibility of the individual winner. Address Update Forms are available on www.mygilariver.com page. Go to the Department and Programs tab, click on the Administrative tab, and the Enrollment & Census section is near the bottom of the page. The forms can be mailed in or hand carried to the Enrollment & Census department located within the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona. Enrollment Census Office phone number is 520-562-9790. To learn more background

and information about the partnership with the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee – the Community Service Department (CSD) and Gila River Communications & Public Affairs Office (CPAO) urge you to attend an upcoming Super Bowl XLIX Ticket Distribution Outreach meeting on Saturday, December 13, 2014 in Districts 3 and 6. Please check GRIC Facebook in the next few days for outreach meeting location and times. For additional questions, please contact Zuzette Kisto at (520) 562-9715 or at zuzette.kisto@gric.nsn.us.

OTHER NATIVE NEWS

SRPMIC Lands Naming Rights for US Airways Center

U.S. Airways Arena will be known as Talking Stick Resort Arena, named after the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's gaming and vacation enterprise. "Like Talking Stick Resort, this venue has become an iconic destination for entertainment in Arizona," said Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President Diane Enos. "We have a shared commitment with the Phoenix Suns in building a sense of community in the Valley and we are honored to help them provide a place for so many people to gather and celebrate." The facility, home to the Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury and Arizona Rattlers, as well as a popular concert venue, has been around since 1992, when it was originally named America West

Arena. The moniker was changed to U.S. Airways Arena in 2006, but the airline announced in September that it would not renew its annual naming rights contract with the facility after it merged with American Airlines and moved its headquarters from Tempe to Ft. Worth, Texas. Visitors can expect to see "Talking Stick Resort Arena" posted everywhere around the facility and a new sign atop the building by the start of the Phoenix Suns 2015-2016 season. Terms of the deal were not disclosed upon announcement. "This is an exciting day for Phoenix, and another example of what an incredible partner the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is for all of us," said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

The deal between SRPMIC and the Phoenix Suns marks the second significant naming rights deal in the Valley between a major sports team and a local Native American tribe in recent months. Earlier this year, the Gila River Indian Community agreed to a naming rights deal with the owners of Jobing.com Arena, home of the Arizona Coyotes, to rename it Gila River Arena. The Ak-Chin Indian Community, a


third of the four O'otham sister tribes in southern Arizona (including SRPMIC, GRIC and the Tohono O'odham Nation), has a

naming rights deal too and lays claim to the Ak-Chin Pavilion, originally Desert Sky Pavilion.

Keystone XL Pipeline Bill

The U.S. Senate Nov. 18 failed to pass a bill that would have approved the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. In the end, the bill fell just one vote short, getting 59 of the 60 it needed for approval and 41 against. Tribes such as the Rosebud Sioux have been vocally opposed to the proposed pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, cutting across Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana and through Native American lands. Last week, after the House of Representatives passed a bill in favor of the pipeline, Rosebud Sioux President Cyril Scott called

Congressional approval of the pipeline an "act of war against our people." Primary concerns of opponents of the pipeline include environmental damage, health impacts, financial strains and the desecration of tribal lands. Furthermore, Scott lamented the lack of government-to-government interaction. "The U.S. government does not consult us," he said to the online news site Think Progress. The Senate vote, however, stopped the oil route in its tracks. For now, it seems, the pipeline will not be built.



Gila River Indian News

2015

Schedule of Deadlines

Please send all GRIN submissions to grin@gric.nsn.us

Month	Submission Deadline Dates	GRIN Deliveries
Example: To get your ad in the first issue in May, the deadline is April 27. Your ad will run in the GRIN on May 1.	Submissions (ads, articles, opinions, etcetera) must be given to the GRIN by the MONDAY before the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. See dates below:	The GRIN will be delivered twice a month on the first and third FRIDAY of each month.
January	December 29, 2013 January 12	January 2 January 16
February	February 2 February 16	February 6 February 20
March	March 2 March 16	March 6 March 20
April	March 30 April 13	April 3 April 17
May	April 27 May 11	May 1 May 15
June	June 1 June 15	June 5 June 19
July	June 29 July 13	July 3 July 17
August	August 3 August 17	August 7 August 21
September	August 31 September 14	September 4 September 18
October	September 28 October 12	October 2 October 16
November	November 2 November 16	November 6 November 20
December	November 30 December 14	December 4 December 18

Advertisements received after the submission deadline will not be placed in that week's edition unless previous arrangements have been made with the editor. Late advertisement submissions will be pushed to the next month's edition. For more information, contact Gina Goodman at the Communications and Public Affairs Office: (520) 562-9715 or via email at: gina.goodman@gric.nsn.us

A'AGA:

Something to be Told

By Billy Allen

In a galaxy far, far away (actually my job before I retired) I fielded questions concerning our land and people. Do you have an Indian name? Why do you work since you get money from the casinos? Why is there a bridge over a dry river bed? What happened to the river?

I would explain that our akimel still runs, but dams prevent it from flowing downstream. The water now flows in canals to the fields. Back to my old job again—I was envious of Gila River Indian Community employees who got an extra holiday in December (Sko:mag or Gray): Water Day on December 10th. Water Day commemorates the settlement of a decades long court battle to regain water from our river.

Tribal member, Rod Lewis, who served as general counsel of the Gila River Indian Community, led the community's negotiations that finally resulted in the Arizona Water Rights Settlements Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-451). The Arizona Water Rights Settlements Act was signed by President Bush in 2004 and completed on Dec. 10, 2007. The fight for our water rights never waned and this water-rights settlement returned our rightful share. Mr. Lewis leaned on the shoulders and listened to the stories of the elders to guide him. S-ape Rod.

This time of year, we start to think about gifts and resolutions. Water is a gift to treasure. Henry David Thoreau, an American author/naturalist/philosopher who influenced Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: "Water is the only drink for a wise man." Maybe a healthy resolution we could all make is to become a little wiser, to drink more water. This could also be seen as a gift of time to our community, for we can never have too many GRIC elders.

In a recent Arizona Republic article, Dr. Oz and Dr. Roizen warned against diet drinks. The article stated 59 percent of Americans sip diet drinks. I think it is higher among Native people. Artificial sweeteners, a key ingredient of such drinks, have been found to cause health problems. Diet drinks do not help us lose weight. Studies show they lead to weight gain. Bottled tea, iced coffee and energy drinks are not good for our waistline, heart, and blood sugar. However going back to drinking regular soda is not a good option either. The body changes may not show up immediately, but given time, it will be a losing battle. In the past our people never went to battle with the thought of losing, why start now? The Navajo Nation is going to start a 2% tax on junk food next year, and soda will be one of the taxed items. They'll have to see if hitting people in the wallet to try and stem the tide of diabetes washing over them, as with us, will work. On reservation or off, taxed or not taxed, even though I was not a math teacher in my former job, I can figure out that a \$2 a day soda habit would cost me over \$700 a year. (I don't want my per cap to go for that!)

Mr. Lewis could tell us that "use it or lose it" is a key principle in water rights policy. So here we are now. We've regained some of our historical water rights, but when it comes to us, our bodies, many of us are not using it (water), and we are losing it – it being our health, our money, our longevity.

This Water Day, what if everyone in the community became a Water Warrior? What if we honored our history, and saluted the success of water negotiations, by drinking only water that day? What if success on that day rippled to the next day, the next week? In closing, "May the force (water) be with you."

WATER RIGHTS CELEBRATION

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 10, 2014

DISTRICT 2 SERVICE CENTER
(Previously District 7)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SHANNON REDBIRD - 520-562-9859

CPA

Gila River Health Care Family Planning Mobile Medical Clinic
(Title X Funded)

520-371-0132 for appointments
520-562-5146 Admin. Office

DECEMBER 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 D6 RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	2 VHM HIGH SCHOOL TEEN CLINIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8:30-2:00 PM	3 D5 (BAPCHULE) MULTIPURPOSE BLDG 8:30-2:30 PM	4 D1 (BLACKWATER) HOUSING 8:30-2:30 PM	5 NO CLINIC
8 NO CLINIC	9 D6 (KOMATKE) BY KOMATKE HEALTH CENTER 9:00-2:00 PM	10 D4 (SAN TAN) GILA BUTTE HOUSING 8:30-2:30 PM	11 SACATON DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES	12 NO CLINIC
15 D3 (SACATON) BY BOY'S & GIRL'S CLUB 8:30-2:30 PM	16 AK-CHIN (MARICOPA) CLINIC INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 8:30-2:00 PM	17 IRA HAYES HIGH SCHOOL TEEN CLINIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8:30-2:00 PM	18 NO CLINIC	19 NO CLINIC
22 NO CLINIC	23 NO CLINIC	24 NO CLINIC	25 NO CLINIC	26 NO CLINIC
29 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 8:00-2:00PM	30 D7 (Maricopa Colony) SERVICE CENTER 9:00-2:00 PM	31 NO CLINIC		CALL AND SCHEDULE YOUR FAMILY PLANNING APPOINTMENT TODAY!

RAWHIDE Snowy Christmas

Santa, Snow and Sweets...

Join us for our 2nd annual Rawhide's Snowy Christmas from Nov. 27 to Dec. 23! The kiddos can drop off letters for Ol' Saint Nick himself and even have their photo taken with him. Stroll through Rawhide, watch the snow fall, get your shopping done, & marvel at the holiday lights.

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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30													

- Open 10am-8pm
- Open 5pm-10pm
- Open 12pm-10pm
- Open 12pm-8pm

5700 W. North Loop Road | Chandler, AZ 85226 | 480.502.5600 | RAWHIDE.COM

Veterans Serving Veterans

The AmeriCorps Program is currently seeking motivated veterans or veteran's families to serve full time for 11 months as a "Veteran Liaison" at one of our local community offices!

- Perform outreach to community veterans and their families
- Perform wellness visits for Veterans and their families
- Research local, state, and federal services available to veterans
- Educate the community on Veterans and their family's needs

Members receive:

- A Modest bi-weekly living stipend
- A Transferable education award
- Training on a variety of issues such as PTSD, Drugs and Alcohol, and VA Benefits
- The opportunity to change the lives of veterans and their families

Applications will be available at Gila River Employment & Training as well as in District Service Centers!

Apply Today!

If you have any questions please contact:
Leonard Bruce – AmeriCorps Coordinator
 Leonard.Bruce@Gric.nsn.us
 Veterans Serving Veterans AmeriCorps Program
 Fax – (520) 562-3590 Phone – (520) 562-3387/88



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

One of the toy drive drop-off points for the sixth annual Tribal Recreation Toy Drive at the Gila River Fire Department Fire Station No. 423 on the corner of Blue Bird and Seed Farm Roads in Sacaton.

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Tribal Recreation Department is gearing up its sixth annual holiday Toy Drive, which will run through Dec. 17.

“The Toy Drive is an effort to get toys for the children that are in...Tribal Social Services, RPY (Residential Programs for Youth) and the Domestic Violence Shelter,” said Recreation Coordinator Merlena Calabaza.

However, they also donate to the Urban Members Association

and low-income families with the Department of Community Housing, and they help the Head Start program get toys through the Toys for Tots Foundation.

The Toy Drive has become a staple of the holiday season in Gila River and a lot of effort goes into making it possible.

“It’s not just our department,” said Calabaza, “We have the whole [of] Public Safety behind it and the casinos, the Sheraton, GRICUA, Sand & Gravel, DCH.”

To collect all the toys, Recreation has placed drop-off boxes at

all of the fire departments in the Community, at the police department in Sacaton and at GRICUA.

“On the 18th, we’ll have a big ol’ wrapping party to wrap all the gifts,” said Calabaza. It will be at the Sheraton, who is donating time and space.

When it’s all said and done, hundreds of toys go to girls and boys on Santa’s nice list.

“It’s fun...it’s in the spirit of giving,” said Calabaza. “It’s good to see these kids [and] just to put a smile on their faces.”

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Caregiver Support Group For Districts 1–5

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014
Place: O’Otham Ha Ki—Dist. 3 (Old Tribal Chambers)
Time: 12:30 pm—2:30 pm

Guest Speaker:
 Nicole Lomay
 Community Outreach Representative
 Native American Program, Banner Alzheimer’s Institute

Topic: COMPASS
(Caregivers Of Memory impaired Persons Acquiring Successful Strategies)
 Information on Alzheimer’s disease/Dementia and helps for Caregivers.

For info: 520-562-5232 Elderly Services

Smart Parents. Smart Babies.

Holiday Family FUN!

Resource:

Pinterest

Contact BabySmarts

Home Visiting Coaches

Catherine Thomas

(520)562-3321

Ext. 7137

Laura Kesse

(520)562-3321

Ext. 7991

Heidi Bruder

Teen Parent Case Manager

(520)562-3287

It is that time of year when everywhere you go people are talking about the holidays! Some families are buying gifts, decorating trees, and putting up lights! However you choose to celebrate during this holiday season, we encourage you and your family to remember this time of year can be about your family and your traditions. Having family traditions builds bonds among family members and creates a sense of belonging for everyone. Having fun together can be the best gift any family can give or receive. Children enjoy looking forward to annual family traditions. That anticipation for a fun family activity will create a sense of joy and excitement in children and yes even adults! Traditions can be anything you do together as a family each year. It can be something passed down from elders in your family or it can be something simple like baking cookies together. Each tradition your family has is special and one that will bring family members together, and will create fun family memories. If your family already has traditions this holiday season then enjoy them and know that you are creating opportunities for wonderful memories as a family. If you are looking for new family traditions below are a few fun activities you can do at home with your family. Enjoy!

Author,
Heidi Bruder
Teen Parent Case Manager

Simple holiday family fun!

- * Eat a red and green dinner!
- * Make Christmas cards!
- * Read a Christmas story by flashlight.
- * Make a treat and take to the neighbors.
- * Call grandmothers and sing a Christmas song.

Make Reindeer brownies!

Supplies: Brownie mix (check required ingredients on box). Pretzels, frosting, and mini m&ms. Bake brownies, cut out cooled brownies into triangles. Use the pretzels for reindeer antlers, brown m&ms for eyes, and a red m&m for the nose. Use frosting as the “glue.” YUMMY!

Community Council Action Sheets

Wednesday November 19, 2014

ACTION SHEET

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

Council Secretary Shannon White notified Council Governor Gregory Mendoza and Lt. Governor Stephen R. Lewis would not be in attendance and opened the floor for nominations for a chairperson. MOTION MADE AND SECOND to nominate Councilman Arzie Hogg, Council Secretary White turned the meeting over to Councilman Arzie Hogg

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Councilman Arzie Hogg at 9:17am

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Robert Stone

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Lt. Governor Stephen R Lewis

Executive Officers Absent:

Governor Gregory Mendoza

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4- Monica Antone, Jennifer Allison, Christopher Mendoza (10:15am); D5 Brian Davis, Sr., Janice Stewart, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Albert Pablo, Sandra Nasewytewa

Council Members Absent:

D4- Vacant; D7- Devin Redbird

15 Council Members Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5 minutes)

1. Mayor Gail Barney, Town of Queen Creek

Ms. Cheryl Pablo provided Mayor Gail Barney's brief biography. Mayor Barney expressed words of appreciation and well wishes. Various Council Members expressed words of welcome.

REPORTS

4. Pee Posh Veterans Association- 4th quarter report For FY 2014 Presenter: Dan Jenkins
Report Heard

5. Haskell Osife-Antone American League Post 51 3rd Quarter Report April- June FY2014 and 4th Quarter Report July- September FY 2014 Presenter: David Anderson
REPORT HEARD

*1.Sacaton Middle School 3rd Quarter Report 2014 (April- June) Presenter: Phil Bonds

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*2. Head Start Program Staffing Analysis Presenter: Mario Molina

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Gila River Health Care Implementation of Priority Levels for Tohono O'odham Patients Presenter: Myron Schurz, Ginger Fligger

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

6. Flood Control Management Task Force Report and Update Presenter: Seaver Fields
REPORT HEARD

LT. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:50AM . MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc – Monthly Report September 2014 (Executive Session) Presenter: Janice Ponziani
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Gila River Gaming Commission- General Report September 2014 (Executive Session) Presenter: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah
REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gaming Internal Audit Department- 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2014 (Executive Session) Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

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

LT. GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR AN HOUR AND HALF LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING WILL RECONVENED AT 2:09PM

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving a Fifty (50) Year Home site Assignment Agreement for April Crawford Located In District Three Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 30314-0709 (NRSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval) Presenter: Pamela Pasqual
APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving a Fifty (50) Year Home site Assignment Agreement for Antonelli Anton Located In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 30414-0916 (NRSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval)

Presenter: Pamela Pasqual

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 3608)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs)

Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 462)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 161B)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

6. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotments 4208, 4209, 4210, 4211, 4212, 4213, 4214and 6039)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

7. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 4813)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

8. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 4793A And 4739B)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

9. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 210A)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

10. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotment 1930)

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Rod Tuttle, Javier Ramos

APPROVED

11. A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Certain Allotted Lands Pursuant To The American Indian Probate Reform Act (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs) Presenter: Javier Ramos

APPROVED

12. A Resolution Approving The Adoption Of Bylaws Of The Gila River Indian Farms Board Of Directors

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community council with recommendation of approval) Presenter: June Shorthair

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

13. A Resolution Rescinding GR-133-14 And Authorizing The Early Head Start To Submit A Grant To The US Department Of Health And Human Services, Administration For Children And Families, Office Of Head Start American Indian/Alaska Native Early Head Start Expansion And EHS-CC Partnership Grant (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval) Presenter: Patricia Valenzuela

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

14. A Resolution Approving The Amended and Restated Joint Powers Airport Authority Agreement For The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority And Approving The Loan Cancellation Agreement Between The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority And The Gila River Indian Community (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs, EDSC concurs with recommended changes) Presenter: Tana Fitzpatrick

APPROVED

15. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Tribal Projects

Advisors For Fiscal Year 2015

(G&MSC motioned to forward to Community council with recommendation of approval) Presenter: Tina-Notah Enas

APPROVED

16. A Resolution Approving the Appointment Of Two Persons To Represent The Gila River Indian Community On The Joint Board Per The Amended And Restated Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Agreement Exhibit 20.1

(NRSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval) Presenter: Linda Sauer

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Elections Update (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council) Presenter: Scott Butler
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REAFFIRM GOVERNMENT & MANAGEMENT'S DECISION TO MODIFY THE POLITICAL ACTION FUND ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION Off Reservation Gaming Update (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council) Presenters: Scott Butler, Eric Dahlstrom

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Board of Directors Appointments (2) Presenters: Community Council
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY PAMELA F. JOHNSON AND LAWRENCE H. MANUEL

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Special Audit Report- Court of Appeals (Executive Session) Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Executive Summary, Assessment of Written Complaint (Executive Session) Presenter: TeriLynne Kisto

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR THE REMOVAL OF JOM ORTEGO, APPELLATE JUDGE AND TO TERMINATE THE CURRENT AGREEMENT

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT SOLICIT APPLICATIONS FOR 60-DAYS AND FORWARD TO THE REVIEWING COMMITTEE, UNDER THE GRIC CODE OF CONDUCT

3. Declaration of Vacancy (1)- Wild Horse Pass Development Authority Board of Directors (subject to the Code of Conduct, Advertisement for 60days) Presenter: Community Council

4. Revenue/Internal Audit Department – 4th Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2014 (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council) Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

5. Employee Benefit Trust Letter (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council) Presenter: Government & Management Standing Committee

DISPENSED AT THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA]

6. Holiday Gift Presenters: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 4:37PM MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A ONE- TIME HOLIDAY GIFT AND THE ONE-TIME HOLIDAY GIFT NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY PROVIDES; FURTHER IF THE ENTERPRISE BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES WISH TO CONSIDER FUTURE DISTRIBUTIONS THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO AMEND THEIR BY-LAWS

7. November 7,2014 Special Council Meeting Presenter: Government & Management Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO MOVE THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO DECEMBER 5TH AT 9:00AM MINUTES

1. June 18, 2014 (Regular)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2014, 10AM

CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING NOVEMBER 14, 17 & 18, 2014

DISTRICT 1 AMERICAN LEGION HASKELL OSIFE-ANTONE POST 51 VETERANS DAY EVENT, NOVEMBER 11, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:05PM

Blackwater Youth Attends White House Tribal Nations Conference



Photo Courtesy of Darius Jackson

Darius Jackson before the podium at the White House Tribal Nations Conference hosted by President Barack Obama, Dec. 3.

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference placed heavy emphasis on the development of Native American youth and education in Indian Country.

“The United States shares a sacred bond with our Native nations,” said Pres. Barack Obama at the conference. “We have a sacred responsibility to all our young people, including Native youth.”

The White House Tribal Nations Conference every year invites tribal leaders from all 566 federally recognized tribes to convene and dialogue with the President and members of his cabinet about important issues in Indian Country. It is a tradition Obama started his first year in office and has continued ever since.

High School Senior nominated by Gov. Gregory Mendoza to represent GRIC

This was the first year that the White House invited Youth Ambassadors from those nations.

In June, Obama and his wife Michelle visited the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Na-

tion in North Dakota. There, he met a handful of youth from that community and learned first hand about the struggles they face every day, from witnessing drug use to the high suicide-rate in Indian Country to the lack of support in their schools.

“And the truth is those young people were representative of young people in every tribe, in every reservation in America,” said the president in his speech. “And too many face the same struggles that those Lakota teenagers face. They’re not sure that this country has a place for them. Every single one of them deserves better than they’re getting right now. They are our children, and they deserve the chance to achieve their dreams.”

Obama sounded informed and sincere in his speech, in which he outlined several initiatives his ad-

ministration is implementing to help Native youth and Native communities.

“[T]o cultivate the next generation of Native leaders, we’re creating a national network called Generation Indigenous, to remove the barriers that stand between young people and opportunity. And the first class of “Gen-I” Youth Ambassadors are here today,” he said.

One of those Native youth fortunate to represent his community at the conference was Darius Jackson of Gila River’s District 1, who sat in the first row, feet away from where Pres. Obama and Vice Pres. Joe Biden gave their speeches.

“We got to meet Vice President Joe Biden...I got to meet Eric Holder as well, the Attorney General. It was really inspirational, meeting them, knowing that [they’re the] top leaders of our country. It was amazing.”

He also got to meet Pres. Obama, briefly. “I actually got to shake his hand. I was so happy... He’s the leader of the country and I got to meet him and shake his hand, twice.”

GRIC Gov. Gregory Mendoza nominated Jackson to be a Youth Ambassador at the conference. He was chosen based on his excellent

academic record, his community and school involvement and his comfort with public speaking.

“Darius is a special young man whose talents, passion for his community, and desire to promote change are truly extraordinary for a person of his age. The positive impact that Darius has already made begins at school and with his extracurricular activities,” wrote Mendoza in his nomination letter.

Jackson is the president of the National Honor Society at Coolidge High School, vice president of student government and plays varsity basketball. He is also a District 1 representative and former vice president of the Akimel O’odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council.

Last month, the high school senior got accepted to Arizona State University, where he will start next fall. He is going to study exercise and wellness.

“I want to take that back to our community,” he said, “and learn how we can help the people in my community be more active. And with the Affordable Care Act, I want to know how that affects my community.”

Near the end of the day, Obama announced plans to reauthorize the Native American Hous-

ing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, help tribes struggling with domestic violence, promote economic growth in tribal communities, and to support reservation schools.

“Next year, we will hold the first White House Tribal Youth Gathering,” the president announced. “We’re going to invest in connecting tribal schools to high-speed Internet. We’re going to fill them with the best teachers and principals. We’re going to make sure that children and families get the support they need to stay secure and healthy.”

“And the Department of Education has launched a new initiative with a handful of tribes called the Native Youth Community Projects. The idea is, we’re working with tribes to give schools and students intensive support across a range of areas – from nutrition, to mental health, to culturally relevant curriculum.

“We know that learning about the history and language and traditions of one’s people can make a huge difference in a child’s education. And in the long run, if it’s done right, it can help more of them be prepared for college and careers. We want to help make that happen.”

Multi-Purpose Building

From Page 1

adobe building on Hashan Kehk and Sacaton Roads but was relocated after being declared condemned in 2005. The service center was moved to a small modular with an event center nearby. The small space housed many of the service center’s summer feeding programs, afterschool youth programs and recreation activities and dinners. Now that the new multi-purpose building is in full operation, the service center has enough space to continue its activities, especially for the youth.

“This building is going to be really good for them,” said Gomez, as she watched young children tour the facility. “It’s going to benefit them. We have our Hashan Kehk Teen Club and afterschool program. We [also] got computer donations from the MIS department – now the youth can get on the internet and type their homework. It’s just great.”

The distinctive design of the building was the idea of former Community Services manager Berdette Morago, who admired the basic layout and indoor track of the Morris K. Udall Recreation Center in Tucson. Members worked together with architects from Orcutt Winslow to design the 38,000 square foot facility. Architects also restored and resized old sepia-toned photos submitted by community members and

displayed them on the wall of the staircase.

During the excavating phase, architects discovered buried items in the building area. The community held a special ceremony to rebury the items in the back of the building. “There were several villages that were here. They had unearthed a lot of whole pottery and black dirt from the fires. We talked with Cultural Resources [Department] and they dated it back to the late 1800s,” explained Gomez about the Hashan Kehk discovery.

Many tribal officials, staff and residents expressed their gratitude through speech to individuals and departments who made the building and the funding for the road to the facility possible. They also voiced their optimism about the \$10 million facility that will be utilized to serve the needs of members residing in the Hashan Kehk community.

Nearly 500 people attended the grand opening and an overjoyed Gomez expressed her feelings saying, “There was so many people who came together to get us funding and helped us get this built. A lot of people came out to our opening and we hope more people come out and use the facility. I know it’s not just for us here in District 2, it’s for the whole community.”

- You are cordially invited -

Honeywell Hometown Solutions Donation Ceremony to Sacaton Middle School

What: \$10K Donation of Robotics, Curriculum & Professional Development for Teachers

When: Tuesday, December 9th, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Sacaton Middle School Library

Presentations by:

- Tammy Wolfe, Honeywell Community Relations
- Laurie Burrell, Science/Robotics teacher & Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy Alumni
- David Bluestein, Honeywell Engineer & Volunteer Mentor
- SMS Student Program Participants



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P.O. Box 8
Sacaton, Arizona 85147

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (B IA) Pima Agency has received a request El Paso Natural Gas Company (EPNG) who has a current Grant of Easement for Right-of-Way (ROW) that extends approximately 80 miles (covering approximately 448 acres) on Allotted and Tribal lands within the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and is utilized for the operation and maintenance of natural gas pipelines set to expire on December 14, 2014. EPNG has applied for a new ROW for the existing natural gas pipelines and facilities, as well as areas along the pipelines that are identified for maintenance access and facilities improvements. Due to the new ROW on Allotted and Tribal lands, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pima Agency, determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be necessary to address potential impacts resulting from the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA documents the existing conditions and potential impacts for approving the grant, denying the grant (no action alternative), and the cumulative effects that approving the grant may have with other planned projects. The two alternatives analyzed in the EA for this project are: 1) The No Action Alternative (not approving the grant of easement for the ROW; 2) Proposed Action Alternative (approval of the grant of easement for the ROW). Based on the November 2014 El Paso Natural Gas Grant of Easement of Right of Way Final Environmental Assessment (EA), it has been determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This is a public notice of availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the Final EA for review. The FONSI and the Final EA will be publicly available for 15 days beginning November 13, 2014, and ending November 28, 2014. To obtain a copy of the FONSI and the Final EA, please contact Ms. Cecilia Martinez of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Pima Agency at: Ms. Cecilia Martinez, Superintendent Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pima Agency P.O. Box 8 Sacaton, Arizona 85 14 7 Telephone Number: (520) 562-3326 Fax: (520) 562-3543 Please note: This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action; therefore, it cannot be appealed. Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2.7 requires a 30-day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CASA BLANCA COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 16, 2014

The Casa Blanca Community School is pleased to announce that it will be holding an election on December 16, 2014 to fill three (3) seats on its Board of Trustees. The only polling station for this election will be at District 5 Veteran's Building and District 4 Service Center. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CBCS's Board meets at least once per month. Board members are also expected to attend periodic work sessions (usually held over a two day period on the weekend), and to attend various out-of-state trainings and conferences. If you are interested in running in the election, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age as of December 16, 2014 (the date of the election);
• Be a Community member;
• Reside in District 3, 4, or 5 and have lived in the District in which you are running for at least one year prior to December 16, 2014;
• Have a high school diploma, or GED;
• Successfully undergo a background check and drug/alcohol screen;
• Obtain an Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card; and
• Submit a timely petition signed by seven eligible voters from your District.

To obtain a petition to get on the ballot, please contact Krysten Madrid at the School. Ms. Madrid can be reached at 520.315.3489. Petitions must be returned to the School no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.

The following persons are eligible to vote in the election (and sign petitions for Board candidates):
(1) Enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community who are at least eighteen (18) and who reside within District 3, 4, or 5 as of October 1, 2014; OR
(2) Parent, grandparent, or legal guardian whose name is on file as the responsible party for a child currently attending Casa Blanca Community School.

Any questions regarding the election should be directed to Jacque Bradley or Martina Ashley at the above number.

COURT NOTICE

Respondent: Faith Seota
Type of Hearing: Probate
Case Number: P-13-0060
Court Date: January 6, 2015 at 10:00 am
Court Room: #4- 2nd Floor- Bldg 23
Location: Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Court
10005 East Osborn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Contact: (480)-362-6315

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Housing Development is attempting to contact the following Community member: Kristy Lyons. Please contact the Department of Housing Development at (520) 562-1863

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Available. On November 28, 2014 the Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration published an addendum (called an "Errata") to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Study. The Errata is available for a 30-day review until December 27, 2014 at azdot.gov/southmountainfreeway and at the following locations during normal business hours:
1 Phoenix Public Library - Cesar Chavez
2 Phoenix Public Library - Desert Sage
3 Phoenix Public Library - Ironwood
4 Phoenix Public Library - Burton Barr
5 Chandler Sunset Library
6 Sam Garcia Western Avenue Library
7 Tolleson West Public Library
8 Tempe Public Library
9 ADOT Environmental Planning Group
10 Gila River Indian Community District 1 Service Center
11 Gila River Indian Community District 2 Service Center
12 Gila River Indian Community District 3 Service Center
13 Gila River Indian Community District 4 Service Center
14 Gila River Indian Community District 5 Service Center
15 Gila River Indian Community District 6 Service Center
16 Gila River Indian Community District 7 Service Center
17 Ira Hayes Library
18 Gila River Indian Community Communications & Public Affairs Office

SACATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No 18
A Special
December • Family • Meeting
“How to Survive the Diabetic Epidemic”
“A Different Way of Dealing with Diabetes”
Dear Family, Join Us as Dr. Richard P. Jacoby, a talented Scottsdale podiatrist and nationally recognized foot and ankle surgeon comes to speak about a different way of looking at/dealing with DIABETES. This terrible disease is at an epidemic level in the Community and devastates the lives of many. Here are some key points Dr. Jacoby will discuss to help you effectively combat diabetes.
• The Development of Diabetes
• Diet – the paleo diet and the Native American diet compared
• Educated in Ignorance – How the American diet has changed over time
• Understanding Neuropathy as a consequence of diabetes
• The pathway out of the current paradigm
A Ham/Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Dinner will start the meeting followed by the presentation. There will be 12 terrific Door Prizes given out at the end of the presentation. I look forward to seeing you here for this critically important meeting!
John Timmons, Director
Extended Education & Community Relations
WHEN: Thursday, December 11, 2014
WHERE: Elementary School Cafeteria
WHAT TIME: Dinner served at 5:30
Presentation at 6:00
Transportation provided if needed. Call Mr. Timmons at the Elem. School
NO LATER than 2:00 p.m. the day of the meeting!

RECRUITMENT for 2015 Reserve Firefighter Apprentice Partnership with E&T Dept.
APPLICATIONS DUE on December 19th by 4:00pm at the E&T DEPT.
Service, Teamwork, Dedication, and a Concern for Others - these words all describe qualities found in the Gila River Fire Department Reserve Firefighter Apprentice Program. The Reserve Firefighter Apprentice is a part-time position, working an average of 64 hours a month. This is a temporary trainee classification designed to give participants first-hand experience and exposure to regular firefighting duties and responsibilities. Initially under the immediate supervision of a Fire Coordinator, the Reserve Firefighter Apprentice will train for 52 weeks.
EACH RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE WILL EARN THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATIONS:
1. Firefighter I & II (PRO Board Accredited)
2. State of Arizona Emergency Medical Technician
3. National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician- EMT
4. CPR certification
5. Basic Wildland Firefighting S130/190 L-180
6. NIMS 100, 200 and 700
7. Certification of Hazards Materials First Responders Ops (PRO Board Accredited)
SEEKING GRIC RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE THAT MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:
• Must have a high school diploma or the G.E.D. equivalent.
• Must be 18 years of age at the time of testing.
• Must have reliable transportation in order to report for training
• Must be able to pass a medical-physical exam by a physician
• Must be a GRIC- Community Member
• Abide by strict Attendance and Punctuality policies and procedures
• Must be able to pass background check
EACH RESERVE FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICE WILL BE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH A SELECTION PROCESS ADMINISTERED BY GRFD and E&T DEPT:
• Complete Intake & Enrollment with E&T Department - WIA Adult program
• Successful completion of a physical agility test administered by GRFD personnel.
• Written Exam administered by GRPD Personnel.
• Successful completion of an oral board examination administered by E&T and GRFD.
All interested applicants call the E&T Dept
Eulonda Martinez at (520) 562-3387/88
OR Email: Eulonda.Martinez@gric.nsn.us

Gila River Health Care Respecting People & Culture

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

From your friends at Gila River Health Care

Holiday Clinic Closures

**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital (HHKMH) and Komatke Health Clinic (KHC)
Primary Care Departments**

Will Close At 12:00 Noon Wednesday, December 24th & Wednesday, December 31, 2014

**HHKMH, KHC and Ak-Chin Clinic Will Be Closed:
Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1, 2015**

**HHKMH, KHC and Ak-Chin Clinic Will Resume Normal Business Hours
Friday, December 26th and Friday, January 2, 2015**

If you need medical assistance, visit the Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital.

Native Americans Exempt From Tax Penalty

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) promotes health insurance coverage for all. For income tax year 2014 the ACA requires all taxpayers to report their proof of health insurance or pay a penalty. As a Native American with a tribal affiliation, you are entitled to an exemption from this penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. In order to claim this exemption, you have some options.

Exemptions from the Penalty

You may qualify for an exemption from the penalty for not having health insurance coverage for any of the months during the 2014 calendar year. The law states that you must have minimum essential coverage for all months. This rule applies not only to the tax filer, but must include any of the dependents that are claimed. One day of coverage in the month counts as coverage for the entire month. Here are some of the reasons the federal government will consider you as exempt:

- You are a member of a federally recognized tribe or eligible for services through an Indian Health Services/tribal facility, such as Gila River Health Care
- The lowest-priced health care coverage available to you would cost more than 8% of your household income

- You are not required to file a tax return
 - You are a member of a recognized religious sect with religious objections to insurance
 - You are incarcerated (either detained or jailed), and not being held pending disposition of charges
 - You are not lawfully present in the U.S.
 - You qualify for a hardship exemption
- Individuals need to only meet one of the above exemption criteria.

How to Apply for a Tribal Exemption

Members of federally recognized tribes, Alaskan Natives and people who are otherwise eligible for services through an Indian health care provider can apply for an exemption two different ways. Gila River Health Care Benefits Coordination Staff would like to assist you with this process.

1. Paper Application

The Benefits Coordinators can assist you with completing a paper exemption application form and mailing it with supporting documentation. You will need to submit documentation of membership in a federally recognized tribe. You must provide one of the following:

- Certificate of Indian Blood, or
- Tribal Identification Card or

- Letter from Gila River Health Care stating you are eligible for services.

Upon completion of this process, the Marketplace will send you an Exemption Certification Number (ECN). The ECN will stay with you forever, similar to a social security number. This number will tell the federal government you are exempt from the tax penalty. Once you receive this number, you would indicate this on your IRS form. Exemptions from this source need to be obtained at the earliest opportunity.

2. Claiming an Exemption on Federal Income Taxes

Remember, when you file a federal income tax return use the IRS health coverage exemption Form 8965. Codes for exemption (A-E) are listed in the instructions. Mark the specific code for Native Americans.

The important things to remember are Gila River Health Care has trained staff at their site in Komatke and HuHuKam Memorial Hospital to assist with this process. Also you Do Not require health insurance to be seen at any of our facilities. This change in the ACA does not impact your eligibility for care as a Native American at our facilities.

GRHC.ORG

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

483 W. Seed farm Road
Sacaton, Arizona 85147

(520) 562-3321
(602) 528-1240

Komatke Health Center

17487 S. Health Care Dr.
Laveen, Arizona 85339

(520) 550-6000

Ak-Chin Clinic

48203 W. Farrell Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85239

(520) 568-3881



PLEASE DONATE A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY

TOY DRIVE

COLLECTION DATES:
NOV. 11 - DEC. 17, 2014



Drop off locations:

GILA RIVER INDIAN UTILITY AUTHORITY

6640 W. Sundust Rd.
Ste. 5091 Chandler AZ
520.796.0600

FIRE STATION 429

5002 North Maricopa Road
Chandler, AZ
520.796.5900

FIRE STATION 421

829 Blackwater School Road
Coolidge, AZ
520.796.4510

FIRE STATION 423

599 East Seedfarm Road
Sacton, AZ
520.796.4580

FIRE STATION 426

4793 W. Pecos Road
Laveen Village
520.796.4515



All collected gifts directly benefit Gila River Indian Community Tribal Social Services, Residential Programs for Youth and Community Head Start Programs.

A partnership between Gila River Indian Community Fire Department & Marine Corps Toys for Tots of Pinal County.

For more information or schedule a toy pick-up contact: Merlena Calabaza at (520) 562-6024
Merlena.calabaza@gric.nsn.us

Amber Childs at (520) 562.6176
Amber.childs@gric.nsn.us

GILARIVER

GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.

Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community

WinGilaRiver.com
800-WIN-GILA

