

## Sacaton teen named Miss Gila River

By Mikhail Sundust  
Gila River Indian News

Lucia Antone of Sacaton was crowned as the 2014-2015 Miss Gila River at the 51st Annual Miss Gila River Pageant, March 8.

Antone, 19, is a senior at Sherman Indian School in Riverside, Calif. Her parents are Troy Antone, Sr. and Cynthia Satala. She will be graduating this May and plans to start her college education at Central Arizona College this summer. After that she will pursue her dream of going to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.

The contest was held at the brand new Vah Ki Service Center Multipurpose building, where hundreds of Community members packed into the gymnasium to support four of Gila River's brightest and bravest young women.

The ceremony opened with a traditional dance featuring all four contestants and then-reigning Miss Gila River Lisa Hohokimal Hendricks in a demonstration of grace and unity.

The pageant is made up of traditional talents, traditional attire, contemporary talents and impromptu questions. Individual interviews with the judges and written submissions from the contestants are considered the day before the pageant.

This year's crop of Miss Gila River hopefuls included Antone;



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

**Lucia Antone, D3, was crowned Miss Gila River 2014-2015 March 8. Antone is a senior in high school and with her crown hopes to revive interest in O'otham culture and practices in Gila River youth.**

Cheyenne Jackson, representing District 6; Anissa Garcia, representing District 3; and Annie Gutierrez, representing District 4.

All four contestants performed admirably and each had a section of screaming supporters in the audience, boosting their confidence from beyond the bright

lights of the stage. Garcia showed off her love of photography with beautiful images of Gila River landscapes and Antone demonstrated her skills as a pastry chef. She told the audience that it is her dream to graduate from Le Cordon Bleu and provided the four judges with a surprise treat of red velvet cupcakes as proof of her commitment.

In the end, Garcia was awarded Second Attendant and Gutierrez First Attendant. Antone beamed with surprise and joy as Hendricks transferred the crown forward from her head onto that of the new Miss Gila River.

The Miss Gila River crown is not Antone's first brush with being royalty, however. Last year she ran for Miss Sherman at her school and got First Attendant. She wrote in an email, "since Miss Sherman, I've gotten more involved with school activities like: Inter-Tribal Council (ITC), Powwow Committee, and Dorm Club."

As Miss Gila River, and as a committee member of the Sherman Indian School Powwow Committee, Antone wants to let GRIC members know that her school is hosting the 29th Annual Sherman Indian Powwow in Riverside, which supports high school seniors with college scholarships. The powwow is April 19.

Antone said she was motivated to run for Miss Gila River because she would like to contrib-

ute to the Community in a positive way. "[Sacaton] is where I lived, that's where I grew up and when I left it was really quiet." But now, she said, "there's a lot of gang activities and things like that that shouldn't even be in our Community." She hopes to combat that by injecting culture and history into the lives of Gila River youth.

When she heard her name called, Antone said, "I felt blessed, joyful, and delighted to be crowned."

As Miss Gila River, her number one priority is "to be more involved in bringing our youth and our elders together [to promote] our language, our ways and traditions and the songs and the dances."

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Photo Courtesy of GRICDOT

**DOT improving a roadway in front of St. Peter Indian Mission School in District 5.**

## No more bumpy rides for visitors to St. Peter

By Roberto A. Jackson  
Gila River Indian News

They say the road of life has its share of bumps and potholes. Well, the driveway to St. Peter Indian Mission School had more than its share. For parents and busses driv-

ing back and forth to the school, the rocky trip would give you more of a jolt than a strong cup of coffee.

Sister Martha Mary Carpenter, St. Peter's principal, said she would try to fix the potholes with rocks from the playground to little avail.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Mul-Chu-Tha time: Annual celebration hits GRIC with fair, parade and rodeo



Joshua Jovanelly/GRIN

See page six for more Mul-Chu-Tha photographs.

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**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**  
**Sign- up to Help the Limited Contract**  
**Health Services Funding**

Gila River Health Care (GRHC) continues to devote resources to signing up individuals for the insurance benefits available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Why obtaining private health insurance is so crucial at this time is because of the limited funding that is available under the Contract Health Services (CHS).

Prior to the ACA contract health dollars had to be used for Gila River Indian Community members that had no insurance and did not qualify for the state Medicare program, called AHCCCS (Access). Now our patients have an alternative, they can obtain insurance through ACA.

With more of the community covered with some form of health insurance, contract health dollars will be available to provide care to the most vulnerable patients. Insurance coverage through ACA allows patients to have resources to access the important healthcare services both at GRHC and in the Phoenix area. For those individuals that cannot sign up for ACA, there will be more CHS dollars for the services they need and the entire community will benefit.

“We are seeing many of our patients interested in the Affordable Care Act, asking questions on the marketplace (where you sign up for coverage), and how they can enroll, premiums, their costs, what health benefits will be covered,” says Ginger Fligger, Chief Financial Officer of GRHC. She also stated “we are dedicated to providing assistance to our patients and providing that face-to-face conversation with one of our certified assistances.”

Gila River Indian Community tribal members, please come into our Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital campus or Komatke Health Center campus and speak to one of our Benefit Coordinators who will assist with the process of determining all your available options. In many cases GRHC may be able to pay your monthly premium and ensure you have health insurance for you and your family members.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Cathy Mejia** 520-562-3321 x 1251 or 602-528-1251  
 cmejia@grhc.org

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**Komatke Health Center**  
 17487 South HealthCare Drive  
 Laveen, Arizona 85339  
 Phone: 520.550.6000  
 Fax: 520.550.6033

**Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital**  
 483 West Seed Farm Road  
 Sacaton, Arizona 85147  
 Phone: 520.562.3321  
 Fax: 602.528.1240

**Ak-Chin Health Clinic**  
 48203 West Farrell Road  
 Maricopa, AZ 85239  
 Phone: 520.568.3881  
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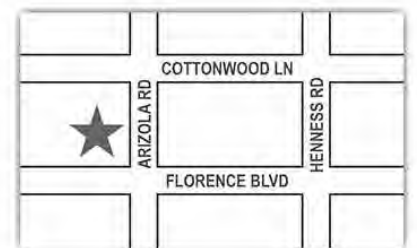


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## O'otham teachers believe in the power of language at culture sharing in Ak-Chin

By Joshua Jovanelly  
Gila River Indian News

Preserving O'otham culture is a top priority for the four tribes that share O'otham heritage. As times change and elders age, the task falls on culture teachers to carry on this legacy to the younger generations.

Teachers from the four sister tribes came together March 14 to share ideas and strategies during a full-day session of presentations and culture sharing at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. More than 100 members of GRIC, Tohono O'odham Nation, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Ak-Chin Indian Community packed the conference rooms to participate in the annual Culture Teacher Gathering. It was Ak-Chin's first time hosting the event.

The centerpiece of O'otham culture is its unique language.

"We're all promoting what we understand about our language because our language is the very foundation upon which all of our knowledge and understanding is derived from," said Dallas De Lowe, a cultural specialist with GRIC's Head Start program and the keynote speaker at the gathering.

Presentations were held throughout the morning. Phillip Miguel, an instructor at Tohono O'odham Community College, and Andrea Ramon presented on the importance of sharing the himdag through education. Maria Garcia and Alice Manuel, who work with Salt River's Cultural Resources Department, taught basic O'otham words and phrases through a hand game



Joshua Jovanelly/GRIN

**Maria Garcia (center) leads an O'otham hand game song that teaches participants basic O'otham words. Garcia joined culture teachers from across the four sister tribes at the Culture Teacher Gathering.**

song. Anthony Gray of GRIC's Head Start described efforts being made to train Gila River's youngest members, while Joyce Hughes, culture coordinator for GRIC's Tribal Education Department, led a demonstration in fun teaching of the Akimel O'otham alphabet.

Attendees' fluency in O'otham ranged from fully fluent native speakers to those that could understand but not speak to those that understood little at all. Yet when it came to the cause of preserving the language, nothing was lost in translation.

"I'm so happy that all of you are here, that you're teaching language, that language is interesting to you and that it's strong," Manuel said before the

hand game activity kicked off. "It feels really good to come to the morning session and hearing people speak in O'otham."

After picking non-speakers out of the crowd, Garcia led the hand game song, getting participants to sing along and play a guessing game that incorporated learning the O'otham words for right (sio'omko) and left (o'hogig).

Many of the culture teachers from across the sister tribes are familiar with one another. The day was filled with smiling faces and outbreaks of gleeful laughter.

"I think for all of us it was a re-union," said Hughes, who guided her group through pronouncing difficult consonants.

"We had loads of O'otham laughter."

O'otham culture teachers can't go to a typical teacher store to get their materials. Events like the Culture Teacher Gathering are key for exchanging ideas and building relationships.

It's important "that we share what we do in teaching," Hughes said. "We share our ideas, we form partnerships so we have someone that we can call or email for lesson plans. We become mentors to each others in teaching our Way of Life and Language."

Before his speech, De Lowe told me about the challenges of compensating for the "generational gap," the current parent generation that mostly did

not grow up speaking the language due to assimilation efforts. "More or less it became a neglected language," De Lowe said.

The charge of De Lowe and his fellow cultural experts is to bring the younger generations back up to speed, while encouraging the parents to learn right along with them.

There are many unique qualities that distinguish each O'otham tribe and even villages within each tribe. There are slightly different words or slightly different customs. De Lowe encouraged Community members to embrace these distinctions and not let them hinder the teaching or sharing process. "That's the wonderful aspect of our himdag: the differences," Delowe said.

De Lowe is a strong believer in the power of language; he believes the words we say create the reality that we live. While he knows there is no quick fix to the challenge of language preservation among the four tribes, he affirms that events like the Culture Teacher Gathering are getting the tribes one step closer.

"That's what I see right now with what we're doing here with the gathering; it's this revitalization," De Lowe said. "And it's a continuing process. It is something that is not going to take a year or two. It's going to be a very lengthy process. And it's going to involve a lot of work, a lot of dedication and a desire on one's part to pass along the knowledge."

## Governor's Employees of the Month

### January Employee of the Month, Candida Muñoz



Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

**Submitted by Marsha Chischilly**  
Human Resources Dept.

Candida Muñoz has been with the Finance Department for over ten years. During this time, she has been with the payroll department ensuring that the employees of the Community are paid in a timely and accurate manner.

As a member and leader of the Payroll Team, they maintain a very busy job schedule which includes such things as answering questions about time clocks, timesheets, processing payroll, and conducting sick leave donation audits to say the least.

During Candi's time with payroll, the payroll department has gone through many changes such as moving from manual timesheets to electronic timesheets and time clocks, developing policy and procedures, and just around the corner, implementing a new in-house payroll system.

As a result, Candi and her staff work long hours, weekends, and even holidays to ensure that each and every employee is paid every two weeks.

Candi is a tremendous asset not only to the Finance Department but to the Community as a whole. We commend her for an excellent job well done and congratulate her for receiving employee of the month.

### February Employee of the Month, Gregory Lewis



Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

**Submitted by Marsha Chischilly**  
Human Resources Dept.

Gregory Lewis, a van driver for District 1 Senior Center, has been an employee for the Gila River Indian Community since 1997.

The seniors of the Blackwater Community have on many occasions expressed that they are very fortunate to have such a caring and loyal van driver with many qualities, who not only cares about their welfare and comfort but performs his duties well and beyond what is outlined of his job description and pay scale.

Greg donates his time to the seniors during their monthly fund raising tasks; he

enjoys mixing up the ingredients and lifting bulk heavy items effortlessly when the seniors make their tamales. Greg is the seniors' preferred monthly bingo caller.

Greg continues to overcome physical challenges and still comes to work every day pushing himself beyond his medical limitations. Greg is an outstanding employee who rarely complains, he never comes to work with a negative attitude.

One senior shared with me that Greg is a person that deals with his problems at home and never brings it to work, which is another rare quality that makes him a perfect candidate for an all around special employee and deserves more.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES BY GRIN STAFF

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

## Interior Announces More Than \$100 Million in Purchase Offers to Nearly 16,000 Landowners with Fractionated Interests at Pine Ridge Reservation

**By Stephanie Way**  
Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations  
U.S. Department of Interior

WASHINGTON, DC – In another step to fulfill President Obama’s commitment to strengthen Indian communities, the U.S. Department of the Interior today announced that the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) has sent purchase offers to nearly 16,000 individual landowners with fractionated interests in parcels on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Totaling more than \$100 million, these offers will provide landowners the opportunity to voluntarily sell their fractionated interests, which would be consolidated and held in trust for the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

“The success of the Buy-Back Program is vitally important to the future of Indian Country,” said Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. “Consolidating and returning these lands to tribes in trust will have enormous potential to unlock tribal community resources. While we know that it will be a challenge to reach all landowners, we are committed to exhausting all efforts to make sure that individuals are aware of this historic opportunity to strengthen tribal sovereignty by supporting the consolidation of tribal lands.”

The goal of the Buy-Back Program is to strengthen self-determination and self-governance for federally-recognized tribes. The Program implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractionated in-

terests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value. Individuals who choose to sell their interests will receive payments directly in their IIM accounts. Consolidated interests are immediately restored to tribal trust ownership for uses benefiting the reservation community and tribal members.

Land fractionation is a serious problem across Indian Country. As individually-owned lands are passed down through several generations, they gain more and more owners. Many of these tracts now have hundreds and even thousands of individual owners. For many of these owners with fractionated interests, the land has very little practical value. Because it is difficult to gain landowner consensus on the use of these lands, the parcels often lie idle and cannot be used for any beneficial purpose.

The Pine Ridge Reservation is one of the most highly-fractionated land ownership locations in Indian Country. The vast majority of landowners with purchasable interests have received offers— and have been located in 46 states across the country.

Interior has worked cooperatively with the Oglala Sioux Tribe over the past several months to conduct outreach to educate landowners about this unique opportunity, answer questions and help individuals make a timely decision about their land. Many owners have already been paid in response to offers delivered in December 2013.

Early purchases from willing sellers at Pine Ridge have resulted in the consolidation of thousands of acres of land for the tribe and in payments to landowners exceeding \$10 million. While the amounts offered to individuals have varied, some owners have received more than \$100,000 for their interests. On average, payments to individuals have been made within seven days after Interior received a complete, accepted offer package.

Purchase offers are valid for 45 calendar days. Owners must accept and return current purchase offers for fractionated lands on Pine Ridge by May 2, 2014.

For information about outreach events at Pine Ridge where landowners can gather information in order to make informed decisions about their land, contact the Oglala Sioux Tribe’s Buy-Back Program at 605-867-2610.

Landowners can contact their local Fiduciary Trust Officer or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 888-678-6836 with questions about

their purchase offers. More information is also available at: <http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/landowners>.

Sellers receive fair market value for their land, in addition to a base payment of \$75 per offer, regardless of the value of the land. All sales will also trigger contributions to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund. Up to \$60 million will go to this fund to provide scholarships to Native American students. These funds are in addition to purchase amounts paid to individual sellers, so contributions will not reduce the amount paid to landowners for their interests. The Scholarship Fund will be governed by a board of trustees and administered by the American Indian College Fund in Denver, Colo., with 20% going to the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

Interior holds about 56 million acres in trust or restricted status for American Indians. The Department holds this land in more than 200,000 tracts, of which about 93,500 – on nearly 150 reservations – contain fractional ownership interests available for purchase by the Buy-Back Program. There are more than 245,000 landowners, holding more than 3 million fractionated interests in parcels, eligible to participate in the Program.

Individual participation is voluntary. A decision to sell land for restoration to tribes does not jeopardize a landowner’s ability to receive individual settlement payments from the Cobell Settlement, which are being handled by the Garden City Group.

## St. Peter/GRICDOT

From Page 1

On days when the sisters would leave the school, they would drive on the left side—the wrong side—of the driveway since it had fewer bumps and holes. Sister Martha said the trips always included a special prayer in case some unsuspecting driver was pulling into the school as the sisters were leaving.

St. Peter’s school was worried about student safety and as Sister Martha said, “spending so much on bus repair.”

At a parent-teacher conference with BIA Superintendent Cecilia Martinez, Sister Martha expressed her concerns about the driveway. According to Sister Martha, Martinez contacted the tribe and the request was passed on to Gov. Greg-

ory Mendoza.

Supervisory Road Maintenance Technician Jimmy Garcia from Gila River Department of Transportation was familiar with that particular driveway and by the time he got the word from DOT Director Tim Oliver to check in to it, he knew that the surface badly needed repair. “We all felt that it was a safety concern for the kids and those busses,” said Garcia.

The plan was to fix the driveway during the Christmas break, but the crews were diverted to fix damage from the severe winter storms that hit the Community.

Once Garcia’s men were available, they started on paving 400 feet of brand new driveway. The project

started in January and Garcia said it took about a month to finish. In addition to the length of the driveway, Garcia and his men included a wide cul-de-sac with enough room for busses and fire trucks to make easy turns.

The new driveway is a big hit and when Sister Martha was asked about the response from parents, students and staff she said: “They love it.”

Garcia also said this project carried with it special satisfaction knowing that it was for the safety of the school children. “My crew was very happy to go out there and do that job,” said Garcia.


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**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
★ ★ VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT ★ ★

The Gila River Indian Community Council has declared the following Board vacancies:

Board/Committee	Number of Vacancies	Deadline
Gila River Telecommunication, Inc. Board of Directors	Two (2)	May 7, 2014 12:00 noon

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Telecommunication, Inc. Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Résumé to the Community Council Secretary’s Office by the deadline date, (include your address and phone number on your résumé). A copy of the position description outlining the qualifications, duties & responsibilities of this position can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary’s Office located at the Governance Center, 525 West Gu u Ki, mailing address P.O. Box 2138, Sacaton, AZ 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720.

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**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
★ ★ VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT ★ ★

The Gila River Indian Community Council has declared the following Board vacancy:

Board/Committee	Number of Vacancies	Deadline
Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors	One (1) Unexpired Term	April 4, 2014 12:00 noon

Community members interested in serving on the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority Board of Directors, must submit one original copy of a Letter of Interest and a Résumé to the Community Council Secretary’s Office by the deadline date, (include your address and phone number on your résumé). A copy of the position description outlining the qualifications, duties & responsibilities of this position can be obtained from the Community Council Secretary’s Office located at the Governance Center, 525 West Gu u Ki, mailing address P.O. Box 2138, Sacaton, AZ 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720.



The Gila River Indian Community hosted its seminal annual event March 14 to 16 at the Sacaton fair grounds.

The Gila River royalty, including newly crowned Miss Gila River Lucia Antone, had its official coronation ceremony on the first night. After a parade the next morning, basket dancers from around the Community performed their cultural dances. Later, athletic young women competed in a thoka tournament. The sketch comedy group "the 1491s" joined the GRIC Comedy Slam that evening, garnering big laughs from the crowd.

## HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER



### Mul-Chu-Tha since Time Immemorial

Long before the Mul-Chu-Tha was established our He:kiu O’otham have been conducting social games and festivals at their large villages. Through archaeology we are able to discover that every major Hohokam village had a Ball Court where games and social gatherings were held. We do not know exactly how the games were played, but on a clay effigy unearthed at Snaketown body armor on thighs and arms are easily recognized. We can imagine the players coming to Snaketown Ball Court from other villages to play winter games. During the winter months all the plants go dormant, even the common crops of corn, beans and squash. This would make the ideal time for the games and social gatherings. Over the years, Calendar Stick Keepers recorded social events during the years 1875 to 1898. During 1901-1902 the Anthropologist Frank Russell recorded the following accounts from his research of our O’otham.

1. 1875-76 Blackwater: For a short time the Pimas were free from enemy attacks, and they ventured into the mountains to gather mesquite. While there, a race took place between a man and a woman, in which the woman won. Later in the season there was a general gathering of the villages to witness a race with the kicking-ball.

2. 1876-77 Gila Crossing: In the spring of 1877 the Gila Crossing Pimas and the Gila Maricopa villagers were pitted against each other in a relay race, the first between the two tribes. Footnote: Tc̄erik̄us, one of the Maricopa runners, afterwards won a six-day race in San Francisco and was a close second in a similar race in New York.

3. 1883-84 Gila Crossing: The Salt River Pimas went to a fiesta at Gila Crossing.

4. 1886-87 Salt River: The Medicine-man Staups gave a great dance at San Tan, which was accompanied by races and other ceremonies which attracted many visitors, among whom were a Yuma and his wife.

5. 1888-89 Gila Crossing: A prosperous season enabled the Salt River people to hold a dance festival.

6. 1888-89 Blackwater: A Papago who knew the bluebird series of songs sang for the San Tan people during the festival held by them.

7. 1889-90 Gila Crossing: The Hi’atam villagers who formerly lived at Akūtc̄iny, south of Maricopa station, went to Gila Crossing to join in the dance festival held there.

8. 1897-98 Gila Crossing: The Rs̄anikam people went to Akūtc̄iny to dance and run a relay race.

In her book ‘A Pima Past’ Anna Moore Shaw describes a ‘Name Calling Dance’ conducted by the O’otham of Santa Cruz village (pp.74-76).

O’otham and Pee Posh have always been active people with an established legacy of being great runners and athletes. Since time immemorial we still enjoy our social gatherings, feasts, dances, and races. Now that spring is rapidly approaching, we encourage you to get out and be active. It’s always good to see community members out and about enjoying some sort of activity on the ball courts, ball fields, wellness centers, and running or walking along the roadside. This month’s Word Match will focus on O’otham games and competition. We encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives.

### O’otham Games & Competition Word Match

gi:ns

thoka

shoñgivil

visil vu:p’da

chuchul bebe

tho:la cheggia

e’ vo:poichuth



March 2014



Smart Parents. Smart Babies.

**Communication**

**Activities to Learn and Grow!**

**Resource:**

Ages and Stages Learning Activities

By: Elizabeth Twombly & Ginger Fink

Your toddler and preschooler enjoys being with you. They are learning new words and ways to communicate very quickly. At this age, children use language more often to let you know their wants, needs, ideas, and feelings and are starting to carry on a simple conversation. You may hear them talking to themselves or pretending to have conversations with their dolls or stuffed animals. They can follow simple directions, love to read books, and even probably like to hear the same book over and over again! While reading to your toddler and preschooler, start asking questions such as, "What are they doing there?" and, "What do you think will happen next?" These questions will allow your child to problem solve, think creatively, and promote cognitive skills and memory. Your child will also show an interest in simple turn taking games. Below are a few ideas on games/activities you can try at home!

Author,  
Laura Kesse  
Home Visiting Coach

**Active Ideas!**

- 1) **I SPY:** In the car or while on a walk, you can play "I Spy". You say, "I spy with my eye a green truck." Then your child tries to find what you spied. Now it is their turn to spy something. Remember to "spy" things your child can see in the car from their car seat. You might also try, "I hear with my ear." Listen for sounds such as a bird chirping, dog barking, or horn honking.
- 2) **What's that Sound?:** Turn off the TV and radio and listen with your child to the sounds around your home. Listen to the refrigerator motor running, a clock ticking, other people talking, or fans oscillating. Ask your child to tell you what they hear. Try this at night outside and listen to the evening sounds too.

**Contact BabySmarts**

**Home Visiting Coaches**

Catherine Thomas

(520)562-3321

Ext. 7137

Laura Kesse

(520)562-3321

Ext. 7991

**Teen Parent Case Manager**

Heidi Bruder

(520)562-3287

Volume 1, Issue 10

# A Voice of Warning

**By Arvis Dosela**  
Gila River Health Care  
BHS Prevention Program

I sing." So the ducks closed their eyes and danced while the Coyote was singing.

One day Coyote was walking by the pond and he was very hungry. While he was walking, he came upon a family of ducks who were playing in the water. He decided he had to catch one for dinner and so he made a plan.

The Coyote started to sing a song and the ducks heard the singing in the distance. The ducks stopped playing and listened. The song was so beautiful that they followed the sound. As the ducks walked, they got closer and closer. Coyote continued to sing softer and softer until the ducks reached him.

When the ducks reached the Coyote, they said, "Coyote, please teach us your song." The Coyote responded by saying "Okay, but first you must build me a house, I cannot sing my song outside because it will escape into the air and someone will steal it." The ducks agreed to build a house for the Coyote.

When the house was finished they all went inside. The Coyote said, "You must do what I say or I will not teach you the song." The ducks replied by saying "We will do whatever you say." The Coyote told the ducks, "You must dance with your eyes closed while

While the ducks were dancing, the Coyote started to put a spell on them to make them fall asleep. As they fell asleep, he picked them up one by one and put them into his bag. Since the ducks had their eyes closed, they did not see him putting the spell on them. When the coyote was not looking, one of the ducks opened his eyes and saw coyote putting his friends in the bag. The duck yelled, "Open your eyes, open your eyes, wake up, wake up, run, run and fly away!!" The ducks woke up and fought to get out of the bag. All the ducks eventually got out and flew away before they became duck stew.

The moral of the story is, we all need to be a voice of warning for one another because the Coyote is always waiting to lead us or distract us from our true path. The Gila River Health Care BHS - Prevention Program is a voice of warning for the Community for education and to provide information about alcohol, drugs, meth and suicide. For more information please contact the Gila River Health Care BHS Prevention Program for more information on trainings and community presentations at 520-562-3321 ext. 7157/7031.

**5th Annual Cancer Awareness Day**  
**Event "Honoring the Journey"**  
**April 26, 2014**  
**District 5 Vah-ki Multi-Purpose Building**

**A continental breakfast and a light lunch will be served to all visitors.**

**Registration starts @ 6:00 am**  
Pre-registration will be available. For more information, contact: Tyrel Thinn @ 520-562-2025

**10K run. 3-person 10k relay, & 1 Mile walk start @ 7am**

**Special program filled with speakers and entertainment starts @ 9 am**

**Special Musical Performance by Southern Scratch**

**For more information, contact Devin Pablo (Community Health Education Program) @ 520-550-8000**



# TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## “MASCHA A JENIKTHA”



**A Casa Blanca student pets a police dog during Gila River Police Department's presentation at CBCS's second annual Career Day.**

### Casa Blanca students get a glimpse of a variety of professions at CBCS Career Day

**By Joshua Jovanelly**  
Gila River Indian News

Casa Blanca Community School's Career Day is helping shape students' dreams for the second year running.

Presenters from various Community departments and professions arrived March 13 to get Casa Blanca students thinking about what they want to be when they grow up. Participants included Lt. Gov. Stephen R. Lewis, Gila River Police and Fire Departments, Gila River Dental and the Department of Environmental Quality, among others. (The *GRIN* also participated). Authors, engineers, physician's assistants and former U.S. Marines from outside the Community presented as well.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders

were so impressed with Career Day last year that they asked if they could have it every Friday. Nancy Rollins, who teaches gifted classes at the school and who organized the event, said seeing the students' enthusiasm made it a no-brainer to make Career Day an annual occurrence.

"The best thing was that before we started this, when we asked children what they wanted to be when they grew up, they shrugged their shoulders or [said] I don't know," Rollins said. "And now...they can list things that are dreams."

Rollins expects the seeds that were planted during the presentations to blossom into future goals.

"We may have changed somebody's life today," Rollins said.

### Tribal Ed. taking a stand against "R" word

**By Joshua Jovanelly**  
Gila River Indian News

All too frequently, the "R" word is hurled on playgrounds, in casual conversations and when goofing around with friends. Perhaps because of how easily the word has entered the common vernacular among both kids and adults, people often overlook how damaging the "R" word is.

Members of the Gila River Tribal Education Department are making efforts to spread awareness about why we should eliminate the hurtful word — "retarded" — from our everyday vocabulary. The department has joined a national effort called Spread the Word to End the Word, which takes the form of an online pledge at [r-word.org](http://r-word.org) where people of all ages can make a promise to stop using the "R" word.

Nearly half a million people have made the pledge. Spreading the Word to End the Word, now in its fifth year, was observed March 5.

Christopher Smith, a student behavior specialist at TED, brought the awareness effort to the department's attention. TED Director Mario Molina thought it was a great idea and ordered shirts for the staff. An "R" word awareness day in the schools is potentially in the works to coincide with next year's anti-bullying week.

"We're trying to get the awareness out that the word 'retard' [or] 'retarded' is hurtful, it's derogatory, it's denigrating, and it's just pretty much despicable just like any other racial euphemism or epithet that's out there," Smith said.

Starting this re-education in the schools is a top priority for ending the word since so many of these language-forming habits begin early in life. Molina looks forward to making a push to eradicate the word on GRIC campuses.

"We need to get more recognition," Molina said.

Added Smith: "[T]he key is getting it into the schools."



**From left: TED employees Gina Webb, Christopher Smith, Selena Cruye and Kenyen Thompson commit to ending the "R" word.**

The distinction "mentally retarded" entered common vocabulary in the mid-20th century as a medical term to describe people with developmental delays. (The new preferred phrase is "cognitively impaired.") The word somehow morphed into a put-down tossed around in schools, workplaces and homes to describe something or someone who is acting foolish or idiotic.

People who use the term in this way may not realize that even when the word is not directed at people with disabilities, its use implies that the cognitively impaired lack worth.

"[H]ere we are with our kids with disabilities and they're not losers, they're not regrettable mistakes, they're not stupid, they're not dumb, they're not ridiculous," Smith said. "And there are thousands of other words that you could use for what you're trying to describe..."

Smith has been with TED for six years and worked as a special education teacher prior to that at Mountain Pointe High School in Ahwatukee. His connection to the cause is personal as well as professional — his 2-year-old daughter Graceyn has Down syndrome. As a father of a special needs child, Smith understands how harshly the "R" word can sting.

"It really does hurt because

when you use that word, even if you're not using it to my daughter or about my daughter, you're still pigeonholing her and saying she's regrettable, she's worthless, she's a loser, she's ridiculous. And she's none of that," he said.

Individuals with Down syndrome have a third copy of chromosome 21 in their cells. Every March 21 — the 21st day of the third month — for the last nine years has marked World Down Syndrome Day, which advocates for "the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome in our community and around the world," according to a Down syndrome advocacy website. The day encourages participants to "Rock Your Socks" by wearing outlandish socks to draw attention from passersby, to whom participants can spread awareness.

Regardless of the specific developmental disability, casual use of the "R" word hurts these communities and lessens their ability to have an equal chance at a fulfilling life. The cognitively impaired have much to offer their families, their communities and the world.

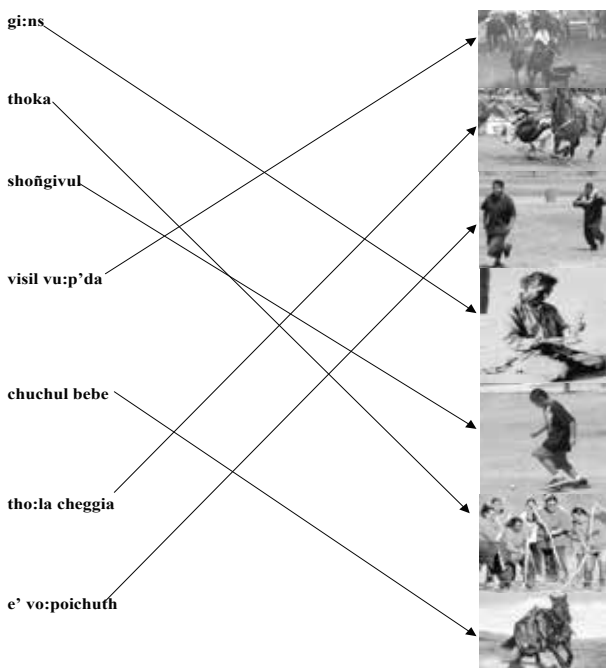
"Kids with special needs can go to college, they can get married, they can do whatever as long as they have the chance to do it and the support to do it," Smith said. "And that's what all these awareness days are saying."

### Congressman Rokita visits GRIC, talks education



**Members of GRIC's Education Standing Committee as well as Lt. Gov. Stephen R. Lewis and Gov. Gregory Mendoza met with U.S. House Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN) to discuss federal education funding issues. Congressman Rokita chairs the Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education. Rokita later toured Gila Crossing Community School.**

O'otham Games & Competition Word Match Solution





# Community Council Action Sheets **Wednesday, March 5, 2014**

## ACTION SHEET

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

## CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, March 5, 2014, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Gregory Mendoza at 9:17 a.m.

## INVOCATION

Provided by Leatrice Celaya

## ROLL CALL

Sign-in Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Gregory Mendoza

Lt. Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Council Members Present:

D1- Cynthia Antone, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz;

D3-Dale G. Enos, Carolyn Williams; D4- Monica Antone

(2:01), Norman Wellington, Barney Enos, Jr. (11:00);

D5-Annette J. Stewart, Janice F. Stewart, Robert Stone,

Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.. Albert

Pablo, Terrance B. Evans; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D4-Jennifer Allison

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

## OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

1. Jacqueline Zillioux, Court of Appeals Judge

Presenter: Chief Judge Anthony Hill

CHIEF JUDGE ANTHONY HILL ADMINISTERED THE

OATH OF OFFICE TO MS. JACQUELINE ZILLIOUX

## INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Ross Schroeder, Department of Public Works Director

Presenter: Division Manager Noel Hoover

DIVISION MANAGER NOEL HOOVER INTRODUCED

MR. ROSS SCHROEDER. MR. SCHROEDER PRO-

VIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND

AND HIS PLANS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

2. Elizabeth Francisco, Boys & Girls Club-Komatke Branch

Youth of the Year

Presenter: Chilo Figueroa

MS. ELIZABETH FRANCISCO INTRODUCED HERSELF

AND PROVIDED HER YOUTH OF THE YEAR SPEECH.

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED WORDS OF EN-

COURAGEMENT AND WELL WISHES

3. Miss Gila River Lisa Hendricks – Farewell Address

THE 2014-2015 MISS GILA RIVER CONTESTANTS

CHEYENNE JACKSON, LUCIA ANTONE, ANISSA GAR-

CIA, AND ANNIE GUTIERREZ INTRODUCED THEM-

SELVES. MISS GILA RIVER LISA HENDRICKS PRO-

VIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCES OF

HER REIN. MISS GILA RIVER EXPRESSED WORDS OF

GRATITUDE, WELL WISHES AND AN O'ODHAM SONG

(15-minute reception to follow in the lobby)

## REPORTS

1. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Allocation 1st Quarterly Report

Presenter: Philip Bonds

REPORT HEARD

2. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation 1st Quarterly Report

Presenter: Jacque Bradley

REPORT HEARD

3. Boys & Girls Club Of The East Valley October 2013 – February 2014 Report

Presenters: Rebecca Martinez, Jason Jones, Chilo

Figueroa

REPORT HEARD

4. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority FY 2014 First Quarter Report

Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold

REPORT HEARD

5. Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority FY 13 Audited Financial Statements

Presenters: John Lewis, Leonard Gold

REPORT HEARD

6. New Residential Program for Youth Status Update – FYI

Presenter: Division Manager Nada Celaya

REPORT HEARD

7. Pinal County Recorders - Voter Registration/Election

Services

Presenter: Mica S. DeJolie

REPORT HEARD

[GOVERNOR MENDOZA CALLED FOR AN HOUR AND HALF LUNCH BREAK

RECONVENED AT 2:01PM]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. – Monthly Report January 2014 (Executive Session)

Presenters: John James, Kenneth Manuel, Board Of Directors

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Gila River Gaming Commission – General Report For January 2014 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Gaming Internal Audit Department – 1st Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2014 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Elizabeth Bohnee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Treasurer's Report – FY 14 1st Quarter (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

## RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of

Agreement Between The Gila River Indian

Community And The Salt River Pima-Maricopa

Indian Community To Plan For The Temporary

Housing Of Inmates During Emergency

Situations (G&MSC forwards to Council with

recommendation for approval; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Tana Fitzpatrick, Randy Tracy

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving The Application To

The Western Area Power Administration For

Boulder Canyon Project Allocation For The 2017

Resource Pool And Designating The Gila River

Indian Community Utility Authority As The Entity

Responsible For Preparing The Application

(G&MSC forwards to Council with

recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC

concur)

Presenter: Leonard Gold

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Continuation Of

GR-22-80 For A Homesite Agreement For Janet

Haskie Located In District Five Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing

No. 30510-0304 (NRSC forwards to Council with

recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Nancy L. House-Sanchez

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite

Lease On Allotment 2984-A On Allotted Trust

Land In District One Of The Gila River Indian

Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with

recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite

Lease On Allotment 2338 Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District One Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/ Homesite

Lease On Allotment 2338 Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District One Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/ Homesite

Lease on Allotment 1494 Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

APPROVED

8. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite

Lease On Allotment 1245 Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

APPROVED

9. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite

Lease On Allotment 1149 Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District Five Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

APPROVED

10. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite

Lease On Allotment 751 Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District Four Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

APPROVED

11. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-

transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite

Lease On Allotment 131-A Located On Allotted

Trust Land In District Four Of The Gila River

Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council

with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Dean Howard

APPROVED

12. A Resolution Rescinding GR-178-01 And

GR-206-01 Which Approved Fifty (50) Year

Homesite Assignment Agreements For Noline

Norris And Virgil Molina Jr., Respectively, And

Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite

Assignment Agreement For Virgil R. Molina, Jr.,

Located In District Two Of The Gila River Indian

Reservation And Designated As Drawing No.

30213-0640 (NRSC forwards to Council with

recommendation for approval with the correction

in the title)

Presenter: Pamela Pasqual

APPROVED

13. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The

Enrollment Of Gary Lee Anderson, Jr. Into The

Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to

Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Francisco Osife, Enrollment

Department

APPROVED

14. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The

Enrollment Of Vanessa Machukay Into The Gila

River Indian Community (LSC forwards to

Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Francisco Osife, Enrollment

Department

APPROVED

15. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The

Enrollment Of Kelly Aaron Harris Into The Gila

River Indian Community (LSC forwards to

Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Francisco Osife, Enrollment

Department

APPROVED

16. A Resolution Approving The Petition For The

Enrollment Of Cheryl Ann Cook Into The Gila

River Indian Community (LSC forwards to

Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Francisco Osife, Enrollment

Department

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

17. A Resolution Approving The Removal Of

Troy Benedict Molino AKA Molina From The Gila

*Continued on Page 10*

**OFFICE OF US ATTORNEY**

Four Sentenced for Vee Quiva Casino Robbery Attempt  
 PHOENIX – On March 5, 2014, Darvon Hibbler, 26, of Phoenix, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James Carr to 24 months in prison. Hibbler pled guilty on Dec. 17, 2013, to conspiring to commit a robbery and theft. He was the final defendant to be sentenced in this attempted robbery of the Vee Quiva Casino on the Gila River Indian Community. On May 31, 2013, Hibbler and Corey Wright, 42, of Phoenix, walked into the Vee Quiva Casino with the intent to steal money. Hibbler went up to the teller at the cashier's cage and demanded money while Wright stood back as the lookout. Hibbler reached into his waistband as though he had a gun. Another teller saw what was happening and called for security. Hibbler and Wright left the casino without any money. Katrina Serna, 31, and Joseph Shope, 35, both of Laveen, Ariz., knew about the plan to rob the casino, failed to notify law enforcement, and helped Hibbler and Wright escape the casino after the robbery. On Feb. 14, 2014, Wright was sentenced to 14 months in prison for his part in the attempted robbery. Serna, on March 4, 2014, and Shope, on March 5, 2014, were each sentenced by U.S. District Judge James Carr to five years proba-

tion and four months home confinement for failing to report the conspiracy. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Raynette Logan, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

**OFFICE OF US ATTORNEY**

Laveen Man Sentenced to 46 Months in Prison for Assaulting Police Officer  
 PHOENIX – On March 17, 2014, Hanson Amos Jose, 31, of Laveen, Ariz, a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Linda Reade to 46 months in prison. Jose pleaded guilty on Oct. 25, 2013, to assault resulting in serious bodily injury. On July 8, 2013, Gila River police officers were investigating a vehicle when they were approached by Jose. The police officers determined that Jose had an active tribal warrant for his arrest and attempted to arrest him. Jose forcefully resisted arrest by punching, kicking, and pushing the officers. During the assault, Jose tripped one of the police officers, fell on top of the officer, and broke the police officer's ankle. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Raynette Logan, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

IN THE COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA COURT DATE NOTICE  
 In Re: Ronald Nacho  
 Docket Number: DV-2009-0169  
 This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR your hearing may be held in ausencia and a warrant may be issued for your arrest, forfeiture of your bond, judgment in favor of the other party or jail time may be ordered.  
 Order of Protection Hearing  
 Place: Sacaton Judicial Center  
 Post Office Box 368  
 721 W. Seed Fann Rd.  
 Sacaton, Arizona 8524 7  
 (520)562-9860  
 Date: Friday, April 25, 2014  
 Time: 09:00 A.M.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN THE MATTER OF: M.P.; A.P.; C.P.; C. P., J. Minor Children. Case No. JC-2014-0015

JC-2014-0008/0009/001 0/001 1  
 NOTICE OF HEARING  
 TO: Craig Paul, Sr.,  
 Please take notice that an Adjudication/Review Hearing has been scheduled 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 Community Court  
 721 West Seed Farm Road  
 Sacaton, Arizona 85247  
 (520) 562-9860  
 DATE: Thursday, May 8, 2014  
 TIME: 9:00 a.m.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Gila River Indian Community Department of Transportation ("GRICDOT") at the Community Council meeting of April 2, 2014 at the Governance Center in Sacaton, AZ. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a project for which financial assistance is being sought from the Federal Transit Administration through the Arizona Department of Transportation. Grant funds will be used to implement a Community public transportation system. At the hearing, GRICDOT will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with

respect to the social, economic, and environmental aspects of the project. Interested persons may submit oral or written evidence and recommendations with respect to said project. A copy of grant proposal is currently available for public inspection at the Department of Transportation Administration Office located at the Executive Ke in Sacaton, AZ.

Other Public Meetings:  
 GRICDOT will be presenting the proposed transit service to the following Districts:  
 • District 3: April 1, 2014  
 • District 6: March 31, 2014  
 • District 7: April 14, 2014  
 These dates are tentative.  
 LETTER OF NOTIFICATION TO PROVIDERS  
 (Includes medical transportation providers such as Z-Best, Tri Care, Taxi companies, etc.)  
 This is to notify you that Gila River Indian Community Department of Transportation ("GRICDOT") is applying for financial assistance under the ADOT Rural Public Transportation Program authorized under 49 U.S.C. Section 5311. This program provides for capital, administrative and operating assistance for public transportation programs in rural and small urban areas. GRICDOT proposes to provide the

*Continued on Page 11*



**Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority**

What's New at GRICUA:  
**Washington Youth Tour and Intern Alumni Reunion**



On February 18, 2014 GRICUA hosted a Washington Youth Tour and

Intern Alumni Reunion dinner. The reunion brought together past Washington Youth Tour students and Interns to mingle and share experiences with the current Washington Youth Tour students. We started with Alex and Ronald in these programs in 2012 and we are proud to see these programs grow to over 10 alumni.

Front Row L to R: Ronald Marrietta, Alex Pablo, Kandie Anton, Bria Ramon, Alayna Thomas, Alexandra Nelson, and Claudia Bandin. Back Row L to R: Brandy Eschier and Jay Johnson.

**GRICUA Meter Tampering**

GRICUA takes meter tampering and theft very serious. Meter tampering puts you at risk as well as violates GRICUA's Rules and Regulations For Electric Service. GRICUA considers meter tampering to be an act of fraud and pursuant to Section 4.15.6 of GRICUA's Rules and Regulations For Electric Service, GRICUA reserves the right to report such actions to the Gila River Police Department and to pursue criminal proceedings against you for fraud and theft.

**GRICUA Budget Billing**

You don't need to guess to predict your

future energy bills. GRICUA Budget Billing is a no cost program that balances the seasonal highs and lows of your bill to make your payments predictable each month and enhance your family's budgeting. Call (520)796-0600 today and learn about this new budget billing program.

**Featured Employee Kurt Polingowma**

Kurt Polingowma started in a temporary position in April 2012. He was hired as a full-time employee on October 1, 2012. Kurt works in the GRICUA Warehouse and helps the crew in the field as needed. He enjoys working with all

of the GRICUA staff. Kurt is part Hopi and Pima. He lives in District 4 and has one daughter, Ellayna Polingowma. She just turned 15 in February. When he is not working, he spends most of his time with his daughter going to concerts, fishing or just finding something fun to do.



**10 Spring Energy Saving Tips**

1. Install ceiling fans and use them. Ceiling fans can make your rooms feel a few degrees cooler and circulate air to make you more comfortable.
2. Schedule annual air conditioner service. This is one of those vitally important tasks a lot of us just forget to do. But making sure your A/C is in peak performance is integral to extending its life and saving you money in the process.
3. Install weather-stripping to close up gaps around windows and doors. Weather-stripping prevents air leaks, which make your home hotter and cause your A/C to work harder.
4. Clean your refrigerator coils. Like clean air conditioner filters, clean refrigerator coils make your fridge not work so hard and prolong its life.

5. Install low-flow shower heads. Low-flow shower heads reduce the amount of water you use every time you shower, saving you big over the course of a year.
6. Replace burned out light bulbs with energy-efficient CFLs. CFLs last seemingly forever and uses a fraction of energy.
7. Save heat-generating chores for night time to avoid making your home unnecessarily hot during the day. Your house is already hot enough. Don't add to the heat by running dish washers, ovens, clothes dryers, and the like. Run those appliances at night or early in the morning to minimize the effects of the heat.
8. Turn down your hot water heater. This actually saves you all year, but let's face it you could definitely afford to save a few bucks by turning down the water heat this spring.
9. Dress appropriately. Just like you add layers in the winter, wear cool, breathable clothes to prevent yourself from overheating in the spring and summer. Doing so reduces your dependence on your A/C to keep you cool.
10. Do some spring cleaning. Get rid of excess clothing, old furniture, books you've already read, and unused appliances to save some space in your house and keep you cooler.

**Reminders**

GRICUA District Days 2014

GRICUA will be at the Public Health Resource Center (433 W Seedfarm Rd in Sacaton) on the following days to accept payments from 10am to 3pm.

- April 7
- May 8
- June 5
- July 8
- August 7
- September 8
- October 9
- November 6
- December 8

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

GRICUA is a member of Arizona Blue Stake. Please call 1-800-782-5348 to request an underground line locate of both GRICUA and SCIP on reservation facilities. GRICUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to gricuacommments@gricua.net. You can also go to our website at www.gricua.net.

GRICUA's Hours of Operation  
 Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
 Payments are accepted on-line and by phone both during our normal operating hours as well as afterhours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment options please call during normal business hours.

*Action Sheets From Page 9*

River Indian Community Membership Roll (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Francisco Osife, Enrollment Department  
 APPROVED

**ORDINANCES**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- \*1. Gila River Gaming Commission And Gila River Gaming Enterprise Proposal Reporting (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)  
 Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Deborah Griffin  
 MOTION MADE, SECOND AND DEFEATED TO APPROVE
2. Code of Conduct Complaint – Letters of Resignation (LSC accepts the resignations and forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)  
 Presenters: Council Secretary Thomas, Thomas Murphy  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS
3. Pima of Mexico Cultural Exchange Program Initiatives (CRSC forwarded to Council with recommendation for Governor to sign letter of Invitation)  
 Presenter: Marshall Sunna  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
4. Declaration of Vacancy (1) – Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority  
 Presenter: Council Secretary Jacqueline Thomas  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY FOR 30-DAYS
5. Invitation To Attend The 2014 Boys & Girls Club of America National Conference (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation to be opened up to any Interested Council Members and travel be covered through dues and

- delegations line item)  
 Presenters: Rebecca Martinez, Jason Jones  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN UP TO INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TRAVEL COVERED THROUGH DUES AND DELEGATIONS LINE ITEM
6. Re-Appointment Of Planning And Zoning District Four Commissioners – Sharon Lewis (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for reappointment of Ms. Sharon Lewis)  
 Presenter: Mary Thomas  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REAPPOINT MS. SHARON LEWIS
7. Draft Arizona Bill Regarding The Improper State Taxation Of Native American Veterans (G&MSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; CRSC concurs)  
 Presenters: Tana Fitzpatrick, Frank Pablo  
 APPROVED
8. Citizens Advisory Board - District Three Re-Appointment (LSC forwards to Council with the understanding the correct CAB Motion Sheet will be attached)  
 Presenter: Harry Williams, Jr.  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REAPPOINT DAREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ
9. GRTI Request For Representation (EDSC concurs with G&M and delegate Dale Enos; also forwards to Council as FYI)  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REAFFIRM THE DECISIONS OF EDSC AND G&M  
 [MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK  
 RECONVENED AT 4:08PM]

10. Revenue Internal Audit Department – 1st Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2014 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council)  
 Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE REPORT  
 [ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]
11. Community Concern  
 Presenter: Councilwoman Jennifer Allison  
 MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO RECOGNIZE THE MOTION FROM DISTRICT 4, THAT WAS MADE MARCH 3, 2014; FURTHER AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COUNCIL AND ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND ALL AUTHORITY AFFORDED BY THIS COUNCIL, THAT COUNCILMAN BARNEY ENOS, JR. BE SUSPENDED PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE CHARGES AND ALLEGATIONS THROUGH GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COURT AND THAT THE SUSPENSION INCLUDES THE SUSPENSION OF HIS SALARY  
**MINUTES ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
 >COUNCIL WORK SESSION, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014;  
 COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE TO FOLLOW  
 >MISS GILA RIVER PAGEANT SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2014  
 >CONCERNS EXPRESSED REGARDING THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
 ADJOURNMENT  
 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:06pm  
 \* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

# Who's got the skills? Artists come out for unique event



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

In the distance, a group of Gila River graffiti artists construct their pieces for the third annual King of the Skills at the District 5 ballpark.

**By Mikhail Sundust**  
Gila River Indian News

Walking across the Vah Ki ball field two Fridays ago, the sweet smell of the evening grass rose from the earth and filled the air. The sun slinked slow over the Estrella Mountains to the west, dyeing the sky pink and gold. Nearing the outfield wall covered in black plywood, the cool desert air mingled with the strangely seductive scent of spray paint. A breeze caught the rattle and hiss of Rustoleum cans.

Graffiti used to be a big problem in District 5. "We were getting tagged on our concession stand like every weekend with gang signs," said D5 Recreation Coordinator Erika Hernandez, who created and organized the King of the Skills event. She decided to fight fire with fire. "I said, 'We should throw an event and maybe that'll stop it because we gave them a place to do it.'"

The King of the Skills invites graffiti artists from all over to Casa Blanca to showcase their spray paint skills in a friendly, legal environment. An eight-foot-high wall of black plywood lined the fence of the ballpark March 7, all the way from left to right field and

became a canvas for more than 40 graffiti artists.

This is not a typical Community-sponsored event. Starting it was a big risk, Hernandez admits. Would the Community approve? What would the elders say? But the King of the Skills event, now in its third year, has been a huge hit. "Now, District 5, our elders, they support [it]. They see it and now they know that it's artwork," Hernandez said. The community even requested that the ballpark artwork stay up longer than it did last year.

Graffiti is slowly becoming a widespread accepted art form, boasting its beauty from the streets to the billboards.

These aren't just gangsters throwing up stuff. A lot of them have gone to art school, including local artists "Technik" and "Lokey." Most of them have full time jobs and families; this is just what they love to do.

"There's a lot of gang graffiti out there," said District 6 artist Daisy Allison, but that's not what this is about. "There's the gang graffiti where they write west side, east side. [But] this one's all art - expressing [oneself] with their name and what they want to put out there, you know."

Daisy is relatively new to the "graf" scene and goes by the moniker "Daze." She met her husband, Cecil Allison, aka "Krime," 13 years ago. He's the one who got her into graffiti art. "This, he's been doing since he was 13 years old," she told me. He gave it up for about eight years in his mid-20s when he and Daisy had a few kids, but he always wanted to come back to the art form and he finally did at last year's King of the Skills.

Now in his mid-30s, Cecil says he's grateful to the Community, and specifically District 5, for hosting an event like King of the Skills, where aerosol artists can come together and share their art freely. "This is a good thing, a positive thing," he said.

I asked him what his art, what "writing," as it is sometimes called, did for him growing up. He said, "Shoot, it kept me away from gangs. People thought of me as a part of a gang but no, there's a difference between crews and gangs." When he was in high school, he said, "That's when those tag bangers came. They would tag but they had guns...that wasn't me. We were artists. We were a crew. We had to distinguish ourselves from that, trying to get away from that whole gangster [image]." Now, he said with a laugh, "My gang is my home, my family."

He said that as an artist, but especially as a young person who needs an outlet, painting is an escape. He said it's about getting "that recognition you're not getting from nobody else in the community, you know. You get it from your peers."

Donnie Miles, D4, aka "Technik," said he also "started out doing graf when I was a teenager. Living on the rez, there wasn't much to do. ... Back yard, my mom's house, you know, we'd paint it up, the storage in the back, she let us practice on there and just paint.

"As I got older, in my mid-20s, I partied a lot and I forgot about my talent. I got drowned out in the partying and the world and just got lost in it until one day I snapped out of it." He was about to be 26; he had a kid and realized it was time to pick himself up. "I said, 'Man, I gotta do something with my life...God gave me this talent. I've got to do something with it.'"

He got into Collins College, where he honed his artistic abilities. And where he met his wife. "She encouraged me a lot," he said, "So I got back into graffiti, doing little odd and end things like my brother's house, just getting permission somewhere to do wall versus going out and tagging up the community.

Now he and his wife have their own art and design business called D&D Design and they lead an art class every Wednesday at their church in Tempe. "We try to teach the kids at the church...the positive aspect, fundamentals of graffiti, not the vandalism part but the art aspect of it."

When she began working on the King of the Skills, Hernandez had only an idea. She didn't know where to start so she turned to her friend Jaime Jackson, another GRIC employee, who writes under the name "Lokey." Hernandez knew of Jackson's event coordinating abilities from a similar event he started in Sacaton in 2007 called Expo of the Elements.

On top of work and family obligations, "He helped organize," Hernandez said. "He's the guy that's in the background. He tells me, 'This is what you need,' and I make it happen. He helps us, donates his time building the wall, deejaying, everything."

He's also the artist D5 reached out to to put a mural around its concession stand and in its new Service Center.

Hernandez has gotten a lot of

positive feedback on her unique event from Community members as well as non-Community members. "They come up, shake our hands and thank us for taking the risk," she said.

And non-members are welcome. King of the Skills is for everybody, which helps Community artists network and befriend other artists that they may have only known of through the grapevine or on social media apps like Instagram. About half of the artists there this year were non-members. In the past three years, artists from Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, New Mexico, California, even Hawaii, have come to Gila River just for this.

But has it helped reduce tagging at all?

"Oh yes, definitely!" Hernandez said excitedly. "They do not touch any of the stuff that they did the murals on. They'll tag here and there, the little small stuff...the dumpsters...but other than that, they leave it alone. They still haven't tagged on our concession stand; we [put a mural on] that three years ago and they have not tagged on it ever since."

King of the Skills has become a family event. "It brings all age groups," Hernandez said. "You hardly ever see teenagers at events and that's what I'm proud of because it brings out a lot of teenagers."

Gila River is known for its artists and beautiful art work. For Community members like Cecil Allison, who also does traditional art with gourds, it's nice to see a new generation of Gila River artists following their dreams.

While he admits that tagging and vandalism are far from problems solved, Miles said, "There's a lot of good talent out here on the rez." King of the Skills has given them the opportunity to demonstrate that.

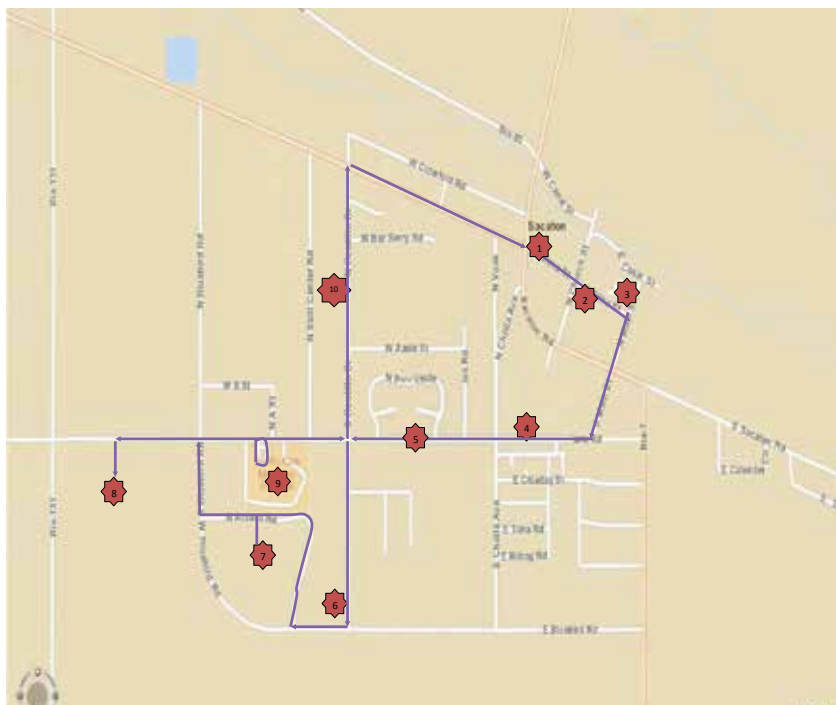
## Notice of Public Hearing From Page 10

following service:  
The proposed service will entail two separate deviated fixed routes/circulators. One will be in District 3 and the other will be in District 6/7. Both routes will not have a fare. Both routes will have anticipated operating hours of 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The circulator route in District 3 will include stops at Huhukam Memorial Hospital, PD/Courts, Governance Center, WIC/Post Office, BIA Pima Agency, and Boys and Girls Club. The route in District 6/7 will include stops at Shell Station, Komatke Health Care Center, Boys and Girls Club, District Service Centers, and Vee Quiva Casino. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of our applica-

tion and to insure that this proposal would not represent a duplication of your service. Therefore, we solicit your involvement in our proposed service. I ask that you contact this office in writing within 10 days if you believe that you can provide all or a part of this service or if you have specific objections to the proposed project. In your letter you should state your specific objections or counter proposal. If you support the application, please complete the enclosed sign-off letter and return it to this address:  
GRICDOT  
291 W Casa Blanca Rd  
PO Box 97  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Attention: Sasha Pachito, Transportation Planner  
In addition, please send a copy of your letter to the Arizona Department of Transportation, which is the funding agency for the Rural Public Transportation Program. Their address is:  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
206 South 17th Avenue, Room 340 B  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3213  
Attention: 5311 Program Manager  
Should you desire any additional information on the proposed service, please contact me at:  
Sasha Pachito, Transportation Planner, GRICDOT at (520) 562-6110 or via email at sasha.pachito@gric.nsn.us

Sacaton Circulator



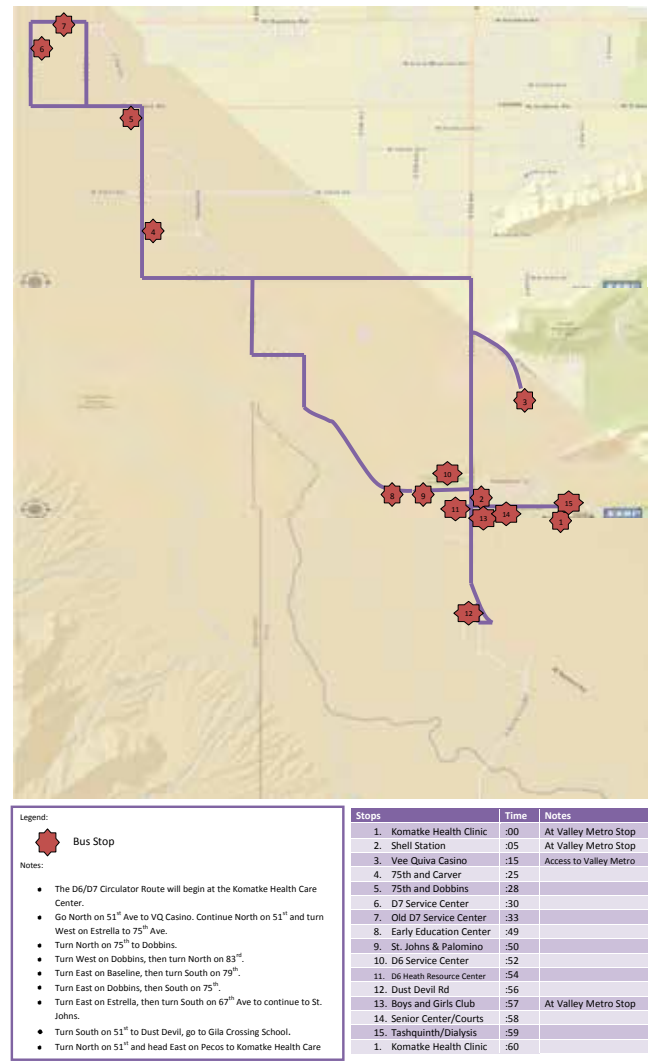
Stops	Time	Notes
1. Memorial Park / Shell Station	:00	Access to WIC and PO
2. Library	:03	
3. GRICDOT Realty / Housing	:05	Access to Pima Agency
4. Boys and Girls Club	:08	
5. Housing on Seed Farm Rd	:10	Access to RPY
6. Governance Center	:15	
7. PD / Courts	:18	
8. Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital	:20	
9. Sacaton Supermart	:25	
10. Executive Ki	:28	
1. Memorial Park / Shell Station	:30	

**Legend:**  
Bus Stop

**Notes:**

- Bus Route will begin at the Shell Station and head East on Pima St.
- Turn South on Main St.
- Turn West on Seed Farm Road.
- Turn South on Ocotillo Rd.
- Turn West on Bluebird Rd.
- Turn North on Skil Center Rd.
- Turn West on North Access Road
- Turn North on Bluebird Rd.
- Turn West on Seed Farm Rd.
- Turn into Judicial Complex, exit East on Seed Farm Rd.
- Turn North on Ocotillo Rd.
- Turn East on Casa Blanca Rd. and head to Shell Station.

District 6 and 7 Circulator Route



Stops	Time	Notes
1. Komatke Health Clinic	:00	At Valley Metro Stop
2. Shell Station	:05	At Valley Metro Stop
3. Vee Quiva Casino	:15	Access to Valley Metro
4. 75th and Carver	:25	
5. 75th and Dobbins	:28	
6. D7 Service Center	:30	
7. Old D7 Service Center	:33	
8. Early Education Center	:49	
9. St. Johns & Palominio	:50	
10. D6 Service Center	:52	
11. D6 Health Resource Center	:54	
12. Dust Devil Rd	:56	
13. Boys and Girls Club	:57	At Valley Metro Stop
14. Senior Center/Courts	:58	
15. Tishquimth/Dialysis	:59	
1. Komatke Health Clinic	:60	

**Legend:**  
Bus Stop

**Notes:**

- The D6/D7 Circulator Route will begin at the Komatke Health Care Center.
- Go North on 51<sup>st</sup> Ave to VQ Casino. Continue North on 51<sup>st</sup> and turn West on Estrella to 75<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Turn North on 75<sup>th</sup> to Dobbins.
- Turn West on Dobbins, then turn North on 83<sup>rd</sup>.
- Turn East on Baseline, then turn South on 79<sup>th</sup>.
- Turn East on Dobbins, then South on 75<sup>th</sup>.
- Turn East on Estrella, then turn South on 67<sup>th</sup> Ave to continue to St. Johns.
- Turn South on 51<sup>st</sup> to Dust Devil, go to Gila Crossing School.
- Turn North on 51<sup>st</sup> and head East on Pecos to Komatke Health Care

# 151st Annual FIVE TRIBES TREATY OF PEACE CELEBRATION



## FRIDAY - SUNDAY

April 11, 2014

April 13, 2014

**A REMEMBRANCE OF THE HISTORIC TREATY THAT FIVE TRIBES MADE TO ENSURE PEACE THROUGHOUT THE NEW MEXICO TERRITORY.**

**\*Everyone Welcome, Family friendly free event.**

**\*Traditional Entertainment, Bird Dance Competition, Social Pow-wow, Tournaments, Vendors, Chicken Scratch, more information to come!**

**\*No Alcohol, Drugs, Weapons**

**THIS IS A FREE ADMISSION, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT WITH SOMETHING TO DO FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THE TOURNAMENTS, THEY FILL UP FAST!**

General information please call District 7 Recreation at (520) 430-4780

Gila River Indian Community's District 7 Park  
8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen AZ 85339 (83rd Avenue, South of Baseline)

Gila River Indian Community, District Seven, Gila River Commissioners, and Event Committee & Volunteers shall not be held responsible for bodily injury, or theft, or damages incurred during the Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration.

