

## GRHC Breaks Ground on New Facility



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Current and former members of the Gila River Health Care Board of Directors, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Indian Health Services representatives break ground at the site of the new Southeast Ambulatory Care Center (SEACC) facility on Nov. 19 in District 4. The facility is scheduled to open in January 2018.

era for healthcare in our Community, bringing together all the contributors from both past and present leadership, as well as GRHC, Ak-Chin Indian Community and the I.H.S. officials that are [our] partners in this project," he said.

According to GRHC Chairman of the Board of Directors Myron Schurz, getting the project off the ground required a lot of cooperation with the federal government.

He said, "Indian Health Services has been an integral part of getting the facility to where we are at today, but there are other people that were a part of getting this facility moving forward," to acquire the funding from I.H.S.

Schurz said, "We are here to celebrate the fact that those efforts have been successfully brought forth here today as we break ground on the new facility."

### Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

Gila River Health Care is expanding services to meet the needs of patients from the Community and other federally recognized tribes with a 140,000-square-foot health care facility, which is scheduled to open in January 2018.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site near Old Price Road and Queen Creek Road in District 4 on Nov. 19 for the future Southeast Ambulatory Care Center or SEACC.

Dr. Lorrie Henderson, GRHC Chief Executive Officer, said the new location would serve Community members and American Indians from federally recognized tribes that live within the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

"The priority for us is increasing access to health care and serving those in need while reducing wait times to improve our proficiency and the lives of individuals," he said.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis was also on hand to break ground on the project. "This is really a new



Johnson Smithipong and Rosamond (JSR)

An artist's rendering offers a glimpse at the new 140,000-square-foot SEACC facility located near Old Price Road and Queen Creek Road.

## Phoenix Indian Center presents leadership awards



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Rod Lewis is presented the Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award at the Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership at the Spirit of the Heard banquet on Nov. 19.

### Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

The Phoenix Indian Center held its annual leadership award ceremony honoring 12 individuals for their achievements in education and for their commitment to tribal communities.

The Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards ceremony was held Nov. 19 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort ballroom.

Rodney Lewis, Gila River Indian Community, received the Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award. Lewis was GRIC's general counsel and led negotiations for the settlement of the Community's water rights claims. The Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act was signed by former President George W. Bush in 2004.

Lewis said there have been many signs of progress for Amer-

ican Indians in Arizona.

"There has been monumental change, but there is more work to be done," said Lewis.

He was appreciative for the award, but also thankful for the Community and its past leadership for supporting him during his legal career.

Izaiah Lopez, a senior at Cesar Chavez High School, was named High School Student of the Year. Lopez's parents are Calvin Lopez, Tohono O'odham Nation, and Dora Barehand, GRIC District 6.

The award is given to high school students who exhibit leadership skills while participating in organizations and groups, including maintaining a high grade point average in their academics.

Lopez has matured into an exceptional student (3.2 grade point average) while staying active as a volunteer. "I was the shiest person in the room, but once you get out of your shell you realize how much you can do," said Lopez.

After graduation, Lopez said, he would like to obtain a bache-



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Izaiah Lopez gives his acceptance speech for receiving the High School Student of the Year award on Nov. 19.

lor's degree in Biology.

The other awardees were Lucille Watahomigie (Hualapai Tribe), Herman Honanie (Hopi Chairman), Dr. Manley Begay (Navajo), Patty Ferguson-Bohnee (Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe), Yellow Bird Productions (Ken and Doreen Duncan), Canyon Records (Owner Robert Doyle), Robert Johnston (Muscoogee Creek, Choctaw), Maria Bartlett (Pascua Yaqui Tribe), Waylon Phillips (San Carlos Apache), Kristiann Ferreira (San Carlos Apache).

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## District 5 Special Election Unofficial Results



Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

Marlin Dixon, newly elected District 5 Council Representative.

### Mikhail Sundust Gila River Indian News

The District 5 community has elected Marlin Dixon to the post of Council Representative in a Dec. 1 special election.

The seat has been vacant since Janice Stewart resigned from the position at the Oct. 7, 2015 Council Meeting.

Dixon won the vote with a 37.86 percent margin in an election where 140 ballots were cast.

Other candidates (and their voting percentages earned) included Duane L. Johns (30.71 percent), Gwendolyn L. Thomas (17.14 percent), and Ronald Lewis Sr. (12.86 percent).

Dixon is a Ranger in the Gila River Police Department.

# 2015 WATER RIGHTS CELEBRATION

*"Our Water: nourishing the sacred relationship with our land, our people and our spirit"*



**DECEMBER 10, 2015**

**10:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

**RAWHIDE, FRONTIER HALL**

5700 W. NORTH LOOP RD.  
CHANDLER, AZ 85226

## **WATER RIGHTS CELEBRATION -PROGRAM-**

**10:30 A.M. - *SPEAKERS, FORMER GOVERNORS,  
VIDEO PRESENTATIONS AND MORE***

**12:00 P.M. - *LUNCH PROVIDED TO THE FIRST 350 ATTENDEES***

**1:00 P.M. - *TRADITIONAL SINGING & DANCING***

**3:00 P.M. - *TWO RIVERS BAND/CHICKEN SCRATCH MUSIC***

***ARTS & CRAFTS BOOTHS, DEPARTMENTAL BOOTHS***

*For more information, contact Communications & Public Affairs Office at  
520-562-9715*



Governor  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Monica L. Antone**

Community Council  
Representatives  
**District 1**  
Arzie Hogg  
Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Carol Schurz

**District 3**  
Carolyn Williams  
Rodney Jackson

**District 4**  
Jennifer Allison  
Christopher Mendoza  
Angelia Allison  
Nada Celaya

**District 5**  
Robert Stone  
Franklin Pablo, Sr.  
Brian E. Davis, Sr.

**District 6**  
Albert Pablo  
Anthony Villareal, Sr.  
Sandra Nasewytewa

**District 7**  
Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer  
Shannon White,  
Community Council Secretary

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Published letters or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community.

LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters **should be limited to 200 words** and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer's true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. *Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper.* Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling and content.

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## Bonnie Lou Manuel

It has almost been a year since our grandmother died. She survived incredible sorrow, loss, hardship, pain and abuse. Yet, she found joy in her nursing home activities and friends and comfort from her church. Although we were far away, we kept in touch with letters, pictures and phone calls to her sister Glenda Contreras. We loved Bonnie and miss her and know she loved us.



Grandsons Cory and Cody Wolfe and great granddaughter Cassidy

## In Loving Memory Of Michael J. Laws "Mike" Jan. 17, 1990 - Nov. 23, 2011

Today is Nov 23, 2015 Marking the 4th year that's going by without you.

As I sit here writing this sweet thoughtful piece about you. I can't help but weep...Missing You is truly hard. But I know Loving you is easy so I'll clean myself up, Gather all the memory pieces I have of you and treasure them now and for always. Loving you more and more each day Little Brother. So here we are, We'll all hold tight and wait for the day we find you again by our side.

Here's a piece I found that truly sounds ment for you.

For a limb has fallen from our family tree I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve Not For Me" Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.

The Good Life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you, keep smiling through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.

Remembering all How I Truly Was Blessed. Continue traditions no matter how small, Go on with your life, Don't worry about falls, I miss you all dearly, So keep your chin up. Until the day comes we're ALL TOGETHER AGAIN. - Author Unknown

Love you for eternity , Your Big Sis TJ Laws-Bernal

## Anthony Hill removed from Office of Chief Judge

SACATON, AZ – On Monday, November 30, 2015 the Gila River Indian Community Council took action to remove Anthony Hill by impeachment from the office of Chief Judge for the Gila River Indian Community, pursuant to Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community.

The motion to impeach Anthony Hill was made and passed by Community Council by a vote of 14 For, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent, 1 Vacancy; Motion carried.

The Community Council previously found that Mr. Hill had violated the Community's Code of Conduct at a meeting on October 23, 2015, and directed that he be publicly reprimanded. A public notice of reprimand appeared in the Gila River Indian News in the November 20 issue. In addition to the public reprimand, the Community Council directed the initiation of removal proceedings under the Constitution at the October 23 meeting.

### \*\*NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION\*\* SUBROGATION ORDINANCE

The Legislative Standing Committee ("LSC") will be considering the Subrogation Ordinance at their regular meeting on December 29, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., located in Conference Room B of the Community Council Secretary's Office. A copy of the Subrogation Ordinance in its entirety is available for review at all District Service Centers and the Community Council Secretary's Office. If you are interested in providing comments to the Subrogation Ordinance, please attend the scheduled LSC meeting, or you may also contact your Council representative, and/or the LSC's Chairperson at (520) 562-9720. Comments may also be mailed to Office of the General Counsel, P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147 Attn: Linda Sauer.

TITLES  
CHAPTER 13. SUBROGATION

8.1301. Purpose and Findings.

Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community (1960), art. XV §§ 1(a)(9) and (19), the Community Council is authorized to act to promote and protect the health and general welfare of the Community and its members, and to pass ordinances necessary to the exercise of those powers. In exercising those powers and responsibilities, the Community Council finds:

A. The Gila River Indian Community is a large employer and, along with several subordinate entities and schools on the Gila River Indian Reservation, provides health care benefits to its employees by self-insuring the cost of the benefit rather than providing coverage through an outside insurance company; these benefits are provided through the Community's Health & Welfare Benefit Plan (the "Community Plan") and Community Plans which are paid for with Community funds.

B. Community Plan participants sometimes receive benefits due to injuries caused by the acts of third parties (such as in an automobile accident or other negligent act), and because they caused those injuries, those third

parties or their insurers are liable for or obligated to pay for the same health care costs that are or would be otherwise borne by the Community Plan.

C. Providing employment benefits to Community employees directly affects the health, economic security, and welfare of the Community, and conduct which deprives the Community of its continued ability to fund and provide those benefits threatens the health, economic security, and welfare of the Community.

8.1302. Scope.  
This Chapter applies to any self-insured employment benefit plans administered by the Gila River Indian Community and the Community entities and to any individual who participates in a Community plan. This includes employees of the Community or any entity participating in a Community plan, their spouses, and dependents ("participants").

8.1303. Subrogation.  
A. Basic Principles.  
1. The laws of the Gila River Indian Community shall govern and control all disputes arising out of or related to the provision of benefits under a Community plan not otherwise preempted by federal law.  
2. The Community Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes arising under this Chapter including, but not limited to, lawsuits by a Community plan seeking reimbursement for benefits paid to a Community plan participant.

### CORRECTIONS

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

The 2nd Annual Tribal Government E-Commerce CLE Conference

# Wiring the Rez: Expanding the Borders of Indian Country through E-Commerce

February 11 – 12, 2016  
Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, Chandler, AZ

Colonialism, removal and relocation left many Indian nations with small reservations, often far removed from traditional trading routes and frequently remote from modern centers of commerce. Thus, the physical realities of modern Indian country sometimes hampers or limits the economic opportunities available for Indian nations. This conference will explore the emerging world of Tribal Digital Sovereignty and the ongoing need for tribes to build infrastructures that facilitate economic growth on their reservations, choosing the best projects, finding the right partners, understanding jurisdictional complexities and the necessity of fostering open dialogue with federal and state counterparts.

Who should attend: tribal leaders & officials, lawyers practicing in Indian country, on/off reservation economic planning & development experts, media developers, business & finance specialists, virtual casino managers & executives, online vendors & entrepreneurs, regulatory experts & cutting-edge scholars.

Keynote Speaker:  
"Making Communications a Civil Right"  
The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Ph.D.  
Former Acting Chairman and Commissioner  
U.S. Federal Communications Commission

Agenda & registration at:  
[conferences.asucollegeoflaw.com/ilp-wiringtherez](http://conferences.asucollegeoflaw.com/ilp-wiringtherez)

Presented by: Rosette, LLP American Indian Economic Development Program

INDIAN LEGAL PROGRAM | ASU SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR COLLEGE OF LAW ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

# COMMUNITY UPDATES BY GRIN STAFF

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

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## COMING SOON! DISTRICT 3 TRANSIT SERVICE

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Transportation (GRICDOT) is preparing to begin public transportation services for the Community. We anticipate service beginning in 2016.

GRICDOT will be providing circulator service throughout the District. The proposed bus stops include:

- Library
- Housing Areas
- Boys & Girls Club
- Governance Center
- PD/Courts
- HuhuKam Memorial Hospital
- Sacaton Supermart
- Shell Station/Post Office
- Service Center



The service we are providing is call deviated fixed route. This means that the bus will stay on a route that will not change, but if an individual can not make it to a bus stop, drivers will pick that passenger up at a stop that is not a fixed stop, such as from their home.

**There will be no fare to ride the bus. All buses will be wheelchair and ADA compliant.**

If you have any questions, please contact DOT. We welcome all comments and suggestions.

For more information Contact:  
Sasha Pachito  
Transportation Planning Manager

Phone: 520-562-6306  
E-mail: sasha.pachito@gric.nsn.us



## Community Events

**Friday, December 4**  
River of Lights Parade  
“The Christmas Force Awakens”  
Sacaton, AZ  
6:00p.m.  
More info: 520-562-2025

More info: [www.gricdeq.org](http://www.gricdeq.org) or 520-562-2234

Huhugam Heritage Center First Friday  
“Honoring the Gift of Water”  
5:00p.m. – 9:00p.m.  
Emcee: June Shorthair  
More info: 520-796-3500

**Wednesday, December 9**  
Community Health Nutrition presents:  
Crock-Pot Cooking Classes  
District 3 Service Center  
This is the fifth of six classes. The last class will be Wednesday, December 16  
More info: 520-562-5126

**Saturday, December 5**  
Winter Indoor Swap Meet and Craft Sale  
Blackwater, AZ  
District 1 Multipurpose Building  
7:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

**Friday, December 11**  
District 4 Family Movie Night  
Marvel’s Ant-Man  
District 4, Main Hall  
6:00p.m.

Winter Bird Count  
Family event, everyone welcome!  
7:00a.m. Meet at location nearest you.

**Wednesday, December 16**  
District 4 Youth Snow Trip  
Depart at 6:00a.m.  
Deadline to sign up: Monday, December 14  
First 30 applicants  
Ages 8 – 17  
More info: 520-418-3661

District 5: Casa Blanca Chevron Gas Station  
District 6: Komatke Market (Chevron)  
District 7: New D7 Service Center  
11:00a.m. Cultural event at the Huhugam Heritage Center.  
Transportation not provided.  
Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

**Saturday, December 19**  
Breakfast with Santa  
Vah-Ki Multipurpose Building  
8:30a.m. – 11:30a.m.  
More info: 520-315-3441

Complete guide at [www.grbc.tv](http://www.grbc.tv)

### GRBC TV GUIDE

\*Schedule subject to change.


#### NEW TIMES FOR GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS! 7am, 11:30am, 4:30pm & 9pm\*

|         | Sunday 12/6   | Monday 12/7                           | Tuesday 12/8                         | Wednesday 12/9                                  | Thursday 12/10                             | Friday 12/11                               | Saturday 12/12   |
|---------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 12:00pm | Creative Native Holiday Fever   | Creative Native Wealth                | Creative Native Domestic Face Lift   | Creative Native We Are What We Eat Pt1          | Creative Native We Are What We Eat Pt2     | Creative Native Holiday Fever              | Creative Native Wealth                                     |
| 12:30pm | First Talk  | First Talk                            | First Talk                           | First Talk                                      | First Talk                                 | First Talk                                 | First Talk   |
| 1:00pm  | From Badlands to Alcatraz   | Rez Beyond Recognition                | Smoke Traders                        | Don't Get Sick After June                       | Mohawk Girls                               | After The Gold Rush                        | Incas Remembered   |
| 1:30pm  |   |                                       |                                      |   |  |  |  |
| 2:00pm  | Storytellers In Motion Tantoo Cardinal  | Ravens and Eagles In Our Blood        | Samaqan Water Stories                | Ravens and Eagles                               | Samaqan Water Stories                      | Ravens and Eagles The New Masters          | Seasoned with Spirit Southwest Cuisine                     |
| 2:30pm  | Northwest Indian News   | Vitality Gardening                    | Vitality Gardening                   | Vitality Gardening                              | Vitality Gardening                         | Vitality Gardening                         | Storytellers in Motion                                     |
| 3:00pm  | Seasoned With Spirit  | Vitality Health                       | Vitality Health                      | Vitality Health                                 | Vitality Health                            | Vitality Health                            | Native Nation  |
| 3:30pm  | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS  | From The Spirit April Mercedi         | From The Spirit John Rombough        | From The Spirit Aaron Paquette                  | From The Spirit Abraham Ruben              | From The Spirit Tim Paul                   | People of the Pines American California                    |
| 4:00pm  | Good Meat Journey to converting to a diet centered on buffalo and native foods. | Creative Native Domestic Face Lift    | Creative Native We Are What We Eat   | Creative Native We Are What We Eat              | Creative Native Holiday Fever              | Creative Native Wealth                     | Making Regalia   |
| 4:30pm  |   | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS        | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS       | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS                  | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS             | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS             | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS                             |
| 5:00pm  | Colorado Experience: Sand Creek Massacre  | Working It Out                        | Indian Pride                         | On Native Ground:                               | Indian Pride                               | Storytellers in Motion                     | Voices Of  |
| 5:30pm  |   | Back in the Day Halfway               | Oskayak Down Under                   | Voices Of Leadership                            | Down the Mighty River                      | On Native Ground: Youth Report             | Indians and Aliens Harry Snowboy                           |
| 6:00pm  | From Badlands to Alcatraz   | First Talk                            | First Talk                           | First Talk                                      | First Talk                                 | First Talk                                 | Indigenous Focus   |
| 6:30pm  |   | Native Report                         | People of the Pines                  | Making Regalia                                  | People of the Pines Native Resistance      | Make Prayers to the Raven                  | Dabiyiyuu Keeping It Real                                  |
| 7:00pm  | Native Voice TV   | Smoke Traders                         | Don't Get Sick After June            | Mohawk Girls                                    | After The Gold Rush                        | Incas Remembered                           | Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People Northwest Indian News |
| 7:30pm  | On Native Ground:   |                                       |                                      |   |  |  |  |
| 8:00pm  | Wapos Bay   | Wapos Bay                             | Wapos Bay                            | Wapos Bay                                       | Wapos Bay                                  | Wapos Bay                                  | Wapos Bay  |
| 8:30pm  | Fish Out of Water The Samoan Village  | Fish Out of Water Blackfoot Adventure | Fish Out of Water Mahikan Trails     | Fish Out of Water Kawakanum Kennels             | Fish Out of Water Kak Ki Yaw Cultural Camp | Fish Out of Water Xatsull Heritage Village | Fish Out of Water Blackfoot Adventure                      |
| 9:00pm  | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS  | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS        | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS       | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS                  | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS             | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS             | GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS                             |
| 9:30pm  | Native Shorts   | Oskayak Down Under                    | Back in the Day                      | Indigenous Focus                                | Rez Rides                                  | Indians and Aliens                         | Moose T.V.   |
| 10:00pm | Smokin' Fish  | When I Hear Thunder Boxing in AZ      | Racing The Rez                       | Walela Musical journey of the Spirit            | Grab                                       | Trail of Tears                             | For The Rights Of All: Ending Jim Crow In Alaska           |
| 10:30pm |   |                                       |                                      |   |  |  |  |
| 11:00pm | Don't Get Sick After June   | Gold Fever                            | Sacred Steps: Remembering Sand Creek | For The Generations: Native Story & Performance | Weaving Worlds Navajo rug weavers          | Trail of Tears                             | Spirit Tipis   |
| 11:30pm |   |                                       |                                      |   |  |  |  |

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# PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHILDREN'S CODE

- Proposed draft revisions to Children's Code • Numerous revisions • Protective Services Attorney, Criminal History, Custody of Status Offenders Customary Adoption, Placement Policy and Preferences under ICWA

The Office of General Council and Stakeholders will be presenting at the following meetings:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Youth Council     | December 12, 2015 |
| Council of Elders | December 18, 2015 |
| District 2        | December 14, 2015 |
| District 4        | December 14, 2015 |
| District 5        | December 14, 2015 |
| District 6        | December 14, 2015 |
| District 3        | December 15, 2015 |
| District 1        | January 4, 2016   |
| District 7        | January 4, 2016   |

Please attend to learn more about the Proposed Revisions to Children's Code.

For more info, please call Rebecca Hall or Sunshine Whitehair - 520-562-9760

## Waila Festival brings scholarships



Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

Recipients of the Sister Tribe Academic Reward (STAR) Scholarship pose with Waila Festival board members at WailaFest 2015 on Nov. 28.

### Roberto A. Jackson Gila River Indian News

The mission of Waila Festival, Inc. is to provide financial support for students of the four tribes of the Gila River Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Ak-Chin Indian Community while preserving the traditions of waila music. That mission was accomplished on Saturday Nov. 28 at the WailaFest 2015 to the tune of 8 scholarships given out to students during a special ceremony at the event, which also featured four waila bands and other traditional presentations.

The WailaFest has been going on for five

years, bringing the best in chicken scratch music to the four O'otham tribes, but this year it included the Sister Tribe Academic Reward (STAR) Scholarship. "That's our mission to help the youth and be able to award scholarships every year from here on," said Matt Kisto, Executive Director of Waila Festival Inc., which is a non-profit organization formed by members of the Gila River Business Owners Association and the Waila Festival Planning Committee.

While bands played indoors from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., vendors, artists and other cultural presentations were located on the Sonoran Lawn just west of the Frontier Hall. The Circle of

Art and Culture included presentations from O'otham, Pee Posh, Hopi, Apache and Mexican indigenous groups.

Raquel Romero, a first generation college student, was encouraged

to apply to the scholarship by her advisor. "This [money] will help next semester funding college," said Romero, an undergraduate Anthropology student at Arizona State University.

Steven Save, Pee Posh, also received a scholarship. Save is looking ahead to a bright future. "I would like to come back and work for my community," said Save, a student at South Mountain Community College.

Waila Festival Inc. is looking forward to having more festivals and giving out more assistance to students. They were thankful for the support from all the O'otham sister tribes and the enterprises and entities within the tribes who made the scholarships possible.

## Sacaton Students Get Active at Health & Wellness Day

### Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

Students from Sacaton Elementary School and Sacaton Middle School put down the books and laced up their sneakers for a pair of fun physical activities during Health and Wellness Day. The students participated in running activities in the morning and afterward a football mini camp hosted by the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 18.

Jiivik Siiki (aka Adrian Hendricks), District 2 Hashan Kehk, provided an inspirational talk about the importance of running. "We need to be healthy and strong," Siiki said.

Following the presentation, the students went outdoors for a walk/run.

The route took the students along Skill

Center Road, looping around SMS back to the SES basketball court.

The second part of the Health & Wellness Day was capped off by a mini football camp for fifth and sixth grade students with Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Brittan Golden and Cardinals mascot Big Red.

The students went through a series of drills, complete with passing and blocking stations.

Big Red threw a few passes as the lines of kids ran screens in between obstacles.

The lesson the Cardinals bring to the students on the field is for each of them to respect each other and be good role models for health and wellness.

John Timmons, Director of Extended Education and Community Relations, said that Tuesday's events were designed to promote health and wellness while increasing student and parent involvement.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Above: Judum, a wellness mascot, runs with the students. Below: Big Red, Cardinals mascot, helps the students stretch. Left: A student does football drills.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Culturally Competent  
Compassionate  
Care



Practicing kindness all day, every day

*Wishing You a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!*  
*From your friends at Gila River Health Care*

### Holiday Clinic Closures

Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital (HHKMH) Clinics and Komatke Health Clinic (KHC)  
Primary Care Departments will Close At 12:00 Noon  
Thursday, December 24th & Thursday, December 31, 2015

HHKMH, KHC and Ak-Chin Clinic Will Be Closed  
Friday, December 25, 2015 and Friday, January 1, 2016

HHKMH, KHC and Ak-Chin Clinic Will Resume Normal Business Hours  
Monday, December 28, 2015 and Monday, January 4, 2016

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

### Native Americans Exempt From Tax Penalty

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) promotes health insurance coverage for all. For income tax year 2015 the ACA requires all taxpayers to report their proof of health insurance or pay a penalty. As a Native American with a tribal affiliation, you are entitled to an exemption from this penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. In order to claim this exemption, you have some options.

#### Exemptions from the Penalty

You may qualify for an exemption from the penalty for not having health insurance coverage for any of the months during the 2015 calendar year. The law states that you must have minimum essential coverage for all months. This rule applies not only to the tax filer, but must include any of the dependents that are claimed. One day of coverage in the month counts as coverage for the entire month. Here are some of the reasons the federal government will consider you as exempt:

- You are a member of a federally recognized tribe or eligible for services through an Indian Health Services/tribal facility, such as Gila River Health Care
- The lowest-priced health care coverage available to you would cost more than 8% of your household income
- You are not required to file a tax return
- You are a member of a recognized religious sect with religious objections to insurance

- You are incarcerated (either detained or jailed), and not being held pending disposition of charges
  - You are not lawfully present in the U.S.
  - You qualify for a hardship exemption
- Individuals need to only meet one of the above exemption criteria.

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

#### 1. Paper Application

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

- Certificate of Indian Blood, or
- Tribal Identification Card or
- Letter from Gila River Health Care stating you are eligible for services.

Upon completion of this process, the Marketplace will send you an Exemption Certification Number (ECN). The ECN will stay with you forever, similar to a social

security number. Please note if you applied for and received an ECN number in 2014, this is the same number you will use on your 2015 IRS Federal Income Tax Return Form. This number will tell the federal government you are exempt from the tax penalty. Once you receive this number, you would indicate this on your IRS form. Exemptions from this source need to be obtained at the earliest opportunity.

#### 2. Claiming an Exemption on Federal Income Taxes

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

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

For further information, contact the  
Benefit Coordination Department:

(520) 562-3321 Ext: 1311  
or (520) 562-1311.

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

Gila River Indian Community  
Crisis Line

1-800-259-3449

# A'AGA

## Something to be told

By Billy Allen

A few generations ago at this time of the year, elders of the village would begin to refresh their memories of the old stories. Soon people would come to the ge'e ki to listen to our songs and stories of creation. They tell of how O'otham struggled in turning the desert into an oasis. Even with the long winter night, the telling and singing would go on for more than one night. Versions differed according to the village location. Much has changed. We still have individuals who have learned the stories and songs but we now must fit such activities within the 9 to 5 lifestyle.

Obvious questions for today: Are these stories true? Do they still have a place for our modern Indian/Native/Indigenous/O'otham/Piipaash world? Let us see what others have written about this subject.

In 1998, the Arizona Daily Star published an article, "Indian myths may contain grains of truth." Ruth Giff, an eighty-eight year old Akimel O'otham, was asked about what she remembered about the stories. She said when she was young; there were still a few elders around who knew the old stories. The ones who remembered best were individuals who had little or no formal education. One section of the stories talks and sings about floods and epic battles. Scientists have been searching for evidence supporting or providing a basis for these stories.

Julian Hayden, an archaeologist working at the Snaketown excavation, listened to Juan Smith recite the O'otham saga over several nights. Another O'otham, William Smith, provided the English translation, which Julian Hayden wrote down. In 1994, Don Bahr edited 36 of the stories in a book, *The Short Swift Time of the Gods on Earth*. Several tribal members are listed as helping.

A University of Arizona study confirmed a massive flood in the Salt and Verde Riv-

er valleys, which damaged Hohokam canals and fields along the Salt River followed by a 20-year flood. The food supply was seriously endangered. Excavations have found evidence of malnutrition and starvation, along with wooden palisades or tall fences around certain Hohokam buildings. Our stories and those of the Tohono O'odham seem to align with the archaeological record. Lynn Teague, then an Arizona State Museum curator, was convinced there is a "strong thread of historical accuracy" in our stories.

Our cultural belief is these stories should be oral and should be told only during the winter. This has caused some concern for not many of the stories are being passed on. The stories served many purposes, they hinted of the negative effects of becoming self-centered and being quarrelsome. There are a couple of easily available books which have some of stories. Anna Moore Shaw's *Pima Indian Legends* published in 1968, is good for young listeners. Don Bahr's *O'odham Creation and Related Events*: As told to Ruth Benedict in 1927 is more for older readers. The title page lists "Pimas" William Blackwater, Thomas Vanyiko, Clara Ahiel, William Stevens, Oliver Wellington and Kisto. Today's challenge is to continue oral storytelling and create written documentation to share with future generations.

From *Pima Indians* by Frank Russell, I add this short entry; Earth Doctor created the stars by spewing water from his mouth into the sky. However there were not enough so he took a crystal and threw it into the sky, it broke and formed the large stars. To form the Milky Way, he took his cane and drew a big circle across the sky. He put a bowl of water and let it set overnight to form into ice. He then threw the ice in the three directions and it fell back each time. When he threw it to the east, it stayed and it became the moon. He then set out another bowl of water and created a second bigger ice block and threw it to the east also and it became the sun.

Knowing this and then looking at the winter sky, I can't help but realize how amazing our natural world continues to be and how we are a part of it.

## Eddie Thomas retires from Head Start after 40 years



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Edward "Eddie" Thomas displays his retirement plaque with Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at a special retirement dinner recognizing his years of service at the District 5 Vah-Ki Multipurpose Building on Nov. 23.

### Submitted by GRIC Head Start

Edward (Eddie) Thomas was born in 1954 and has lived all his life in Casa Blanca. In 1975 at the age of 20, Eddie began working for the GRIC Head Start Program as a janitor.

For 40 years Eddie worked for Head Start and would find himself with other duties than what he was hired for, such as bus monitor. He would ride the bus with Patrick Luther and Daryl Rhodes and help pick up and drop of Head start students. Eddie worked at all four Head Start

Centers, under the direction of the late Imogene Osife, Phyllis Antone, Patricia Foster, Christa Caamano and now Acting Director Patricia Valenzuela.

Eddie has seen many staff come and go, but there are a few who have stayed to work at Head Start during these 40 years, such as Eunice Twitchell, Head Start Teacher; Patrick Luther, Family Services Advocate; Clyde Antone, Bus Driver for District 4; and Starleen Somegustava, Cultural Specialist. All in all, Mr. Eddie has been a very dedicated worker and will be greatly missed.



## 2016 GILA RIVER ROYALTY PAGEANT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!! APPLICATION DEADLINE IS **Friday, January 15, 2016 5:00P.M.**

Applications can be obtained at the GRIC Communications & Public Affairs Office, located in the Governance Center Executive Wing, Sacaton, AZ or at your local Service Center  
Digital copies can be requested by e-mailing [missgilariver@gric.nsn.us](mailto:missgilariver@gric.nsn.us) or calling (520) 562-9848

### Miss Gila River Eligibility Criteria

- Young women between the ages of 18-24 years of age on or before: **Saturday, March 5, 2016**
- Enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Have never before held the Title of Miss Gila River
- Must be a full-time high school or college student with a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. or employed full-time and in good standing with employer
- Must be single, never married, and have no children
- Must not be cohabitating (living) with an intimate companion
- Must be willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Miss Gila River throughout the twelve month reign

### Jr. Miss Gila River Eligibility Criteria

- Young women between the ages of 14-17 years of age on or before: **Friday, March 4, 2016**
- Enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community
- Have never before held the Title of Jr. Miss Gila River
- Must be a full-time student with a minimum 2.0 G.P.A.
- Must be single, never married, and have no children
- Must not be cohabitating (living) with an intimate companion
- Must be willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Jr. Miss Gila River throughout the twelve month reign

**\*\*THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CONTESTANTS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE\*\***

SUBMIT COMPLETED **ORIGINAL** APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED MATERIALS TO THE GRIC COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE ONLY. **FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!**

*Gila River Royalty Committee*

P.O. BOX 459 Sacaton, AZ 85147 • Phone: (520) 562-9848 • [missgilariver@gric.nsn.us](mailto:missgilariver@gric.nsn.us)



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE EAST VALLEY  
Gila River Branch – Sacaton

## WINTER BREAK SCHEDULE

**FREE** for enrolled members of Gila River  
For non-community members, cost for Winter Break is \$5 per day.

| DEC 21 <sup>st</sup>   | DEC 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | DEC 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | DEC 24 <sup>th</sup>                | DEC 25 <sup>th</sup>                    |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Free Holiday Barbershop! (Invitation Only)<br><b>TEENS: DIY Snow Sled Creations!</b> | <b>CLASSIC</b><br>KEYSTONE Fundraiser: Polar Express (\$1.00) Hot Chocolate 25 | Gingerbread House Decorating<br>TEEN Field trip to University of Arizona & Lunch<br>Cost is \$5.00<br>9:30am-5:30pm<br>Let it Snow! | <b>CLUB CLOSED</b><br>Christmas Eve | <b>CLUB CLOSED</b><br>Merry Christmas!! |

**Bring a Lunch!**

Winter Break Youth Hours: 8am - 5pm  
Teen Hours: 10am - 6pm  
Club Closed 12/24/15 - 1/3/16

For more information contact Soyeta Antone:  
Tel: 520.562.3890 email: soyeta@clubzona.org

## SACATON BASKETBALL IS BACK!


**AGE DIVISIONS:** 6-8 Years Old  
9-11 Years Old  
12-14 Years Old

**REGISTRATION:** \$15.00

**REGISTRATION ENDS**  
**DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**



stay updated online: f fb.com/sacatonbranch  
Point of Contact: HPE Director - Daniel Acostanunes  
Tel: 520.562.3890 E-mail: daniel.acosta@clubzona.org



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

# AGRICULTURAL LEASE PAY OUT\*

## Friday, January 15, 2016

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>8:30am</b><br>Seniors and Disabled | <b>10am - 6pm</b><br>General Landowners |
|---------------------------------------|---|

Round House Café  
at SRPMIC Two Waters Government Campus  
10,005 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale 85256 - Look for directional signs

**Checks not picked up on January 15th**  
Pick up at Finance - Cashiers Office (Two Waters Bldg. A)  
Tuesday, January 19th through Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
(\*Please note that Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, is a SRPMIC Holiday\*\*)

**Checks with a valid address**  
Mailed out Tuesday, February 2nd

**Power of Attorney (POA)**  
Only originals accepted  
Must be verified before release of check  
Verification done at pay out

**Written Notes will not be accepted**  
Power of Attorney required to pick up someone else's check

**Questions**  
Contact SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730

\*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received and cleared through banking institutions by January 4, 2016

# There are no Scrooges at GRBC this holiday season.

Sign up for a **FREE** antenna and **FREE** installation, courtesy of GRBC. This is a limited offer\* for GRIC enrolled community Elders 55 and older, one per household. Call 520-796-8848 or visit [www.grbc.tv](http://www.grbc.tv) to learn more about Gila River Broadcasting Corp.



Gila River Broadcasting Corp.  
7065 W. Allison Road, Chandler, AZ 85226  
520.796.8848 | [info@grbc.tv](mailto:info@grbc.tv) | [grbc.tv](http://grbc.tv)

\*Offer may be rescinded without notice.



# Community Council Action Sheets **Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

## ACTION SHEET

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

## CALL TO ORDER

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday November 18, 2015, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:16 a.m.

## INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

## ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz;

D3- Carolyn Williams, Rodney Jackson; D4- Nada

Celaya, Jennifer Allison (12:00), Angelia Allison,

Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (9:23),

Janice F. Stewart, Robert Stone (9:37); D6-Albert

Pablo, Sandra Nasewytewa; D7- Devin Redbird

Council Members Absent:

D5- Vacant; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

## PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES)

### REPORTS

1. **Pee Posh** Veterans Association – 4th Quarter

Report(Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015)

Presenters: Dan Jenkins, Alvin Lewis

REPORT HEARD

2. Human Resources Department – Dashboard For September And October 2015

Presenter: Shawna Shultz

REPORT HEARD

3. Four Rivers Indian Legal Services Semi-Annual Status Report for the Period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

Presenter: Fred Pinsky

REPORT HEARD

4. Gila River Sand & Gravel 3rd Qtr Report

Presenters: Michael Morago, Bob Gazis

REPORT HEARD

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:22 A.M.]

## RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing Community Entity Board Members To Receive Additional Compensation In Recognition Of The Gila River Indian Community Custom Of Providing A Holiday Gift For Board Member Service (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Ronald Rosier

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Department Of Environmental Quality Of The Gila River Indian Community And Roger Ferland D/B/A Consulting Services By Roger Ferland, L.L.C. (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Ondrea Barber, William Antone

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Memorializing An Amendment To The Current Membership Of The Litigation Team By Replacing Former Councilwoman Janice Stewart

With Councilman Franklin Pablo, Sr. (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas Murphy

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Public Policy Partners For Fiscal Year 2016 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Office Of General Counsel

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Approving A Ground Lease Between The Gila River Indian Community And Bayer Cropscience LP For The Operation Of A Cotton Delinting Plant For Delinting, Processing, And Distribution Of Cotton Seed, Approving A Groundwater Use Agreement With Bayer Cropscience LP, And Terminating And Cancelling The Lease Agreement No. B-GR-164 Dated September 9, 1983 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval; with additional information, NRSC & EDSC concur)

Presenters: Elizabeth Antone, Steven Heeley, Ronald Rosier

APPROVED

6. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Agreements Between The Gila River Indian Community And DCI Group, LLC, Summit Consulting Group, Inc. Leibowitz Solo, LLC. For Public Relations And Other Services For Fiscal Year 2016 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Office Of General Counsel

APPROVED

7. A Resolution Approving A New Lease Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Lessee Antenna Sites, Inc. Regarding The Maintenance And Operation Of Communications Facility Within District Seven Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval; NRSC & EDSC concur)

Presenter: Elizabeth Antone

APPROVED

8. A Resolution Consenting To A Non-Transferable Fifty Year Residential/Homesite Lease On Allotment 2057 Located On Allotted Trust Land In District One Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Pamela Pasqual

APPROVED

## ORDINANCES

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Attorney Contracts (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Linus Everling, Thomas L. Murphy

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

2. Keeping the Promise Update

Presenters: Office of General Counsel

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR

AN HOUR AND HALF LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:15 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A LITIGATION TEAM MEETING, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015, CCSO CONFERENCES B&C AT 1:00 P.M.; TO INCLUDE ALL COUNCIL

## NEW BUSINESS

1. SIE Grant Brochure Discussion (ESC forwards to Community Council with corrections and additional information, for discussion and action)

Presenters: Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO FORWARD INFORMATION TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR PUBLISHING IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS & ON SOCIAL MEDIA

2. Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation – Newspaper Release For Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Elizabeth Bohnee

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. License Agreement Between Gila River Indian Community and Cemex Construction Materials South, LLC (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs with changes)

Presenter: Elizabeth Antone

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

4. District Four Letter of Appointment for Darlene Burnette (LSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Darren Pedro-Martinez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. 2016 Arizona Organizing Committee (EDSC forwards to Council under New Business for discussion)

Presenter: Joe Hickey

ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY DECLINE THE PROPOSAL FROM THE ARIZONA ORGANIZING COMMITTEE'S REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP REGARDING THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

## MINUTES

1. July 15, 2015 (Regular)

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. August 5, 2015 (Regular)

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

>EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE WORK SESSION FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2015, 9 A.M.

>INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015, 8 A.M.

>G&M SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015, 11 A.M.

>SOUTHEAST AMBULATORY FACILITY GROUND BREAKING NOVEMBER 19, 2015, 11 A.M.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:49 P.M.**

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)



**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
Office of the Community Council

**Written Reprimand**

On October 23, 2015, pursuant to the Special Investigator's Findings and Recommendations in the investigation of the Code of Conduct Complaint against Anthony Hill, Chief Judge of the Community's Court, Community Council approved a motion directing this firm to draft a written reprimand for publication in the Gila River Indian News and for posting at the district service centers. What follows is the proposed language for the written reprimand:

As a result of the investigation of allegations contained in a Code of Conduct complaint against Chief Judge Anthony Hill, and following a hearing on October 23, 2015, the Community Council has found that while in office Chief Judge Hill placed his personal interests before the interests of the Community, misused staff, and otherwise violated the Code of Conduct by:

- (1) Knowingly giving false testimony to a Pro Tempore Judge of the Community Court.
- (2) Improperly attempting to restrict a former employee's right to speak freely.
- (3) Misusing staff in pursuit of a restraining order for Chief Judge Hill's personal benefit.
- (4) Attempting to interfere with the outcome of investigations into the allegations against Chief Judge Hill.
- (5) Misusing the bailiff supervisor position for Chief Judge Hill's personal benefit.

This conduct amounts to improper official conduct that put at risk the best interests of the Community, and a misuse of staff. Chief Judge Hill's conduct violated the Code of Conduct, Sections 1.403(C)(1) and (f), 1.401(D)(8), and 1.402, and the Administration of Community Affairs Code Section 1.201.

**Chief Judge Hill is hereby publicly reprimanded for his conduct in violation of the Gila River Indian Community Code of Conduct.** Council has voted to initiate removal proceedings against Chief Judge Hill under Article XII, Section 2 of the Community Constitution. The impeachment hearing related to Chief Judge Hill's misconduct will occur on November 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Council Chambers, Governance Center, Sacaton, Arizona.

**Governing Code Sections:**

The intent of the Code is: "[T]o protect the Community from government decisions and actions resulting from, or affected by, undue influences or conflicts of interest, and ensure a standard of care requiring that any decision of, or action taken by, Officials shall be one that would be made with the

degree of care that would be exercised by a reasonably prudent and competent person seeking to preserve of the Community's financial resources. Code of Conduct § 1.401(C).

The Community Affairs Code prohibits "improper official conduct," which is any action "carrying out or purporting to carry out the official duties of the office that compromise or put at risk the best interests of the Community." Community Affairs Code § 1.201(A).

"Officials shall not have a contractual, property, financial, or economic interest, or engage in any contractual, property, financial, or economic transaction, or engage in any activity that involves a conflict of interest. Officials shall seek to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to any transaction." Code of Conduct § 1.403(C)(1). A "conflict of interest" is defined in pertinent part as "using or attempting to use any official or apparent authority of one's office or duties which could reasonably be perceived as: (a) placing private economic gain . . . before those of the Community, whose paramount interests they are intended to serve; and (b) interfering with one's own disciplinary proceeding." Code of Conduct § 1.401(D)(8).


"No Official shall employ, with funds of the Community, any unauthorized person(s) who do not perform duties commensurate with such compensation, and shall use authorized employees and staff only for the official purposes for which they are employed or otherwise retained." Code of Conduct § 1.403(I).

525 West Gu u Ki • Post Office Box 2138 • Sacaton, Arizona 85147 • Telephone: (520) 562-9720 • Fax Line: (520) 562-9729

- Casa Blanca Community School**  
**December Events**  
1- DIBELS Testing  
STAR Rdg/Early Lit/Math—Schedule TBD  
2- PD—Imedia  
2nd-4th @ 12:30-3:30  
3- STAR Rdg/Math—Schedule TBD  
4- Popcorn with the Principal  
9- FACULTY MTG

- (Financial Advisor)  
10- Water Rights Holiday  
11- Mr. Lopez & Mrs. Chester Field Trip  
21st Century Ends  
14- STAR Rdg/Math—Schedule TBD  
15- Board of Trustee Meeting  
At 6:00pm  
16- Student Assemblies  
Holiday Community Luncheon

- At 10:30am to 12:30pm  
17- PAC Meeting @ 4pm  
18- Student Recognition Assemblies  
Report Cards  
21- Submit AdvancEd Report  
TBD  
Fall Break starts December 21st thru January 1, 2016  
All Staff and Students Return January 4, 2016



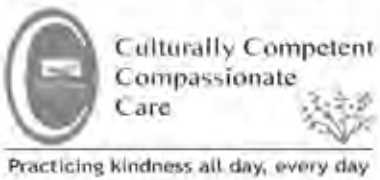
**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
RFP Number 01-FY16-SDPI-001

**Community Garden Land Preparation Contractor**

**Proposal Due Date:** Wednesday, December 23, 2015  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m. Local Time  
**Deliver RFP to:** Gila River Health Care  
**Mail to:** P.O. Box 38  
483 West Seed Farm Road  
Sacaton, Arizona 85147  
**Attention:** Lisa Kaiser, GRHC Contracts Dept.

Gila River Health Care is seeking a Community Garden Land Preparation Contractor to prepare designated land areas for planting and harvesting a variety of foods within the Gila River Indian Community. Copies of the RFP (proposal) may be obtained by contacting the GRHC Director of Contracts and Grants.

**Lisa Kaiser: 602-528-1419**  
**E-mail: lkaiser@grhc.org**  
**Download: www.grhc.org/landprep**



Practicing kindness all day, every day

**Gila River Man Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Stabbing**

PHOENIX – On Nov. 23, Jeremy Lee Thompson, 33, of Sacaton, Ariz., a member of the Gila River Indian Community, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Susan R Bolton to 144 months in prison after previously pleading guilty to assault resulting in serious bodily injury. On Feb. 28, 2015, Thompson confronted another member of the Gila River Indian Community and slashed him across the face with a knife. Thompson obstructed

the investigation by encouraging his friends to threaten witnesses in the case, and the Court took that into account in imposing the sentence. Thompson was on federal supervised release at the time of the stabbing. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Raynette Logan and Christina Covault, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

## Wherever you live... Natural gas is your neighbor.

**Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere, even in areas that don't use natural gas, like all-electric or propane neighborhoods. So it's important that EVERYONE knows how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak, wherever they are.**


**A leak may be present if you:**

- SMELL:** An odor similar to rotten eggs, even if it's faint or momentary.
- HEAR:** A hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above-ground piping.
- SEE:** Dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or vegetation, or standing water continuously bubbling.

**If you suspect a leak:**

- Leave the area immediately.
- From a safe place, call **911** and Southwest Gas at **1-877-860-6020**, day or night, **whether you're a customer or not.** A Southwest Gas representative will be there as soon as possible.
- Don't smoke or use matches or lighters.
- Don't turn on or off electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls; or do anything that could cause a spark.
- Don't start or stop an engine, or use automated doors.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit [swgas.com/safety](http://swgas.com/safety) or call **1-877-860-6020**.





# Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

"Proudly serving the Gila River Indian Community since 1988"

Box 5015, 7065 West Allison Road, Chandler, Arizona 85226-5135  
(520) 796-3333 • [www.gilarivertel.com](http://www.gilarivertel.com) • fax (520)796-7534

GRTI Would Like To Wish You A

# Merry Christmas



&



Happy New Year



Effective January 1st,  
payment guidelines will change for the  
GRTI Computer Purchase program.

For more details contact  
GRTI Customer Service at 520-796-3333.



## GRTI Holiday Hours:

December 24 - Close at 12 PM • December 25 - Closed for Christmas  
December 31 - Close at 12 PM • January 1 - Closed for New Years



# TOY DRIVE

COLLECTION DATES: NOV. 16 - DEC. 17, 2015



## DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

**FIRE STATION 426** 4793 W. Pecos Rd. Laveen Village **520.796.4515**

**FIRE STATION 423** 599 East Seedfarm Rd. Sacton, AZ **520.796.4580**

**FIRE STATION 429** 5002 North Maricopa Rd. Chandler, AZ **520.796.5900**

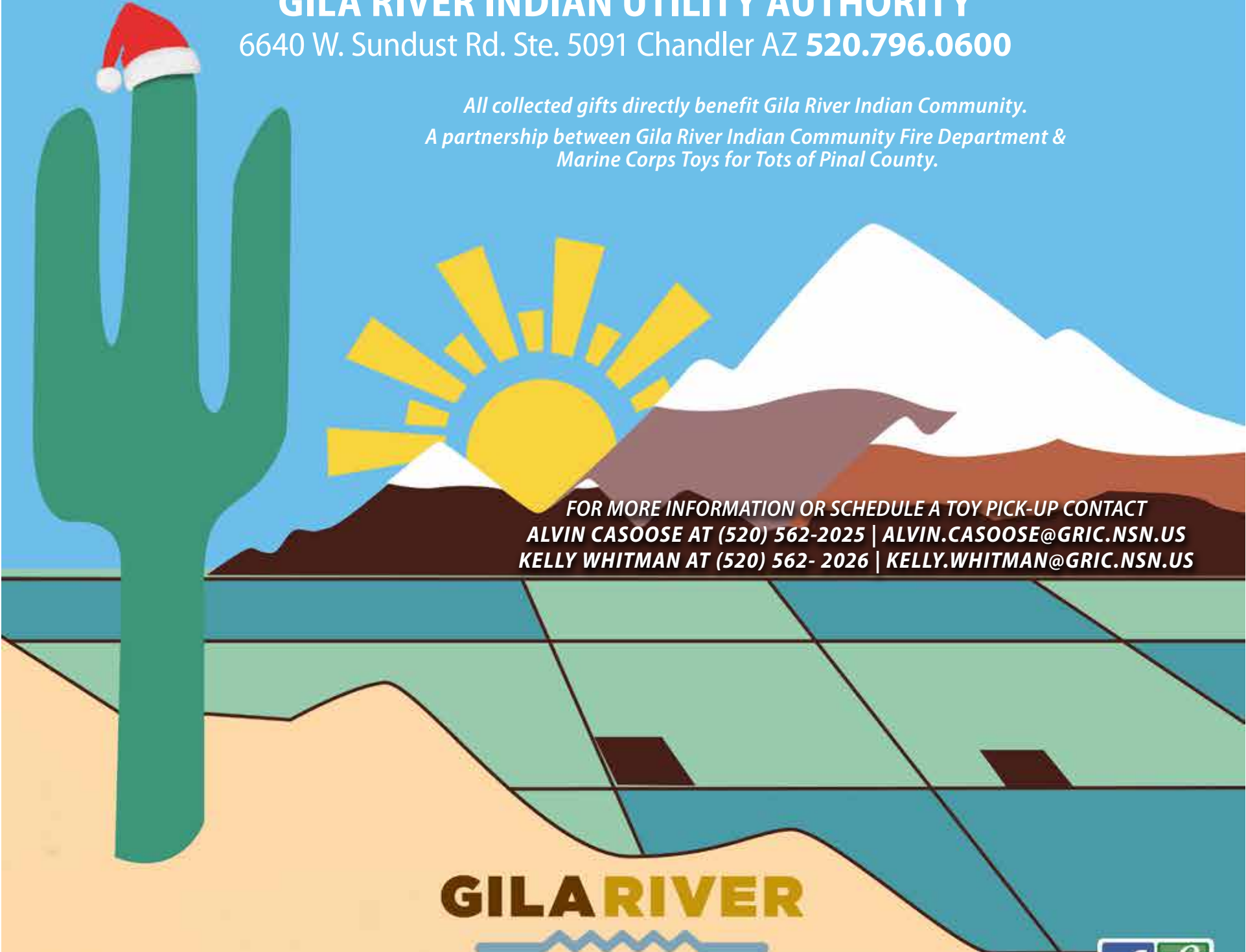
**FIRE STATION 421** 829 Blackwater School Rd. Coolidge, AZ **520.796.4510**

## GILA RIVER INDIAN UTILITY AUTHORITY

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

*All collected gifts directly benefit Gila River Indian Community.  
A partnership between Gila River Indian Community Fire Department &  
Marine Corps Toys for Tots of Pinal County.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SCHEDULE A TOY PICK-UP CONTACT  
ALVIN CASOOSE AT (520) 562-2025 | [ALVIN.CASOOSE@GRIC.NSN.US](mailto:ALVIN.CASOOSE@GRIC.NSN.US)  
KELLY WHITMAN AT (520) 562- 2026 | [KELLY.WHITMAN@GRIC.NSN.US](mailto:KELLY.WHITMAN@GRIC.NSN.US)



# GILARIVER

GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.

Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community

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