

Antonio Azul honored at 2nd Annual Chief Azul Day

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

For many Community members, the empty dirt lot across from the Matthew B. Juan and Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park may just be another spot in the Community to meet-up with friends or a place to stop for a quick bite to eat. However, over 100 years ago it was the home of Gila River Indian Community's last traditional chief, Chief Antonio Azul.

Up to 100 Community members, including tribal leaders, dancers, veterans, and spiritual runners gathered at the site in the early morning hours of Dec. 17, to honor GRIC's last chief and celebrate the winter solstice for the second annual Chief Azul Day.

As runners jogged their way through the 5K and 2-Mile Walk/Run to start out the celebration, GRIC Community Manager Pamela Thompson, who founded and helped organize this year's celebration, explained how Chief Azul's home, a two-story adobe house, stood at that location many years ago.

Just east of Sacaton Road there is a mural painted on the side of the United States Post Office building depicting a mirror image of what the dirt lot looked like over 100 years ago, with



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

A procession made its way down Cholla Road from its starting point at the site of Chief Azul's home located at the empty lot across from the Ira H. Hayes Matthew B. Juan Memorial Park.

Chief Azul's two-story home at center, surrounded by several roundhouses.

While honoring Chief Azul was the main theme of the celebration, educating Community members about their last traditional chief was a key element of the day.

"When he was chief, ...the (U.S.) government was doing a lot of relocation of Indian tribes,"

said Thompson. "One of the things that came out during his time as a chief is that (the government) wanted to relocate us to Oklahoma."

Before accepting the government's terms to move the tribe to Oklahoma, Chief Azul wanted to see the land with his own two eyes.

"He took a party with him... to see where we were going to be

relocated to and he went there and he said it was not a good place for us to go, that we would remain where we were and that we were not going to move," said Thompson.

She said that it was because of Chief Azul and other tribal leaders that the Gila River Indian Community was able to stay

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Shop with a Cop brings smiles to children for Holiday Season



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gila River Indian Community students pose with GRPD Officers and MMA fighters at the Shop with a Cop activity on Dec. 17.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

This year the Gila River Police Department School Resource Officers picked three exemplary students from schools across the Community, who were in for a special surprise.

World Fighting Federation Founder Tom Ortiz and local Mixed Martial Arts fighters partnered up with GRPD officers to help the students select their gifts on Dec 17 for the annual Shop with a Cop event.

GRPD Officer Duarte coordinated the event with Ortiz to bring holiday joy to the students.

Community member and amateur MMA fighter Deran Martinez volunteered his time to help with the event to get to know the students that were chosen for the Shop with a Cop event.

Martinez said it's about giving back to the Community and paying it forward.

The event is about showing the students that hard work and

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Sen. McCain visits Mesa Gateway



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Members of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority pose with Sen. John McCain after meeting to discuss airport improvements.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Members from the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority met with Sen. John McCain to discuss improvement projects.

Each year the amount of passenger traffic increases at Gateway Airport, which means the airport will need to find a way to accommodate over 1 million passengers taken to the friendly skies.

Gila River Indian Community Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, who serves as a Treasurer on the

PMGAA Board of Directors said the meeting was to update Sen. McCain about the reconstruction projects going-on at the airport on Dec. 19.

The visit by Sen. McCain was also to thank him for his continued support of projects at the Gateway Airport that will allow the aviation hub to operate at greater capacity.

The PMGAA is a joint stakeholder board that is comprised of the City of Mesa, Phoenix, and Apache Junction, including Gilbert, Queen Creek and the Com-

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Gila River Indian Community
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Gila River
HEALTH CARE

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Happy New Year!

For each and every day in the upcoming new year,
wishing you the very best of health and happiness!

Warmly,
Your friends at Gila River Health Care

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Important News for 2017

AmeriCorps Office at HHKMH

Beginning January 17, 2017, AmeriCorps members will be available to assist with the following services:



- DD214's
- Headstone Requests
- Scheduling with a Service Officer
- Veteran & Military Family Resource Navigation

For more information, please contact:

Leonard Bruce, AmeriCorps Coordinator - Veterans Serving Veterans Gila River Indian Community
Phone: (520) 562-6221

Native Americans Exempt From Tax Penalty

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) promotes health insurance coverage for all. For income tax year 2016 the ACA requires all taxpayers to report their proof of health insurance or pay the penalty. As a Native American with a tribal affiliation, you are entitled to an exemption from this penalty. This exemption waives the payment penalty. 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 2016 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 2015, this is the same number you will use on your 2016 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 is 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 (602) 528-1311.





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Lt. Governor
Monica L. Antone

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Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer
Shannon White,

Community Council Secretary
GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS

June M. Shorthair
june.shorthair@gric.nsn.us
Director of CPAO
(520) 562-9851

Roberto A. Jackson
roberto.jackson@gric.nsn.us
Managing Editor
(520) 562-9719

Mikhail Sundust
mikhail.sundust@gric.nsn.us
Community Newsperson
(520) 562-9717

Christopher Lomahquahu
christopher.lomahquahu@gric.nsn.us
Community Newsperson
(520) 562-9718

Thomas R. Throssell
thomas.throssell@gric.nsn.us
Community Newsperson
(520) 562-9852

Gina Goodman
gina.goodman@gric.nsn.us
GRIN Secretary II
(520) 562-9715

Write to:
Editor, GRIN
P.O. Box 459
Sacaton, AZ 85147

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Moving from this holiday season I wish everyone a great start to the New Year.

This past year we have had our share of challenges but we also can't lose sight of the many blessings and accomplishments we have shared together as family, and fellow Community members.

I am so excited about what we can continue to accomplish together in this New Year 2017!

I can tell you wholeheartedly that by working together, our Community's government is on the verge of accomplishing great things for our Community in the areas of Housing, protecting our Children, protecting our water, improving our schools, and both Elders and Veterans services to name a few.

As your Governor, I am excited and ready to work with each of you, side by side and shoulder to shoulder as we continue to improve and take our Community to new heights in 2017.

I wish blessings of safety, peace and prosperity on each of you my fellow Community members as we enter 2017.

Putting Our People First
Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor, Gila River Indian Community



Tribal Social Services hosts Christmas party for children at Rawhide

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Christmastime can be difficult for some, but Tribal Social Services made sure that the 570-plus children under its care could celebrate the holidays with a smile.

Rawhide Western Town was like the North Pole – Gila River Branch on December 19, when TSS held a Christmas party where children could run around, have fun, meet Santa, and receive a Christmas present.

Leanne Wander, director of TSS, said, “Every year we do this for the children that are under Tribal Social Services. ... We work with these children all year long, we care for them, and I just think it’s our responsibility to make sure that the children are receiving gifts and they see some joy in their lives. So it’s very important that they be able to all come together, have fun, interact with each other, and receive a gift.”

The party provided games, gifts, and a hot meal, and gave the children a chance to feel a sense of community and have fun with relatives or other Gila River chil-



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Tribal Social Services’ annual Christmas party was held Dec. 19 at Rawhide Western Town.

dren their age.

“It’s a safe event. The kids can have fun playing together,” said Michael Henderson, a foster father of two Gila River children. “Any opportunity they have [to connect with other children from Gila River], it’s great.”

Dale Enos, a TSS case manager, has been working for decades in the field of social services. He said, “Unfortunately, some of these children are not going to be able to spend time with their families. Some of them

are in foster care, some of them are at RPY (the GRIC Residential Programs for Youth group home), but I think Social Services is doing a great job by organizing this. ... This brings the families together, too, because the families of the children come, too.”

Santa couldn’t have delivered all the gifts he did that day without the help of many elves in Gila River. This year, TSS partnered with the Gila River Fire Department, Gila River Gaming Enterprises, and a number of oth-

er GRIC departments and entities to hold a Toy Donation Drive through most of November and into December. Rawhide donated time at the Western Town for the party, which was reserved for the children and their families.

Enos said bringing families together is a primary focus for TSS. “Reunification is first and foremost for the agency. [The party] is an excellent opportunity for the children to reconnect with the families and start that process.”

Volunteers wrap Christmas gifts for GRIC children

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community employees volunteered their time to wrap Christmas gifts that were collected through a toy drive in the month of November and December, which were collected by the Gila River Fire Department.

The Rawhide Saloon and Steakhouse was transformed into Santa’s Workshop on Dec. 14 to get the presents ready for the Tribal Social Services Department to hand out to the children under their supervision and care outside of the Residential Programs for Youth facility.

The cheerful group Santa’s elves made up of caseworkers,

firefighters and other spirited volunteers were busy hustling and bustling to get the gifts wrapped in time for Christmas.

A total of 830 items were collected through the GRIC Toy Drive to bring joy to over 309 children this past Christmas.

Armed with scotch tape and wrapping paper, no gift was too big or too difficult to be wrapped.

The GRFD would like to thank the following entities for donating some of the presents: Gila River Sand & Gravel, Gila River Health Care Corporation, Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority, Wild Horse Pass Development Authority, U.S. Marine Corps, Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa, and Gila River Gaming Enterprises.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Volunteers wrapped Christmas presents on Dec. 14, which were distributed by Tribal Social Services. Gila River Fire Department carried on the tradition of collecting toys for GRIC children.

Gateway from Page 1

munity. This year Gateway Airport has seen a rise in passengers, which translates into more flights coming in and out of the airport.

The increased number of flights has prompted the PMGAA to look at ways of improving safety, which addresses the need to either improve or build a new air traffic control tower.

Another major improvement project that was discussed with Sen. McCain was the reconstruc-

tion of the north apron that is used by corporate, military and general aviation aircraft that stop to unload passengers and refuel before departing.

Both projects will receive support through a Federal Aviation Administration discretionary grant.

The grant provides financial support for the development of public-use airports across the country, which in the case of the Gateway Airport will benefit from the upgrades to critical infrastructure.

Ak-Chin Indian Community inaugurates Chairman, Vice-Chair and council

Kristina Morago
Ak-Chin Runner

On Tuesday Jan. 3, Gila River Lt. Gov. Monica Antone traveled to Ak-Chin Indian Community to witness the historic Oath of Office ceremony for the incoming Chairman, Vice-Chairman and three Council members. Held at the Ak-Chin Service Center, the oath was administered by Chief Judge Brian Burke.

Alvin Antone, Ann Antone and Delia Carlyle were each individually sworn-in, as were Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez and Chairman

Robert Miguel.

Under the new Ak-Chin Constitution passed by the members last summer in a special Secretarial Election, voters now have the opportunity to elect their Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Previously, the five Council members voted within the leadership at the second regular meeting each January. November's election had a field of eight Council candidates and two candidates each for the top two offices.

With the exception of Councilman Antone, who is in his first term of

elected office, the entire Council previously served. The swearing-in on Jan. 3 begins the new four-year Chairman and Vice-Chairman terms and initial two-year Council staggered terms.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, an official Ak-Chin Inauguration will be held and the public is invited. The first ever event will be held at Ak-Chin Circle Field next to the UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, 16600 N. Maricopa Highway beginning at 4 p.m. to midnight. The inauguration will feature a ceremonial oath, speakers, dinner and a vailla dance.



Photo Courtesy Ak-Chin Runner

The Ak-Chin Indian Community inaugurated their leadership on Jan. 3. From left, Delia Carlyle, Ann Antone, Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez, GRIC Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Chairman Robert Miguel, and Alvin Antone.

Complete guide at www.grbc.tv		GRBC TV GUIDE						*Schedule may be subject to change.
*** GRTV News Weekly and GRIC Events Showing at 7:00am, 11:30am, 4:30pm & 9:00pm. ***								
	Sunday 1/8	Monday 1/9	Tuesday 1/10	Wednesday 1/11	Thursday 1/12	Friday 1/13	Saturday 1/14	
12:00pm	Creative Native <i>Havasupai</i>	Creative Native <i>Smithsonian Institute</i>	Creative Native <i>Masks of a Big House</i>	Creative Native <i>Tricksters, Transformers</i>	Creative Native <i>Sweet Reflections</i>	Creative Native <i>Distribution of Wealth</i>	Creative Native <i>Smithsonian Institute</i>	
12:30pm	First Talk <i>Nisga's Territory</i>	First Talk <i>Racial Passing</i>	First Talk <i>Relationships</i>	First Talk <i>Hopi Nation</i>	First Talk <i>Healing Process</i>	First Talk <i>Dating</i>	First Talk <i>Racial Passing</i>	
1:00pm	Black Indians: An American History	Finding Their Own Dance <i>Alutiiq Natives mission to rebuild their culture.</i>	Video Letters From Prison <i>A heartwarming story about the power of love</i>	First People Kumeyaay - <i>Heritage goes back, "to the beginning of time".</i>	Mohawk Girls <i>An inside look at Native youth in the 21st century.</i>	Inukshuk <i>Developing a new lifestyle through technology.</i>	Orlando C. Joe	
1:30pm	<i>Native and African</i>						Journey to Opportunity	
2:00pm	Storytellers in Motion	Ravens and Eagles <i>Paradox of Attribution</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Fish Lake Part 2</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Stone Carver</i>	Samaqan Water Stories <i>Introduction</i>	Ravens and Eagles <i>Trail of Property Woman</i>	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Bounty of River's Edge</i>	
2:30pm	Native Report	Vitality Gardening <i>Surprise</i>	Vitality Gardening	Vitality Gardening <i>Raised Garden Bed</i>	Vitality Gardening	Vitality Gardening	Landing	
3:00pm	Seasoned with Spirit <i>Bounty of the River's Edge</i>	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Sivummut	
3:30pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	From The Spirit <i>John Rombough</i>	From The Spirit <i>Aaron Paquette</i>	From The Spirit <i>Abraham Anghik Ruben</i>	From The Spirit <i>Kevin Red Star</i>	From The Spirit <i>Preston Singletary</i>	People of the Pines <i>Uncharted Territory</i>	
4:00pm	Maina <i>Daughter of Grand Chief Mishtenapuu, finds herself on a mission that will change the course of her life.</i>	Creative Native <i>Masks of Big House</i>	Creative Native <i>Tricksters & Transformers</i>	Creative Native <i>Sweet Reflections</i>	Creative Native <i>Distribution of Wealth</i>	Creative Native <i>The Hopi</i>	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		Working It Out Together	Indian Pride <i>Heroes</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report	Indian Pride <i>Tribal Government</i>	Storytellers in Motion	The Other Side	
5:30pm	Back to Pikangikum	Sivummut	Oskayak Down Under	Common Ground	Down The Mighty River <i>Addicted to Hydro</i>	On Native Ground: Youth Report	Indians and Aliens <i>Matthew Mukash</i>	
6:00pm	Back to Pikangikum <i>Focuses on 7 layers and 7 people who have experienced suicide.</i>	First Talk <i>Relationships</i>	First Talk <i>Hopi Nation</i>	First Talk <i>Healing Process</i>	First Talk <i>Dating</i>	First Talk <i>Blind Date</i>	Indigenous Focus <i>Russel Bates</i>	
6:30pm		Native Report	People of the Pines <i>American California</i>	Making Regalia	People of the Pines <i>Native Resistance</i>	Make Prayers to the Raven	Dabiyiyuu <i>The Sled Maker</i>	
7:00pm	Native Voice TV <i>Eddie Madril 2</i>	Video Letters From Prison <i>A heartwarming story about the power of love and family.</i>	First People Kumeyaay <i>People share a heritage that goes back, "to the beginning of time."</i>	Mohawk Girls <i>A surprising inside look at Native youth culture in the 21st century.</i>	Inukshuk <i>The Inuits develop a new lifestyle through technology.</i>	Orlando C. Joe	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	
7:30pm	On Native Ground: <i>The Sundance Film Festival</i>					Journey to Opportunity	Native Report	
8:00pm	Wapos Bay <i>It Came from Out There</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Catch The Spirit</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Partic-Inaction</i>	Wapos Bay <i>The Wapos Falcon</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Too Deadly</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Treasure of the Sierra Metis</i>	Wapos Bay <i>Catch The Spirit</i>	
8:30pm	Fish Out of Water <i>Algonquin Canoe and</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Knowledge from Elders</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Wanuskewin Heritage Park</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Brokenhead Ojibway</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Tseycum Canoe Tours</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Nk'Mip Desert Center</i>	Fish Out of Water <i>Knowledge from Elders</i>	
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 <i>Wapawekka</i>	Indians and Aliens <i>Sonny</i>	Back In The Day <i>The Two Highways</i>	Indigenous Focus <i>Sovereign's Water</i>	Rez Rides <i>The Dream</i>	Champions of the North <i>Modern Times</i>	Moose T.V. <i>Surviving Moose</i>	
10:00pm	Buffy St. Marie <i>One of the most influential Aboriginal figures in recent historic times.</i>	The Tundra Book <i>A rare glimpse into a community determined to preserve it's ancient cultures and traditions.</i>	Mad Cow Sacred Cow <i>Shocking connections between Mad Cow crisis, Farm crisis and Global</i>	For The Rights of All: <i>Ending Jim Crow In Alaska Efforts to honor their heritage and leverage</i>	The Activist <i>Suspicious circumstances surround the arrest and imprisonment of two American Indian activists.</i>	For The Generations: <i>Native Story and Performance</i>	Irezumi, The Japanese Art of Tattooing	
10:30pm			Kanie'keha:Ka: <i>Living The Language What it takes to learn and maintain a language through immersion.</i>	Finding My Talk <i>Dynamic people who are leaders in the struggle to save their languages.</i>	Deep Time	Journey of Hope <i>These leaders address some of the youths needs, dreams and hopes and share encouraging prayers.</i>	Why Treaties <i>Bands of the Chippewa ceded some 11 million acres of land to the United States Government.</i>	
11:00pm	Medicine Game <i>Journey of 2 bros driven by a single goal - to beat the odds and play the sport of lacrosse.</i>							
11:30pm								

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Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Incident Log Dec. 18 - Dec. 24/Dec. 25 - 31

Gila River Police Department reserves the right to restrict the release of certain reports which may not be available or are currently under investigation.

Dec. 18-24

Gila River Police officers responded to 507 calls for service and made 74 arrests.

District One:

No incidents regarding Part I crime.

District Two:

No incidents regarding Part I crime.

District Three:

Aggravated Assault – A domestic disturbance occurred inside of a residence on Wipsmal Street. The victim was assaulted and threatened with a handgun by two suspects. The victim refused medical attention and reported her purse had been taken by the suspects. Both suspects fled on foot prior to police arrival.

Status: Under Investigation

Aggravated Assault – A verbal altercation occurred on Nakshel Road resulting in a suspect shooting the victim in the leg prior to leaving the scene on foot before police arrival. The suspect and weapon were located at a nearby residence. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Status: The suspect was arrested.

Aggravated Assault – A physical altercation between several intoxicated subjects occurred on Chiadag Street inside of a residence. A male and female suspect attempted to force entry into a bedroom in the residence. The victim wrestled a knife away from the suspect causing a laceration to the suspect during the struggle. All involved parties were assessed and treated at local area hospitals for non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Both suspects were arrested.

Burglary - Suspects used a cigarette butt disposal tower as a battering ram against the security roll down screen and security glass to gain access into the MTO Smoke

Shop. Once inside the suspects stole several cartons of cigarettes.

Status: Under Investigation

Burglary – A residence on Azule Street was broken into while the homeowner was out of town. The suspect gained access by removing the screen and breaking the glass to a window in the back of the residence. The Gila River Housing Authority responded and secured the windows to the residence.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – The victim reported his clothing, Xbox gaming console, Xbox video games and wallet taken from his bedroom while he was away. Other residents of the home did not witness the items being removed.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A suspect removed a fire extinguisher from the Sacaton Middle School gymnasium and discharged it in front of the stage. Security advised no other items were noted missing or damaged.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – A vehicle was stolen from the driveway of a residence on West Wipsmal Street. The victim advised she turned her vehicle on to warm up and went inside. When she returned the vehicle was no longer in her driveway. The vehicle was located after the juvenile suspect was involved in a vehicle rollover on West Nelson Road. The suspect was transported to an area hospital and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – A blue Buick Lacrosse was stolen from the driveway of a residence on Seed Farm Rd. The victim advised he was there to pick up his granddaughter at eight thirty in the evening. The vehicle was located by police with the help of On Star.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Weapon – A male juvenile student was found to have a pocket knife while at the Sacaton Middle School. The knife was confiscated by a teacher and the student

was walked to the Deans' office.

Status: The juvenile was placed on suspension pending a hearing.

District Four: (Stotonic Area)

Aggravated Assault – During a domestic dispute the intoxicated suspect attempted to force a piece of paper into his cousin's mouth and she bit his finger to make him stop. During the ensuing altercation the suspect punched the victim in the mouth and was locked out of the residence. The suspect forced his way back into the residence and proceeded to assault other members of the family who were present. During the assault one of the victims received a broken hand.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Aggravated Assault – A domestic dispute occurred inside of a residence on Levee Road. The suspect assaulted and strangled the victim. The suspect fled on foot prior to police arrival and is currently being sought.

Status: Assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division

Theft – A suspect took a white BMX bicycle and Christmas decoration from the front of a residence on Upper Santan Road during the late evening or early morning hours. The Christmas decoration was located but was damaged beyond repair.

Status: Under Investigation

(Lone Butte / WHP Area)

Auto Theft – A silver Honda Civic was stolen from the Phoenix Premium Outlets parking lot. The registered owner advised he had arrived after six in the evening and was at the Outlets for less than one hour. Security advised there were no surveillance cameras for the parking lot. The vehicle was entered as stolen into the national database.

Status: Under Investigation

Robbery – While the victim was at the Chevron gas station, located on Kyrene Road, she was approached and the suspect pulled a machete on the victim. The suspect held the machete to the victim's neck and demand-

ed her cellular phone and purse. The suspect then fled east on foot where Officers were able to locate the suspect, retrieved the victims' belongings and take him into custody.

Status: Suspect was arrested.

Shoplifting – The suspect entered the Coach Outlet store and approached a merchandise rack. The suspect grabbed three purses and removed them from the store without paying. The suspect fled on foot prior to police arrival.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – While at the Lone Butte Casino the victim was approached and followed around by the suspect. The suspect asked the victim for money at which time the victim approached the cashier cage and withdrew money from his banking account. The suspect then requested a ride off the community to Harrah's Casino where he would pay back the money he borrowed from the victim. Once there the victim lost contact with the suspect and then returned to Lone Butte to report theft.

Status: Under Investigation

Auto Theft – The victim was accompanied by a female subject at the Lone Butte Casino. The victim went inside to cash in his chips for money and he left the vehicle running with the suspect inside. When he came back out the vehicle was gone and so was the suspect. The victim waited to report the vehicle stolen because he was hoping she would return it to him. He contacted Gila River Police Department the following day to report it stolen.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five:

Aggravated Assault – A physical altercation involving a knife on Wild Horse Lane was reported to law enforcement. Both suspect and victim were located on scene. The victim was found to have a non life threatening laceration to his cheek and was transported to a hospital for treatment. During the investigation both the victim and suspect became aggressive and combative towards officers and were ultimately placed under arrest.

Status: Suspects were arrested.

District Six:

Theft – The victim reported a laptop stolen out of his room at the Vee Quiva Hotel and Casino. The suspect who was briefly known to the victim entered his hotel room and removed the laptop. Surveillance footage was unable to verify that the suspect took the item in question.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven:

Homicide – A fresh grave with a suspicious metal box was reported to law enforcement by a local concerned citizen. Detectives arrived on scene and after further inspection located a body inside the metal box. It is believed the actual crime occurred off of the Gila River Indian Community.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Construction crew reported a grate stolen from the District Seven Waste Water Treatment Lagoons.

Status: Under Investigation

Dec. 25 - 31

Calls for services this week: 468 Arrest made: 52

District One- (Blackwater)

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Two – (Sacaton Flats)

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Three- (Sacaton)

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Four- (Stotonic Area)

Aggravated Assault – The intoxicated suspect attempted to stab her boyfriend with an 8 inch knife and also chased her sister with the knife. The suspect was arrested for aggravated assault and booked into jail.

Status: Suspect was taken into custody

Burglary - A male suspect broke a window and entered the residence

taking items from the reporting parties' daughter whom is his ex-girlfriend.

Status: Under Investigation

(Lone Butte Area)

Theft: Cell phone was stolen from an event at Rawhide Western Town; cell phone was plotting in a neighboring city.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – An air compressor was taken from the back of a vehicle at the Wild Horse Pass Casino.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A male subject was reported to have left the premises of the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort without paying his bill.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five- (Casa Blanca):

No incidents regarding Part I crime

District Six – (Komatke):

Aggravated Assault – A female juvenile suspect was arrested when witnesses stated they observed her attempting to stab her mother who would not let the juvenile leave the residence. The suspect was cut during the altercation and received medical treatment for her injuries. The suspect was heard saying, "I want to kill her".

Status: Juvenile was taken into custody

Theft – Victim reported that the suspect attempted to take bikes that were in the front yard but were unsuccessful. A laptop was also noted missing from the residence, no forced entry was observed.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven – (Maricopa):

Aggravated Assault – A GRPD officer was kicked in the leg as the suspect was being detained in reference to a suspicious vehicle. The suspect was not cooperative and admitted to having "too much to drink".

Status: Suspect was taken into custody

GRIC will be celebrating 55th Mul-Chu-Tha March 10-12



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Guests can enjoy the 3-day all-Indian rodeo along with carnival rides and other entertainment. Photo from 2015.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Mark your calendars for March 10-12, when the Gila River Indian Community will be “Celebrating 55 years of Culture, Strength, and Unity” at the 55th An-

nual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo at the Sacaton Fairgrounds.

The Mul-Chu-Tha has been a staple of the Gila River Indian Community for more than half a century. Every year, hundreds of visitors from around the state and other tribal na-

tions visit Sacaton to attend the celebration.

According to a GRIC press release, “The Community takes great pride in hosting the annual event and invites Community members and visitors to participate in one of the most recognized tribal fairs



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

The Cultural Circle will feature cultural presentations, songs and traditional dances. Photo 2015.

in Indian Country.”

The fair includes a parade, a junior, Masters and all-Indian rodeos, carnival rides, a battle of the bands competition, a powwow, chicken scratch music, cultural exchanges, various entertainment venues, and more.

“The Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo brings so much joy to our Community members,” said Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis. “We invite everyone to come out and participate in this year’s fair. We are eager to bring another successful Mul-Chu-Tha Fair to the

Community and hope our neighbors from the surrounding areas will join in the fun.”

Visit www.mul-chu-tha.com for regular updates about the fair and to learn about its history and significance to the Community.

DEQ workshop focuses on green building in GRIC



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Center for Appropriate Technology David Eisenberg discusses green building technology.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The Department of Environmental Quality Education and Outreach staff gave an update on green building to local tribes and the Environmental Protection Agency on Dec. 15.

Members of DEQ provided the overview of their progress in promoting green building at a special workshop session that concluded a year of work to research the viability of green building at Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona.

DEQ Education & Outreach Specialist Althea Walker and Intern Jay Johnson said the workshop and green building tool-kit project revealed that the Community is already a leader in green building.

“There are many projects that have already taken place or that are taking place in the Community,” said Walker.

One of the topics discussed was the possibility of having a green building resolution adopted by the Community that would continue the promotion of energy efficient homes in GRIC.

She said the workshop held at ITCA is for other tribes to reference in case they want to venture into green building.

The Director of the Development Center for Appropriate Technology David Eisenberg, who is based out of Tucson, consulted with the Community to help develop a green building tool-kit.

He said the progress made by GRIC provides a case example for other tribes to follow when considering going the green route.

Eisenberg said climate change presents a significant challenge to home building, because over time the climate conditions may be different from today.

Walker said collaboration with the EPA and Eisenberg could bolster the need for the development of further refined green building policies, which GRIC has demonstrated as a leader in tribal green building.

“DEQ will continue to champion in supporting green building in the Community and will help the Community progress in any way that we can,” she said.

A'AGA

Something to be told

By Billy Allen

Just a few generations ago our ancestors felt the winter solstice was a key event. Among other things, it began the path back to normal temperatures. When darkness and his navoj or friend cold arrived, it was time to huddle inside a ge'e ki or big house and listen to stories. May this story of a vikol or great-grandfather bring warmth.

On December 14, the father of our country, George Washington died, 217 years ago. He was commander of the Continental Army, president of the Constitutional Convention and a gentleman planter. George Washington ex-

emplified strength in both character and leadership. The same could be said about an O'otham leader; he commanded an all-volunteer army, was "president" of a tribal convention and a gentleman planter. The roles of warrior, statesman and peace-maker were handled with character and leadership by both individuals. Though he may not have been the father of our jeved or land but Antonio Azul was a "vikol of our jeved."

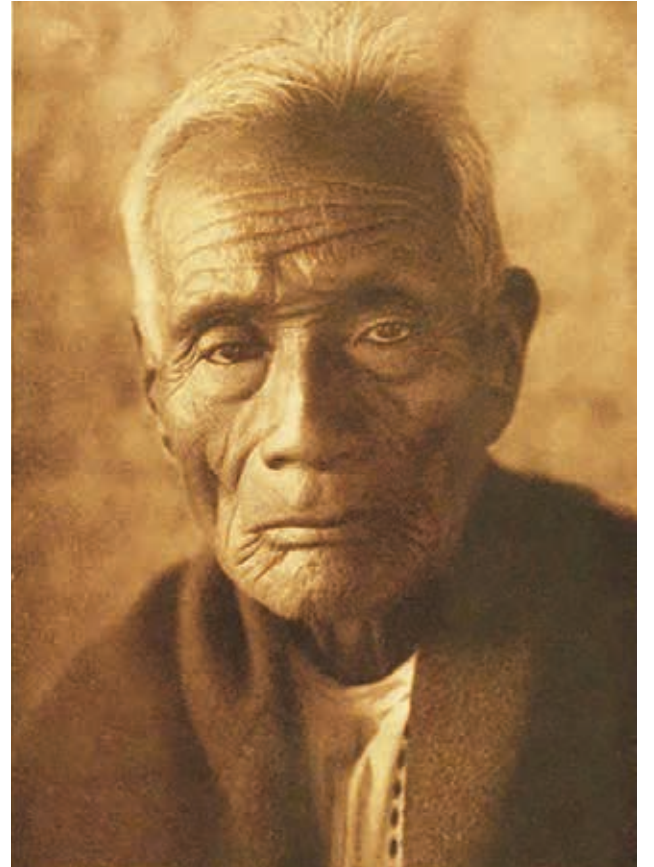
When the Maricopa or Piipaash came to our land, in the early 1800's, Shon tal Keli or Old Soldier was the headman. During a battle

against the enemy, Shon tal Keli was mortally wounded by a musket ball shot to his mo'o or head. When the fight was finished his body was cremated on the battlefield. The war party returned to Vah ki or Casa Blanca, where all of Shon tal Keli's cattle, horses and possessions were distributed among his relatives. A new headman had to be chosen but Shon tal Keli had no male heirs and to introduce a new lineage, it took longer for the village headmen to reach a consensus. A man who had served as a "lieutenant" in previous battles was chosen. (An Indian agent described O'otham leadership being passed from father to son somewhat like royal families.)

Anton Azul was selected at the dawn of a new Native world; in addition to tribal affairs, he had to deal with American soldiers and

emigrants passing up and down our akimel. Anton was headman of Mount Top Village, an abandoned village three miles east of the Vah ki. Anton served admirably and died of a sickness during the winter of 1854-1855. It took a while for elders to reach consensus in selecting Anton's son as the next headman. Best estimates have Antonio Azul born around 1818. He fought alongside the Piipaash against their enemies thus strengthening our communal ties. Like his father, Antonio assisted soldiers and provided food, lodging and escort to emigrants. When General Kearny came through our land via the akimel in 1846, he wrote, "These Indians we found honest, and living comfortably..."

Antonio Azul sensed O'otham and Piipaash lives would be affected by forces beyond our land. The



United States obtained the land south of our akimel to the present border in 1853.

Akimel O'otham, Piipaash and some Tohono O'odham officially became residents of the United States in 1856. In June of that year, Antonio Azul along with Ki:mah, Vu:lo Vu:pui, Vivigitha and Piipaash Sikul Mat-hais and Malai traveled to Nogales to find out "if their rights and titles to lands would be respected..." They were assured the United States would guarantee all rights and titles. As our akimel water diminished he considered moving to Oklahoma but when the people did not like the idea, he dropped it. When allotments were being considered, he argued for thirty acres of land for each family and opposed water from pumped wells. Antonio Azul traveled to the other side on October 20 of 1910. His son Antonito took over tribal affairs but soon realized leadership now required one to speak English, understand the law, business and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1911, a five member "business committee" was created to deal with tribal affairs. Kisto J. Morago, Lewis D. Nelson, Harvier Cawker, John Johnson and Jackson Thomas took over. These young educated men helped usher the Gila River Indian Community into a new era. When Antonito traveled to the other side in 1923, the practice of appointing a headman ceased. With this new year, we can take comfort in knowing our ancestors faced the unknown with solid leadership. We adjusted and changed by looking backward and forward.

Information was gathered from Peoples of the Middle Gila by John P. Wilson, The Pima Indians by Frank Russell and "Notes on the Pima", by Elsie C. Parsons, 1928, American Anthropologist, vol. 30, no. 3.

Ho'ok A:ga

Joyce Hughes | Billy Allen | Barnaby Lewis

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017
6PM-10PM

*Come join us for an evening of storytelling, dinner,
hot chocolate & s'mores*

PLEASE NOTE: This is a outdoor event, please wear warm clothing.
No photographs or recordings will be permitted.

Huhugam Heritage Center

MORE INFO. CALL 520.796.3500 - 21359 S. MARICOPA RD, CHANDLER, AZ

Gila Crossing hosted an early Christmas dinner for families



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Gila Crossing Community School hosted a Christmas dinner with their families on Dec. 22.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Students at Gila Crossing Community School shared an early Christmas Dinner with their families in the school cafeteria Dec. 22.

The school has made a tradition of inviting people to share a meal around the holidays.

“We usually do it a couple times a year for Thanksgiving as well as Christmastime,” said GCCS Principal Jeremy Copenhaver. “The event is just kind of a way to say thank you to the community. We just want to invite them in, make good relations so they feel welcome here.”

By community he means “parents, grandpar-

ents, aunts, uncles, cousins, even just someone that doesn’t have a student currently going here is still welcome to attend.”

They had a typical American Thanksgiving meal last month, he said, “but we tried to have something more culturally traditional here for our Christmas dinner.”

With music twinkling in the corner, families enjoyed a dinner of chili stew, chemath and squash. Barry Stein, the music teacher, provided live Christmas music with his electric piano.

In the weeks leading up to the dinner, students of all grade levels drafted letters to Santa, who, despite his busy schedule the week before Christmas, takes the time to visit Gila Crossing ever year .

“Usually he’ll make the trip because he knows that this is important for the kids,” said Copenhaver. “We had Santa today deliver all the gifts to our students. We have approximately a little over 500 students, Kinder through eighth grade. All of our students were able to receive gifts.”

Malakai DeLowe, first grade, received a Thor figurine for Christmas. His grandmother Arlene Johnson said she appreciated the school hosting the Christmas Dinner. She remembers going to the school when it was called Gila Crossing Day School.

“It’s grown a lot. I think it’s way better than it was back then,” she said. “I think it helps the kids. It’s good.”



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Families packed the school cafeteria for some holiday fun at GCCS.



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Left to right: Giovanni Montalbo, Julia Tsosie, and Lilliana Lopez, from Mrs. Rollins 3rd grade class, got in the holiday spirit with festive Santa Claus hats.

New Year, New Smile ...

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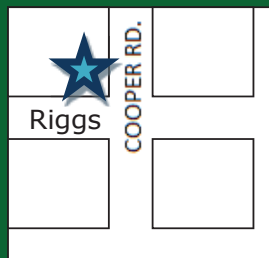
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Chief Azul Day

from page 1



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Artist Russell Blackwater's painting of Chief Azul's house on the west side of the Post Office in District 3, mirroring what would appear in the adjacent empty lot.

within its traditional territory.

"We could have been relocated to Oklahoma like a lot of other tribes that were relocated from their homelands," she said.

Army veteran and Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51 member Darrell Whitman noted that while the U.S. is nearly 242 years old and has established a number of national holidays and traditions, Gila River is just over 77, and as a young nation, the Community is reaching historic milestones that will affect its future.

As the runners returned from their early morning run, a procession of around 100 people formed.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, District 5 Council Representative Marlin Dix-

on, basket dancers, Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51, and a contingent of Community members on horseback made the half-mile walk from the intersection of Sacaton and Sacaton-Casa Blanca Roads down to the West Cemetery where Chief Azul's grave is located, just west of Cholla Avenue across from District 3's Head Start building.

As the procession entered the cemetery, the group formed a circle north of Chief Azul's gravesite, where Gov. Lewis said a few words about the tribe's last chief.

"It's important that we aren't losing who we are as O'otham people and this event is making that possible," he said. "Chief Azul stood in the doorway of our past and our future. He was a warrior, a statesman,

an ambassador and a moral authority."

Chief Azul is not just a historical figure, said Gov. Lewis, he is a spiritual and cultural figure.

Shortly after, descendants of Chief Azul, Janice Blackwater and Kurt Rainbolt, thanked the Community for honoring their ancestor.

"I am very grateful and I am very proud of what he stood for, his belief and his hard work," said Rainbolt. "I want to thank [the Community] for...making this an annual event. It is something that has been needed for quite awhile. They did a great job with it and the ceremony was beautiful," he said.

Janice Blackwater said, "I think it's good because...they are finally recognizing this warrior, this



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 color guard took part in the procession to Chief Azul's grave site.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Members of the procession were treated to a hot lunch at the District 3 Headstart.

leader that...people don't know about."

Gov. Lewis and Rainbolt placed wreaths at Chief Azul's grave while a member of Haskell Osife-Antone Post 51 played Taps in honor of Chief Azul's

U.S. military service as a sergeant in the first U.S. Arizona Volunteer Infantry.

After members of the procession paid their respects at Chief Azul's gravesite, they made their way across the street to Dis-

trict 3's Head Start building for a hot lunch of O'otham poshol and posole and live musical entertainment.

To learn more about Chief Azul, check out Billy Allen's article on Page 7.

Urban members tour P-MIP system



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Dr. David DeJong, P-MIP Project Director, took urban GRIC members on a tour of P-MIP canals.

Christopher Lomahquahu Gila River Indian News

Gila River Indian Community Urban Members Association visited the Community to catch a first-hand glimpse at water rights in action.

UMA members took a day-long tour of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project on Dec. 29.

For some of the members, it was the first time

touring the sections of canals that make up the P-MIP system.

Led by Dr. David DeJong and Henrietta Lopez, the tour was a historical learning lesson for the UMA members.

Urban member with family ties to District 6, Maria Enos, said that it was a surprise to learn about the canal system and how water is being used to benefit the Community, both economically and culturally.

UMA secretary Felicia Jackson Kaufman said that despite the small number that came out to tour the P-MIP canals, it was a beneficial for the four youth to tour the canals.

Kaufman said the tours can bring inspiration to the youth about careers that are available to them like hydrology or engineering, now that the canals are under construction.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

AGRICULTURAL LEASE PAY OUT*

Friday, January 20th, 2017

8:30am Seniors and Disabled	10:00 am – 6:00 pm 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 20, 2017
Pick up at Finance - Cashiers Office (Two Waters Bldg. A)
Monday, January 23, 2017 through Friday, February 3, 2017

Checks with a valid address
Mailed out Monday, February 6, 2017

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

Please ensure that the SRPMIC has your current mailing address
Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your check
To update, contact SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office

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 5, 2017

GRIC Leadership attends round table discussion with youth



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

The two-day round table forum was held in District 5.

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Students learned important life skills at a roundtable discussion, which provided real world tools and information, furthering their interest to give back to the Community.

A cadre of Gila River Indian Community Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council members assembled for a two-day roundtable discussion over topics that may help them be a productive worker as they venture into the next step in their lives.

The youth council members were provided a roadmap of sorts on how to independently think while working together as a group at the District 5 Vah Ki Multipurpose Building on Dec. 28.

Youth Council Coordinator Michael Preston said the roundtable discussion is about getting ideas together to provide future opportunities for the youth.

He said topics like tribal sovereignty and policy are what the youth are getting a chance to learn about and that it is necessary to understand why tribes are impacted by policies administered by the federal government.

Although the discussions seem hypothetical, what the youth council members take away from the roundtable discussion have practical applications.

Some of the topics covered ranged from historical accounts of how American Indians have strived through adversity and hard times and how to effectively communicate with others in the workplace.

Community member Ginger Martin, who provides consultation to groups on cultural sensitivity and communication, informed the youth on how to effectively work with others in the work-place.

She said that there are two types of communication that result from either an emotional or and from those types of communication, build good leadership capabilities.

Youth Council President Autumn Cooper said, "I think it is really important for us to include more youth [here] to be involved in the discussion."

She said her initiative is about reaching out to the youth and getting them involved and showing them the variety of opportunities youth council offers.

"Some of the things we

are doing more of is being proactive in learning about [our] language, because we have to [take it back] as the youth of the Community," said Cooper.

Youth Council member Enrique Holguin said the topics covered are important for today's youth, especially on critical issues like teen suicide.

Holguin said the topics that he would like to see more awareness on are teen suicide, because there is a lot that others can learn about the issue.

"I just came back from a suicide prevention conference in Wausa, Wisconsin. Basically the abuse and everything that drives a person to think like that and if they were educated on this on how to control their emotions or just how to because it does happen predominately in teens," he said.

District 5 youth council at-large member Joe Davis said there is a lot to be taken from the presentations at the roundtable meeting.

"My favorite part is when we dove into the history of the Community, because there is a lot information that isn't covered in the schools."

He spoke on one of the subjects covered about communication and how important it is to use good judgment in expressing opinions or advice to others.



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Youth present at the forum.



Thomas Throssell/GRIN

Lt. Gov. Monica Antone addresses the youth.

"I think for myself, going into the workforce and becoming a young adult, being able to effectively communicate becomes an important skill [we] all must learn," said Davis.

Preston said that overall the roundtable discussion is also about getting ideas together and developing strategies, which will be presented to council to demonstrate what they have learned in the two days of discussion.

He said, "There is a lot more emphasis on getting feedback to develop a list of topics that can be offered the next time [we] host a round-

table discussion."

On the second day of the forum, GRIC leadership, including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Community Council Representatives, participated in the roundtable discussion.

Preston said the youth were able to receive feedback from tribal leadership regarding their presentations and had a chance to hear what is being done to address real-world obstacles.

"Overall the roundtable was a great start for the youth to have [their] voice heard."

WHP Motorsports Park to take over own fire and life safety operations



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

WHPMP safety trucks.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

For over three years, the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park (WHPMP) has been hard at work dotting their I's and crossing their T's in order to provide fire services and life safety operations at their own facilities. In recent years, the park has utilized the Gila River Fire Department (GRFD) for their services, but has done so at a high cost.

On Dec. 29, the WHPMP met all requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement approved by Gila River Indi-

an Community's Council under resolution GR-180-16, meaning they will be able to begin their own Fire and Rescue Services starting January 7.

Bob Stose, WHPMP Director of Safety & Fire Services, said that WHPMP has been working with the Gila River Indian Community to make sure their equipment, paperwork, training, and crew are up to Community standards.

"We didn't just want to jump into doing rescue without having everything that we need to be able to do it," Stose said. "We want to feel confident and we want the Community

to feel confident that we are...putting our best foot forward to provide that service...to the racers and spectators," he said.

Stose, who has 30 years of paramedic experience, 20 years in the fire service, and around 10 years of motorsports rescue under his belt, said all of the guys on his crews will have the proper certification and experience needed to work on their safety trucks and ambulances.

"You have to have your Fire Fighter 1 and 2 [certifications]," said Stose. "You also have to be extraction trained and certified. You also have to go through



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Kraig Broadbent inspects vehicles to make sure they are ready for racing events.

my class as well which is an SFI [incident response training] class. You need all of this to be able to work in one of the safety trucks," he said.

GRFD Fire Chief, Thomas Knapp, said one of the benefits of WHPMP taking over its own fire safety and rescue services will be that many of WHPMP's crew will have a lot of experience dealing with racing events and accidents.

"A lot of the folks that are on this team...have been doing this for years," said Knapp.

Another benefit to the park will be financial; they

will be able to save a bit of money by using their own employees. "They won't have to pay our hourly rate plus our vehicle charge. And, we do that with off-duty folks. It is not economical for the track to operate that way because they have to pay the overtime. Every time they use us it is not free," he said.

"This is a culmination of three and half years of planning, training, and getting the funds to equip the track to be self-sustaining for fire crash rescue," Knapp said.

"The fire department stepped up and was able to provide the service for an

interim but it lasted longer than we wanted or needed. Where we are at today is, we believe that they are ready and we will be able to turn over all the racing operations to them so they can schedule more efficiently and operate and provide safety to the racers and the events that take place out here."

The first event of the New Year will be "Go Fast Entertainment Drift N' Drags" on Jan. 7 at 5 p.m. For more information about the event visit racewildhorse.net or call 480-363-7583.

TERO's WIOA youth program sends Christmas cheer to Community veterans



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN



Photo Courtesy TERO

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone were presented with gifts from WIOA youth.

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Members of the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth program packed up to 90 Christmas gift baskets for Gila River Indian Community veterans and delivered the seasonal bundles of joy with the help of AmeriCorps.

The gift baskets were filled with thank you notes expressing gratitude for their service and positive

contribution to the Community. A long with thank you notes, the baskets were filled with hot cocoa, coffee, mugs, and a variety of snacks.

The WIOA program is made up of Community youth from the ages of 14 to 24 years old. Members of the program are engaged in monthly activities, one of which was the gift basket project, in order to help engage them to stay in school and learn about different career opportunities.

Four of the program's members also delivered gift baskets to the Caring House, and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis.

WIOA Training Coordinator, Eulonda Martinez, said that they stopped by the Executive Office to thank tribal leadership for their support.

"We decided to drop two more gift baskets for Governor and Lt. Governor, to thank them for their services. For everything

they do for the Community and the youth programs as well," she said.

When asked about what the program was doing for her, Tianna Sanchez said, "I think it is an opportunity for myself to be out forward with everybody and just making people happy," she said. "For myself, being happy instead of being somewhere getting in trouble, I can do this and get something out of it," she added.

Former Jr. Miss Gila

Youth prepare gift baskets to thank veterans for their service.

River Charisma Quiroz, who participated in putting together the baskets and delivering them, said that her motivation for taking part in giving Christmas gift baskets to Community veterans was because they had made their own sacrifices and really helped the Community over the years.

The WIOA program is recruiting members for their summer youth program starting January 2017 and will prioritize high school juniors, seniors, and

out of school youth, ages 18-24.

"They can work for the summer for seven weeks and we try to give them work experience in different career areas that they have interests in. It's a great program," said Martinez.

For more information about WIOA's summer youth program, call the Employment and Training Department at (520) 562-3388.

Shop With A Cop from Page 1

good character go a long way and the potential for success is limitless.

Duarte said the Shop with a Cop was a success, because other organizations and individuals stepped in to donate their time and resources to make it happen.

He said it is not just about giving gifts, but is about establishing good relations with the Community and to let the youth know that GRPD is more than just about enforcing the law.

Officer Rodriguez chose Deanna Lewis, an eight grader from Gila Crossing Community School.

Rodriguez said that Lewis and her mother are grateful for the opportunity to go select her gifts ahead of Christmas.

She said that even though Lewis thought it was by a chance of luck that she was chosen, Rodriguez emphasized that it wasn't luck, but good fortune that happens to good people.

As an SRO working with the Community's youth, Rodriguez is happy to bring joy into a student's life as the holidays draw near.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Deanna Lewis brings in her cart of gifts with the help of GRPD Officers at Wal-Mart.

"[This] is why I don't feel like being a police officer is a job, it's about helping and giving," she said.

Officer Poolaw brought along fourth grade Sacaton Elementary School student Kayla Apkaw.

Poolaw said Apkaw is a gifted student that has performed well in school and is a part of the student council.

"Apkaw has received several awards for academic and citizenship at school. For these reasons and so much more she was selected/nominated by several

teachers and staff members to participate in the Shop with a Cop activity," said Poolaw.

Officer Milano said Brian Antone from District 1, who attends Blackwater Community School, is a helpful student that is interested in law enforcement.

He said that on the morning of the activity, Antone was unaware that he would be going to pick out Christmas gifts and is thankful for being selected for such a special occasion.

Job and Volunteer Announcement

Now accepting applications

Temporary Jobs for Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo
March 10-12, 2017

***Laborers-\$ 10.00 *Ticket Sellers-\$10.00 *Ticket Takers-\$9.00**

Job Descriptions available upon request

***APPLICANTS MUST PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK**

Jobs also available for Mul-Chu-Tha Sports Tournaments

Umpires for Tee-ball, Little League, and Co-ed Softball

Basketball Officials, Score keepers, and Time keepers

All Applicants must pass required background check

Looking for Volunteers to assist in the following areas:

MCT Informational booth, Battle of the Bands, Cultural area, Elderly Transportation, Community BBQ, Parade, Clerical assistance, and Sports Tournaments.

Interested individuals must fill out GRIC volunteer application and pass background check

Job and Volunteer Applications can be downloaded at www.mul-chu-tha.com or picked up at Communications & Public Affairs Office (CPAO) located inside the Governance Center M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

Applications **MUST** be emailed mulchutha@gric.nsn.us or hand delivered to CPAO by deadline date.

Job Application Deadline: Friday January 27, 2017

For more information contact Special Events Coordinator at 520-562-9713 or CPAO 520-562-9715.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • December 21, 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 December 21, 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 9:09 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Carol Schurz

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 (9:20), Rodney Jackson; D4-Na-

da Celaya, Jennifer Allison (10:08), Barney Enos, Jr.

(9:13), Christopher Mendoza; D5-, Brian Davis, Sr.,

Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone, Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D6-

Anthony Villareal, Sr., Sandra Nasewytewa, Charles

Goldtooth; D7- Devin Redbird (9:40)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (LIMIT TO 5

MINUTES)

REPORTS

*1. North Santa Cruz Wash Project Report and Update

Presenter: Seaver Fields

REPORT HEARD

*2. Proposal Tortosa Subdivision Drainage Impact to GRIC

Presenter: Seaver Fields

REPORT HEARD

*3. Office of the Prosecutor FY 2016 Annual Report (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016)

Presenters: Brian Tacheenie, Pamela Thompson

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. American Legion Post 84 4th Quarter Report

Presenters: Robert Amado, Chesley Juan Jr., Tony McDaniel

REPORT HEARD

5. Sacaton Area Drainage Master Study Finalizing the Study and Reporting Results

Presenter: Seaver Fields

REPORT HEARD

6. GRHC FY16 Tobacco Tax Grant Annual Report

Presenters: Ginger Fligger, GRHC Representatives

REPORT HEARD

[GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:43 A.M.]

7. Tribal Social Services FY2016 Annual Report (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016)

Presenters: Lee Ann Wander, Pamela Thompson

REPORT HEARD

8. FY17 Monthly Financial Activity Report Ending November (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Mike Jacobs, Su-

zanne Johns

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

9. FY16 Gaming Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Dena Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

10. Gaming Commission General Report To Community Council For October 2016 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Neil Ranger Located In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No 30516-0444 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Pamela Pasqual

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 2016 Annual Performance Report (APR) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business)

Presenter: Kelly Gomez

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND PROCEED WITH THE SUBMITTAL

2. Status of Interim Oversight and Planning Committee Authority (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council under New Business and to direct the

IOPC to make periodic updates to Community

Council until a final transition plan has been

developed by the IOPC and approved by the

Community Council)

Presenters: Interim Oversight and Planning

Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THE IOPC TO PROVIDE PERIODIC UPDATES UNTIL A FINAL TRANSITION PLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND APPROVED

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. FY16 Revenue Internal Audit 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to Council in Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert Keller, Dena Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

4. SWIAA Conference

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN UP TO ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. Gaming Update (Executive Session)

Presenter: Linus Everling

ITEM HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

1. November 2, 2016 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. November 16, 2016 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. December 8, 2016 (Special)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE AS CORRECTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> HOLIDAY GREETINGS WERE EXPRESSED

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:43 P.M.

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)



Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority

Customer Service Representative – PT/Temporary 2017

The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA) has an opportunity for a Part-time, Temporary Customer Service Representative. The employee will work in the GRICUA Customer Service Office assisting Customer Service personnel by efficiently answering the telephone, receiving payments and assisting customers.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Employee will work minimum 27 hours per week, 3 days to be determined, for a period of approximately six months
- Hours 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Hourly Pay is \$12.00

REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a HS Diploma or Equivalent.
- Applicants must have one to two years of experience in office or customer service setting or experience with electric utility.
- Applicants must have intermediate computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets; basic math skills and good telephone and speaking skills.
- Applicants **must** complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>.
- Job Description can be found on the GRICUA website at <http://www.gricua.net/employment>.
- Position is to be filled **as soon as possible and will close when filled**.
- All positions at GRICUA are subject to clear drug screen and background check.
- Return applications via e-mail to GRICUAHR@GRICUA.NET; by fax to 480-452-1429 or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W. Sundust Road, Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226.

Preference is given to qualified Native American candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act. GRICUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

6636 W. Sundust Rd. • Box 5091 • Chandler, Arizona 85226-4211
Office: 520.796.0600 • Fax: 520.796.0672
E-Mail: GRICUAHR@gricua.net
Website: www.gricua.net



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-Free Admission-
\$5 Rawhide Parking Fee

O'odham Tradition Waila Band
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tohono O'odham Braves
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Carl & Buddies Waila Band
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Gertie-N-the T.O. Boyz
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Come enjoy the best of Traditional O'odham Waila
Saturday, January 14, 2017 10:00 am to 11:00 pm
12 Hours of Waila Music, Food, Fun & Dance
At Rawhide's - Frontier Hall near Wild Horse Pass Casino
5700 W. North Loop Road | Chandler, AZ 85226

Tohono O'odham Nation Radio Station KOHN FM 91.9
 O'odham Hewel Niok - Will be Broadcasting Live from the Event

This is a Family Oriented/Alcohol & Drug Free Event - Absolutely no gang activity will be tolerated

Waila Festival, Inc. and its volunteers are not liable for any injury, theft or damage to any person or personal property during this event.

Did Santa Bring You a New TV

UPDATE!!!

The January 7th e-waste collection event in District 7 has been cancelled & will be rescheduled for a later date. The event in District 3 will take place as scheduled.

Thank-you.

For more information, please contact
Dept. of Environmental Quality
Janet Travis or Althea Walker at
(520) 562-2234

Please bring your old electronics to one of the E- Waste Collection Events:

- **Saturday January 7th 9a.m-2p.m. at the District 7 Service Center - CANCELLED**
- **Saturday January 14th 9a.m-2p.m. at the Dept. of Environmental Quality Office, 45 S. Church St. in Sacaton, across the street from the library**

Them!

We also accept:

- **Small Kitchen Appliances (toasters, blenders, etc.)**
- **Phones – all types**
- **Video Games**
- **Printers**
- **Small Household Batteries (no car batteries)**
- **Remote Controls**
- **Digital Alarm Clocks**
- **Hair Dryers**
- **Curling Irons**
- **Power Cords**
- **And more...**

Please, no large appliances, light bulbs, microwaves or car batteries. Thanks!

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

The following list contains the names of Individuals and other parties who made over payments to the Department of Public Works going back to January 1, 1999. In accordance with Escheat Ordinance GR 10-09 the Community will publish a biannual schedule or as deemed necessary by the Community Treasurer, the Escheat Public Notice. Public notice of unclaimed checks will be published in the Gila River Indian Newspaper and GRIC's official web site. If the last known owner is known to be a Community member, the department, program, or entity shall also post notice at all District Service Centers. In order to claim the check, the owner must claim it in person within 30 days of publication or posting. In addition, to make claim, the person must provide the department, program, or entity with positive identification, including photo identification showing the person claiming the check is the last known owner. If the check is unclaimed for 60 days after publication, it shall escheat and title thereof shall vest in the Community, or as applicable, the Federal, State, or other agency that provided the funding. If you are the recipient of unclaimed property, please contact Mariana Granillo of the Department of Public Works at (520) 562-3343 for further Instructions.

DEAN DOUGLAS HOMES EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY FESTIVAL OF THE WEST GRANIT CONSTRUCTION	HAYDON BUILDING CO HENKELS AND MCCOY LAYNE CHRISTENSON CO OKLAND CONSTRUCTION SANTA LLC RAMONA FARMS ST PETER CONVENT ST PETERS MISSION STONECREEK CONTRACTING INC BYRON MIGUEL CECIL ANTONE CHRISTINA GARZA ELENA WEBB ERVALEEN R HOWARD FRANCES ANTONE GAIL SOKE GEORGIANNA COLLINS GEROGINE MOFFETT HAROLD EVANS SR HARRY CRUYE JANET DONAHUE JESSICA TERRY JOE WALKER IV JOYCE NISH LILA CRAWFORD LOUIS BLACKWATER MARY JOHNSON PAMELA/DOMONIC JOHNSON RACHEL WARRINGTON REBECCA MARION RENEE L MOLINA ROBERT FLOWERS RONALD AND ALISSA BLACKWATER SAMANTHA TASHQUINTH - LAURA EDDIE SHANNON HOLMES SHEREEN WETAN SOPHINE MONAHAN STELLA RUIZ TONNA AND ORLANDO MERCADO TRISHA JOHNSON VANESSA R CROSS VIOLET TRAVIS WILLARD JOHNSON
--	--

CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR



AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017!

2017 brings us one year closer to GRTI's goal of 100% Fiber To The Home throughout Gila River by 2019.

Questions or concerns contact GRTI at 520-796-3333.

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Vehicles Drastically Reduced

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Starting At

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2015 Buick Verano

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2014 Mazda 6

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2014 Ford Focus

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2014 Ford Escape

\$269/mo.



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BETTER DEAL**

2014 Toyota Camry

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Starting At

\$13,999



2013 Hyundai Sonata

4 to Choose From

Starting At

\$10,999



2013 Chevy Malibu

\$199/mo.



2013 Cadillac ATS

\$305/mo.



2012 Nissan Titan

\$315/mo.



2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee

\$309/mo.



2012 Honda Civic

\$225/mo.



2012 Chevy Colorado

\$10,999



OUR BIGGEST SALE EVER!

2011 GMC Terrain

\$255/mo.



2010 Jeep Wrangler
Rubicon

You Won't
Find A
Better Price



2010 GMC Sierra 2500

This Truck
Can Move
A House



2007 Yukon XL

Low Miles,
Leather

\$285/mo.



2009 Toyota Tacoma

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Starting At

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2010 Ford F-150

4WD

\$389/mo.



2011 Toyota Sienna

\$239/mo.



2013 Cadillac XTS

\$399/mo.



**Interest Rate
as low as 1.99% APR**

2013 Ford Explorer

\$395/mo.



2010 Dodge Charger

Low Miles

\$13,999



2014 Kia Soul

\$11,999



2011 Infiniti G37

Blowout Pricing

\$13,999



2014 Mazda CX5

\$14,999



2012 Ford Edge

\$15,999



2016 Ford Fusion

3 to Choose From

Starting At

\$13,999



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72nd Anniversary **Iwo Jima Flag Raising**

**Military parade and flyover
begin at 8:30AM.**

**Ceremonies follow at the
Matthew B. Juan, Ira H. Hayes
Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton, AZ.**

All public and veterans groups are welcome.

*Luncheon hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 84 with
St. Peter Church and School. Event sponsored by American Legion
Ira H. Hayes Post No. 84 and Auxiliary Unit No. 84.*

**Saturday,
Feb. 25, 2017**



GILARIVER

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Owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community

American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post No. 84

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