

Veteran groups honor Iwo Jima Anniversary

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

On the evening before the Iwo Jima Flag Raising Anniversary Parade and Ceremony, the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 hosted a dinner for its guests and honored visitors.

Marcella Gonzales delivered a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem while Post 84 posted the colors.

Commander Urban Giff emceed the event and opened saying, "The heritage we enjoy from Ira Hayes has [resulted] in quite a few Pimas and Maricopas...joining the military because of that example." He said that with the permission of his family, Post 84 bears his name and carries on "the good example that he has set...for future generations."

Out-of-state visiting tribes included the Puyallup Tribe of Washington, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi from Michigan, the Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe from Kansas.

"The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation wanted to present this to the Ira Hayes [Post]," said We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

The We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 presented a bison head to the Ira H. Hayes Post 84.

member Chuck Jacobson. "This is a real buffalo head from our herd."

The crowd gasped in wonder as members of Post 410 unveiled the large head of a 3-year-old bison. Commander Giff said it was a

great honor to receive such a gift, and he and the other members of the Ira Hayes Post were deeply thankful.

"We're a plains tribe and this is where we get most of our meat,"

said former We-Ta-Se Post Commander Jim Potts. The tribe has almost 450 head of bison in its herd, he said, and the We-Ta-Se Post uses bison meat today to supple-

Continued on Page 5

NHRA at WHP Motorsports Park wows racing fans



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Tim Wilkerson, winner of the Funny Car division at the 32nd Annual NHRA Carquest Auto Parts Nationals at the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The crowd stands in silent anticipation as two Top Fuel dragsters approach the starting line at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park on a cloudless warm February day. Time slows down as the drivers, eyes only visible through narrow slits in their racing helmets, stare intently at the stand of red, yellow and green lights. The yellow light flips to green, and in an instant the roar of the super charged fuel-injected nitromethane-burning engines spring the 7,000 horsepower machines to life, rocketing the 25-foot-long dragsters to speeds over 335

mph, blasting the stunned crowd with a shockwave of sound.

This scene was repeated time and time again from Feb. 26-28 at the 32nd Annual National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Carquest Auto Parts Nationals, the second of 24 racing events that make up the NHRA Mello Yellow Drag Racing Series.

Thousands of race fans, eager to witness the spectacle of the fastest land vehicles on earth, flocked to the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park from all corners of the United States.

And while many fans had to make the long drive or flight from

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Longest Walk 5 heads to D.C.

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

With nearly 50 years of activism in his rear view mirror, co-founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM) Dennis Banks has another long trip ahead of him. Banks, along with many supporters and organizers, has started the Longest Walk 5, a coast-to-coast march from La Jolla, Calif. to Washington D.C. to bring attention to a pair of severe issues.

On this 3,600-mile walk, AIM is focused on substance abuse and domestic violence.

"These two issues linked together by drugs and hatred is a big issue not only in Indian communi-

ties but also other communities as well," said Banks.

Unfortunately, Banks is well-acquainted with the tragic consequences of domestic violence. In December 2015, Rose Downwind, Banks's granddaughter, who had been missing since October, was found brutally murdered. Downwind's former boyfriend has been charged with second-degree murder.

The Longest Walk 5 touched down in the Gila River Indian Community on Feb. 25 to rest before they headed East toward the San Carlos Apache Nation.

"We really appreciate all the assistance from the Gila River



Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

Participants in the Longest Walk 5 pose in District 2 on Feb. 26. The walk started in California and will cover 3,600 miles on their way to Washington D.C. to bring attention to drug abuse and domestic violence in tribal communities.

people and runners," said Orlando Vigil, Longest Walk 5 National Coordinator.

The walkers and runners spent a couple of days in the Com-

munity, with stays in District 2 and District 5.

"We had people that sang,

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IN the GRIN

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benches at Sacaton
Middle School

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Shop

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Start By Believing
campaign

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Culturally Competent
Compassionate
Care



Practicing kindness all day, every day

JOB FESTIVAL

Friday, April 1, 2016
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

All are encouraged to apply online prior to 3/31 to receive onsite interviews. Review positions and apply online at: GRHC.ORG/Careers

What to Bring:
Tribal ID • Resume
• High School Diploma or GED Degree or Certifications

Gila River Health Care
Viola L. Johnson Administration Building
534 West Gu U Ki Street -
Sacaton, Arizona 85147
(Located south/behind the
Dialysis East facility)

For more information, contact
Human Resources at:
(520) 562-3321 Ext. 1342
(602) 528-1200 Ext. 1342

SCHOOL AND SPORTS PHYSICALS

The Primary Care and Pediatrics Departments located at the HHKMH Campus anticipate a busy summer.

Here are two items you should know:

1. School/Sports Physicals - CALL TO SCHEDULE NOW!: We encourage you to schedule with your provider at any of our campuses. For a limited time in April, we will also offer clinics at HHKMH (only) on Saturdays.
2. Introducing New Electronic Health Records Software System-wide: your provider team across all of our locations/facilities (HHKMH, KHC, Ak-Chin Clinic & BHS) is dedicated to keeping your health records safe and accurate, we ask that patients work with us as we learn this new process.

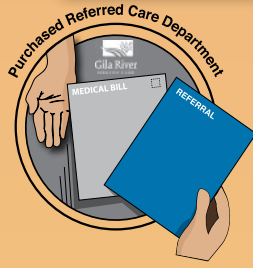
GRHC is working for you!

In an effort to positively enhance your experience at the Gila River Health Care, we continue to make improvements by:

- Expanding and remodeling Primary Care and Pediatric Departments areas at HHKMH.
- Introducing new software at all facilities that will help your provider team to keep your electronic health records safe and accurate.

To schedule an appointment, call:
(602) 528-1200 Ext.1495

PURCHASED REFERRED CARE



The Gila River Health Care (GRHC), **Purchased Referred Care Department**, formerly Managed Care, provides assistance to patients who are referred outside the GRHC system for medical services.

The **New Purchased Referred Care Department** covers outside medical care that is not currently provided by Indian Health Services, or a tribal facility such as GRHC. The new Purchased Referred Care Department is responsible for the following:

- Scheduling approved referrals to outside providers.
- Pay for care when no other pay or source is available.
- Pay co-pays, co-insurance and/or deductible.

Those eligible for Purchased Referred Care include:

- Members of a federally recognized tribe residing within the Gila River Indian or Ak-Chin Communities.
- Those who live within the Contract Health Service Delivery Area, and are from one of the two tribes covered by the Purchased Referred Care Department (Gila River Indian Community and Ak-Chin Indian Community).

To learn more about the new Purchased Referred Care Department, contact:
Lisa Sainz,

Purchased Referred Care Manager
(520) 562-7997 or (602) 528-5000

MARCH CLOSURE

GRHC will be closed on Friday, March 25, 2016 in observance of Good Friday.

For more information on holiday closures, please visit:
grhc.org/holidayclosures

Important Patient Information

ZIKA Virus

Zika is a Flavivirus carried by mosquitoes.

Daytime is most dangerous
Mosquitoes that spread chikungunya, dengue, and Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

Use insect repellent
It works!
Look for the following active ingredients:
• DEET • PICARIDIN • IR3535
• OIL of LEMON EUCALYPTUS (Para-menthane-diol)

Wear protective clothes
Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and use insect repellent. For extra protection, treat clothing with permethrin.

For more information contact:
Marcy Hamblin
Infection Prevention Specialist
(520) 662-3321 Ext.1556

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

Gila River Health Care
GRHC.ORG

Main Number (520) 562-3321

/GilaRiverHealthCare

/Gilariverhealth

WE WORK FOR YOU!

DENTAL

OUTCOME:

Patient visits for our Mobile Dental Units (MDUs) have more than doubled since last year.
FY15 Oct-Jan patient visits on Mobile Dental Unit = 545
FY16 Oct-Jan patient visits on Mobile Dental Unit = 1194

VALUE TO PATIENT:

Children receiving care on the Mobile Dental Unit miss the least amount of school to maintain optimum oral health.



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 Lt. Governor
Monica L. Antone
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District 3
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District 4
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From the family of Barrington "Barry" José

We, the family of Barrington "Barry" José, would greatly appreciate any information leading up to his death, which took place at his residence in Hashan-Ke-hk, District 2, sometime between 7 p.m., Jan. 5 and 3 p.m., Jan. 6.

Any little information will surely help so please don't hesitate to call Jeff Faulkner anonymously at (602) 550-2342, Burlington José at (602) 931-1847, or Thomas "Clement" José at (520)705-2829. The José family is very thankful for your cooperation.

Thank you and God Bless.

CORRECTIONS

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

Sacaton Schools host Family Reading Night for students, parents and teachers

Christopher Lomahquahu
 Gila River Indian News

Sacaton Schools developed its most recent family night around the joy of reading. Students, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, and their families gathered at Sacaton Elementary School for Family Reading Night on Feb. 25.

They interacted with teachers from each grade, selected reading materials and participated in reading activities.

"The idea is to help parents understand the importance of reading by engaging in fun reading activities," said Director of Community Relations for Sacaton Elementary School John Timmons.

The students took home books from the event so they can read at home with their parents.

Another important part of the reading curriculum is learning the O'otham language at an early age.

Teachers from the Cultural Language program talked with the parents about learning O'otham through reading games.

Cultural language teacher for SES, Janelle Blaine said that the students are taught about how to form a complete sentence in O'otham and gradually they move on to more diverse vocabulary.

Sacaton Middle School cultural language teacher Marcella Hall said, "It is a working project, we are always building on what we are teaching to the children. Everything that we do in classroom is always evolving."

Blaine said they also plant traditional vegetables that can be harvested at the end of the growing seasons.

Dinner was served at the beginning of the meeting and Gila River Broadcasting Corp. was on hand to provide information to students and parents about the Gila River Indian Community's low-power television station.




Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Family Reading Night included stations for learning O'otham words through reading and learning activities.




Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Students selected their own reading materials from book displays at Family Reading Night.



Gila River Health Care
Family Planning Mobile Medical Clinic
 (Title X Funded)
MARCH 2016

CALL OR TEXT 520 371-0132



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES PROVIDED!!	1 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 9:30-3:00 PM	2 **NO CLINIC	3 D1 (BLACKWATER) MULTIPURPOSE BLDG 8:30-3:00 PM	4 NO CLINIC
7 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 9:30-3:00 PM	8 AK-CHIN BY THE CLINIC 9:00-2:00 PM	9 D6 (KOMATKE) BY KOMATKE HEALTH CENTER 9:00-2:00 PM	10 SACATON DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DRS)	11 NO CLINIC
14 D6 (LAVEEN) RTC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	15 D4 (SAN TAN) GILA BUTTE HOUSING 8:30-3:00 PM	16 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 8:00-3:00 PM	17 NO CLINIC	18 NO CLINIC
21 D2 HOUSING ON HWY 87 8:30-2:00 PM	22 D5 (BAPCHULE) MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING 8:30-3:00PM	23 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 8:00-3:00 PM	24 D1 (BLACKWATER) HOUSING 8:30-3:00 PM	25 NO CLINIC
28 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 9:30-3:00 PM	29 D7 (Maricopa Colony) MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING 9:00-2:00 PM	30 D4 (SAN TAN) SERVICE CENTER 8:30-3:00 PM	31 D3 SACATON (SOUTHWEST SIDE OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS) INSIDE MOBILE UNIT 8:00-3:00PM	VISIT YOUR FAMILY PLANNING TEAM TODAY!

Longest Walk 5 from page 1

danced and drummed in honor of the supporters and walkers," said Pete Jackson, District 5.

According to Jackson, the tribe donated to the Longest Walk 5 cause. "To me, that is a powerful statement," said Jackson.

Jackson assisted Banks and the group and has collaborated with them in the past, particularly in 2011 during the Longest Walk 3, which was a walk to reverse diabetes.

The Longest Walk goes back to 1978. That particular spiritual walk brought attention to proposed legislation that would harm Natives Americans and their treaties with the U.S.

The Longest Walk 2, in 2008, called for more environmental protection of sacred sites. The Longest Walk 4, 2013, started in Washington D.C., and ended on Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay.

Norman "Wounded Knee" DeOcampo (Miwok) is accompanying Banks on this walk. DeOcampo participated in every walk since 1978.

Vigil said that they will arrive in Washington D.C. on July 15. They've previously held summits in the Capitol and they hope, with a strong social media push, to sit down with the Nation's leaders for a meeting.

Community Science Fair Winners, Story on page 8

1st Place

- Elasia Colt
Iwalani Stone
Syndel Ryza Preston
Ariah Golding
Marilyn Percy
Juztin Lopez
Susan Brown-Hudak class
Aram Coleman
Nicholas Juan

- Erma Blackwater
Adrian Munguia
Kelly Lynch's class
Miss Brooks's class
Orlando Pinon
Nina Delowe
Jacob Gutierrez
Ezekiel Lizoala
Jackson Garcia

2nd Place

- Kylan C lauschee
Arya Pablo
Mattias Renally
Maya Randall
Devonne Randall
Josilena Jose
Kristan Ramirez
Sandra Simmon Class
Nathaniel Castro
Lucianna Rivers
Isaiah Fino

- Destiny Jackson
Lilly Ochoa
Dominic Franco
Nevaeh Morgan
Maudicia Osife
Ciana Mack
Gregory Gonzales
Christopher Pablo
Roger Acunia
Gabriella Hart
Jazzmyne Terry

3rd Place

- Jayden Juan
Silas Guerra
Jalicia Miller
Devon Juan
Yancy Hernandez
Taylor Martinez
Taniya Red Bird
Eleanor Lynch
Dylan Charles

- Azul Nelson
Tiburcio Juarez
Mia Allison
Alyssa Juan
Patricia Burruel's Class
Mariza Narcia
Jesse Manuel

GRIC Community Events

For more information on these events and opportunities, visit www.mygilariver.com

Teen & Adult Power Kickboxing
Mondays and Wednesdays, 8-9 p.m.
District 6 Service Center
Open to Community members only.
D6 Recreation: 520-550-3805

Declaration of Candidacy for Community Council is Open
Feb. 29 - March 7
For Districts 2-7 Tribal Elections
Office: 520-562-9735

Elderly Concerns Meeting
Wednesday, March 9 at 9 a.m.
District 4 Service Center

Mul-Chu-Tha Family Pack Raffle
Drawing: Wednesday, March 9
Entry Deadline: March 8, 1pm
Utility bill and Tribal ID required
Visit the District 3 Service Center
Info: 520-562-2700

Mul-Chu-Tha
March 10-13
Sacaton Fair Grounds
www.mul-chu-tha.com
mulchutha@gric.nsn.us
520-562-9793/9713

GRHC Nutrition Month Events
Komatke Health Center:
Thursday, March 10, 12-1 p.m.
Cooking with Healthy Fats and Oils
Monday, March 21, 12-1 p.m.
Local Food Traditions
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital:
Thursday, March 17, 12-1 p.m.
Eating Right on a Budget

Kid Fest
Thursday, March 17 1:30 - 4 p.m.
Sacaton Elementary School Library
Fun activities and snacks; developmental, hearing and vision screening.

March National Nutrition Month
Health Fair
Friday, March 18 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ira Hayes Memorial Park
Two-Mile Wellness Walk at 7 a.m.

Enter the Salsa Contest!
Deadline: March 17, 4:30 p.m.
Info: 520-562-9698

Cancer Awareness Day
Saturday, March 19 at 9 a.m.
Sacaton Boys & Girls Club

Gila River Police Department Citizen's Police Academy
April 4 - May 23
Application Deadline: April 1
Academy is a 40-hour program
Includes classroom and "hands-on" instruction
More info: 520-562-7105

Parent and Caregiver Wellness Conference
Monday, April 4 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino
GRHC Genesis Program: 520-562-1237

Tribal Elections Voter Registration Closes
Tuesday, April 5

GRIC Community Council Election Day
Tuesday, May 3

Table with 8 columns: Day (Sunday 3/6 to Saturday 3/12) and 8 rows of program listings with titles and descriptions. Includes footer with contact info and website.

Ira H. Hayes Post 84 dinner from page 1

ment meals for the elders in their community. "It was an honor for us to bring this to you, sharing with our brothers and sisters down here," he said.

Later, 102-year-old World War II veteran Sgt. Sophie Yazzie presented Tony McDaniel with a personal gift, a Pendleton blanket, to thank him for his support of veterans and the work he does to bring vets together. As the Iwo Jima Event Committee Vice-Chairman and Parade Coordinator with the Ira Hayes Post, McDaniel dedicated himself to make the Iwo Jima memorial events happen.

Giff also thanked McDaniel for all his efforts to support veterans. "We benefit from [his work] every day here in Gila River."

After dinner, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis addressed the large audience of veterans.

"This is an awesome gathering of veterans," he said. "It's amazing to see all the different tribes here represented."

While reflecting upon the memory of Ira Hayes and O'otham contributions in World War II, Gov. Lewis recalled the memory of his own grandfather's brother, Richard Lewis.

"[Richard] was killed in action, January 12, 1943," he said. "He was the first Pima killed in the Pacific theatre. He was awarded a Purple Heart for military merit [and he] was a member of the First Marine Division."

sion." Gov. Lewis honored his memory the next morning at the parade and ceremony.

Gov. Lewis closed with an excerpt from a letter that Hayes wrote home during WWII: "He wrote on April, 1943, 'I'm glad that you sent me the clipping about the memorial service in honor of Richard. It must have been impressive where they said Corporal Richard Lewis, United States Marine Corps - first Pima killed in the war for the four freedoms. I wipe tears of pride out of my eyes. Us Indians have so much to be thankful for and so much to gain in this war.'"

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone commented on the track record of O'otham warriors and the deep commitment they share in the protection of our land.

"The Gila River Indian Community and other tribal nations have and continue to have warriors among us. They fought to protect our homeland, our culture, our customs, our community," she said.

She described the anniversary as a significant annual reminder "of the efforts of Ira Hayes...and his fellow comrades who raised the U.S. Flag at Mt. Suribachi, which became a symbol of huge efforts being exhibited by our military."

The Ira Hayes Post later honored Antone specifically, for her dedication to making veterans' concerns a priority.

"[She was] a mem-



From left, Adrian Thomas, Anesa Barehand and Ashley Thompson read award-winning essays at the dinner.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN



Ira Hayes Post 84 Adjutant Tony McDaniel accepts a Pendleton blanket from 102-year-old veteran Sophie Yazzie.

Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

ber of the Auxiliary until she came into office," said Post 84 Auxiliary President Yvonne Davis, "but she's always with us, no matter what. We're so proud of her...and she's done a lot of work [for veterans]."

Later in the evening,

the Casa Grande High School Amerind Club performed a dance to honor the veterans and thank them for their service.

Three students from local area high schools won the Post 84 essay contest and read their works aloud,

which focused on what it means to have a veteran in their families. The winners were Anesa Barehand, first place, Adrian Thomas, second place, and Ashley Thompson, third place.

The Acoma Sky City Dancers and Singers from

the Pueblo of Acoma tribe in New Mexico honored the Post with a series of dances and songs, and the Hashan Kehk Oriole Women's Basket Dancers closed the dinner with a social dance and farewell blessing.



Gila River Police Department

Citizen's Police Academy

April 4, 2016 - May 23, 2016



Please join the Gila River Police Department for our upcoming Citizen's Police Academy starting April 4, 2016. This Academy is a 40-hour program which includes both classroom and "hands-on" instruction presented by members of the Gila River Police Department.

Classes will meet on various days from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Gila River Police Department in Sacaton.

To register, please complete the application and return it to the Gila River Police Department by April 1, 2016. **No applications will be accepted after that date.**



you must:

- ✓ Be a minimum of 19 years old
- ✓ Enrolled member or reside in the Gila River Indian Community
- ✓ No Misdemeanor or Felony convictions
- ✓ Must have a valid Arizona Driver's License
- ✓ Successfully pass a Criminal background investigation

To participate in the Citizen's Police Academy

**** Class size is limited so get your application in early!**

For more information about the Citizen's Police Academy please contact: Officer Caroline Brown



Roberto A. Jackson/GRIN

Ronnie Cheater, left, stands with Lt. Gov. Monica Antone during the Governor's Employee of the Month presentation on Feb. 19.

DPW utility tech wins Governor's Employee of the Month for January

Roberto A. Jackson
Gila River Indian News

Another well-deserving member of the Gila River Indian Community's workforce won the coveted Governor's Employee of the Month award.

Ronnie Cheater, Department of Public Works, was named the January Employee of the Month at the Quarterly Manage-

ment Meeting, Friday, Feb. 19 at Council Chambers in the Governance Center.

Cheater, a Utility Tech II, was nominated by Crew Leader Raymond Rodriguez. In his nomination form, Rodriguez described Cheater as a selfless employee whose dedication is always on display. "He always puts his Community and others before himself without

asking for anything in return," wrote Rodriguez.

Cheater's co-workers filled up several rows in Council Chambers as he was presented with the award by Lt. Gov. Monica Antone to much applause.

Nomination forms for Governor's Employee of the Month are due the 20th of every month. Email nominations to employeedevelopment@gric.nsn.us.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM ORIENTATIONS

YOUTH PROGRAM FOR AGES 14 TO 24

Eastend Orientation Dates:

9:00am March 14th
March 21st

5:00pm March 9th

Location: Sacaton Employment & Training Dept.

Westend Orientation Dates:

5:00pm March 2nd
March 10th

Location: Komatke Boys & Girls Club

YOUTH AGES 14 TO 17 PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST ATTEND

SPACE IS LIMITED, PLEASE RSVP TO:
NATASH COOPER @ 520-562-3387/88

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2016

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

DISTRICT FOUR COMMUNITY BALL PARK

1510 W. SESAME ROAD, SANTAN, AZ

FOOD/RAFFLE/ENTERTAINMENT

For more information, please contact the
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 520.562.2234
www.gricdeq.org

Bring your lawn chairs & umbrellas. Food & promotional items while supplies last.

GRIC gets grant from EPA

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Cleaner burning diesel engines could lead to cleaner air in the Gila River Indian Community and improved health for residents and farm workers.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded \$389,000 to the Gila River Indian Community's Department of Environmental Quality to replace four construction vehicles with cleaner burning diesel engines at Gila River Farms as part of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act.

"Replacing older, dirtier diesel equipment with clean diesel backhoes and other construction vehicles protects the health of residents and workers," said Jared Blumenfeld, the EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest.

According to an EPA press release, "This program is part of the West Coast Collaborative, a clean air partnership that leverages public and private funds to reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities."

A supplemental \$389,465 in matching funds from Gila River Farms rounds out support for the project.

"Reducing diesel emissions from Gila River Farms

operations in Districts 3, 4, and 5 (population estimated at approximately 7,700), will help to protect families, school aged children, the elderly, people with respiratory illnesses (asthma etc.), and the Community at large," said DEQ Director Orendra Barber in an email.

The agency is also working with GRIC through it's Making a Visible Difference in Communities initiative. GRIC is one of only five communities in the EPA's Pacific Southwest region that will receive support and technical assistance as part of the MVD initiative over the next two years, said Barber.

The EPA is concerned that "as the Phoenix area continues to expand, the reservation may face increasing pressures on development, housing, and transportation."

Through the MVD project, the EPA will advance the Community's environmental protection and sustainability goals for the construction of green buildings, increased renewable energy use, cleaner transportation, and an increased participation in recycling and composting.

Barber said, "DEQ hopes to leverage this support with Community resources and funding from various Federal agencies in order to truly make a difference in our Community."

A'AGA

Something to be told

By Billy Allen

I haven't seen The Revenant, but I hear it's a "you gotta see it!" movie. If it is as good as Jeremiah Johnson, maybe the Gila River TV station will show it. "Whaaat?" you might be wondering. Well, a lot of mountain men visited our traditional homelands. Today we see dusty riverbeds, but in the not so distant past our rivers ran steady. The rivers served as highways guiding travelers like cell phones do now. In 1868, a Phoenix resident wrote, "the river here is quite large...and has lots of fish, with plenty of ducks, geese, beaver and other game..."

In the early 1800's, beaver felt hats were the fashion, so trappers made their way to streams and lakes, north and east of our jeved – violating Mexican law. Back then, Arizona and New Mexico were part of Mexico. James Baird, who had Mexican citizenship, trapped along the Mogollon Mountains and near the headwaters of the Gila from 1824 to 1826. In October of 1826, a trapping party spent some time in a "Cocomaricopa" village, near here. These trappers left when they learned the comandante of Tucson had been alerted. In a bag left behind, Mexican officials found passports for Bill Williams and others. Mexican officials gave our people a paper ordering any foreigners on our land to report to Tucson. On the last day of 1826, three Americans did report to Cuk Son, the first recorded visit by U. S. citizens.

In 1827, Antoine Leroux was with a company which fought with the Maricopa. Kit Carson trapped along the Salt to the mouth of the Verde in 1829. A couple of years later, Ewing Young led a party down the Gila and fought the Apache near the San Carlos River. Young led survivors downstream and in two days arrived at our villages. Here they replenished their supplies and resumed their trip downriver.

James Ohio Pattie told of his travels in his book Personal Narratives, published in 1831. Pattie's knowledge of geography was lacking, details – along with some of the truth – are missing. In the fall of 1826, Pattie tells of trapping on the Gila and renaming the San Pedro River as "Beaver" because it was so productive. They continued down the Gila for 10 days. On the return trip, he wrote of fighting with the Apaches and losing horses. The next year Peg-leg Smith and William Wolfskill led a trapping party down the Gila to just short of where it meets the Salt. Then thirty "Apaches" confronted them and invited them to the village, but the trappers refused. A running battle was fought upstream as the trappers retreated upstream. In early 1827, Miguel Robidoux led a party down the Gila and arrived at a village on the south bank. The natives were friendly; had irrigated fields of wheat, corn and cotton; and most spoke Spanish. They had arrived at the hick of the earth. Three days later they arrive at "the Papawar village", one mile upstream on the Salt River. At first, armed painted warriors rush out. Hostilities are avoided and the trappers are asked to spend the night in the village. Late that night an attack was launched against the trappers. Pattie, Robidoux and one other man escaped.

John P. Wilson's Peoples of the Middle Gila has cleared up some of Pattie's faulty memories by using other trapper's recollections. One trapper, George Yount, reasoned the "the Papawar" were Akimel O'otham and Pii-pash. The village may have been Hueso Parado or Bone Standing village, which the Spaniards visited in 1825. It would have been located west of "M" mountain where the Gila's clear water and marshes were more inviting to beaver. I just find it amazingly hard to imagine such a vibrant Gila River running by "M" mountain. So much has changed on our ancestral homelands. We are not going anywhere and continue to wait and watch for the next fashion to come down the interstate. I think it is a good time to go and watch a movie.

Blackwater Community School says 'thank you' at Council meeting for Christmas gifts



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Blackwater Community students and representatives pose with Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis during their presentation before Community Council.

Thomas R. Throssell

Gila River Indian News

Students from Blackwater Community School traveled to the Gila River Indian Community Governance Center, Feb. 17, to thank Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Council for donating funds that helped purchase gifts for all of the school's 400-plus students last Christmas.

Jagdish Sharma, BWCS Principal, said that the school has an annual tradition of purchasing gifts for students, and it can be a struggle to find enough funds.

"There was just not enough money," said Sharma. "Christmas gifts and

toys are getting very expensive nowadays." A young girl's doll can cost up to \$15, he said.

With not enough funds to provide his students with Christmas gifts, Sharma decided to look for funding elsewhere.

For the first time, Sharma said, he and BWCS's student council, made up of five students, presented their case to the Executive Office and three tribal enterprises: Gila River Sand & Gravel Corporation, Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA), and Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI).

The Executive Office

and all three tribal enterprises agreed to donate to BWCS, allowing students to receive Christmas gifts, which were later presented by Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Because of the generosity of the donations, BWCS was able to save funds for next year's Christmas gifts.

"We just wanted to say thank you [to the Governor and Council], that because of your donation, we were able to do this," said Sharma.

We would also like to thank GRTI, Sand & Gravel, and the GRICUA, said Sharma.

"I want to express on behalf of my [students], our gratitude," he said.



Kid Fest

Districts 2, 3, 4 & 5

Join us for fun activities, snacks, early childhood development information and more!

Sacaton Elementary School Library
1:30P.M.—4:00P.M.
Thursday, March 17, 2016

- FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING
- HEARING SCREENING
- VISION SCREENING

Help us find children who may have delays in the development areas of:
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Help us find families that would like more information on child development for children ages birth to five years old.

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For more information or to provide a GRIC Community Booth, Contact: Arlanna Jackson with Early Childhood Special Services
 Phone: (520)562-3882 * Fax: (520) 562-3205
 Email: Arlanna.Jackson@gric.nsn.us





SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 American Indian Program & Sun Earth Alliance Indian Club

Social Gathering

Two Waters Circle @ SCC Campus
Saturday, April 9th, 2016
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies: Taite Honadick
Arena Director: Toby Jose
Color Guard: TBD

Appearance By:
 Miss Indian Scottsdale Community College 2015-2016
Martha Ludlow Martinez
 Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community



Dance Specials:
Tiny Tots - Sponsored by SCC Native Faculty
Ages Southern Straight - Sponsored by Yaastso Tsinhnahjinnie
Traditional O'Odham Giveaway - Sponsored by Miss Indian SCC

Culture, Traditions, Food, Fun and so much more!

Vendor Information
 \$75 fee + Application
 Deadline: March 28th, 2016
 2:00 p.m.
 Sorry, no food vendors

RSVP Contact Information
 Amylya Brice
 amylya.brice@scottsdalecc.edu
 928-853-4947
 OR
 Charissa Sundust
 charissa.sundust@scottsdalecc.edu
 480-423-6531

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The Maricopa Community Colleges are EEO/AA Institutions.



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NHRA Carquest Auto Parts Nationals at WHP Motorsports Park from page 1



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

NHRA Legend John Force came in second place at the NHRA Carquest Auto Parts Nationals.

out-of-state to attend the event, many GRIC members were able to make the short trip to witness the NHRA's high-speed spectacular, including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, who stopped by to greet fans at the race finals on Feb. 28.

For fans, the event was

all about a good time at the racetrack but for the drivers and their teams, it was all about speed and taking home the win. Which is exactly what one driver did in a history making all-female Top Fuel final. For the first time since 1982, two women faced-off in the Top Fuel

final, with Leah Pritchett taking the win over opponent Brittany Force.

In Funny Cars, Tim Wilkerson won the final with NHRA legend John Force coming up in second place. Jay Turner won the Top Fuel Harley final with Tii Tharpe in second. In Pro

Stock, Jason Line won the final with Chris McGaha runner-up.

While many motorsports events are all about the race itself, an NHRA competition is all that and more.

Fans can talk to the drivers, discuss a dragster's



Photo by Chris Kaufman

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis greets NHRA fans at the 32nd Annual Carquest Auto Parts Nationals at the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park on Feb. 28.

condition with a team mechanic, and even shoot the breeze with pit crewmembers all-the-while munching on a tasty corn dog or sipping a cold lemonade.

And while motorsporting events like NASCAR can cost an arm and a leg for pit access, NHRA allows fans to meet the drivers and crew with the regular price of admission.

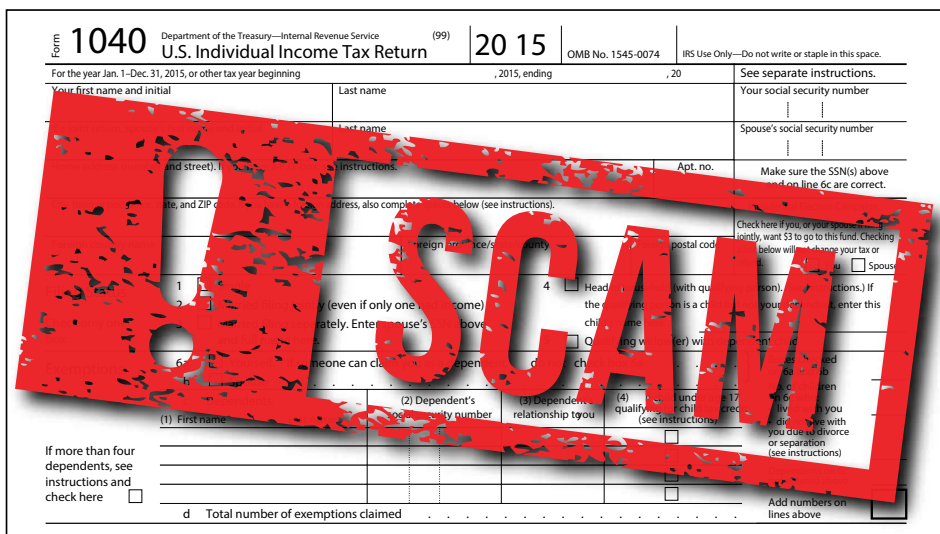
If you would like to feel the rush and excitement of watching the fastest vehicles on the planet com-

pete head-to-head, come on down to the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park and join in on the spectacle the next time NHRA is in town.

The next NHRA event is the Amalie Motor Oil Gatornationals in Gainesville, FL, from March 17-20 and can be viewed live on Fox Sports 1.

For more information about upcoming motorsports events at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park call 520-796-5601.

As the tax deadline looms, tax scammers target potential victims



Jaime Jackson/CPAO

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Tax season is in full swing and the April 18 deadline to file the 2015 Tax Return is looming just on the horizon. And, if preparing taxes wasn't stressful enough, the Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers of con artists who are looking to steal their hard-earned money through a variety of sophisticated scams.

The IRS has compiled

a list of the most common scams called the "Dirty Dozen" to help tax payers avoid becoming a victim. Below are four of the "Dirty Dozen" tax scams that Community members are most likely to encounter.

Identity Theft

Criminals, who are able to steal a person's Social Security number, use that information to file fraudulent tax returns and collect those funds.

IRS spokesperson Bill

Brunson, said, "Tax related identify theft is a different animal, in the sense," that the criminal already has your name and SS number. They falsify a W-2 form with your information and file the tax electronically, and then the IRS may erroneously issue the refund to the criminal, he said.

Phishing

The IRS reported mid-February of already seeing a 400 percent rise

Continued on Page 13

Students show off their stuff at science

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Students from Community schools put their mental power to the test when they competed in the Science Fair on Feb. 25 at the Vah-Ki Multipurpose Building.

The event showed off the bright minds of GRIC students and was sponsored by the Gila River Sand and Gravel Corporation and was organized by the Gila Crossing Community School Science Technology and Engineering Instructor Karen McQueen.

With the assistance of Sacaton Middle School Science Teacher, JoEllen Kinnamon, the competition has grown in size and includes a broad range of science projects on display. The grades ranged from Pre-K to eighth grade

and involved a diverse group of students from GCCS, Casa Blanca Community School, and St. Peter Indian Mission School.

McQueen said the event has taken off in recent years and received a total of 93 science projects this year.

St. Peter Indian Mission School sixth grader Adrian Mungia said he was excited to share his science project on how temperature affects the length of static electricity charges.

"I was looking at engineering projects and thought it would be pretty cool to do a project on static electricity," he said.

He pointed to his scatter plot chart to explain his hypothesis, which he explained was proven correct because the experiments he conducted at school involving a silk tie, rubber

band and balloon helped him achieve the predicted results.

The concepts and thought process that goes into each of the science projects gets students thinking about what is possible, such as a career in science and engineering.

St. Peter student Enrique Munoz, sixth grade, displayed his project about the differences between sparkling water and soda.

He said, "It was an idea that I came up with, because I wanted to enter a science project this year on something that interested me."

St. Peter student Aram Terry, eighth grade, said his strongest subject in school is science and math. But like most teens he enjoys playing video games. Terry said, "I like playing games, but I thought it

would be cool to do a study on how playing games affects [your] grades in school."

He said depending on the amount of time played, it could affect the grades you get in school.

"Some of the people I got to participate did good, from A's to B's, so I was able to present them in my project," he said.

Judging for the science and engineering fair is based on a score of one to ten in six categories: the scientific process, creativity, skill, thoroughness, clarity and dramatic value.

McQueen said the students have a lot of potential and that it is not too far-fetched to think that they could even be one of the few to travel to the planet Mars, because anything is possible.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

A science and engineering fair judge goes over a science project with a student from Gila Crossing Community School on Feb. 25.

71st Annual Iwo Jima Flag Raising Anniversary Parade

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade and Ceremony grows larger and grander every year. This year the parade, which took place on Saturday, Feb. 20, included color

guards from veterans' organizations around the country as well as those from neighboring cities and communities.

Many of the visitors came from other tribal nations such as the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi from Michigan, the Sem-

inoie Nation of Oklahoma, the Puyallup Tribe of Washington, and the We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 from Kansas, among others.

The Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 proudly organizes the event every year to

commemorate the raising of the American Flag on Mt. Suribachi during the World War II battle of Iwo Jima. This year was the 71st anniversary of that momentous occasion.

Nearly a dozen WWII veterans attended

the event, including several Navajo Code Talkers.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye was at the parade in addition to Arizona State Senator Carlyle Begay.

After the parade, the event featured a re-

membrance ceremony to honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty, a blessing by Monsignor Ed Meulemans, and a wreath-laying ceremony for lost veterans, Purple-Heart recipients, POW-MIA soldiers and women in the service.

Photos by Mikhail Sundust



SMS receive benches, picnic tables, mentorship from Honeywell

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Sacaton school grounds were abuzz with activity as volunteers from Honeywell Hometown Solutions in partnership with Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun installed benches and picnic tables at both Sacaton Middle School and Sacaton

Elementary School on the morning of Feb. 27.

Custom-made cabinetry was also installed at SMS to properly house LEGO robots used in the school's extremely popular STEM Robotics club.

While the new installations provided by Honeywell are a useful addition to both Sacaton schools, they

are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the support Honeywell has provided to the students over the years.

For the past two years, engineers from Honeywell have been volunteering their time and knowledge to the students of SMS's STEM Robotics club.

"We have a group that has been volunteering... to help with the [STEM Robotics] competition," said David Bluestein, Honeywell senior mechanical engineer. "This is teaching the kids math and science through the programming of LEGO robots."

Bluestein, who has been with Honeywell for 36 years, said that volunteering his time to help SMS students isn't just to give a helping hand, it's personal.

"To me it really is a case where... a small effort on our part can make a big difference in their lives," he said. "I think about when I was growing up and had no money and there were some mentors in my life who directed me towards engineering."

The volunteers are not only teaching students about math and science they are also providing the type of life mentorship that positively influenced



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

SMS Robotics STEM students with volunteers and teachers.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Honeywell mechanical engineer David Bluestein helps Quincy Randall, seventh grade.

Bluestein's life—mentorship that helped Bluestein accomplish his goals and become an engineer.

"I was able to put myself through college, become an engineer... and now give back a little bit," he said.

Over a dozen Honeywell volunteers, who come from a variety of engineering branches, come to SMS and work with the STEM Robotics club members in the school's gymnasium for several hours every other Saturday.

The engineers teach the students how to program their LEGO robots to accomplish different challeng-



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, Hugh McDowell, Lemonta Bennett, and Carl Pugliese of Honeywell Home Town Solutions installing a new bench.

es, from fast-paced drone obstacle courses to precise maze challenges.

On those busy Saturday mornings, both students and Honeywell engi-

neers can be found in the school's gymnasium, huddled together over laptop computers discussing how best to navigate their next challenge.

FACE Program visits museum



Photo Courtesy of Casa Blanca FACE Program

FACE Program families enjoy a day at the i.d.e.a. Museum.

By Carol Herbst
Casa Blanca FACE Program

What an interesting adventure! On Thursday, Feb. 25, the Casa Blanca Community School FACE program ventured to Mesa and visited the i.d.e.a. Museum. The 12 families who participated will tell you, the i.d.e.a. Museum engages the heart, mind, and spirit with a multitude of magically creative experiences.

Our visit began with the Artful Experience which is designed for ages 2-5 and consists of a book reading followed by both a related craft and related

outdoor activities. Afterwards, families explored other areas of the museum on their own.

Favorite exhibits included: the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Artville where the youngest visitors enjoyed unrestricted movement in a soft and safe shoeless environment, and the Underwater FantaSea exhibit where we viewed beautiful underwater art and created impressive art of our own.

The opportunities the i.d.e.a. Museum provides supports FACE program goals in areas such as par-

ent engagement with their children, early literacy, physical development and creative expression in a beautiful, inspiring environment.

FACE's visit to the museum was a gift. Literally. We received free admission and travel through a grant to the museum provided by our own Gila River Indian Community.

Thank you, Gila River for the fabulous trip. Psst...other Gila River early childhood programs... head to Mesa and the i.d.e.a. Museum!



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Elders played many games and took tours during Elder Appreciation Day.

The Huhugam hosts Elder Appreciation Day

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

What better way for elders to spend a day than at the Huhugam Heritage Center. Elders from the Community came out to enjoy oldies, games and a special tour of the museum at the Elder Appreciation Day at the HHC on Feb. 25.

It was also a chance for the HHC staff to get to know the Community elders and to show them the museum's fine collection of art and artifacts.

Robert Johnson, Museum Aide II, said the artifacts in the HHC's possession are treated with care, while encouraging Community members to experience them up close.

"We take special pride taking care of [our] treasures here. This is [your] museum no matter what part of the Community you come from," said Johnson.

He said when you come in here you got to leave a lot of bad things at the door, because when you leave here your "batteries"

are going to be recharged when you visit our "Hukuk O'otham."

Meanwhile in the activity rooms, they played a game of Uno or "Hemako" and made small vessels of clayware in another room.

Elders played chair volleyball and musical chairs in the large court in the plaza area.

Many of the elders were happy to see so much work being done by the HHC in preserving O'otham and Pee Posh artifacts.

Local Coffee shop takes off in Komatke Health Center

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

When you first walk up to Native Brew it welcomes you like a street corner bodega that's been transported into a medical clinic.

The coffee shop, nestled into a corner of the lobby of Gila River Healthcare's Komatke Health Center, opened last August and is owned and operated by District 6 Community member Rolinda Perez and her husband Albert.

They sell microwaveable meals, yummy snacks, and fresh fruit, but their specialty is delicious, gourmet coffee. And because of Rolinda's experience at Starbucks, the quality of the drinks is on par with Seattle's most famous coffee house.

Rolinda has 10 years of experience as a barista and manager at Starbucks. She has long held a dream to open her own coffee shop on the reservation, and now, that dream is a reality.

"This was her passion," said Sierra Ward, a Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation representative, when asked about Rolinda's journey to opening Native Brew.

A lot of people who seek loans from PLFC really want to start a business, said Ward, but few have

the commitment to create a fully developed business plan, let alone manage the day-to-day tasks of running a business.

Developing a strong business proposal takes a lot of time and effort.

"During that process I broke down seven times... literally crying," said Rolinda. Now she can smile about it, but in those moments when she thought she couldn't do it, her husband Al was always there to pick her up and encourage her.

Rolinda said Pima Leasing doesn't micro-manage or hold your hand, but they do offer a lot of support through classes, experience-based advice, and step-by-step directions.

"We have to empower, not dictate," said Ward.

After more than a year of praying, planning and development, Rolinda and Al secured a loan from Pima Leasing.

Experience and passion are key ingredients to success, but more than anything you have to be willing to put in the work, said Rolinda. She says she works more than 40 hours per week and used to do more when they were first starting up.

Ward said Pima Leasing decided to support Rolinda because of her management experience,



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

GRIC entrepreneurs Rolinda and Albert Perez at their Native Brew coffee stand in District 6.

her sense of hard work and because she has a great support system in her family and faith, which helped her through the rough times.

Rolinda and Al faced their biggest struggle several years ago when Rolinda was diagnosed with Graves' Disease, a common disorder of the thyroid that results in anxiety, tremors, heart palpitations, major swings in energy levels and sometimes depression, among other symptoms. Rolinda had a severe case.

"It was full-blown," she said. Thyroid pills didn't help. "So they scheduled surgery right away... and they had the whole thing removed."

It took months of recovery for Rolinda to regain her sense of stability, she said, but "I'm finally, after all these years, at a normal


level, and I feel great."

While she was in recovery, Rolinda was forced onto disability insurance.

"My husband is one hundred percent my support. I couldn't have done it without him," she said. But that season of struggle opened up new opportunities for her future.

In 2014, Rolinda revived her dream to open a coffee shop on the reservation.


Victoria Allison, an administrator at the Komatke Health Center, heard about Rolinda's plan through the coffee connoisseur's son, Fernando Valenzuela, who works in the clinic's radiology department. She met with Rolinda that October and GRHC agreed to let her open up shop in the clinic if she could acquire funding to get the business off the



NATIVE BREW is a Gila River Tribal Member Owned Coffee Shop that serves Specialty Drinks, Frappuccino's and Smoothies. Also serving sandwiches, muffins etc.

Just present this newspaper ad and we will treat you to a %10 discount on your next purchase of one hot or cold drink.

Don't forget to pick up your Customer Appreciation Card today.



Hours of operation: 8 am - 5 pm **Phone:** (480) 352-4392
Location: Komatke Health Clinic

ground. Less than a year later, the clinic's employees and visitors are able to visit their favorite local coffee shop right in the lobby. Allison says it was a smart move on GRHC's part.

For Al and Rolinda, Native Brew is a family affair. Al is new to barista work but now that he's fully trained on all things coffee he runs the store while Rolinda manages the operations and finances. The two

live a stone's throw away from the clinic in the second circle with their daughter, who attends Gila Crossing Community School and helps at the shop after school.

Al, who has supported Rolinda through all the ups and downs, is happy to see his wife succeed. "You have to be there for each other," he said. "I'm enjoying her having her dream."

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • February 3, 2016

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 February 17, 2016, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:17 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL

Sign-In Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Executive Officers Absent:

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, Angelia Allison, Christopher Mendoza; D5- Brian Davis, Sr., Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Albert Pablo, Sandra Nasewyewa; D7- Devin Redbird (9:45)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES)

*1. Teach For America Native Alliance Initiative

Presenter: Marissa Yazzie

MR. ISAAC SALCIDO INTRODUCED MS. DIANA ONCO. MS. ONCO PROVIDED A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE AMERICA NATIVE ALLIANCE INITIATIVE AND THE SUPPORT THEY PROVIDE TO TEACHERS. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED WORDS OF WELCOME.

2. Thank You for Christmas Gift Donations

Presenters: BWCS Admin, & Student Council

MR. SHARMA INTRODUCED THE BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL STAFF, PARENTS, AND STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENT. MS. ADRIELLA GAMBLER, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT PROVIDED A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION. THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTED A PLAQUE TO GOVERNOR LEWIS.

REPORTS

1. Student Services Department Fall 2015 Semester Report

Presenter: Jim Larney

REPORT HEARD

2. FACTS Education Training Program

Presenters: Yolanda Robinson, Mary Kyles

REPORT HEARD

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

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. FY16 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. Monthly Financial Activity Report Ending January (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Robert G. Keller

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving Articles of Organization And Operating Agreement For Lone Butte Development L.L.C. And Assignments Between Lone Butte Development Corporation And Lone Butte Development L.L.C. (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation for approval EDSC concurs. NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with the correction)

Presenters: John Roberts, Esther Manuel

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Authorizing the Gila River Fire Department To Submit A Grant Application To The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security To Fund Critically Needed Equipment, Protective Gear, Emergency Vehicles, Training And Other Resources Needed To Protect The Public And Emergency Personnel From Fire And Related Hazards (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval)

Presenter: Thomas Knapp

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Plan Of Operation For The Gila River Indian Irrigation And Drainage District And Rescinding Resolution GR-88-01 (G&MSC motioned to forward to Community Council with recommendation of approval, NRSC concurs)

Presenters: Linda Sauer, Rodney Jackson

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Darnell White, Located In District Four Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Pamela Pasqual

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Rescinding GR-56-10 Which Approved A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Clarendon White, And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Katherine White, Located In District Six Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No. 30615-0730 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Duane Johns

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Constitutional Amendments (LSC forwards to Community Council to request to add the Constitutional Amendments with a voting date of May 3, 2016 with Council Elections)

Presenters: Javier Ramos, Michael Carter

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY ELECTION BOARD SET AN ELECTION ON THE ATTACHED PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HAVE THE ELECTION ON MAY 3, 2016

2. LSC Scheduled A Tour And Work Session Regarding Constitutional Amendments On Saturday, March 5, 2016 At 9:00 a.m. At District 6 Community Building, And Forward To Community Council Requesting Attendance (Item for discussion and action)

Presenters: Legislative Standing Committee

ITEM DISCUSSED

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

3. Special Election Certification for Chief Judge

Presenter: Nadine Shelde

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR CHIEF JUDGE

4. Gila River Health Care Board Appointments (2)

Presenter: Arzie Hogg

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY

AND APPOINT CYNTHIA ANTONE

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CERTIFY

AND APPOINT KATHERINE LEWIS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Re-Appointment of Joyce McAfee to Citizens Advisory Board (LSC forwards to Community Council with recommendation for re-appointment of Joyce McAfee)

Presenter: Darren Pedro-Martinez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT

JOYCE MCAFEE

2. NIGA Trade Show March 13-16, 2016 Phoenix, Arizona

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN UP

TRAVEL TO ANY COUNCIL INTERESTED

MINUTES

1. October 7, 2015 (Regular)

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2016, 1PM

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:03 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

BWCS OPENINGS

BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL SY 2016 - 2017 OPENINGS Blackwater services over 400 students pre-school to grade 5 on the Gila River Indian Reservation in Coolidge, AZ Excellent benefits package incl.:

- District-provided employee health, dental, life, and vision insurance
- Arizona State Retirement benefits
- Sick leave and personal days
- Onsite Professional development • Teacher mentor program
- State 301 money in addition to base rate.

• Title 1 school: May qualify for student loan forgiveness

All positions require an AZ IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card & ability to successfully complete a Nat'l Criminal Background Check

Special Education Teacher: Provides educational assistance to children w/mental, psychological, learning, behavioral, or physical disabilities w/the goal of facilitating the special education processes to maximize the growth potential of students w/exceptional learning needs.

Requires AZ Teacher Certification with SPED endorsement. Salary DOE.

\$34,446 - \$46,164.

Teachers: Preschool thru Grade 5. Requires Valid AZ Teacher. Certification & Early Childhood Education Endorsement for Preschool - Grade 1. Salary \$34,446 - \$46,164

Teacher Asst./Paraprofessionals:

Requires AA Degree and ability to pass an AZ Dept. of Ed. approved parapro assessment. \$10.27 - \$11.31/hr.

Substitute Teachers: Requires AZ State Substitute Teacher Cert. - \$125 per day. To apply please mail resume to: Peggy Huff, 3652 E. Blackwater School Rd., Coolidge, AZ 85128 or email peggy.huff@bwcs.k12.az.us.

BWCS BOARD CLERK

Blackwater Community School Board of Trustees has an open appointment for Clerk. This position is appointed by the Board and is not a voting member. The Clerk is responsible for attending all regular and specially scheduled Board of Trustees Meetings and performs the following duties:

- Keeps a record of the proceedings of the Board;
- Conducts the Board elections;
- Posts the notices of meetings and

agenda; and

d.) Discharges such other duties as are prescribed by the Board.

The compensation for the Clerk for each regular and special meeting shall be \$75 per meeting. In the event there is not a quorum to conduct a regular or special meeting of the Board, the Clerk shall be reimbursed for travel only.

Please submit a letter of interest, which includes a statement of experience and why you feel you are suitable for the position to Henry Pino, Board President, c/o Blackwater Community School, 3652 E. Blackwater School Rd., Coolidge, AZ 85128.

COURT DATE NOTICE

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT, STATE OF ARIZONA
NICOLE SUNDUST,
Petitioner

Vs.
CHRISTOPHER SUNDUST,
Respondent

Case Number: CV-2016-0020

NOTICE OF HEARING: Civil

Please take notice that your hearing has been scheduled in the Gila River Indian

Community Court.

This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:

Westend Judicial Center

4751 West Pecos Road

Laveen, Arizona 852339

(520) 562-9862

DATE: Thursday, March 24, 2016

TIME: 10:00 AM

COURT DATE NOTICE

1. Allen, Anthony

Annual Guardianship Review Hearing

Case: J-13-

0016/0017/0018/0019/0020

Court Date: April 14, 2016 at 10:00 am

FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT

YOUR RIGHTS

JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA

MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

COURT

BUILDING: #23

ADDRESS: 10005 EAST OSBORN

RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

2. Allen, Chris

Annual Guardianship Review Hearing

Case:

J-130016/0017/0018/0019/0020

Court Date: April 14, 2016 at 10:00 am

FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT

YOUR RIGHTS JURISDICTION:

SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA

INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT

BUILDING: #23

ADDRESS: 10005 EAST OSBORN

RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

3. Enos, Hailey

Annual Guardianship Review Hearing

Case: J-13-

0016/0017/0018/0019/0020

Court Date: April 14, 2016 at 10:00 am

FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT

YOUR RIGHTS

JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA

MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

COURT

BUILDING: #23

ADDRESS: 10005 EAST OSBORN

RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

4. Howard, Ryle

Annual Guardianship Review Hearing

Case:

J-13 0016/0017/0018/0019/0020

Court Date: April 14, 2016 at 10:00 am

FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT

YOUR RIGHTS

JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA

MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

COURT

BUILDING: #23

ADDRESS: 10005 EAST OSBORN

RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

COURT DATE NOTICE

Name of Person: Lori Carlos

• Type of Hearing: Disposition hearing

• Case Number: ATR-15-0016 / ATR-

15-0017

• Court Date: May 5, 2016 at 3 p.m.

• Courtroom: #2, 1st floor

• Location: Salt River Pima-Maricopa

Indian Community Tribal Court,

Building #23

• Address: 10,005 E. Osborn Rd.,

Scottsdale, AZ 85256

March Events/Activities Casa

Blanca Community School

March Events/Activities

March 2 Read-a-thon

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

March 11 NO SCHOOL

Staff Training & Work Day

March 14th - March 18 Spring

Break/NO SCHOOL

March 15th - Board of Trustees

Meeting @ 6pm

March 23rd & March 24th Parent

Teacher Conferences

March 24th 3rd Quarter Attendance

Incentive

March 25th- Holiday/NO SCHOOL

Beware of fraud, phishing and other scams during tax season from page 8

in phishing and malware incidents this tax season. In response, the IRS wants taxpayers to be on guard against fake emails and websites designed to steal your personal information.

Return Preparer Fraud

Taxpayers should also be wary of unscrupulous tax return preparers. While many tax professionals are honest and supply quality services, there are fraudulent tax refund preparers that commit identity theft and tax refund fraud.

Phone Scams

The IRS impersonation telephone scam occurs when a victim receives an unsolicited phone call. The caller claims to be an employee of the IRS and tells the victim they owe money that must be paid through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer, said Brunson.

Typically, the caller becomes hostile and angry, threatening the victim that if payment is not made they

will be arrested, deported, or their driver's license will be suspended.

Calls like these may be frightening, but the IRS wants you to know they will never call to demand immediate payment, demand payment without opportunity to question or appeal, require a specific payment method, ask for credit or debit card numbers on the phone, and most importantly, the IRS will never threaten arrest by local police.

"If you receive something along the lines of a demand for payment and have not had any dealings with the IRS and...it's an unexpected call, you have a tax scam," said Brunson. Hang up and if you are still unsure whether it was a scam or not, then call the IRS yourself, he said.

An effective way of guarding oneself against these types of tax scams is by reporting the scam to the

proper authorities after it occurs and by talking about it with others.

"Let your relatives know that you have got this call and how it occurs, let your neighbors know so they don't have the same problem," said Brunson.

Other scams are Off-shore Tax Avoidance, Inflated Refund Clams, Fake Charities, Falsely Padding Deductions, Excessive Claims, Falsifying Income, Abusive Tax Shelters and Frivolous Tax Arguments.

If you think that you have been a victim of a tax scam, contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. You can also report tax scams to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting www.ftc.gov.

For more information about the different types of tax scams and how to avoid them, visit www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Fraud-Alerts or call 1-800-829-1040.

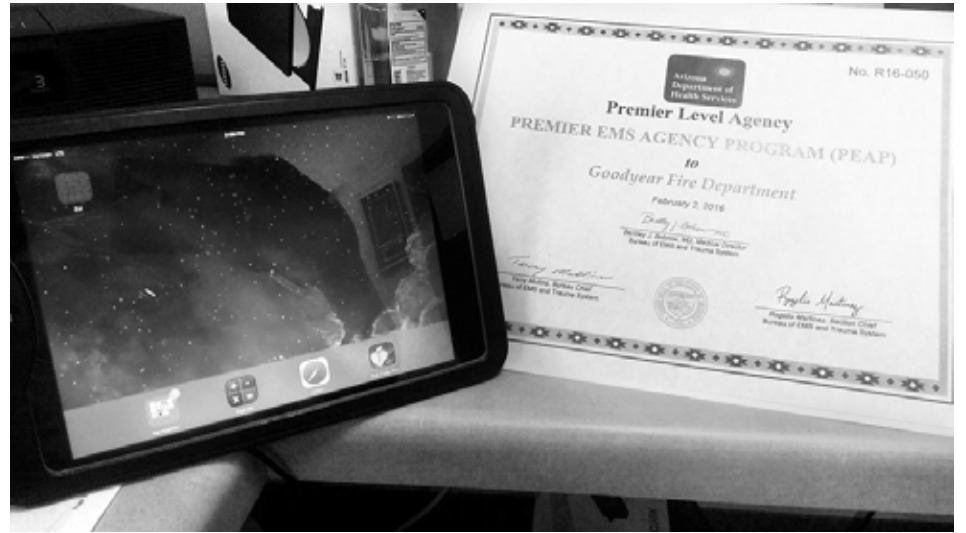


Photo Courtesy of Goodyear Fire Department

Goodyear Fire Department was named a Premier EMS Agency Program (PEAP).

Goodyear improves emergency services with GRIC grant

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community continues to use its portion of gaming dollars under the tribal-state revenue sharing program to support local government agencies and benefit the general public.

The Goodyear Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services received a GRIC grant in 2014, which it used to purchase a new electronic patient care reporting system that

quickly and accurately documents on-call EMT-patient interactions.

The computer program tracks each EMS call in real time, allows EMTs to enter field reports, and sends patient information to doctors before the patient arrives at the hospital. It also works as a quality assurance tool by allowing supervisors to review the data and see where improvements in the department can be made.

The Goodyear Fire Department started working with the system in late 2014

and subsequently began reporting statistics to the State of Arizona. Recently, the state awarded GFD a "Premier Level" rating for its work in patient care and quality assurance.

Goodyear Fire Chief Paul Luizzi said none of it would have been possible without the grant from Gila River and sent a personal thank you letter to the Community for helping them provide a higher level of service in their community.

GRPD promotes Start By Believing campaign

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Start By Believing is a campaign started by the End Violence Against Women International organization to bring awareness to under reported crimes like sexual assault.

The Gila River Police Department is working to make the Community the next location and the first tribal nation to recognize the Start By Believing campaign through a proposed signing of a tribal proclamation in April, which coincides with Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

It is anticipated that support will increase for awareness about sexual assault.

Detective Tyesha Wood and Officer Ashley Pina have started educating various departments and stakeholders within the Community about the campaign.

Wood said, "People are quick to ridicule the victim and sometimes it re-victimizes the person."

Start By Believing focuses on reversing the negative connotations in addressing sexual assault.

More importantly, it is recommended for people to educate themselves about Start By Believing and the kinds of information they provide that may be helpful in the event they are a victim or have someone report a crime to them, especially for those who work in pub-



lic safety, medical and social service departments.

The website www.startbybelieving.org contains education materials and videos of case scenarios to understand the scope of the problem, but know how to help raise awareness about sexual assault.

During the month of April GRPD wants to work with the Crime Victim Services because it is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and will have events planned around the subject.

According to Pina, "It's all about empowering the victim and to encourage them to seek the appropriate treatment if a sexual assault occurs," she said.

Start By Believing is known around the world for advocating for prosecution in sexual assault cases.

One of its goals is to push for better support systems on behalf of victims of sexual assault and to spread the awareness.

The campaign's outreach includes information on how reports of sexual assault are handled by police investigators, medical staff and family or friends.

"Most people don't

know that sexual assault is a form of domestic violence and victims may not even put the two forms of abuse together," said Pina.

The message End Violence Against Women International wants people to know is rape victims are not just "crying wolf." Negative stigmas associated with sexual assault include the misperception that victims are responsible for being assaulted and even accused of behavior that leads to assault.

Wood said, "Hopefully with the starting of a campaign in the Community it will set a precedent to change the negative attitudes about it."

Billboards, posters, pamphlets and a logo are some of the ideas that have been discussed to get the wheels moving around spreading the awareness.

Pina emphasized awareness campaigns as an aid in reporting sexual assault crimes, "The message is to let victims know there is a support system in place, because it needs to be brought to the surface and not be a hush-hush issue."

She said the more un-



Photos courtesy of Tyesha Wood and Ashley Pina



Photos courtesy of Tyesha Wood and Ashley Pina

Gila River Police Department Officers show a pledge of support for victims of sexual assault through the Start by Believing awareness campaign.

derstanding people are of the victims, the more they are willing to report a crime.

Reporting a sexual assault incident doesn't always start with the police,

but more likely a friend or family member.

As Pina stated, the message is to tell someone to prevent the perpetrator from committing more acts against victim.

Individuals can contact the GRIC Crime Victim Services at 520-562-4106 to seek assistance or in an emergency call your local police department.



Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

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#HONORINGTHEJOURNEY

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

7TH ANNUAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE EAST VALLEY - SACATON BRANCH

**HONOR
WALK/RUN**

**7AM REGISTRATION
7:30AM START**

**MAIN
EVENT**

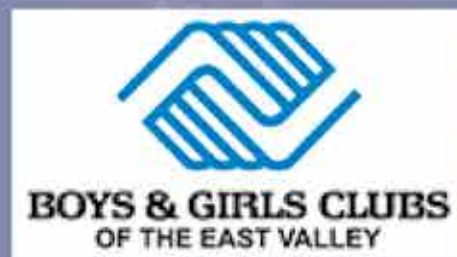
9AM

SPEAKERS / ENTERTAINMENT / HONOR BALLOON RELEASE

LUNCH FOR FIRST 500 GUESTS!
COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT FOR FIRST 500 GUESTS!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT!

Please contact VICTORIA ALLISON at (520)-550-6007
if you're interested in volunteering.



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