

## Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell visits Gila Crossing Community School



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell responds to questions from students in the Gila Crossing Community School gymnasium.

By Christopher Lomahquahu  
Gila River Indian News

Students and faculty of Gila Crossing Community School hosted the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior Sally Jewell, who toured the GCCS campus Feb. 10.

Her visit was a part of the Obama administration's Native Youth Listening Tour, which is part of the Generation Indigenous initiative announced last December during the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

The initiative, according to a White House press release is

"focused on improving the lives of Native youth by removing the barriers between Native youth and their opportunity to succeed."

Jewell's tour of tribal communities in the Valley had two stops. First she visited the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to assess their education needs.

Around midday Jewell arrived in Gila River at GCCS where she was greeted by tribal leadership, the GCCS board of directors and school administration.

On her campus tour, Jewell first visited the community garden, where students were tending to rows of vegetables and other foods they had planted.

Students and the agricultural staff told Jewell the garden teaches them about their culture.

"What the school is doing with a community garden [is great.] The hands-on education is a great demonstration of ingenuity and leadership on the part of the administration here and the enthusiasm of the students," said Jewell.

Next, Jewell met with Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council President Alexander Pablo and Vice President Anissa Garcia.

"The Secretary sought out a meeting with the Youth Council, because it serves as a model in Indian Country for empowering and supporting Native youth within their communities," said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

Gov. Lewis introduced Jewell to the entire staff and students dur-

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## AmeriCorps Grant Funds Veterans Serving Veterans Program

By Christopher Lomahquahu  
Gila River Indian News

There is a new program in the Community whose sole purpose is to serve Community veterans. Veterans Serving Veterans is a program funded by a three-year AmeriCorps Grant and run out of the Employment & Training Department, who received the grant in October 2014 on behalf of the Community.

In 2013, E&T received an AmeriCorps planning grant that allowed the department to research the needs of veterans and their families in the Community. The findings from that research led to the new grant to fund Veterans Serving Veterans.

VSV currently has 10 AmeriCorps members, which are considered full-time volunteers. They receive a modest bi-weekly stipend and an education award at the end of their service year. Each member must commit to a full year of service in the program.

The AmeriCorps members are serving in the following areas of the Community: American Legion Post 51, Ira Hayes Post 84, the District 5 Service Center, the District 7 Service Center and the Department of Environmental Quality.

All volunteers but one are Community members and approximately half are veterans. The VSV Program is not an extension of the Posts, but is unique and separate.

*Continued on Page 10*

## Miss Gila River Lucia Antone Says Farewell

By Mikhail Sundust  
Gila River Indian News

The title of Miss Gila River is a tradition that runs deep in the history of the Gila River Indian Community.

Lucia Antone is the current reigning Miss Gila River, but as March approaches, so does the Miss Gila River Pageant and Antone is preparing to leave the crown behind for another young woman to represent the Community.

The Miss Gila River Farewell Banquet, held Valentine's Day, was a reflection of Miss Antone: humble and elegant. At the District 5 Vah-Ki Multi-Purpose Building Feb. 14, Antone gave away shell necklaces to her family and supporters while the crowd shared a dinner of traditional O'otham foods: squash, tepary beans and chemuth.

After dinner, the Gila River Dance Group sang a series of traditional songs and got the whole room involved in a social round dance. Then Gertie and the T.O. Boyz fired up the waila music to close out the evening.

Miss Antone is from District 3, and apart from her time at a couple of boarding schools she has lived in Sacaton East Housing her whole life. She has five siblings and nearly a dozen nieces and



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Miss Gila River Lucia Antone poses with Anissa Garcia, Miss Gila River 2nd Attendant, and Annie Gutierrez, First Attendant, at the Farewell Banquet in District 5, Feb. 14.

nephews. Her father is Troy Antone, Sr., a welder, and her mother is Cynthia Satala, who works for GRIC Elderly Services. Lucia is the first in her family to graduate high school. Now she attends Central Arizona College.

In an interview a few days before the banquet, Antone said

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## ◆ Rheumatology Clinic ◆

### ATTENTION! CHANGES TO GRHC RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC

The GRHC Rheumatology Clinic schedule and location will change. Beginning March 2, 2015 the following changes will occur:

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital Changes:  
New days: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (8am- 5pm)

New location: Primary Care Department (formerly located in the Women's Clinic)

For more information, call the HHKMH - Primary Care Department, at (520) 562-3321.

Komatke Health Center Changes:  
New day: Thursday (8am-4pm)

For more information, call the Komatke Primary Care Department Appointment Desk, at (520) 550-6060.

## ◆ Diabetes Counseling and Support Program ◆

Diabetes Counseling and Support Program (DCSP) District Service Center Schedule

2/23/15	District 2	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
03/02/15	District 5	9:00 am to 12 noon @ Elders Center 1:00 pm to 4:00 @ PHN Office
03/09/15	District 4	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
03/16/15	District 3	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
03/23/15	District 1	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
03/30/15	Ak-Chin	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
04/6/15	District 2	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

For more information contact Diabetes Counseling and Support Program, at: (520) 562-7940 ext. 7301.

## ◆ Holiday Clinic Closure ◆

Hu Hu Kum Memorial Hospital, Komatke Health Center  
and  
Ak-Chin Clinic

Will be **CLOSED** in observance of the Good Friday Holiday - April 3, 2015

## ◆ Vista Ké - Residential Care Program ◆

### What is the Vista Ké residential care program?

It is part of a collaborative initiative between Gila River Health Care's (GRHC) Behavioral Health Services (BHS), the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Housing Authority and District #6. The purpose of the program is to provide comprehensive services for Community members with a valid mental health diagnosis. The Vista Ké (home with a view of the Estrellas/Komatke) residence is located in District #6, and will function as an extension of the Residential Treatment Center (RTC) and outpatient services at Shegoi. There will be 24-hour supervision of the residents and structured free time with outings and exercise opportunities.

### Vista Ké operations and management?

- Residential care services for up to four adults in a clinically structured setting. A property managed and operated by GRHC Behavioral Health Services.

### What is the Resident Criteria?

- GRIC members with no current criminal charges, outstanding order of protection, no recent suicide attempts, no physically aggressive behavior and no drug use in the prior six months.
- Valid mental health diagnosis or no psychiatric hospitalization within the past six months.

### Who are the Vista Ké staff?

- GRHC clinically trained staff will work with individuals who have mental health challenges.
- Staff members will work on a rotating basis, 24 hours a day - 7 days per week.

### What is the objective of the Vista Ké Residential Care Program?

- To assist residents with gaining life skills needed to lead healthy, productive lives while promoting an alcohol and drug free lifestyle.

For more information contact:  
**Mr. Shannon Sims, Vista Ké Housing Manager**  
ssims@grhc.org (520) 550-0015

Gila River Indian Community  
Crisis Line  
**1-800-259-3449**

**GRHC.ORG**

### Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital

483 W. Seed farm Road  
Sacaton, Arizona 85147  
(520) 562-3321  
(602) 528-1240

### Komatke Health Center

17487 S. Health Care Dr.  
Laveen, Arizona 85339  
(520) 550-6000

### Ak-Chin Clinic

48203 W. Farrell Road  
Maricopa, Arizona 85239  
(520) 568-3881





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Lt. Governor  
**Monica L. Antone**  
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Joey Whitman

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In loving remembrance of Elaine Louise Vavages, This had to be the hardest decision of my entire life, unable to attend the farewell of my aunt Elaine. I would like to thank every individual and organization who offered their time and support, who helped with monetary expenses including every aspect of the arrangements, food offering, digging of the grave as well as the emotional support given in this time of grief. Also I want to express my deepest appreciation to my friends, relatives and everyone who came and gave their last respects. You all know me and you all know who you are. I will always remember Elaine when I listen to a song by Anita Baker, Aretha Franklin or Toni Braxton. I will always remember the good times growing up and will always cherish our long talks on the phone. I want to dedicate "One Sweet Day" by Mariah Carey and Boys II Men. "And to all my people, listen to this song and you will know how I feel!" God bless you all as I ask Edie and Dar about everyone so you are definitely not forgotten. So from the bottom of my heart, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Much love,  
"Chuge"  
Gordon Dwayne Vavages

PRESS RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2015

**Tax Scams Targeting GRIC Members**  
*Criminals Impersonating IRS make aggressive and threatening phone calls*

Sacaton, AZ- Among the variety of tax scams prevalent during tax season, threatening phone calls by individuals impersonating the IRS is among the most prevalent according to www.irs.gov. These scam artists have begun to target individuals in the Gila River Indian Community. The most recent case was reported in District 7 where the caller identified himself as an IRS agent and demanded \$1,399 from a Community member with the threat of police arrest if the individual did not comply.

As a taxpayer you have rights and any contact from the IRS with taxpayers is usually through the mail first and never through phone calls with the intimidation of law enforcement. According to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), since October 2013, victims have collectively paid \$14 million through unsolicited calls from individuals claiming to be IRS officials.

Do not engage the callers or provide financial information to the callers. For tax questions call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. If you've been targeted or a victim of a tax phone scam, report the incident to the TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 or www.tigta.gov or go to FTC.gov and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant."

For additional questions or to request an interview, please contact Roberto A. Jackson at (520) 562-9719 or at Roberto.Jackson@gric.nsn.us.

**CORRECTIONS**

In the Amy Davila article of the Feb. 6, 2015 GRIN we incorrectly listed Davila as a graduate of Arizona State University. She attended and graduated from Northern Arizona University. We regret the error.

The GRIN encourages comments and suggestions about content that warrants correction or clarification. To report an error call (520)562-9719 or email [grin@gric.nsn.us](mailto:grin@gric.nsn.us)

child's blanket by Master Weaver Barbara Teller-Ornelas, Diné



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# COMMUNITY UPDATES

BY GRIN STAFF

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

## Tribal E-Commerce Conference DEQ Pesticide Control Office Holds Community Pesticide Applicator Certification Courses



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

**Douglas Sylvester, ASU Dean of the College of Law, speaks at a conference on tribal business and e-commerce.**

**By Christopher Lomahquahu**  
Gila River Indian News

Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law hosted the Inaugural Tribal Government E-Commerce Conference at the Wild Horse Pass Casino and Hotel Feb. 12-13.

The event brought together academic, business and legal professionals from Indian Country knowledgeable in the field of e-commerce, also known as online business.

Lt. Gov. Monica L. Antone welcomed the guests and District 5 Council Representative Robert Stone gave the opening blessing.

As tribal businesses grow and expand beyond the reservation, many Native business owners find themselves in new territory, on the frontier of the internet marketplace.

Legal observers see this as an opportunity for Native tribes and small business owners to take their business to the next level.

"The opportunities the Internet provides to tribes, especially those located on reservations far from the large populations centers are just beginning to be fully understood," said ASU College of Law Dean, Douglas Sylvester.

Bradley G. Beldsoe Downes, a Managing Partner for Bledsoe Downes P.C., a Phoenix-based law firm, presented a general outline to establishing businesses online.

Downes talked about the need to be aware of regulatory policies that govern businesses.

He emphasized that businesses should draft a "terms of use" clause that defines what customers need to be aware of when purchasing goods and services.

According to Downes, the best way to conduct good e-commerce is to identify who your stakeholders are, who is going to buy your product, where business transactions will occur and how it is going to happen.

George Rivera from the Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribe of Northern New Mexico, and current President and Chairman of the Board for Pojoaque Tribal Gaming and Businesses, shared his perspective on e-commerce.

Rivera admits he is not an expert on e-commerce, but said, "E-commerce is so important at

this time. We must emphasize the importance of tribal sovereignty to protect our tribal interests."

Rivera said, "What is so important about business and e-commerce is how the dollars turn around and affect the people."

To that point, he said, "We have done some pretty amazing things in our social programs, first of all funding our child care, seniors program and the scholarship programs."

Rivera urged tribes to be aware of their rights as sovereign nations saying, "If we cannot protect our ability to do e-commerce, we can be under the thumb of any regulator or any form of government that places limits on what we can do."

Equally important to experts on the subject of communication, e-commerce cannot benefit tribes if the infrastructure is not there.

Traci L. Morris, the Director of American Indian Policy Institute at ASU, is no stranger to communication and media. Her previous work includes advocating for digital inclusion before the Federal Communications Commission on Capitol Hill.

Morris highlighted the importance of broadband and internet connectivity as the "Underpinning of everything [online]."

She spoke about the need for tribes to develop connectivity to the world beyond reservation lands.

"There are multiple digital divides, there are folks that have no connectivity, there are folks that have some connectivity and there's folks that drive somewhere to get connectivity," she said.

With the recent leaps in communication outlets for tribes like the Gila River Indian Community, Morris presented the Gila River Broadcasting Corporation, a product of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., as one example of connectivity made possible to its tribal members.

"GRTI has done some amazing things. They've got a number of subsidiaries. They have a low power television they just put on air," said Morris.

**Submitted By**  
Department of  
Environmental Quality

During the spring of 2014, as part of the tribal ordinance notification process, the Pesticide Control Office presented at each district a proposed Pesticide Code. The proposed Pesticide Code would replace an aging 30-year-old version and further define the office's commitment to pesticide safety within the Community. Included within the ordinance, which was passed by Community Council last July, was a provision for the office to train and certify community pesti-

cide applicators.

After months of research, preparation, and development of the two-day long pesticide applicator course, the Pesticide Control Office held their first ever Community Applicator Certification course at the Community Technology Center Lab in Sacaton on January 13th and 14th, 2015. Interest was so high for this initial course that a second was scheduled for February 10th and 11th, 2015 before the first was even completed.

In total, 53 Community members and employees of GRIC enterprises were certified in the use, transportation, and storage of gen-

eral use pesticides. Participants included applicators from: Facilities Maintenance, Tribal Health Dept., Dept. of Community Housing, Community Services, Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision, GRIC Gaming Enterprises, Tribal Education Department, Residential Programs for Youth, Department of Environmental Quality and even a couple of agricultural growers.

The Pesticide Control Office looks forward to continuing to offering this certification course to raise awareness of pesticides and pesticide safety, while ensuring compliance with the Community's Pesticide Code.



Photo courtesy of Department of Environmental Quality

**Community members and employees learn about the new Pesticide Code at a pesticide applicator course run by the Pesticide Control Office.**

## 2nd Annual Survivors of Suicide Conference Coming Soon

**Submitted By**  
GRHC Behavioral Health

Gila River Health Care Behavioral Health Services: Prevention Program will host the 2nd Annual Survivors of Suicide Conference on Feb. 28.

If you have lost a loved one to suicide, you are not alone. In Arizona, close to 1,100 individuals die by suicide each year, leaving behind thousands of friends and family members, who we call Survivors of Suicide. Many people in today's society are uncomfortable talking about death, and this discomfort is magnified when the death is a suicide. This leads survivors to have little support from friends or the community.

After a suicide, survivors need support and acceptance. The loss of a loved one to suicide can be one of life's most traumatic events, causing intense feelings, such as shock, anger, depression, confusion, embarrassment, rejection, shame and/or guilt. The healing process is painful and survivors need to feel hope.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, The 2nd Annual Gila River Indian Community "Hope and Healing" Conference will be held for survivors of suicide. At this one-day event, survivors will gain support and will learn from fellow survivors about healthy ways of coping and dealing with the loss of a loved one to suicide.

The conference will be held at the Vah-Ki District Five Multi-Purpose Building from 8:30am - 3:00pm. Due to the sensitivity of the SOS Conference, participants must be at least 16 years of age to attend, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Although there is no fee to register, pre-registration is required by Feb. 20 for planning purposes and walk-ins may be accepted if space is available. Please contact Sandra McNally to ask questions for this event by phone: 480-784-1514 ext. 1219 or fax/email your registration to 480-967-3528 or Sandra.McNally@empact-spc.com.

## Native American Rights Fund visits Gila River



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

**The Native American Rights Fund governing board members visited the Gila River Indian Community on Feb. 5. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and an Alternate Executive Committee member for NARF took board members on a tour of the Governance Center. He provided a history of the Community and talked about the Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh cultures economic development in Gila River.**



*"Honoring the journey."*

**03.28.15**

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*Details coming soon!*



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## Miss Gila River Farewell

From Page 1

that being Miss Gila River and taking 12 credits at the same time was “challenging,” but worth it. After CAC, she wants to go to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Scottsdale. Her dream is to one day open her own restaurant or bakery.

Education has been an integral part of Antone’s platform as Miss Gila River. She said, in her opinion, the purpose of Miss Gila River is to be a role model for young girls and she does that by continuing her education and trying to inspire others to continue theirs as well.

“They could be the next governor, lieutenant governor or councilwoman. Or they might be the next principal at the school or the next [police] chief,” she said. “Hopefully these girls keep going to school and striving for that big thing that Creator has prepared for them.”

After eighth grade, she attended Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota and later attended Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, Calif. for her last three years of high school. While there, she was a dormitory leader, a pep rally leader, the vice president of the school’s Inter-Tribal Council, the Sherman Powwow organizer and Miss Sherman First Attendant.

She had to give up the Miss Sherman title, however, when she won the Miss Gila River crown, which became a full-time duty.

Antone said going to school off the reservation helped her grow as a person, a leader and a public speaker.

“It’s really good to [learn] just from being off the reservation and out of state. It’s really good to have opportunities to meet different tribes and [learn] what they bring to the table,” she said.

One of the most important aspects of

Miss Antone’s reign was her passion for upholding one’s culture.

“Young girls always look up to who’s wearing the crown,” she said. “And I tell them, ‘Learn your traditions. Learn where you come from.’”

Antone is learning the O’otham language and participates in traditional dancing with the Gila River Basket Dancers. She also loves performing the Bird Dance, a Pee-Posh tradition.

Antone said being Miss Gila River “has been an unforgettable experience,” and encourages others to run. She said to be Miss Gila River, you have to learn your culture and be confident, but also have a support system to lean on.

The contestants for the 2015 Miss Gila River and Junior Miss Gila River Pageant attended the farewell banquet. The contestants for Miss Gila River are Cheyenne Jackson and Sienna Whittington. The contestants for Junior Miss are Ashley Thompson, Charisma Quiroz and Siasek Lucero.

“Hopefully [the new contestants] have a lot of dedication to this position because that’s what it really takes,” she said. “I think your family’s your number one support of what you’re doing and what you want to do.”

Lucia’s mother, Cynthia Satala, who was by her side every step of the way this past year, guided her daughter the best she could. Of Lucia, she said, “She’s very mature for her age. ... She stands very strong and carries herself in a graceful manner.”

Grateful for the opportunity to join the sisterhood of Miss Gila Rivers, Antone said, “It’s really a great honor to serve all the people, the Akimel O’otham and Pee-Posh. I hope for the best of this next Miss and Junior Miss.”

## Sect. Jewell visit to GCCS

From Page 1



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell sits with students and a teacher in the Gila Crossing Community School garden as they show her how the garden helps the children learn about agriculture and their culture.

ing a school assembly toward the end of her visit.

“It is an honor to have the Department of Interior Secretary come to look firsthand to see how we are elevating education here in the Community,” he said.

Gov. Lewis noted, however, “The federal government has identified our schools as being in ‘poor’ condition. ... We must do more to ensure that [our] students can learn in 21st century classrooms.” He advocated for the need for new facilities, better technology and more teachers.

Although Jewell’s visit was a preliminary assessment, her office recognizes the need for schools to operate under better conditions with more resources.

“The facilities here in Gila River need to be replaced,” she said.

Jewell thanked the school for her recep-

tion saying, “It is a privilege and an honor to meet with you young people today.”

She recalled how President Barack Obama’s visit to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation last year shed light on the need for the DOI and other government agencies to “get out and see the schools and what they need.”

In pointing to the broader responsibility of the federal government she said, “We are not living up to our treaty obligations to tribes, but now [we] are doing something about it.”

Of the many Native schools the federal government is responsible for, she said, “one third of them are in poor condition, and yours is one of them. You deserve better because you are the future of the Gila River Indian Community.”

## HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER



### Auppa Hiosig Mashath

The name for this month references the blooming of the Cottonwood tree, which produces pale green blossoms that hang from the branches. This month many wild animals will bear their young in isolated dens and burrows throughout our Community. This is a dangerous time of year as most will protect their young when they sense danger is near, or when accidentally encountered. One of the most dangerous are ba:ban (coyotes) due to their high mobility and sharp claws and fangs.

Not too long ago some O’otham men accidentally encountered a ba:ban ha ki: (den of coyotes) while chopping and collecting firewood. As the O’otham began to chop down the kwi (mesquite trees) the sound of axe hitting tree alerted the male ban to see what the noise was about. As the O’otham were busy with their tasks the all-male pack of ba:ban surrounded the O’otham and began to move in. The O’otham were only armed with their axes and the line of snarling ba:ban stood between them and their pick-up truck. The O’otham threw cut branches at the pack of ba:ban while yelling at them and opening a lane of escape to their vehicle. Once safely inside the vehicle the O’otham left the area without some of their firewood.

Ba:ban are very special to O’otham and must never be harmed in any manner, they are a representative of the Ba:ban Clan. The three O’otham woodcutters were members of the Coyote Clan, and could not harm the pack of ba:ban, their clan brothers.

Ba:ban will normally make single dens, and in some cases several dens can be located close together as one family-unit and can be comprised of pups, young and unattached males and females.

When we spot the baby animals in the wild, it’s best that we leave them alone. They might look cute and cuddly, but we must always remember that they are wild animals. Just like us O’otham, parents will always protect their children and this is true for wild animals as well.

This month’s word match will focus on wild animals that are occasionally observed within our community. We encourage you to learn these words and use them in your everyday lives.

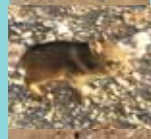
Solution on Page 10



Thasikol (Javelina)



U:pio (Striped Skunk)



Gevho (Bobcat)



Kaso (Kit Fox)



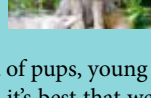
Ban (Coyote)



Shelik (Round-tailed Ground Squirrel)



Tho:b (Desert Cottontail)



Chu:v (Jackrabbit)

## HUHUGAM HERITAGE CENTER INTRODUCES

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## Sacaton Elementary Family Night on Mars

By Annie Gutierrez  
Gila River Indian News

Sheri Klug Boonstra, director of Arizona State University's Mars Education Program, presented on the Red Planet at February's Family Meeting at Sacaton Elementary School Feb. 12.

Families and faculty learned about the planet and the various research projects that NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has been conducting over the years. They also learned about the Mars Education program at ASU, which has partnered with the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Mars Exploration Education and Public Engagement Program for over twenty years.

Through lecture and a slide-show presentation, Boonstra showed families the trials and errors of some of the Mars Exploration Rover Missions that scientist and engineers have been working on to get a deeper understanding of Mars. Even though Mars's thin atmosphere of carbon dioxide cannot support life, scientists are still curious to learn the past, present and future state of the planet. "We are using robots as an advancement to learn as much as we can about the planet before we send people," said Boonstra.

Every 26 months, NASA works quickly to observe Mars at close range while the Earth's orbit around the Sun brings it closest to Mars. It gets close enough to Earth that scientists can observe the planet or send a rover robot with cameras.

Boonstra, a self-proclaimed "Martian," confirmed to some curious students that there are no Martians, buildings or flying vehicles occupying the planet. But there are findings that are significant to the mission. She says that twin rover vehicles Opportunity and Spirit have discovered clay minerals that indicate a wet environment existed in the planet's early history. The newest robot on the planet is the rover Curiosity, which will study whether or not life existed on Mars in the past and if it can sustain life now.

Through her various work with scientists and engineers, she stressed in her lecture the importance of Native Americans preserving culture and tradition and their place in the science world. She believes that the perspectives of Native Americans can help scientists and engineers better understand the earth and the environment because of the connection they share with the land. She said,



Annie Gutierrez/GRIN

**Sheri Boonstra, the director of the Mars Education Program at Arizona State University shows images of Mars to parents and students at Sacaton Elementary School's Family Night Feb. 12.**

"Native Americans have a very special gift in the way they interpret things. The ideas and teachings are so much deeper when it comes to treasuring the land. That thoughtfulness and understanding isn't found today."

Boonstra has a Bachelor's of Science and Master's Degree in

Earth Science Education. She is currently working with Arizona State University as director of the Mars Program within the Mars Space Flight Facility, School of Earth and Space Exploration. Boonstra has worked with NASA for almost seventeen years and currently serves on the Advisory

Council for Space Center Houston – the visiting center for NASA's Johnson Space Center and serves as the formal lead for the Mars Public Engagement Team at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA.

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# Save The Date

## 152nd Annual Five Tribes Treaty of Peace Celebration

### Friday & Saturday

April 10, 2015

April 11, 2015



Gila River Indian Community's District 7 Service Center & Park

8035 S. 83rd Avenue, Laveen AZ 85339

(83rd Avenue, South of Baseline)

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

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# AmeriCorps grant funds GRIC's Veterans Serving Veterans program

From Page 1

Chesley Miles from D3, a retired Navy veteran talked about the chance to help other service men and women out.

"What sparked my interest, was that I was already active in the Ira H. Hayes Post 84 here in Sacaton and thought that I could help them out and help AmeriCorps out at their service sites," he said.

He talked about his involvement saying, "I have been helping family members of veterans, trying to get headstones doing the paperwork and trying to get the word out about the program."

One of the participating members of the group, Michaela Ortiz comes from a military family. She is not a veteran, but when she heard about the program, she saw it as an opportunity to give back.

"A large percentage of Native families have somebody or know somebody in the military, so I wanted to be involved," she said. "We at AmeriCorps are collecting data that we can be able to take to Tribal Council at the end of the grant to show there is a need for veterans services in the Community."

Last year, through a partnership with Gila River Health Care, E&T hosted a monthly veterans breakfast to meet with veterans and learn how the AmeriCorps grant could help them.

During the planning grant period, E&T found the following issues for veterans' services in Gila River:

1. A lack of awareness in the Community regarding veterans' needs
2. No reliable statistics on the number of

veterans in the Community

3. A lack of services in the Community and

4. A lack of veterans' awareness on how to access State/Federal benefits and services.

Over the next three years the Veterans Serving Veterans program will address the issues found in the assessment.

"We will be creating a Native Veterans Program unlike any other in the country," said Leonard Bruce, the AmeriCorps coordinator at E&T. "We are here to get things done and this is just the beginning."

While the new AmeriCorps VSV program may not be able to meet every need in the first year, they want to serve and honor Gila River veterans the best they can.

VSV will focus on the following projects: Presentations to the Community to develop an awareness of veterans' needs, the development of a recognition program for fallen veterans, a ceremony that honors our living veterans and their families, a system that will capture accurate numbers for veterans in the Community, the identification of the individual district needs of veterans, guiding veterans through the process of accessing services through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and documenting veterans experiences.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Volunteers with the Veterans Serving Veterans program pose in front of a veteran's house in District 5 that they cleaned up for a service project Jan. 23.

One of the first projects the group has taken on, is counting the number of deceased veterans that are buried at cemeteries within the Community.

"The listing of deceased veterans that we had wasn't updated. It was two or three years old, so we are updating it," said Douglas Juan, a VSV volunteer.

VSV is also starting on documenting all living veterans in Gila River. Juan said "We are contacting the veterans that are still here. As Ortiz mentioned, we would like to setup a department of Veterans af-

fairs for the tribe."

"A system should be in place so that we can help them, so they don't have to go outside the reservation to look for help," said Ortiz.

"We want them to know that we are available for them. If we don't have the answer, we can get the answer," said Juan.

For more information on how to get in touch with your District Veteran AmeriCorps Member, contact Leonard Bruce at 520-562-3388 or e-mail [leonard.bruce@gric.nsn.us](mailto:leonard.bruce@gric.nsn.us).

Gila River Health Care Family Planning Mobile Medical Clinic (Title X Funded) FEBRUARY 2015				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SCHEDULE YOUR FAMILY PLANNING APPOINTMENT TODAY!				
2 D6 RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	3 VHM HIGH SCHOOL TEEN CLINIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8:30-2:00 PM	4 D5 (BAPCHULE) MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING 8:30-2:30 PM	5 D1 (BLACKWATER) NEW HOUSING 8:30-2:30 PM	6 NO CLINIC
9 D3 (SACATON) BY BOY'S & GIRL'S CLUB 8:30-2:30 PM	10 D6 (KOMATKE) BY KOMATKE HEALTH CENTER 9:00-2:00 PM	11 NO CLINIC	12 D4 (SAN TAN) SNAKETOWN CIRCLE HOUSING 8:30-2:30 PM	13 NO CLINIC
16 NO CLINIC	17 AK-CHIN HEALTH CLINIC 8:30-2:30PM	18 IRA HAYES HIGH SCHOOL TEEN CLINIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8:30-2:00 PM	19 SACATON DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES	20 NO CLINIC
23 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 8:00-2:00 PM	24 D7 (Maricopa Colony) SERVICE CENTER 9:00-2:00 PM	25 D3 (SACATON) BY BOY'S & GIRL'S CLUB 8:30-2:30 PM	26 NO CLINIC	27 NO CLINIC

**PUBLIC NOTICE – Civil Summons**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
MICHELLE LYONS,  
Plaintiff/Petitioner,  
vs.  
NIANA JOHNSON,  
Defendant/Respondent.  
TO: Niana Johnson  
8484 W. Community Street, D2  
Sacaton, Arizona 85147  
CASE Number: CV ~2015-0013  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.  
YOU shall respond at an ANSWER/RESPONSE HEARING regarding this matter on the following date and time at the place set forth below:  
Sacaton Community Court  
721 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, Arizona 85147  
(520)562-9860  
DATE: Friday, February 27, 2015  
Time: 10:00 AM  
YOU may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.  
If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Match the Akimel O'otham wild animal name with its picture! SOLUTION

Thasikol (Javelina)  
U'pio (Striped Skunk)  
Gevho (Bobcat)  
Kaso (Kit Fox)  
Bam (Coyote)  
Shelik (Round-tailed Ground Squirrel)  
Tho'b (Desert Cottontail)  
Chu'v (Jackrabbit)



## Earn a trip to Washington D.C.

Every summer, the FRS Youth Tour brings together high school students from across rural America to visit our nation's capital and learn about rural telecommunications. The tour provides a forum for teens to meet and interact with their peers from other rural communities and visit key legislative, regulatory and government figures. Since its inception in 1995, the youth tour has hosted thousands of students. GRTI will sponsor a student for the 2015 tour which will take place from May 30th - June 3.

**To attend, the student must meet the following criteria:**

1. Be a GRIC Member.
2. Must be in High school, age 16-17 at the time of the tour.
3. Submit an essay related to the telecommunications industry to Leeanna Paul at GRTI by March 13th.
4. Submit (2) personal references (Teacher, Counselor, etc.)

For questions regarding the FRS Youth Tour, contact Leeanna Paul at (520)796-8841 or [Lpaul@gilarivertel.com](mailto:Lpaul@gilarivertel.com)





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53rd Annual



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

# Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo

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### Hours of Operation

Friday March 13, 12:00pm - 11:00pm  
Saturday March 14, 10:00am - 12:00am  
Sunday March 15, 12:00pm - 8:00pm

### Admission Prices

5 & Under - FREE  
6 - 12 Years - \$4.00  
13 - 54 Years - \$6.00  
55 & Older - \$4.00

#### Contact Us:

Gila River Indian Community Tribal Recreation and Wellness Center Program  
520.562.6176 Event Coordinator  
520.562.4179 Fair Office  
520.562.6122 Fax number

Visit us on the web at [www.mul-chu-tha.com](http://www.mul-chu-tha.com)  
Email us at [mulchutha@gric.nsn.us](mailto:mulchutha@gric.nsn.us)



Gila River Indian Community along with Community Services Department and Tribal Recreation and Wellness Center Program shall not be held responsible for bodily injury, theft or damages incurred during the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo or any sanctioned Mul-Chu-Tha sporting events.

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