

Gov. Mendoza gives farewell address



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
Gov. Mendoza delivers his farewell address on Dec. 17.

By Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

With many guests, songs and blessings, Gov. Gregory Mendoza said goodbye to his staff and his colleagues in a farewell address

during the Community Council meeting in Sacaton on Dec. 17. "It has been the honor of my life to be your 21st governor," said Gov. Mendoza.

Mendoza served a three-year term as governor of the Gila River Indian Community, and prior to his election he served as a District 4 Community Council representative.

Before his address, Tim Terry Jr. blessed Mendoza and students from St. Peter Indian Mission School sang traditional songs and Christmas carols in his honor. The Rev. Aaron Johns delivered a Christmas message.

Mendoza thanked his family and friends and reflected on his term. To sum up his feelings about his departure after three years he cited a quote from Shakespeare: "parting is such sweet sorrow."

Mendoza said he is looking forward to spending more time at home in the village of Goodyear, but he said it would be difficult to



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN
Students from St. Peter Indian Mission School sing prior to Gov. Mendoza's speech.

say goodbye to his staff and tribal employees.

Acknowledging some of the accomplishments that occurred during his administration, Mendoza said, "Fields were plowed for farming enterprises, land was cleared for industrial parks, gam-

ing compacts were negotiated and casinos were built, electric and communications authorities were created to serve our growing community, and most recently a resort hotel and shopping center have been opened."

He also acknowledged his

mother, the late Brenda Mendoza, and the advice she passed down to him. "Doing the right thing almost always means doing the hard thing," he said.

As he neared the end of his speech, an emotional Mendoza said, "We made a difference, we made the Community stronger... and we left it in good hands."

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Water Rights Day

10 Year Anniversary of Historic Water Settlement



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN
Former tribal leaders were recognized for their efforts in making the GRIC water rights fight a victory at the Water Rights Day Celebration Dec. 10 in D2.

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Every December 10, the Gila River Indian Community proudly celebrates Water Rights Day to remember the 2004 courtroom victory that granted this small community its water rights settlement.

This year, on the tenth anniversary, Community members gathered at the brand new District 2 Service Center in Hashan

Kehk. Early morning sun rays struck the cactus green tiles of the curved façade. Inside, Billy Allen gave an oral history of the Gila River and how the people depended on it.

"Keli Akimel. Old Man River [in O'otham]," he said. "It started a long, long way [away] in New Mexico, so by the time it got here, it was like an old man. It ran steady, and it was dependable."

But when settlers to the east

in the late 19th Century started diverting the water from upstream, the Old Man disappeared. The river dried up and along with it, the O'otham himdag, their way of life, began to fade.

The Gila River was once a running oasis. O'otham villages lined the banks, said Allen, the land was fertile, and water was plentiful. When it disappeared, life became difficult and water became scarce and expensive.

More than a hundred years later, and after decades of hard-fought litigation, the Community won the lawsuit, saying that it had the historical rights to a certain amount of water to sustain its people.

At the ten-year anniversary celebration of that victory, the Community paid special recognition to the tribal leaders who championed the water rights

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Broadcast TV channel coming to Gila River

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

For many in the Gila River Indian Community, the television airwaves over the Gila River are as static as the vacant riverbed below. But soon, they will be flowing with a stream of television content just for Community members and channeled directly into any GRIC household with a TV set and digital antenna.

"Most of the Community members get their television from off-the-air broadcast with a digital antenna from South Mountain," said Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. General Manager Derek White. "There are a number of households that choose to go [with] satellite broadcast, [but] neither of those options provide

Continued on Page 8

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Letter to Editor

Dear Gila River Indian Community Members:

First I would like to thank the Good Lord above for giving me the strength, knowledge and enthusiasm in this past election race. I am forever grateful to the amount of support I received on my first run for the Office of the Lt. Governor – it just wasn't my time this election year. The Lord works in mysterious ways, I know one day I'll look back on this election and know it was one of Life's lessons.

I take comfort knowing that I still have my institutional knowledge of our government, my many years of public service without blemish and my continued service to help our people when needed. Thank you to all the people who supported and instilled their trust within me.

Congratulations to Governor-elect Stephen R. Lewis and Lt. Governor-elect Monica Antone – I know you will do the best job you can for the betterment of our Community. In closing, THANK YOU again to all my supporters!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year

Respectfully submitted,
 Terrance B. Evans

Thank You from GRIN

The staff at the Gila River Indian News would like to thank everyone who participated in our first ever Helpful Hygiene Drive.

With your help, we filled boxes upon boxes with essential hygiene products and delivered them to the Residential Treatment Center, where they will benefit those in recovery.

Our donation drive ran for one month from Nov. 17 – Dec. 19. In that time, we collected over 100 pounds of toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion and a variety of many other supplies.

Thank you to the staff members of the Governance Center and the Service Centers in Districts 3, 5 and 6, who allowed us to place collection boxes at those facilities.

Special recognition goes to the staff and students of Hamilton High School and the HHS Native American Club. Thank you for stirring up support for our drive via the morning announcements and collecting all those boxes of supplies.

Tribal Images Artwork, a Gila River art studio, also deserves a round of applause for making a large donation of two boxes full early in the drive.

CORRECTIONS

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

Department of Energy Tribal Summit



Photo courtesy of Angelo Fernando, Salt River Elementary School robotics teacher

Secretary of the Department of Energy Ernest Moniz learns about the Salt River elementary school students' robotics class project.

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Secretary of the Department of Energy, Ernest Moniz, visited the Gila River Indian Community earlier this month, where he met with tribal leaders to discuss energy policy in Indian Country.

This was the first visit to Indian Country by a cabinet member after Pres. Barack Obama, at the White House Tribal Nations Con-

ference earlier this month, issued a directive to all of his cabinet members to visit Native nations in an effort to enhance federal-tribal government-to-government relationships.

"We are ramping up our work with Indian Country with [regard to] clean energy," said Moniz in an interview.

Council Representative Robert Stone (District 5) represents Gila River on the Indian Country

Energy and Infrastructure Working Group, which met with Moniz at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Dec. 11 – 12.

He said that the meeting was a real door opener.

"[It] was a unique opportunity to express our ideas of how things could work better with alternative energy [on reservations] directly to the Secretary of Energy," Stone said.

"All tribes are different so everybody has their own unique problems and possibilities for renewable energy. For us, here, we told him that we have our own utility authority set up and we're looking at solar energy."

He was referring, of course, to the GRIC Utility Authority, or GRICUA. While solar energy on a large scale is definitely a future goal of the tribal power company, the reality is, it's just not financially feasible right now.

Stone said that a lot of tribes want to get into renewable energy, but lack the funds to do so.

"Secretary Moniz was pretty willing to engage and listen and said he would get back to us," Stone said.

The Secretary said, "We're having this meeting here with tribal leaders from Arizona and from other parts of the country to discuss [tribal energy policy] and

then to set up a bigger tribal summit on energy next year."

After the meeting, the DOE announced the formation of a Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group to facilitate discussion between the Department and tribes focused on nuclear energy issues.

During his stay in Arizona, Moniz also visited Arizona State University, which he called a leader in innovation in energy technology.

"In the last decade, the Department of Energy has awarded Arizona State almost \$100 million for energy technology work," he said.

One of the reasons for his visit to Arizona was to talk about the importance of education in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

While at ASU, Moniz interacted with a number of students from all three state universities as well as students from local high schools and elementary schools, who showed him the kind of STEM projects they're working on.

"There was a wonderful [fourth- and] fifth-grade class from Salt River [Pima-Maricopa Indian Community], who are doing robotics projects," Moniz said.

"They were trying to think through, how would one set up

communications and interaction with human beings on Mars?"

As a practical exercise, their teacher, Angelo Fernando, established connections with a group of NASA-backed scientists who are on an 8-month experiment, living in a dome on a volcanic area of Hawaii, simulating what it might be like to live on a Mars colony.

Fernando's students chatted with some of the scientists via a time-delayed video feed.

"It's really great. I gotta give their teachers credit for doing that," said Moniz.

"The energy sector has been a principal driver of economic growth in this country for the last several years [and] a principal driver of good jobs in this country," he said, but "frankly, the demographics of the workforce in the energy sector tend to be older than the average. ... We need a good pipeline of STEM trained talent to be available."

Moniz said the DOE is committed to helping students like those at Salt River get more into the STEM fields so they can break into the energy sector when they're ready.

He said, "We have focal programs for getting more women into energy, more minorities into energy and Native Americans into energy."

Honeywell Makes Donation to Sacaton Middle School

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Sacaton Middle School robotics program received a huge boost from the Honeywell Corporation on Dec. 9.

Honeywell, known for designing and manufacturing parts for uses in aerospace to equipment for emergency responders, reached out to Sacaton Middle School donating \$10,000 worth of equipment.

The donation includes a curriculum along with 10 robotic kits and software and an onsite professional development academy for teachers in support of the robotics program.

Members of the Honeywell Robotics team have been volunteering their time on the weekends to help the students with building miniature robots.

For students with a creative imagination and interest in building things, the robotics program is the place to be.

Open to fifth through eighth grade students, the program brings the fun into subjects like math, which is part of the building and performance of the robots.

The Sacaton Middle School principal Phillip Bonds described the purpose of the robotics program as a way "to inspire students to get them excited and interested in math."

Seventh and eighth grade science teacher JoEllen Kinnamon approached Bonds about starting a robotics program.

Bonds, supported the idea of a robotics program. He also said that "having financial support is an important component of a quality robotic program," emphasizing Honeywell's contribution.

Kinnamon, because of her commitment to the students, believes the students must find something meaningful in their education that will prepare them when they move on to high school.

"I just want them to know that you can do anything," said Kinnamon tearing up as she spoke of the students potential to succeed.

"Our students don't always understand practical thought and how to apply it to their way of life. This program provides that opportunity and teaches students how lesson learned in the classroom can be applied to something tangible," said Kinnamon.

The Honeywell robotics team, Tammy Wolfe, the Community Relations representative said, "Honeywell believes firmly in the promotion of education science, technology, and math."

"We wanted to make sure we are very well connected with the Community and supporting where we can," said Wolfe, explaining the purpose for the partnership.

Laurie Burrell, a middle school teacher and educator from the Honeywell Educator @ Space Academy, talked about the opportunities for the students interested in robotics and space exploration. The opportunities are end-



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Left to Right: David Bluestein, from Honeywell, Clay Jackson and Patrecia Hernandez conduct a robotics demonstration at Sacaton Middle School.

less as Burrell explained, talking about the advantages of using robots as teaching tools. "I learned that the secret to getting kids motivated was through playing with robots," said Burrell.

Building robots requires a lot of problem solving and troubleshooting.

She left the students with these words of advice saying "Everything is awesome, everything is cool, because you guys are on a team that's going to be successful."

David Bluestein, a 35-year Honeywell employee, has worked with robots for most of his career.

"Trying to inspire some excitement about the science that's out there, everything around is

created by somebody, and somewhere an engineer is involved," said Bluestein.

He touched on four principals to being successful: smile, knowledge, practice, and skills.

A lot goes into making the robot move, according to Bluestein, "We have a lot of people here that can creatively create the robot and then we have the math people who program the robot and tell it where to go."

He praised the commitment of Kinnamon who was equally responsible for bringing everything together to make the robotics program happen.

Bluestein said, "Hopefully each of you can change the way you think about yourselves after

all this."

In addressing the parents and students, Bonds shared how the program is achieving the goals the school set out from the beginning saying, "I believe the program is doing what it does, a program where you can get excited about science and math."

The robotics program is offered as part of the after school science fair program at the middle school.

The school would like to have a team enter the RoboRave International robotics competition from April 30 - May 2 of next year. At the competition they would face off against other teams from around the world in Albuquerque.

D7 Pee Posh Community members close to moving into new development

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

For some families, the holidays just got a bit sweeter as they received the keys to their much anticipated gift. We are not talking about the keys to a dream corvette or pickup.

An open house put on by the Department of Community Housing officially welcomed the Community to the District 7 Pee Posh housing development on Dec. 16.

In the Westend Pee-Posh Community, the homes were getting the finishing touches as they were being prepared to receive their new owners.

Lori Francisco, the DCH director said, "There was a lot planning that went into making this project successful."

The project was designed by Carlos Murrieta of Irvine Design Studio based out of Scottsdale.

"I am glad this project is finally done, because it'll show the Community what we've been working towards for a very long time," said Francisco.

The goals according to Francisco were, "Building a good quality energy efficient home that create a better quality of life for the Community members to live in."

In appearance, the homes take a departure from the common standard of affordable homes in the Community.

"I think the team, project manager, the committees came up with something that is really

something to be proud of," said Murrieta.

Murrieta understood the project's goal to build homes of higher quality saying, "why not have a house that really represents the family and the Community that is a step up from what is seen elsewhere."

Sarah Olsen, the HUD grants management specialist from the Phoenix Office of Native American Programs, talked about the maximization of dollars used to build the house.

In an assessment of what would need to go into the homes Olsen said, "We looked to what the people wanted, the elders wanted to make the homes more meaningful to them."

"I'm confident these homes are comfortable for you," said Olsen.

James Cutter, Eligibility Worker with DCH, expressed his satisfaction at what has been accomplished saying, "this is beyond a HUD standard unit in any other reservation, this is very unique."

He commended everyone who was involved in the project and the Community members saying, "It was a thought that was outside the box that evolved into [this]."

In closing his remarks before the eager audience wanting to see the interior of the homes he said, "Its our responsibility to take over [this] community and build a neighborhood that will continue to grow."



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Families tour the new homes in District 7 on Dec. 16.

The new homes have linoleum wood floors and large, spacious living rooms that occupy the main portion of the house with doors going to the kitchen, laundry room or garage.

Overall, the homes will go a long way for the new residents that will be moving in soon. As for the design of

the homes, it is the direction the Community wants to offer for individuals and families in need of affordable housing.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

By Governor Gregory Mendoza

As the Christmas holiday season begins, I encourage all Community members to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas. "When we keep the spirit of Christmas, we keep the Spirit of Christ, for the Christmas spirit is the Christ Spirit." Faith, hope, peace, love, gratitude, joy and many other positive attributes are associated with the Christian meaning of Christmas and the birth of the Christian savior, Jesus Christ.

Being mindful of these positive attributes, as individuals, can help shape our thoughts, choices, decisions, and actions in ways that contribute to the realization of Christmas in our Community everyday during the holiday season and perhaps, throughout the upcoming New Year. Some of the ways we can capture the true meaning of Christmas in our Community and in our workplaces include contributing to a toy drive for needy children which helps create love and joy in the Community. Adopting a child or family to provide gifts to or a meal for instills hope, peace and a sense of community or connection in the truest sense of the word. Participating in holiday related work events brings people together and provides an opportunity for each of us to embody and be faith, hope, peace love, gratitude and joy in ourselves and for each other.

During this season of eternal peace, let us be mindful of the simple gifts we can give of ourselves and to each other: words of encouragement, a smile, a hug, or a prayer. The celebration and remembrance of the birth of Christ reminds us that we all are our brothers' keepers. The Christmas season is a time to reflect and act upon the blessings and opportunities we have because of the birth, life, Atonement, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As our Heavenly Father "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son" (John 3:16), we express our love toward one another and toward God and his precious Son by giving of ourselves. We are a community in our Community, whether our community is one of family, neighbors, friends, or co-workers. During this holiday season and in our individual moments of peace and gratitude, we can be grateful for all that is true, good and pure in our lives, while remaining mindful that we are not yet where we want to be, but we have made significant strides as a Community, as a workforce and as individuals.

Our work is not yet done, but for now during this holiday season, let us remember the blessings that grace our lives and try to extend the blessings of faith, hope, peace, love, gratitude and joy to others in our lives.

My very best wishes for a Merry Christmas to each Community member during this season of eternal peace. May Heavenly Father bless each and every one of you . . . and my Heavenly Father always bless and protect Gila River Indian Community!

Sincerely,

Gregory Mendoza
Governor



HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER



S-ko:mag Mashath

S-ko:mag Mashath means the "gray/brown month" in our Akimel O'otham Ñeok, and refers to the desert plants that go dormant during the winter months. This annual occurrence leaves our jeved various shades of s-ko:mag, (gray and brown). Later this month everyone patiently awaits Jiosh Alithag Ma:sig Thash or Christmas Day. During this month the Winter Solstice occurs, signaling the start to the recounting of our Creation Stories, what we call our Ho'ok A'ga. Long before our culture was influenced by western society, our Creation Stories helped us to remember our relationships to our natural universe and each other. Each story was learned by rote memory by the S-niokatham (the Speaker or Story Teller) and took a lifetime to learn, as back then we didn't have a writing system in place. Today we have absorbed many Holidays and Observations that we have "O'othamized" to fit our needs. On Jiosh Alithag Ma:sig Thash, upon receiving a gift it would be proper to say, "S-ape, tho si sap hekaj!" (Very good, I will put it to good use!), especially if the gift is something one would use such as men's tools, and ladies cookware. Your appreciation can be expressed simply as "Sape!" (Very good!); other proper sayings are "Amk si 'e gegosith!" (Eat to your heart's content!), "S-io'ovim u:v!", (It smells tasty!), and "Si sap ap ka:k!", (It tastes really good!), but say it like you mean it! This month's word match will focus on items found during the Klishmas season, especially those around the Klishmas Kwi. We wish everyone a S-he:kig Jios Alithag Ma:sig Thash ch heg Vechij Aithag!

Klishmas Kwi – Match the O'otham word with the correct picture!

Klishmas O'hodag



Kakalsi:tha



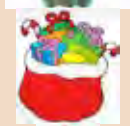
Ma:kigdag



Hu'u



Sio'ov-pap'pan



Kak'kampai



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Intel Corp. donates gifts to RPY



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

From left: Samantha Bowser and Paul Denham from Intel, RPY Administrator Kimberly Herman, RPY Recreation Coordinator Mark Miller and TSS Director Deannah Neswood-Gishey.

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

It is the season for giving and bringing smiles of joy, especially for children who are away from their families. Representatives from the Intel Corporation of Arizona came to the Residential Programs for Youth (RPY) facility to deliver gifts for the children on Dec. 14.

Intel Corp. has partnered with RPY for many years. Their Human Resources Department graciously donated gifts capturing the spirit of Christmas.

According to RPY Administrator Kimberly Herman, “the kids will be so happy to have gifts to open on Christmas and receive exactly what they wanted and asked for on their wish lists.”

The dedication and support of Intel is a blessing for the children, which RPY is grateful to have this time of the year. “Intel’s generosity embodies the true holiday spirit of giving,” said Herman.

As for the children of the RPY facility, they will be thankful they will have gifts to open on Christmas morning.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WINTER BIRD COUNT

Saturday
February 7, 2015

Schedule & Meeting Sites:

- 7am - Please meet at the location nearest you:
 - D5: Casa Blanca Shell Station (Casa Blanca Rd. & I-10)
 - D6: Komatke Chevron Station (51st Ave & Pecos Rd.)
 - D7: Old Service Center (Baseline Rd. & 83rd Ave.)

- 11am - Cultural Event
HuHuGam Heritage Center

- 1pm - Bird Count Event Ends

Please Note: Transportation is not provided for this event.

Family Event - Everyone Welcome
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520.562.2234



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Respecting People & Culture**

Holiday Message

The holiday season has a magical way of renewing our sense of joy and kindness. May this holiday spirit bring our patients and Community members peace, good health and happiness. On behalf of Gila River Health Care, thank you for allowing us to serve you, and may the holiday spirit be with you and your family today and throughout the New Year.

Kindly,

Dr. Lorrie Henderson, CEO
On behalf of Members of the GRHC Board of Directors and Employees

Holiday Closures

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital (HHKMH), Komatke Health Clinic (KHC) Primary Care Departments will **CLOSE** At 12 Noon Wednesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 31st, 2014

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital (HHKMH), Komatke Health Clinic (KHC) Primary Care Departments will resume normal business hours Friday, December 26th and Friday, January 2nd, 2015

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital (HHKMH), Komatke Health Clinic (KHC), and Ak-Chin Clinic will be **CLOSED**: Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1, 2015

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



Gila River
HEALTH CARE

Laborin named Employee of the Year at Roundup

By Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

At the Employee Roundup Dec. 12, Carolynn Laborin was announced as the 2014 Governor's Employee of the Year.

"When my name was announced as the recipient of the award, I was overwhelmed with emotions," she said in a later interview.

Laborin is a probation officer with the Gila River Indian Community and has been for over 10 years.

"It's a tough job, and I pray [for] my heavenly father to be with me every day, because it's challenging, the things that we see, the things that we deal with. But for me...it's just a great feeling to be able to serve the clients that I work with," she said.

Laborin's work clearly comes from her heart. This is what her supervisor, Ernie Banks, said about her in his nomination letter: "Carolynn Laborin is one of the kindest persons I know. She is always smiling and greeting people with hugs and words of encouragement."

He said the depth of her knowledge and amount of time she invests sets her apart. "I have witnessed her professionalism and her love for Community Members."

He said, "Carolynn is strengthening our himdag [and] bringing back our traditions: it takes a community to raise our children and strengthen the Community as a whole."



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Employee of the Year Carolynn Laborin with Gov. Gregory Mendoza at the Employee Roundup.

When asked what motivates her, Laborin said, "I love the job that I do and the people that I serve in the Community. This is my community and being able to serve my community. I do the best that I can every day."

Laborin grew up in Sacaton and now has six children of her own. "It can be challenging at times because, although I'm a full time mommy, my kids understand that I can't always be home on the weekends." She will often times work weekends to manage her case load and make sure her clients are taken care of.

"My ultimate goal is to be a judge, and specifically, a children's court judge," said Laborin, who said, "My family and friends, my colleagues that I work with, they're always never ending with positive encouragement for me. ... I am very thankful for my family, my friends and my colleagues."

Gila River Broadcasting Corporation

From Page 1

local Community content."

That's what GRTI hopes to change with the development of a new Low Power Television station called Gila River Broadcasting Corporation

The station will be an all-Native American programming broadcast with some national content and an emphasis on local Community content. There will be children's programming, culturally relevant material, public service announcements and GRIC news and information.

The GRBC Broadcast Committee has been looking for local content from the GRIC Communications & Public Affairs Office, Employment & Training Department, public service departments, Gila River Health Care and others. They are also hoping to establish a contract with First Nations Experience, a Native American TV production company out of California.

"The effort has always been [to find] an economical way to get information throughout the Community," said White.

When GRTI was first established, over 25 years ago,

it originally intended to support a TV station, but the cost of installing broadcast and receiving systems into all the service centers was just too expensive at the time.

As broadcast technology has improved, equipment has gotten smaller and cheaper. A few years ago, the Federal Communications Commission decided to move everyone from analog to digital broadcast. They also introduced the idea of Low-Power TV for rural areas and that's when GRTI knew it was a good time to revisit the idea of a GRIC reservation channel.

"LPTV is primarily intended to provide...locally-oriented television service in small communities," one GRBC committee report reads. "LPTV presents a less expensive and very flexible way of delivering programming tailored to the interests of viewers in small localized areas."

GRTI used funds from GRIC's partnership with Verizon Wireless to get GRBC off the ground.

So where can GRIC residents find the broadcast?

The stream will be split into three channels (but

they're all going to play the same thing) and viewers can find it based on where they live.

On the west end, tune to channel 19 for KGRF out of Maricopa Village; in the east, it will be on channel 21, KGRY broadcast from Blackwater; and everywhere in the middle of the reservation, visit channel 29, KGRQ, from Stotonic.

There are three channels because there are three broadcast points throughout the reservation that push the signal out.

GRTI can actually bend the shape of the signals to nearly match the reservation boundaries without going too much over. And, because it's LPTV, which takes up less bandwidth, the new channels won't interfere with current TV channels.

One catch is, depending on how far away from the broadcast points you live will determine what size antenna you may have to buy. GRTI has said it may be able to help some consumers with that but those details are not yet clear.



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Gila River Elder Honored for 50 Years as ASU Graduate



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Willardene Lewis waves as Lt. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis looks on at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe.

By GRIN staff
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community member Willardene Pratt Lewis was honored as part of the graduating Class of 1965 at the ASU Graduation Commencement and Convocation Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Mrs. Lewis was recognized as a "Golden Grad" for graduating from the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at ASU 50 years ago.

Mrs. Lewis was the first Gila River Indian Community woman to graduate from ASU.

She began her teaching career in the Gila River Indian

Community in 1965. She also went on to earn a Master's degree and a law degree from ASU. Mrs. Lewis was escorted by her son, Lt. Governor/Governor-elect Stephen Roe Lewis, also an ASU graduate. Mrs. Lewis resides in Sacaton.

MMA fighters share stories with students



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

(L-R) Ira H. Hayes school Superintendent Crispin Zamudio stands with Team Iron: Maria Keloy, Orlando Jimenez, David Welch, and Carlos Castro.

By Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The students of Ira H. Hayes High School were treated to guests from a group called Team Iron, a mixture of ASU alumni and MMA competitors, who shared their journey of trials and success.

Team Iron is about being able to inspire others, as their motto goes "Iron Sharpens Iron." The team reaches out to youth groups and schools hoping they takeaway important life skills.

Many of Team Iron's members come from various backgrounds serving in the U.S. Navy, law enforcement and Mixed Martial Arts.

Carlos Ortiz, an MMA competitor, talked about the sacrifices necessary to work towards goals.

As he talked with a group of students, he asked them, "Who wants to be successful? What you need to understand is that you have to dedicate yourself," said Ortiz.

Ortiz had these words of ad-

vice for the students, "Whatever you want to accomplish you can do it. Your mind is really strong, really powerful if whether you want to get that A, or go to college," said Ortiz.

Team Iron hopes the messages shared with students will motivate them into thinking about what they need to do to make their goals happen.



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

GRIC historian Billy Allen gave a lecture at the Water Rights Day Celebration on Dec. 10 in District 2. He spoke about the O'otham way of life and how significant the river is and has been to people of this desert valley.

Gila River Water Rights Day 10th Anniversary in D2

From Page 1

litigation. Among them was Rod Lewis, former Gila River General Counsel, who also gave a speech.

"In 2004, this was the largest water settlement...in the history of Indian affairs in the United States," he said. "I think it's important to realize that now, we have the tools and we have the responsibility to move forward...and we now have the ability to make our reservation more prosperous."

Henrietta Lopez from the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project spoke to that point in her speech about the Gila River P-MIP canals, which should be finished within the next 10 years, and illustrated what GRIC is doing to manage some of the water








it has won back.

Guests of the Water Rights Day celebration explored the new service center, visited booths to learn more about GRIC's water history and everyone received a blue commemorative fleece blanket with "Water Rights Settlement Act - 10th Anniversary - December 10, 2004" stitched in a corner.

To close the meeting, Lt. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (governor-elect) thanked the audience for being there and said, "It's from proud beginnings of protecting our water rights, protecting our sovereignty that we're here today."

He said, "We have to keep fighting and we have to keep recognizing where we come from and celebrate."

Klishmas Kwi – Match the O'otham word with the correct picture!
SOLUTION!

<i>Klishmas O'hodag</i>	
<i>Kakalsi:tha</i>	
<i>Ma:kigdag</i>	
<i>Hu'u</i>	
<i>Sio'ov-pap'pan</i>	
<i>Kak'kampan</i>	
<i>Kakanjel</i>	

CHRISTMAS RECYCLING TIPS



- Reuse wrapping paper, bows, boxes & tissue paper. Gift bags are also a great idea because they can be used many times over. You can also wrap gifts in newspaper or brown paper bags decorated with stickers or drawings by the kids.
- Purchase Christmas cards made with recycled paper. Better yet, send an electronic holiday card in place of a paper card.
- About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season, so consider giving a battery charger and rechargeable batteries as a gift.
- Be creative and make your own ornaments - there are a number of websites with simple and fun ideas.

- Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.
- Cut up old Christmas cards to use as gift tags.
- Rather than purchasing something from a store, consider baked goods as a gift.
- Styrofoam packing material cannot be recycled, but many mailing facilities will accept them for reuse. Not all facilities do this, so please call first.
- Old electronics can be recycled. There are a number of recycling businesses in the area that will accept small appliances, audio equipment or anything that plugs into a wall. However, there is a disposal fee for old computer monitors and televisions due to hazardous waste contained in these items.
- Did Santa bring you a new cell phone? Verizon will accept phones from any service provider for their HopeLine program. Phones are refurbished and donated to local domestic violence agencies. For more information, please visit www.verizonwireless.com/aboutus/hopeline/

What is it?



Submitted by CTERC
Gila River Indian Community

Do you know what it is? Do you know what it could potentially be? These are the questions you need to ask yourself when you find other peoples' garbage in your desert. The Community has long suffered from illegal dumping within its boundaries. Some of this dumping is everyday household garbage to furniture but the problem comes when containers which can contain unknown

chemicals are dumped in the desert. This is especially problematic when it is done close to housing areas or inhabited areas. Illegal dumping of chemicals is nothing new for the Community and some of these dumping sites have been investigated and resulted in hefty fines from Community departments to the responsible companies or parties for response and clean up. Should you come across someone's dump site and there are containers that may possibly have hazardous substances in them you

- should do the following:
- Contact 9-1-1 as soon as possible.
 - Provide as much information as possible about the containers to dispatchers
 - Notify neighbors and relatives so they can keep children from playing in the area
 - Move away from the area and direct emergency responders to the site
 - Note any suspicious activity in the area of the dumping to investigators

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN THE MATTER OF: JC-2014-0133/ JC-2011-0251 Minor Child TO: Rochinda Thomas NOTICE OF HEARING Rescheduled in Sacaton Venue Please take notice that a Motion Hearing has been rescheduled in the Gila River Indian Children's Court. If you fail to appear a judgment may be issued in favor of the other party.

This matter has been scheduled at the place, date, and time set forth below: Sacaton-Children's Court 721 West Seed Farm Road Sacaton, Arizona 85147 (520) 562-9860/ (520) 562-9862 DATE: Friday, January 9, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community Children's Court, in the State of Arizona. DATED: December 16, 2014

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Honoring the Holiday Wishes of the Late Mary V. Thomas

Christmas is a very special time of year, it is the time of year that we celebrate the birth of Jesus to his beloved mother, Mary. So it is quite fitting for our family, the family of the late Mary V. Thomas, to honor our loved one by sending a special note of appreciation during the holidays to the Community for which she loved and cared about dearly.

People all over the world rejoice and find joy among families and friends, that's what our Mary V. Thomas wanted for us. On behalf of our beloved Mary, we wish for God's blessings of health and happiness for the people of the Gila River Indian Community.

Our family extends a heartfelt thanks to the Community for your presence, prayers and condolences. We are appreciative for the way the Community embraced Mary and our family during her years of service to the Community, and prior to and after her passing. Please know that if we have not listed your act of kindness or name below, rest assured my sister, Mary V. Thomas observed it from heaven above and she certainly knows about your graciousness. Thank you.

- 🎄 **District 1:** The honor guard from our Community's veterans stood strong with prayers that were comforting – thank you.
- 🎄 **District 2:** The blessing from the Basket Dancers was beautiful, and the kind words from Councilwoman Carol A. Schurz were comforting – thank you.
- 🎄 **District 4:** A big thank you to Councilwoman, Jennifer Allison for the very special song for Mary's journey home - To all, thank you from our hearts.
- 🎄 **District 5:** To all the special words that were bestowed upon us with such love and respect for Mary, we are thankful. Councilman Franklin Pablo Sr.'s wonderful words honored Mary and reminded us of her strength. Councilman Robert Stone's heartfelt prayers, he said in our language were a true gift. She loved to hear our prayers in Pima – thank you.
- 🎄 **District 6:** St. Johns: The place where she received her education, and delivered famous basketball jump shots. The songs that were sung for her by the people were songs she loved – thank you.
- 🎄 **District 7:** Thank you to the Pee-Posh for their songs and dances, it was so wonderful to hear the songs. We were proud to receive the honorary salute from the Pee-Posh Color Guard -thank you.

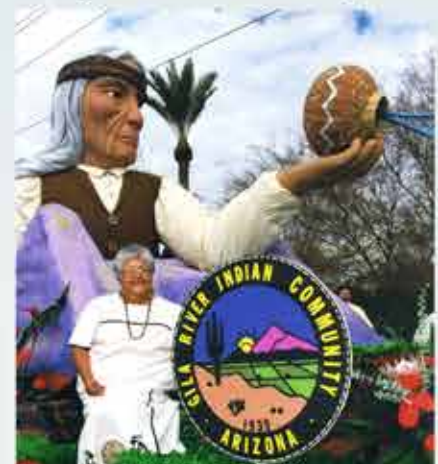
The GRIC Police and Fire Departments were able to provide our family with police and fire escort so that Mary could visit the districts before her final journey home. We especially would like to thank Police Chief, Kathleen Kirkham for helping to make this possible-thank you to all.

We send a very special thank you (s) to Governor Mendoza for warmly offering assistance and to Lieutenant Governor Lewis for generously offering his help for anything we needed. In our time of sorrow, it was so warming to hear that many people were grateful for Mary's presence in their lives. Our family is very proud of Mary and her accomplishments, and we are happy we were able to share "her" with you over the years. My sister Mary cared deeply for our people and our culture; she especially loved the Community and our land. Join our family, as we honor her wishes by respecting our people, land and our culture.

Many, many thanks and from our family to yours – blessings and happy holidays.

Respectfully,
Edith Pohl

On behalf of the family of the late Mary V. Thomas



GILA RIVER CASINOS

*Wishes you & your family a
Happy Holiday Season*



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