

Mul-Chu-Tha parade brings out thousands to GRIC's annual Fair & Rodeo

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo kicked-off with a spectacular parade, on the morning of March 11, with thousands of Gila River Indian Community members and guests lining both sides of Bluebird Road waiting to catch a glimpse of the 87 floats and host of performers that made up the parade.

Parade-goers munched on breakfast burritos and bowls of menudo as the parade floats wound their way through the large crowd, led by the Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51 color guard.

Parade Grand Marshalls were Pat Smith, who helped organize the very first Mul-Chu-Tha in 1962, and Sylvia Jackson-Miguel and Joella Pasqual-Velasco, who were contestants in the very first Miss Gila River pageant. Veteran and Elder of the Year was 90-year-old Leslie Pasqual, who is the last remaining World War II veteran in the Community.

Dignitaries were out in force including Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Edward Manuel and Vice Chairman Verlon Jose, and Ak-Chin Indian Community's Chairman Robert Miguel and Vice-Chairman Gabriel Lopez.

Royalty from all over Indian Country came out to represent their tribes with the newly appointed 2017-2018 Miss Gila River Anissa Garcia and Jr. Miss Gila River Haili Gonzales leading



Children swing on one of the many rides at the Mul-Chu-Tha Fairgrounds on March 10.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

the pack. Also at the parade were Miss Indian Arizona Shandiin Parrish, 2017-2018 Miss Tohono O'odham Nation Nichole Manuel, 2016-2017 Miss San Carlos Apache Kaelie Nash, and Miss Fort McDowell Maykala Doka, and many more.

As the parade came to an end, thousands of excited carnival-goers poured into the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo grounds to enjoy a host of activities including an All Indian Rodeo, Battle of the Bands, horseshoe tournament, powwow, and musical headliners Frankie J and Q of 112.

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Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, right, presents Leslie Pasqual with the Elder of the Year and Veteran of the Year awards.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Ramona Farms joins Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame



Ken Clemmer Photo - cameraco.net

Local farmers, Terry Button, left, and Ramona Button, right, were introduced by Tim Robinson, center, at the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame ceremony.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Ramona and Terry Button, owners of Ramona Farms, were named to the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame Saturday, March 4. While the O'otham and their Huhugam ancestors are the original farmers of the Gila Valley, the Buttons said this is the first time an O'otham farmer has been recognized with this honor.

The Buttons have been farming in the Gila River Indian Community for over 40 years and now operate on more than 4,000 acres in the Community. During that time the Buttons have achieved some renown for their efforts to cultivate and sell traditional O'otham crops such as tepary beans, traditional strains of corn, gourds, garbanzo beans, and Pima club wheat.

Dozens of friends and family members attended the Hall of Fame dinner to support the Buttons, including former governors Thomas White and Richard Narcia. The banquet was held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield

Park, west of Phoenix. The couple was nominated for induction into the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame by Craig Ocock of Empire Machinery in Buckeye, Ariz. Tim Robinson introduced them to the audience.

"Ramona and Terry, with their family, ... define hard-earned success," he said. Robinson and the Buttons share a friendship and working relationship that began in the 1970s when they farmed together in Stanfield, Ariz. He described Ramona as "the most tolerant, accepting, forgiving, and patient individual I have ever met," and a "stern but forgiving mother, the family matriarch, [and an] astute business woman." He said, "I personally witnessed this lady walk up and down cotton rows starting at sun up, day after day, after day for her family."

Robinson said, "Terry spent his lifetime teaching others the definition of hard work. ... Terry and Ramona have demonstrated to anyone connected to them that

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55th Annual
MUL-CHU-THA



March 10th-12th, 2017

The Communications & Public Affairs Office would like to thank the following individuals, tribal departments and business entities for their volunteerism, hard work, cooperative efforts made in order to produce the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo.

The success of the event could not be possible without the support of our tribal corporations, tribal departments and business entities!

GRIC Departments:

Property & Supply Department
Contracts & Grants
Public Safety (GRPD, GRFD, OEM)
Environmental Health
Risk Management
Facilities Department
Department of Public Works
Department of Transportation
Executive Offices
Community Services Department
Finance Department

MIS

Revenue Audit
Tribal Education Department
Enrollment
Office of the Community Manager
Wellness/Tribal Recreation
Community Nutrition Program
Human Resources

District Service Centers:

District #1 Service Center
District #2 Service Center
District #3 Service Center
District #4 Service Center
District #5 Service Center
District #6 Service Center
District #7 Service Center

Businesses:

Desert Sky Mustangs
Arizona Professional Audio Services, LLC.

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Lt. Governor

Monica L. Antone

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District 4

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Brian E. Davis, Sr.
Marlin Dixon

District 6

Anthony Villareal, Sr.
Sandra Nasewytewa
Charles Goldtooth

District 7

Devin Redbird

Robert Keller, Tribal Treasurer
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Community Council Secretary

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March 15, 2017

Governor Ducey Appoints Gila River Indian Community Member and Noted Arizona Attorney Rodney Lewis to CAWCD Board

Lewis, first member of an Arizona tribe to become a member of the State Bar, now becomes first Arizona Tribe member to serve on Water Board.

PHOENIX, AZ. – Governor Doug Ducey today announced the appointment of Gila River Indian Community member and longtime tribal water rights attorney Rodney B. Lewis to the 15-member Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Lewis, the first member of an Arizona Indian Tribe to gain admission to the State Bar, becomes the first member of an Arizona tribe to serve on the CAWCD Board in its 46-year history.

Lewis, whose Director's term will expire in 2018, fills the open Maricopa County seat created by the March 2nd resignation of Guy Carpenter.

"The opportunity to serve on the CAWCD Board is, for me, the culmination of a career-long interest and passion for effectively managing Arizona's water supply and the water rights of Indian Tribes across the state and the Southwest," said Lewis. "I want very much to be an advocate for Tribes and for every Arizona resident, making sure the Central Arizona Project manages our water and our tax dollars with a focus on true stewardship and sustaining the environment."

After graduating from UCLA Law School in 1972, Lewis served as the General Counsel for the Gila River Indian Community beginning in 1978. Since the mid-1980s, Lewis has led the Community's negotiations with the federal government, the State of Arizona, and over 30 non-Indian parties for settlement of the Community's water rights and claims. As a result of these negotiations, the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004 was signed into law on December 10, 2004, by President George W. Bush.

Lewis is the father of Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis. The younger Lewis called his father's appointment "an opportunity for our Community to further our longstanding efforts to better manage Arizona's water supply."

"This public service milestone for my father is also an exceptional moment for our Community," said Governor Lewis. "The Gila River Indian Community controls the largest entitlement of Central Arizona Project water delivered through the CAP system in the state. As one of CAP's largest customers, our perspective and engagement on water issues can only make CAWCD's efforts more effective and contribute to faster, more efficient solutions to Arizona's efforts to relieve drought conditions."

In 1980, Rod Lewis became the first member of an Indian Tribe to successfully argue a case before the United States Supreme Court, appearing as counsel in *Central Machinery v. Arizona State Tax Commission*. In 2010, Lewis was honored by the Crow Tribe of Montana for his contributions and dedication leading to the Crow Nation Water Settlement of 2010.

Lewis also worked as a principal representing the Pechanga Tribe of California. The Pechanga Water Settlement was approved by Congress and signed by President Obama enacted into law in 2016.

Lewis was inducted into the Maricopa County Bar's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Said Rod Lewis: "For the past 45 years, I've been deeply involved in the water issues faced by Arizona's residents at the state, federal and tribal levels – everything from conservation efforts to protect Lake Mead to restoration efforts focused on restoring the Gila River. It's an honor to be able to bring such experience and my tribal perspective to the CAWCD Board to effect positive change for our people and our state."

###

Gila River Indian Community, located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona, is home to the indigenous people of the O'odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa). The people are known for their farms, deep traditions, basket weaving and pottery. The Tribe comprises seven districts. The administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton, and serve the people throughout these community districts. 100% of its profits from gaming and 17 other Enterprises are utilized by the community to provide services and opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life.



**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
SACATON, AZ 85147**

PROCLAMATION

TO DECLARE THE DAY OF MARCH 10, 2017 AS LESLIE PASQUAL DAY

WHEREAS, Native Americans have served in the United States military with distinction in every major conflict throughout the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans currently serve in the United States armed forces in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, Mathew B. Juan and Ira H. Hays exemplify the exceptional military service of the members of the Community; and

WHEREAS, the Community believes it is essential to recognize and honor Community veterans and their families for their remarkable service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Pasqual of the Gila River Indian Community was a soldier in the U.S. Army and a veteran who served in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Pasqual has been chosen as both the Community's first Veteran of the Year and Elder of the Year in recognition of his distinguished military service, and the high esteem in which he is held within the Gila River Indian Community for his knowledge of and adherence to living in accordance with the traditional ways of the Akimel O'otham; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, Arizona do hereby proclaim the day of March 10, 2017, as

"LESLIE PASQUAL DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Gila River Indian Community, this 09th day of March in the year Two Thousand Seventeen.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Stephen Roe Lewis
GOVERNOR

**Blackwater
Convenience Store
under construction**

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

A new gas station is being built between Sacaton and Florence. The Blackwater Convenience Store is under construction at the southwest corner of State Route 87 and Signal Peak Road. The 4,200 square-foot store is slated to open in July of 2017 and will feature 12 gas pumps available 24/7. The store will feature a smoke shop and is expected to be open daily from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The store will carry the Shell brand name and a job fair will be held in May to fill employment positions.

Originally, the Community wanted to replace the old Blackwater Trading Post and Museum right where it was in place.

"But we found out that whole area is a flood plain," said Tom Bechtel, an assistant general manager of development at the Wild Horse Pass Development Authority. "And after they did the surveys and the ground flows for the water, they decided this was a much better location." The site of the future Blackwater Convenience Store is just over one mile from the old Blackwater Trading Post

and Museum.

Because of its rural placement, the only utilities readily available in the area are electrical and telecommunications. Developers spent months drilling to find water.

"That was a huge effort," said Bechtel. "That's a thousand-foot well. It was a really difficult dig, but eventually they hit water." He said the underground reservoir is an abundant water source, and "if the Community decides to build-out later, maybe add some retail pads or even something across the street, we've got enough water supply to handle that." The well will feed a 28,000-gallon tank, which will provide running water and serve as an emergency fire suppression source.

Recent project milestones include the foundation being laid and underground utilities being installed. The first course of blocks has established the perimeter and walls will be going up soon.

Bechtel said the area sees plenty of traffic from the nearby towns of Florence, Coolidge, Eloy and Casa Grande, and will serve as an amenity to its GRIC neighbors.

Complete guide at www.grbc.tv		GRBC TV GUIDE				*Schedule may be subject to change.	
NEW TIMES FOR LOCAL CONTENT! NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS NOW SHOWING AT 6:00am, 10:30am, 3:30pm & 8:00pm!							
	Sunday 3/19	Monday 3/20	Tuesday 3/21	Wednesday 3/22	Thursday 3/23	Friday 3/24	Saturday 3/25
12:00pm	LaDonna Harris: Indian 101	Nunavik: Land of Ice	2017 IWO JIMA EVENT Sacaton, AZ	Awa O Gbe		First People Kumeyaay	I Am Chut Wutty
12:30pm	Civil rights, world peace, the environment and landmark legislation.	Issues of respect and preservation of traditions and natural environment.		The ochre of the earth, vocal and instrumental music.		People who share a heritage that goes back, "to the beginning of time."	When investigating a secret military-controlled logging site, Wutty is shot
1:00pm	Storytellers in Motion	Ravens and Eagles		Ravens and Eagles		Ravens and Eagles	Seasoned with Spirit
1:30pm	Native Report	Naxine Weaver		From Hand to Hand Part 1		From Hand to Hand Part 2	Bounty of the River's Edge
2:00pm	Seasoned with Spirit	Vitality Gardening		Vitality Gardening		Vitality Gardening	Landing
2:30pm	Bounty of River's Edge	Treasure Hunt		Surprise		Raised Garden Bed	
3:00pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	Vitality Health	Vitality Health	Vitality Health		Vitality Health	Sivummut
3:30pm	Blue Gap Boyz	Fitness Day	Diabetes Mgmt Day				
4:00pm	Three brothers form the greatest band and only band in Blue Gap, AZ.	From The Spirit	From The Spirit	From The Spirit		From The Spirit	People of the Pines
4:30pm	Hawaii: A Voice for Sovereignty	Sean Couchie	April Mercredi	John Rombough		Abraham Anghik Ruben	Reservation and Survival
5:00pm	Explores the culture of the Native Hawaiians and their connection to the land.	Creative Native	Creative Native	Creative Native		Creative Native	Making Regalia
5:30pm	Native Voice TV	Smithsonian Institute	Masks of a Big House	Tricksters, Shape-shifters		Hopi: The Good & Peaceful	
6:00pm	On Native Ground: Youth Report	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
6:30pm	Wapos Bay	Working It Out Together	Indian Pride	On Native Ground: Youth Report		Storytellers in Motion	The Other Side
7:00pm	As The Bannock Browns	Indian Pride	Health and Healing	Saginaw Grant		On Native Ground: Youth Report	"Give Us A Name"
7:30pm	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Oskayak Down Under		Common Ground		First Talk	Indians and Aliens
8:00pm	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	First Talk				Make Prayers to the Raven	Henry Atsynia
8:30pm	Native Shorts	Native Report	People of the Pines			I Am Chut Wutty	Indigenous Focus
9:00pm	Green Bush	Smoke Traders	Uncharted Territory			When investigating a secret military-controlled logging site, Wutty is shot	Red Path / Smudge
9:30pm	Deep Time	The contraband tobacco trade and the effect on lives and communities				Wapos Bay	Dabiyiyuu
10:00pm	Cast the ongoing boom in the context of paleo-cycles, climate change, and the dark ecology of the future.	The Madoc War				Wapos Bay	The Creator's Touch
10:30pm	Wisdom of the Grandmothers	A handful of Modoc warriors and families held off hundreds of soldiers.				Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People	Animal Songs
11:00pm	Love, community, family, faith, respect and caring for our Mother Earth.	The Hunt				GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS	Native Report
11:30pm		Tricks and Treats				Champions of the North	Wapos Bay
		Back to Pikangikum				Modern Times	Tricks and Treats
		Suicide has brought down the communities happiness and cast a grief.				Fractured Lands	Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People
						A young Indigenous law student fighting to protect his land and people from the ravages of neocolonialism.	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS
						Every Emotion Costs	GRTV NEWS WEEKLY & GRIC EVENTS
						Addiction reveals in the characters lives, edifying their own personal rituals, pain, lust and disappointment.	Moose T.V.
							Foreign Film
							The Human Effect
							Living in harmony with the environment and each other.
							2017 IWO JIMA EVENT Sacaton, AZ

THROWBACK THURSDAY!
 FULL LISTING OF 2016 EVENTS ALL DAY!
 Visit www.grbc.tv/schedule for complete guide.

Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Gila River Police Department reserves the right to restrict the release of certain reports which may not be available or are currently under investigation. Calls for services this week: 725 Arrest made: 33

Feb. 26 – March 4, 2017

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 – Officers responded to a call for shots fired call with a description of a vehicle. Once Officers were in the area they located a vehicle matching the description in the area of Gila Butte housing. As the officer attempted to make contact with the driver, the driver put the vehicle in reverse and accelerated, striking the police vehicle. The Suspect vehicle then fled but was later located. Officers were able to locate the vehicle and were able to determine who had possession of the vehicle. A weapon and ammunition were located in plain view and were determined to be reported stolen out of the City of Maricopa. The suspect was arrested and booked into Jail.

Status: Suspect was arrested

District Four (Lone Butte Area):

Aggravated Assault - The two victims reported that the suspect “flipped out” during a verbal altercation pointing a weapon at the first victim and striking the second victim at least three times in the shoulder with the butt of the stock. The Suspect also punched one of the victims in the face causing her nose to bleed. The suspect was gone prior to officer arrival but was known to the victims. Charges are being forwarded to the law office.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – An employee

of the casino reported his bicycle was stolen out of the 1st level parking garage.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A black 200-400 MM Nikon lens was stolen from the media trailer at the Wildhorse Motorsports Park during the NHRA event.

Status: Under Investigation

District Five (Casa Blanca):

No incidents regarding part I crime

District Six (Komatke):

Theft – A casino patron reported her purse was taken while at the Vee Quiva Casino. The victim stated she text the phone

that was in her purse and received a text message back stating they did have her purse but would not be returning it. Medication was in her purse that she needed to report as stolen in order to refill the prescription.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – A 50 inch Westinghouse television was taken from the victim’s residence. The victim stated she had been gone from her residence for an extended period of time. When she returned she noticed the television was gone and believes it may have been taken by a family member.

Status: Under Investigation

Theft – Officers were requested to a residence regards to a theft. The victim stated that her son took her cell phone and money from her purse, after she would not allow him to use her phone. The suspect was gone prior to officer arrival.

Status: Under Investigation

District Seven (Maricopa):

Weapons- Officers responded to shots fired in the area. Officers were able to make contact with some individuals and weapons were impounded into evidence.

Status: Under Investigation

MUL-CHU-THA EVENT WINNERS

T-Ball
1st – Lil Rangers
2nd – Bulldogs
3rd – Lil Braves

Little League
1st – Guadalupe Yaquis
2nd – Bears
3rd – Outkast

Men’s Basketball
1st – Komatke
2nd – Those Guys
3rd – FMD
Women’s Basketball
1st – Sugar Mamas
2nd – Skevk U’uvi
3rd – Skegcu
Elder Chair Volleyball
1st – Jackrabbits
2nd – Salt River
3rd – Silver Hawks
Horse Shoe
Friday March 10
Singles
1st Mike Payne
2nd-John Miller jr.

3rd-Mark Miguel
Doubles
1st-Eddie Davis/Mike Payne
2nd-Frank Marlow/John Miller Jr.
3rd-Rupert Miguel/Randy Massey

Saturday March 11
Singles
1st-Tim Clawson
2nd-Anita Cosen
3rd-Robson Wilson
Doubles
1st-Pete c/Delmer Steele
2nd-Tim C/Jonathan
3rd-Duane Jackson/John Miller JR.

Fry Bread Contest
1st Stephanie Rhodes
2nd Nicole Pascual
3rd Eugenia Apkaw

Battle of the Band
1st Southern Mumsigo
2nd Thee Express
3rd D. Faktion Nyne
Chicken Scratch Battle of the

Bands Instrument Winners
Percussion: Trevino Antone, Papago Warrior
Bass Guitar: Neal Norris, O’odham Tradition
Guitar: Cecil Lewis Jr., Thee Express
Drums: Lucius Vavages, Thee Express
Saxophone: Ben Jose, South Image
Accordion: Steve Vavages, Thee Express
2017 Thoka Tournament Winners
1st – Ali Chugk
2nd – S-keg Komckud
3rd – Ju:k Sibanik

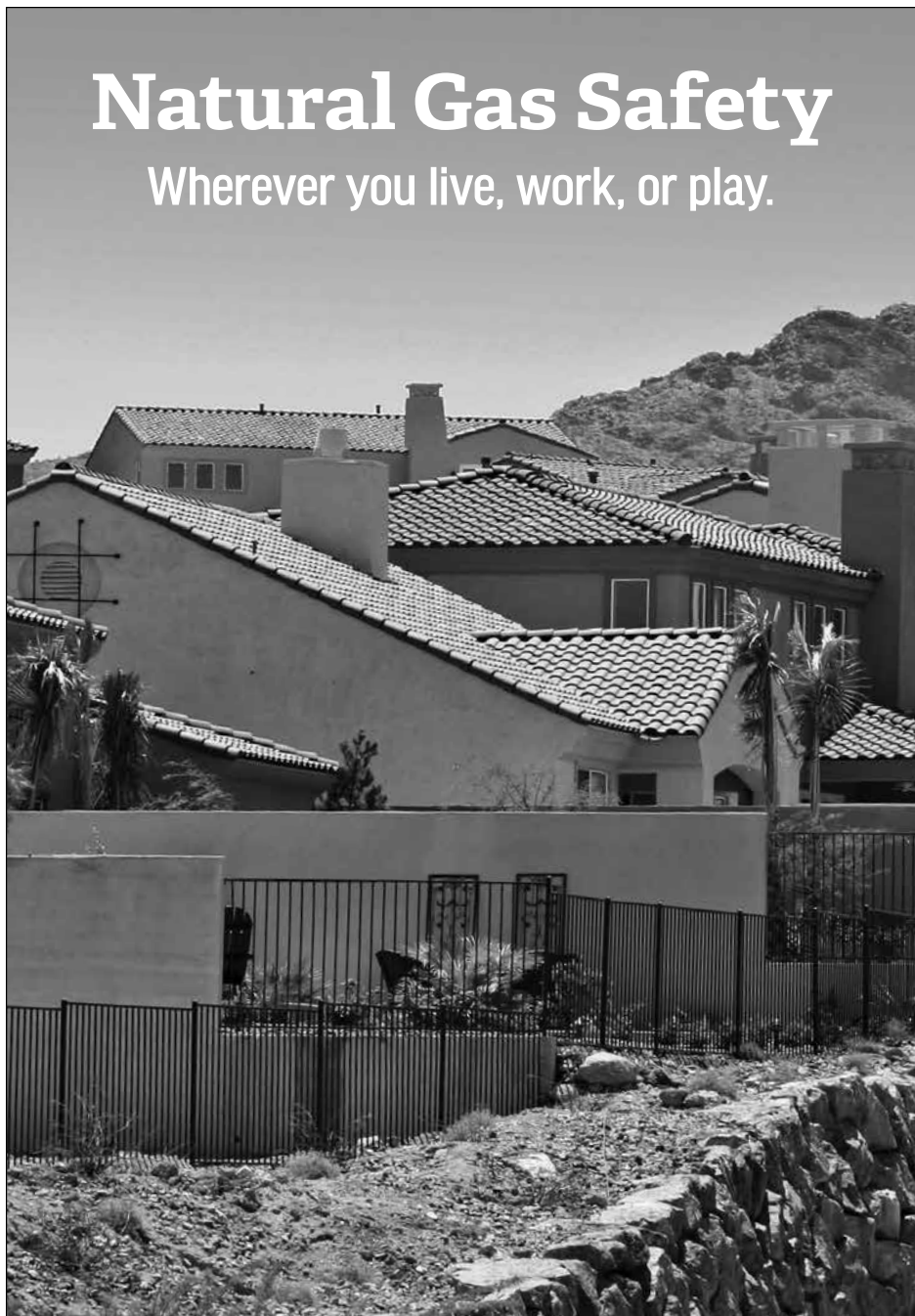
2017 Parade Winners
Dance Group
1st – San Xavier - We:s Hema-jkam Kwailya Dam (All People Square Dancers)
2nd – Santa Rosa Ranch School Traditional Singers
3rd – Skyline Gila River D5 Basket Dancers

Float – Department/Entity
1st – GRIC – District 3 Elderly Recreation
2nd – GRIC – Department of Housing Development
3rd – GRIC – Department of Land Use & Planning
Float – School Club
1st – Hothai Gardens
2nd – Gila Crossing Community School Singers & Dancers
3rd – Casa Blanca Community School, RoadRunner Band Marching Group
1st – Blackwater Community School
2nd – Blackwater Community School Color Guard
3rd – Gila Crossing Color Guard Royalty
1st – Jr. Miss Pisin Mo’o Cek San Royalty 2017-2018
2nd – 2016-2017 Wak:k Ceksan Royalty
3rd – San Carlos Apache Tribe Rodeo Royalty

Sac City Throwdown Skate Competition
7 – 10-year-olds
1st – Fabian Norris
2nd – Sakima Nahee
3rd – Nicholas Lewis
11 – 15-year-olds
1st – Jacob Jones
2nd – Jacob Lewis
3rd – Antonio Hernandez
16 & Up
1st – Adrian Thomas
2nd – Taymen Chatlin
3rd – Keyshawn Coleman

Car Show
Bike – Dez Gallegos, Movement Car Club
SUV – Chuy Muñoz, Dubz Car Club, '98 Ford Explorer
'70s Street Custom – Irwin Manuel, Movement Car Club
'70s Full Custom – Gilbert Garza, Movement Car Club, '73 Chevrolet Monte Carlo
'80s Mile Custom:
Third – Tommy C., G Riders Car

Club, '80 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Second – Robert Berrera, Devoted Few, '87 Buick Regal
First – Cheryl Madril, '86 Oldsmobile Cutlass
'80s Full Custom – Thomas Padilla, Brown Society, '83 Monte Carlo
'90s & Up – Sonia Muñoz, Dubz Car Club, '06 Fusion
'90s & Up Luxury – Mike Hernandez, Devoted Few, '94 Fleetwood Club Participation, \$100 each – Devoted Few, Movement, Dubz Car Club
Best of Show:
Runner Up, \$200 – Thomas Padilla, Brown Society, '83 Monte Carlo
Winner, \$300 – Gilbert Garza, Movement Car Club, '73 Chevrolet Monte Carlo



Natural Gas Safety

Wherever you live, work, or play.

NATURAL GAS LINES

can be buried anywhere, even in areas where homes don’t use natural gas. So it’s important that EVERYONE knows how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak, wherever they are.

A LEAK MAY BE PRESENT IF YOU:



SMELL:
a distinct sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, even if it’s faint or momentary.



HEAR:
a hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above-ground piping.



SEE:
dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying grass or plants, or standing water continuously bubbling.

IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK

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

For more information about natural gas safety, visit swgas.com/safety or call **877-860-6020**



55th Annual MUL-CHU-THA



I'm proud to say that this year's Mul-Chu-Tha was a resounding success. It was important to have festivities for our elders, veterans and all of our members to celebrate 55 years of culture, strength and unity. The 55th Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo carried on the vision first established by those first organizers back in 1962, and I'm happy that they were named Grand Marshalls.

I want to say thank you and especially recognize all the staff and volunteers who brought so many smiles to the faces all of those who attended this year. Their dedication is very much appreciated. From the parade, rodeo, carnival, powwow, traditional games and all the entertainment, it was truly a year to remember. A thank you is also in order for the visiting tribal leaders and most importantly the Community Council for providing the funding for the Mul-Chu-Tha. I also want to congratulate, once again, Mr. Leslie Pasqual as the Veteran of the Year and Elder of the Year.

For all the visitors that came to the Mul-Chu-Tha this week, I want to thank you and please know that you are always welcome in our Community. The 56th Mul-Chu-Tha will be here before you know it, and I want to see everyone return for another great celebration.

Thank you,

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis
Gila River Indian Community



Gila River Indian Community
CRISIS HOTLINE
1 (800) 259-3449



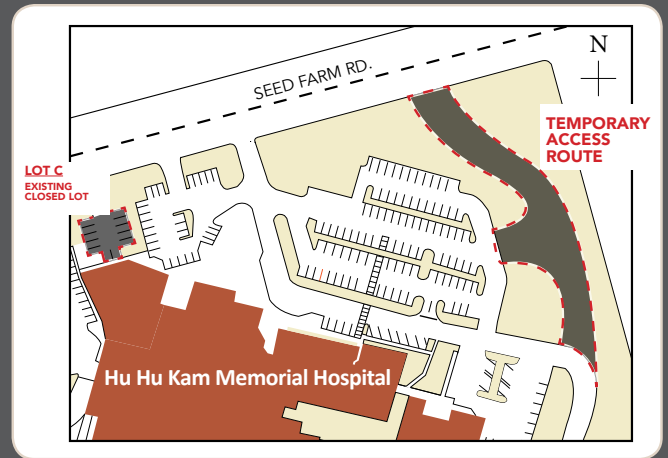
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NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY • MARCH 30TH

National Doctors' Day is observed nationally every year on March 30th. It is a day to celebrate the contribution of physicians who serve our country by caring for its citizens.

The first Doctors' Day observance was March 30, 1933, in Winder, Georgia. It was started by Eudora Brown Almond who decided a day should be set aside to honor physicians.

On March 30th, please take a moment and thank all our GRHC providers who care for you and your family.



COMING SOON!





More plurals in O’otham

In a previous article last year we talked about the difference between one and many in O’otham, and described how O’otham uses a different process than English when forming plural nouns. In English when we want to make a difference between one item and many we add an -s suffix at the end of the word. This distinguishes one item (dog, cat, car) from many (dogs, cats, cars). O’otham ñeok uses a completely different system where you don’t add anything to the end of the word, but instead you double (or partially double) the beginning of the word. For example, when you want to talk about one dog you use the word goks but to talk about many you double the first syllable to create the plural noun gogoks. This process of transforming the word by doubling (or partially doubling) the word is called reduplication and is a common process among the languages of the world. Indonesian, for example is another language that uses reduplication by doubling the entire word to create plural nouns as seen in the following pairs: pulau/pulau-pulau ‘island/islands’, anak/anak-anak ‘child/children’, apel/apel-apel ‘apple/apples.’

Reduplication in

O’otham is unique in that there are a number of different doubling patterns that are used to create plural nouns. The most simple and straightforward are those examples where the first syllable (usually the first two sounds) is doubled to create a plural. This is seen in the single and plural words for dog (goks/gogoks), cow (haivañ/ha-haivañ) and horses (kaviyu/kakaviyu). This is not the only pattern as some words become plural by doubling and then dragging the vowel to where it is longer than the vowel sound in the original word. This can be heard in the singular and plural words for child (maḍ/ma:maḍ) and coyote (ban/ba:ban). There is also a third pattern where the first syllable is doubled but the vowel in the middle of the word is deleted and not pronounced. This is seen in the word for packrat (koston/kokson), javelina (thasikol/thathsikol) and shoulder (kothva/kokthva).

One of the most interesting patterns for forming plurals happens with words that have a “v” sound at the beginning. These words also use a doubling pattern to create plural nouns but have a unique twist. With these words an unexpected “p” sound will be pop up in the middle of the word and

take over the expected “v” sound. Take for example the word for irrigation ditch vaika. Knowing how plurals are formed in O’otham we would expect the plural to sound something like *vavaika but that isn’t what is heard. What is heard instead is vapaika, which means “irrigation ditches” and which you’ll notice as you say the word it has an unexpected “p” sound that pops up in place of the original “v” sound in the singular word. Another example is the word for arrow bag/quiver which is vogsha. The plural word to refer to many quivers is vopogsha, not the expected *vovogsha. Again, notice as you say the word how the “p” sound pops up in the middle of the word. This pattern where a “p” takes over an original “v” only happens with words that start with a “v” sound and is very consistent with only one or two exceptions (vamaḍ “water snake” becomes vahammaḍ “water snakes”).

More examples with words that start with “v” show the same range of doubling patterns that we see with other nouns. There are examples where the vowel that is doubled will be dragged out and sound longer. An example of this is the word vag which means “hole, bur-










row.” The plural word for many holes is va:pag which you’ll notice as you say it is pronounced with an “a” vowel that is dragged out slightly longer and also has an unexpected “p” sound in the middle. Another pattern is seen in the single and plural words for cotton rat (vosho/vopsho) and wheat straw basket (vashom/vapshom). Notice how the plural nouns in these words both lose a vowel in the middle of the word. Finally there are words that don’t

change in both their single and plural forms. These examples include the word for hummingbird (vipismal), mesquite beans (viohog) and body hair (vopo). The words are the same whether you are talking about one or many.

Plural nouns like everything else in our language will vary from speaker to speaker based on dialect so it is always best to ask your elders how you say these words in your area. Pay attention

to the different patterns of forming plurals and don’t be afraid to ask another speaker if you’re not sure. Now that you’ve learned a bit more about plurals try your hand at this month’s word match to learn about more plurals that start with an initial “v” sound.

S-oa:m Mashath: Match the O’otham single and plural nouns with their pictures!

vathop		vapthop
vainom	 	vapainom
vanjel	 	vapanjel
vonam	 	vopnam
vijina	 	vipijina

Tax prep. for GRIC members, employees

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The April 18 Federal and State Tax Deadline for 2016 is looming just around the corner and the Gila River Indian Community’s Internal Audit Department’s IRS Certified Volunteers are helping to relieve the stress by providing free tax preparation services for all Community members and GRIC employees.

Debra Baubie, GRIC Information Systems Internal Auditor, said every year more and more people drop by to take advantage of the services they provide and this year looks to be their busiest season yet.

“Last year we prepared over 1,800 tax returns here alone,” said Baubie. “The year before that it was just below 1,800, so each year we have increased the amount of tax returns we have prepared. It seems the word is getting out more and more each year. We have been busier this year than we

have been in past years. That is very good news,” she said.

Baubie said it is important for Community members and GRIC employees to make an appointment for their free tax preparation as they are given priority over walk-ins.

“We take appointments first and then we also accept walk-ins,” said Baubie. “But we let [the walk-ins] know that they will have to wait until [those with] appointments are completed.”

She added that it is necessary to bring a photo I.D., Social Security card, last year’s tax return, a Form W-2, Per Capita 1099 and Supplemental Security Income forms, proof of winnings from gambling, and proof of a bank account for direct deposits.

“Once they are with the [tax] preparer, they will read over the intake sheet. If they have any questions that the tax payer was not sure on how to answer, then they will ask them questions [to] input the information into

our system,” she said.

Baubie said the electronic system they use to prepare taxes is called Tax Slayer and the software is able to accurately calculate Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits. If individuals qualify for these credits, they could receive a tax refund.

While volunteers are providing free tax services to Community members and GRIC employees, it is specifically for individuals who need assistance with basic tax preparations, not more complicated filings for businesses with depreciation or capital gains and losses.

There are two locations to receive free tax preparation services: the Internal Audit Department located in the GRIC Governance Center, M-F, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., which can be reached at (520) 562-9551 or 9553 and at Pima Leasing & Financial Corporation in the Wild Horse Pass Corporate Center, which can be reached at (520) 796-2454.



AILDI announces a second summer session!
July 10-21, 2017

Location: District 3 Headstart Center, Sacaton, AZ,
Gila River Indian Community

Schedule: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Earn 3 credits in 10 days

Teaching Language: What language & culture teachers need to know - historical perspective, policies, know your language learner

Register now at
aildi.arizona.edu/2017_summer_how_to_apply

Gila River Indian Community
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AILDI
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f: (520) 621-8174
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Community Day kicks off the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

The 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo started off with Community Night, inviting all tribal members to join in on an evening of traditional barbecue and entertainment on March 10.

With the smell of fresh chumuth in the air and joyful cheers from carnival goers as they brave their way onto the Zipper, it was a great way to kick off this year's Mul-Chu-Tha.

To get the fair in motion, a frybread contest was held at the Cultural Circle, which saw Stephanie Rhodes win first place, Nicole Pasqual win second place and Eugenia Apkaw win third place in the contest.

At the wood-chopping contest, Avery Garcia, Billy Bragg and Sheridan Garcia took first, second and third, respectively.

This year's Mul-Chu-Tha was the first time the Community Elder and Veteran of the Year awards were presented.

The recipient for the inaugural award was given to District 3 elder and veteran Leslie Pasqual.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis presented Pasqual with a commemorative piece of artwork made by District 6 artist Aaron Sabori and read the proclamation declaring March 10 Leslie Pasqual Day.

Pasqual served in the United States Army and is one of the Community's last remaining World War II veterans.

Free admission was given to veterans, which Gov. Lewis said was a small token of appreciation for their service.

He also acknowledged the GRIC elders in atten-



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
Anissa Garcia is crowned by Oriana Apkaw.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN
Haili Gonzales is crowned as Jr. Miss Gila River.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Leslie Pasqual, vest, is flanked by his family during Community Day as he was announced as the Veteran of the Year and Elder of the Year.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Dancers enjoy one of the many waila bands at the Chicken Scratch Battle of the Bands.



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Stateline performs their country favorites on Friday March 10.

dance, and said they are the caretakers of the tribe's culture and language.

Lewis said they ensure the Community's future by passing those important teachings down to the next generation.

The night was capped off by the coronation of the

2017-2018 Miss Gila River Anissa Garcia of District 3 and Jr. Miss Gila River Haili Lynn Trevino Gonzales of District 3.

The evening was also a bittersweet farewell for the outgoing 2016-2017 GRIC royalty.

Outgoing Miss Gila



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Antonio Davis congratulates winners of the Frybread Making Contest.

River Oriana Apkaw gave her farewell walk with her father Kevin Apkaw before turning the evening over to the Miss Gila River coronation dance.

Royalty from across the state of Arizona were in attendance to congratulate Garcia and Gonzales as they accepted their titles.

The sun went down and the neon lights of the

fair rides brightened the night when Indian Country sensation Stateline performed to a crowd of boot-scooting fans as they played some of their hits "Reservation Road" and "Sweet Beautiful You."

The fun wasn't over Saturday evening, when Q Parker of the hit R&B group 112 took to the entertainment stage signing love jams like "Only You," and "Cupid."

The night was only getting started when Frankie J, formerly of the Kumbia Kings took over the mic singing some of his famous

tunes, "Don't Wanna Try," and "Obsession (No Es Amor)."

Fair goers were treated to the Battle of the Bands competition on Saturday in which Southern Mumsigo, Thee Express and D. Faction Nyne, took first, second and third place.

In the horseshoe tournament Tim Clawson, Anita Clawson of White River from the White Mountain Apache Tribe took first and second place, followed up by Robson Wilson Sr., in third place from the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Sac City Throwdown brings out talented youth

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

Just one day before the main festivities of the 55th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo began, skaters from around the Gila River Indian Community descended upon the District 3 Skate Park for the Sac City Throwdown Skateboard Competition on the evening of March 10.

Over 20 skateboarders making up three age categories, the 7-10 year-olds, 11-15-year-olds, and 16 and up, gave their all in an attempt to grab the top position in their respective categories. Skaters participated in timed sets of two 1-minute runs where three judges scored them based on their overall style and tricks landed.

According to event organizer Reuben Ringleiro, first place winners of the skate competition each received a skateboard, and second and third place holders received a skateboard deck and tickets to the rodeo and fair.

The event also had a raffle where competition organizers gave away two skateboards, several backpacks, and a multitude of other prizes. Ringleiro said that funds raised during the raffle will be used to purchase prizes for future Community skating events.

The Sac City Throwdown Skateboard Competition was sponsored by the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo, Seven Layer Army, and Cowtown Skateboards.

Results of the competition are below:



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

From left, Adrian Thomas, Taymen Chatlin and Keyshawn Coleman, winners in the 16 & Up category in the Sac City Throwdown.

Sac City Throwdown 2017 Winners

7 to 10-year-old category

- 1st Fabian Norris
- 2nd Sakima Nahee
- 3rd Nicholas Lewis

11 to 15-year-old category

- 1st Jacob Jones
- 2nd Jacob Lewis

3rd Antonio Hernandez 16 & Up category

- 1st Adrian Thomas
- 2nd Taymen Chatlin
- 3rd Keyshawn Coleman

For upcoming Community skating events visit sevenlayerarmyskateboards.com.

Mul-Chu-Tha parade from page 1

While the fairground was filled with tons of entertainment, vendors were also serving up delicious treats to famished fair-goers. Food vendors filled the bellies of families with curly fries doused in chili, Indian tacos, and burritos, while refreshing them with ice-cold lemonades and citrusy Texas Twisters.

This year's Mul-Chu-Tha Fair & Rodeo was filled with a variety of tournaments and festivities, which took place over a period of two weeks be-

ginning in early March. Activities included a baseball, tee-ball, and little league tournament, a co-ed slow-pitch softball tournament, elder chair volleyball tournament, wood chopping competition, popover contest, annual footrace half-marathon and walk, thoka tournament, songivu'l tournament, gospel jam, men's and women's basketball tournament, and Sac City Throwdown skate competition, and of course a variety of great food and delicious beverages.

More scenes from the Mul-Chu-Tha Fair, Rodeo and Parade



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

Mul-Chu-Tha Essay Contest Winners



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Selena Jackson, center, Coolidge High, is congratulated by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Gov. Monica Antone.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

The Tribal Education Department hosted an Essay and Art Contest for GRIC students in elementary through high school. Students focused their art and essays around the Mul-Chu-Tha theme of "Unity, Strength, and Culture." First place winners took home a \$100 gift card to Harkins Theatres, second place winners received \$75 gift cards to UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, and third place winners took home \$50 gift cards to Main

Event in Chandler. Winners are as follows (first place through third per category):
Essay Contest
Grades 4 and 5 – Meeya Fanholz, Blackwater, 4th Grade; Maudicia Osife, Casa Blanca, 4th Grade; Siawog Urquides, Blackwater, 5th Grade.
Grades 6-8 – Zeara Enos, St. Peter Mission, 7th Grade; Natalie Jose, St. Peter Mission, 8th Grade; Pahe Tsinhnahjinnie, St. Peter Mission, 7th Grade.
Grades 9-12 – Selena Jackson, Coolidge High, 12th Grade; Brigitte Smith, Coolidge High, 12th Grade;

Charisma Quiroz, Coolidge High, 12th Grade.
Art Contest
Grades 4 and 5 – Raquel Manuel, Casa Blanca, 4th Grade; Francis Histia, Sacaton Elementary, 4th Grade; Augustin Medina, Casa Blanca, 4th Grade.
Grades 6-8 – Adrian Valenzuela, Sacaton Middle, 8th Grade; Azaria Enos, Sacaton Middle, 6th Grade; Cyndi Lopez, Sacaton Middle, 6th Grade.
Grades 9-12 – Ellayna Plingyowma, Coolidge High, 12th Grade; Suzette Tsosie, Coolidge High, 11th Grade; no third place.

Brenton Wood closes out Mul-Chu-Tha



Mikhail Sundust/GRIN

Brenton Wood sings to a packed audience.

Mikhail Sundust
Gila River Indian News

Sixties soul sensation Brenton Wood closed out the Mul-Chu-Tha with a musical set that made hearts flutter, hands wave, and hips groove. The crowd moved to the beat of classic hits like *Me And You, Take*

A Chance on Me, Oogum Boogum Song, and Gimme Little Sign.

The audience swayed with Wood's melodies and sang along to their favorites tunes like *I Like The Way You Love Me* and *Baby You Got It*. The crowd on Sunday night, March 12, was estimated at about 2,000

people – some older and reminiscing on good times, some younger and feeling something new.

Wood, 75, lit the stage with the glimmer in his eye and gently wrapped up the night with the smooth vocal performances that made him famous.

Ramona Farms from page 1

failure is not falling down, instead failure is not getting back up.”

Not only that, he said, but “they have always considered their impact, both good and bad, on their community. They have strived to give back to the people, and to give to the land. They have strived to preserve history in their culture, and they try very hard to share their returns, and in the end I know they plan to leave things better than when they began.”

Terry and Ramona accepted a Hall of Fame plaque on stage, saying they are proud to do the work they do, not seeking awards, but only wanting to contribute to the improved health and wellbeing of the

people of the Gila River Indian Community.

“My gratitude is endless for the people that have worked with us and for the appreciation that you all have shown,” said Terry, who launched into a brief history lesson on the desert’s original farmers.

“It needs to be recognized,” he said, “that the farming traditions of the Akimel O’otham...must be acknowledged for their importance to the development of this great country we live in. This has been left out of the history books. The dawning of Arizona’s agricultural economy was along the Gila and Salt Rivers. The Pimas were the first irrigators of the desert Southwest and have farmed

here for many centuries.

“The Akimel O’otham raised corn, tepary beans, Pima limas, squash, gourds, cotton, and tobacco. They harvested the desert in season for berries, mesquite beans, cactus fruit, buds and flowers, chia seeds, wild chiles, agave, and native greens. Desert plants were their medicine. And when the Gila ran through the Pima lands, fish was a staple food.

“When first contacted by the Europeans in 1685, the Akimel O’otham obtained white Sonora wheat from the Mediterranean, black eyed peas from northern Africa, chickpeas and melons from Persia. These crops were quickly adapted into their irrigated farm rotations, filling a niche between corn and beans’ growing seasons.

“The Pima fed pioneers, settlers, and travelers, as well as the U.S. Cavalry and Civil War troops with millions of pounds of wheat shipped as far north as Kansas. Today, we are proud to help preserve these traditions by growing, preparing, and marketing these crops so that they may survive and provide wholesome nutrition to future generations.”

The Button farm is named after Ramona, but it is very much a family affair.

“My father is Tohono O’odham and my mother is Akimel O’otham, and together they did a great job in teaching me the art of farming,” Ramona told the audience. Even as a little girl, she went out on the field with her father, who worked from sun up to sun

down. “[He] was like, ‘If you want to see me, you have to work with me.’”

She learned to farm in tractors and on horseback, but in the home she learned to manipulate her family’s crops and the desert plants.

“My mother was instrumental in teaching me the art of cooking with traditional foods, because we grew everything that we ate, and put away everything, and prepared it. And also taught me about the desert herbs and how to heal yourself.”

Ramona and Terry have carried on that tradition, teaching their children to work the land and plants of the Sonoran desert. Today their daughter Brandy, a chef, promotes their food and uses it in catering events around the state. Their other daughter

Velvet develops health conscious recipes using Ramona Farms foods and teaches them to families and school children in the Gila River Indian Community.

Terry said, “it wouldn’t have been possible for us to do what we’ve been recognized for without the support of our family, without Ramona, my brother Dale, Carl, my sister Karen, our daughters Brandy and Velvet and our son Edward, Maria, and our granddaughters...and all of the members of our community.”

Ramona said, “I think the story to this is, when we join together, you work as one and become one. Thank you.”

Learn more about Ramona Farms, and find recipes, at www.ramonafarms.com.

Native fashion show raises awareness on Indigenous representation

Christopher Lomahquahu
Gila River Indian News

Beyond Buckskin and Arizona State University teamed up to create awareness about Native fashion and where it is headed through a two-night series of events hosted by the American Indian Policy Institute at the Department in downtown Phoenix on March 1 and 4.

The events are also hosted in conjunction with the newly established Inno-Nations entrepreneurship program at ASU, which will be housed at the Department business space starting in June of this year.

On the first night, AIPI Director Traci Morris

welcomed Jessica Metcalfe, who is the creator and owner of the online Native fashion blog and boutique Beyond Buckskin to speak about Native fashion.

Metcalfe, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chipewewa Indians in North Dakota, took her online blog to a retail space and now a brick and mortar shop located in her community, which she runs with the assistance of fellow tribal members, is an example to aspiring Native entrepreneurs.

How it all started

The idea for her blog was to take a stand against what was seen as the selling of a culture that was never the fashion industry’s to

sell and that many designs have been misappropriated from Native people for profit.

Metcalfe highlighted the many instances in which companies such as Adidas, Ralph Lauren and Urban Outfitters took Native designs and made a profit off of them, without consideration for how they represented Native people.

She said these unfortunate representations in the media influenced her decision to take a stand against the false representation of Native people in the fashion industry.

One of the more prominent cases of a Native people being misrepresented

and their designs used for a companies profit was that of Urban Outfitters taking traditional Navajo designs and using them on a variety of the company’s products.

“In 2011 something very interesting happened and that was when Urban Outfitters got caught,” said Metcalfe. “They had listed over two dozen of their items as ‘Navajo,’ so they were selling Navajo flasks, undergarments and socks.”

She said the case set a real precedence as to how fashion companies are to be held accountable for their actions and that they shouldn’t consider themselves free of any wrong doing, because of their reputation in the industry.

Metcalfe said, “We are the minorities of minorities, which I might add is a result of deliberate and systematic genocidal attacks. I don’t think that we should be further punished by having our identities whittled away by these large companies.”

In 2016 Urban Outfitters and the Navajo Nation reached an undisclosed settlement agreement and that in the future the company was going to collaborate with the Nation on selling items like jewelry.

Bringing Native Fashion to the Forefront

The premise of the Beyond Buckskin blog, which ultimately became a full-fledged store, is just one way Metcalfe is pushing Native fashion forward.

She started out with 11 artists and designers, but has now grown to over 40 individuals featured on

her online store.

Another benefit to her business is that she showcases some of the oldest traditional forms of craftsmanship in a more contemporary setting.

Metcalfe showed an example of porcupine quillwork of Caroline Bleichert, who comes from the Inuvialuit people of Western Canada.

“It’s only found in Native North America. You will not find it anywhere else in the world and it is continuously still being practiced today,” she said.

Her boutique sells these items, which come in earrings and bracelets, which support the continuation of the ancient traditional practice.

Fashion Night

The second night consisted of a fashion show called “Protection In all Directions,” that featured

the designs of Native artist Jared Yazzie, a member of the Navajo Nation, who created his brand of apparel called OXDX, which is a play on words that means “Overdose.”

Yazzie said when he first came to the Valley he experienced an “overdose” of everyday life that he had to adjust to, but most importantly it was about finding a way of representing Native culture and the strengths that his people draw from in Navajo culture.

“I just like showing the beauty of Native culture and by showing the strength of women in our society, because they represent a very powerful presence in Native culture, so I feature them a lot in my clothing designs,” said Yazzie.

He said working with Metcalfe has helped him

Continued on Page 13

Gila River Indian Community Members

Register to VOTE

for the upcoming
Gila River Indian Community
Community Council Election
May 2, 2017
DISTRICTS 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6

<p>Contact your District Judge or Tribal Elections:</p>	<p>Audrey Evans, D#1 Judge, 520-215-5949</p> <p>Hazel Lewis, D#3 Judge, 520-610-2222</p> <p>Sharon Miguel, D#4 Judge, 520-418-2142 or 520-610-0670</p>	<p>Gaynell Lopez, D#5 Judge, 520-709-9835</p> <p>Lorina Allison, D#6 Judge, 480-318-1274</p> <p>Tribal Elections Office, 520-562-9735</p>
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DEADLINE:

to register to VOTE or make changes is

April 3, 2017, 5 pm

For questions, call the GRIC Tribal Elections Program office @ (520) 562-9735

Please Note:
We do not share the same data base with the Per Capita or Enrollment depts.; any changes you make at these departments, will not be reflected on your voter registration information. Please update your VOTER registration status TODAY



OXDX owner Jared Yazzie.

Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis welcomes the attendees to traditional O’otham land, and offered his support of the entrepreneurial partnerships.

Chief Azul Scholar Awards Program and Citizenship Awards deadline is March 31

Thomas R. Throssell
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department (TED) wants Community students to know that time is running out to hand in applications for the Chief Azul Scholar Awards Program and the Citizenship Award, which are both due March 31.

Each award requires different attributes for applying students, with the Chief Azul Scholar Award focusing on academic achievement and the Citizenship Award looking for students who perform well in school and possess a good character.

Chief Azul Scholar Award Program

The Chief Azul Schol-

ar Award is to recognize the academic achievements of students from the fourth through twelfth grades, and undergraduate students, in order to motivate the Community's youth to pursue higher education.

Schools may nominate two students from each grade level, one male and female, which will be reviewed by a committee organized by TED. After the committee reviews all applicants they will select the top three students from each grade level, who will then be chosen as the Chief Azul Scholar or receive an honorable mention.

Anthony Gray, TED Cultural Coordinator, said the Chief Azul Scholar Award is given to Community students who personi-



Christopher Lomahquahu/GRIN

The deadline for the Chief Azul Scholar Award and Citizenship Award is approaching for Community students.

fy Chief Azul's leadership and educational ability. He said that Azul led the tribe during a turbulent time, through Mexican jurisdiction, the Gadsden Purchase,

and keeping the Gila River Indian Community from being relocated to Oklahoma.

"Out of that, we want students to be leaders...in

his example," said Gray. "His work kept us where we are, his work kept us who we are, his work helped fight for the water rights. We want [our students] to be those future lawyers, those future academically trained people who help us stay who we are, [and] where we are," he said.

Citizenship Award

The Citizenship Award recognizes well performing GRIC high school seniors who possess a friendly de-

meanor, positive attitude, and represent the ideal Community member. Only 15 high school twelfth graders will be selected for the award.

While the Chief Azul Scholar Award is based off of academic success, the Citizenship Award is more focused on a student's behavior and participation in extracurricular activities and school life.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be a high achieving straight A student," said TED Assistant Director Fredrick Poitra. "It could be somebody who maybe had a rough time, but persevered and came out and was successful at some point. That definition of success for the Citizenship Award is different for each student and their story," he said.

The 15 winners of the Citizenship Award will receive an all-expenses paid one-week trip to Washington D.C., where chaperones will take them to some of the most famous monuments in the United States.

TED Director Isaac Salcido, said some of the popular locations the students will visit on their trip include Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian, and the American Indian History museum.

"I think this is an opportunity for those students who do participate, who do engage in the school experience, who do understand the idea of helping each other," said Salcido. "I think it is a really opportunity to play up those role models that we have amongst our kids in the Community."

Salcido added that because competition is high, it is important for students who have accomplished extraordinary goals to make that they put that information on their application form.

"If they are members of the honor society, if they are members of the honor roll, that they provide that type of documentation, so it can support their application," Salcido said. "If they have received any other types of awards or scholarships from community clubs, that they put it down so that it can be verified and it can be taken into account."

For more information about either the Chief Azul Scholar Award or the Citizenship Award, pick up application forms at your local district service center or call the Tribal Education Department at (520) 562-3662 and ask to speak to Kenyen Thompson or email Kenyen.thompson@gric.nsn.us

WILD HORSE PASS

Five-star hotel, golfing, casino, outlet shopping, western town, race car driving, luxury spa and fine dining...
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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
1939
ARIZONA

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March 1, 2017

ACTION SHEET

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

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday March 1, 2017, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by presiding Chairman Lt. Governor Monica Antone at 9:05 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilwoman Nada Celaya

ROLL CALL

Sign-in Sheet Circulated

Executive Officers Present:

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Executive Officers Absent:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2-Carol Schurz; D3- Carolyn Williams (9:09), Rodney Jackson; D4- Nada Celaya, Christopher Mendoza, Barney Enos, Jr. (9:20); D5- Brian Davis, Sr. (9:36), Marlin Dixon, Robert Stone; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Sandra Nasewytewa; Council Members Absent: D4-Jennifer Allison; D5- Franklin Pablo, Sr.; D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS (Limit to 5-minutes)

1. 2016-2017 Miss Gila River & Jr. Miss Gila River Farewell Address

Presenters: Gila River Royalty, Royalty Committee

MS. RAYLYNNE WILLIAMS INFORMED THE COUNCIL JR. MISS GILA RIVER WOULD NOT BE PRESENT TO PROVIDE HER FAREWELL ADDRESS. SHE MOVED FORWARD AND INTRODUCED MISS GILA RIVER ORIANA APKAW. MS. APKAW PROVIDED HIGHLIGHTS OF HER REIGN AND EXPRESSED WORDS OF GRATITUDE. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND EXPRESSED WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

REPORTS

1. Family Advocacy Center

Presenter: Sunshine Whitehair

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*2. Protective Service Office

Presenters: Curtis Slatina, Sunshine Whitehair

DISPENSED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*3. Gila River Indian Irrigation & Drainage District (GRIIDD) Annual Report

Presenter: Ronald Allison

REPORT HEARD

4. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Post 51

Presenter: David Anderson, Darrell Whitman

REPORT HEARD

5. Haskell Osife-Antone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51 1st Qtr FY2017 Report

Presenter: Betty Molina

REPORT HEARD

6. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post No. 84 1st Qtr FY-2017 Expense Report

Presenter: Chesley Juan, Robert Amado

REPORT HEARD

7. Ira H. Hayes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 84 1st Qtr FY2017 Report

Presenter: Carletta McDaniel

REPORT HEARD

8. Community Technology Center Quarterly Report

Presenter: Connie Jackson

REPORT HEARD

[LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTONE CALLED FOR A 10-MINUTE BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:50 A.M.]

9. Gila River Boys & Girls Club Quarterly Report October 2016 - December 2016

Presenter: Rebecca Martinez, Jason Jones

REPORT HEARD

10. Johnson O'Malley Quarter 2 Report SY 2016-2017

Presenter: Gabriella Alvarez

REPORT HEARD

11. GRTI 4Q 2016 Update Report

Presenter: Bruce Holdridge, Kathryn McKenna, Peter Quam, GRTI Board

REPORT HEARD

[LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTONE CALLED FOR A 90-MINUTE LUNCH BREAK. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:35 P.M.]

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. Gila River Gaming Enterprise Inc. Monthly Report For January 2017 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Interim Oversight Planning, Committee

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. Gaming Commission General Report To Community Council For January 2017 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Serena Joaquin, Courtney Moyah

REPORT HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ENTER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Approving The Appointment Of Marlin Dixon To Represent The Gila River Indian Community On The Joint Control Board For A Term Of Three Years (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Casandra Wallace

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving The Appointment Of Angelia Allison To Represent The Gila River Indian Community On The Joint Control Board For A Term Of Three Years (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Casandra Wallace

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving A Tribal Land Assignment Of 6.0601 Acres More Or Less Of Community Trust Land To Blackwater School For The Purpose Of Designing, Constructing, Operating And Maintaining The Blackwater Community School On The Land Assignment As Shown In Drawing NO. SV-1 (NRSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval, with corrections)

Presenter: Nona Baheshone

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. A Resolution Approving the Petition for the Enrollment of Kandace Melari Sanderson into the Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Wayne Nelson, Jr.

APPROVED

5. A Resolution Approving the Petition for the Enrollment of Peyote Dawn Joaquin into the Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Wayne Nelson, Jr.

APPROVED

6. A Resolution Approving the Petition for the Enrollment of Wind River Joaquin into the Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Wayne Nelson, Jr.

APPROVED

7. A Resolution Approving the Petition for the Enrollment of Deidra Celina Joy Chase into the Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Wayne Nelson, Jr.

APPROVED

8. A Resolution Certifying the Membership Count of the Gila River Indian Community as December 31, 2016 (LSC forwards to Council under Resolutions with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sheila Riley-White, Wayne Nelson, Jr.

APPROVED

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors Appointment (1)

Presenters: Reviewing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT

KARIN CELAYA JACKSON

NEW BUSINESS

1. Advertisement of Appointed Positions:

Community Council Secretary, Community

Treasurer (Advertise for 60-days, Subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ADVERTISE

BOTH POSITIONS FOR 60-DAYS, SUBJECT

TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

2. Request for Review and Consideration for

Approval of ITCA Research Project for Survey of

20 Community Members (LSC forwards to

Council under New Business with

recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Kimberly M. Antone

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

3. 2017 National Forum on Dropout Prevention

for Native and Tribal Communities Scottsdale, AZ

- April 9th ,2017 (ESC forwards to Council, to

open up to any interested Council

Representatives or Community At Large

members)

Presenters: Education Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO OPEN TO

ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES OR

COMMUNITY AT LARGE MEMBERS

4. Gila River Sand & Gravel Board of Directors – Declaration of One (1) Vacancy – Subject to the Code of Conduct

Presenters: Reviewing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE

VACANCY AND ADVERTISE FOR 60-DAYS,

SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

5. Special Council Meeting Request

Presenters: Dale Gutenson, WHPDA Board

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO HOLD

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 30,

2017

6. FY17 Revenue Internal Audit- 1st Quarter Report

(Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to

Council under New Business in Executive

Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Dena Thomas

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT #6

& #7

7. FY17 Gaming Internal Audit—1st Quarter Report

(Executive Session) (G&MSC motioned to forward to

Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Robert G. Keller, Dena Thomas

ACCEPTED AT #6

MINUTES

1. February 1, 2017 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

2. February 15, 2017 (Regular)

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

>INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017, 11A.M.

>SPECIAL G&M MEETING, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017, 9A.M.

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE ALVINA LEWIS FAMILY

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE BRIAN PABLO FAMILY

>PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE JUSTIN FAMILY

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:26PM

* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

What's New at GRICUA

2017 Washington Youth Tour Students

GRICUA is happy to announce that Grace Elias, Adrian Thomas, Angel Ortiz and Javonni Molina have been selected to represent our Community at the 2017 Washington Youth Tour to be held in Washington, D.C. on June 8-15, 2017. They will join hundreds of students from across the country for a weeklong trip to visit historic monuments and museums, meet with United States Representatives and Senators and participate in workshops with other students.



Adrian Thomas

My name is Adrian D. Thomas. I am 17 years old and am from District Five. I am a junior and I attend Casa Grande Union High School. I reside in Casa Blanca, Arizona. I am a dedicated musician and I am looking to work with music professionally in the near future.



Grace Elias

My name is Grace Elias. I am Gila River and Oglala Sioux. I am from District Seven. I am a junior in the International Baccalaureate Program at Westwood High School in Mesa, AZ. I enjoy math and science courses. I am a member of the basketball team, Native American Club, and I am the President of Westwood's chapter of the American Meteorological Society. I am also a champion jingle dress dancer. I am honored to be representing GRICUA at the 2017 Washington Youth Tour.



Angel Ortiz

My name is Angel Ortiz and I am from District One. I am a junior at Coolidge High School. I am currently serving on the Gila River Youth Council as a District One Representative and I'm also a member of the Marine Corps JROTC program.



Javonni Molina

My name is Javonni Molina from District Three. I am 16 years old and I attend Hamilton High School in Chandler, AZ. I am part of the Native American Club and I like to play softball and basketball.

GRICUA Summer Internship Programs

GRICUA's 4th Annual Summer Internship Program is now accepting applications for High School and College internships. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 28, 2017 by 4:00 PM. Please stop by our office or visit our website at www.gricua.net for more information and to download the application. Please submit applications via email to gricuahr@gricua.net; or fax to 480-452-1429; or mail to GRICUA Human Resources Dept. at 6636 W.

Sundust Road Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226. Interviews will be held the week of May 8th and internship start dates will depend on student's last day of school.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Students will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday.
- Pay will be \$10.00 per hour (Arizona Minimum Wage).
- Students will learn from experienced draftsmen, warehouse & purchasing personnel, meter technician, line workers, accountants, customer service representatives and others directly involved with the work in the utility.

REQUIREMENTS:

- High School students must be at least 16 years of age.
 - College students must be at least 18 years of age and currently enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
 - Students must be enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community.
 - Students should have some basic computer skills, such as word processing and spreadsheets.
 - Students must pass a drug screen and background check.
 - Students must complete the GRICUA Application for Employment which can be found at <http://www.gricua.net/employment.html>.
- GRICUA Budget Billing Program

GRICUA's Budget Billing Program is a no cost program that averages out your seasonal highs and lows based on a rolling twelve-month average of your bills. Customer bills will vary from month to month, however they should stay at a consistent average based

on your rolling usage. Budget billing amounts will be able to be submitted to your District Service Center for Community assistance based on your eligibility. Please call (520) 796-0600 or stop by our office for more information on our Budget Billing Program. Registration forms can be obtained on our website (www.gricua.net), at your District office, at District Days or by mail. All registration forms need to be submitted to GRICUA for approval.

Reminders

GRICUA District Days 2017

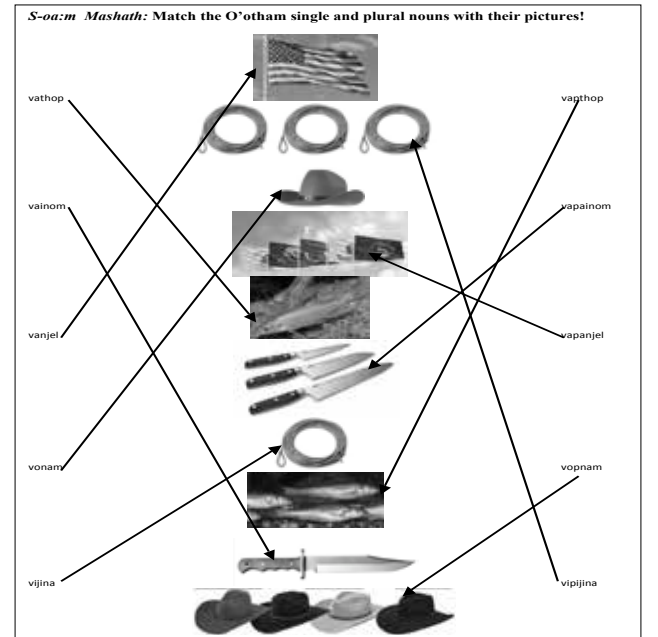
GRICUA will be at the Public Health Resource Center (433 W Seedfarm Rd in Sacaton) on the following days to accept payments from 10am to 3pm.

- April 6
- May 4
- June 8
- July 6

- August 7
 - September 7
 - October 5
 - November 6
 - December 7
- CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
GRICUA is a member of Arizona Blue Stake. Please call 1-800-782-5348 to request an underground line locate of both GRICUA and SCIP on reservation facilities.

GRICUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to gricua-comments@gricua.net. You can also go to our website at www.gricua.net.

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



Natural Resources Conservation Service
230 North First Avenue, Suite 509
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Voice: (602) 290-9801
Web: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov>

Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Natural Resources Conservation Service announces their intent to adopt the Environmental Assessment (EA) (PXA0-1500 ENV-6.00) Lining and Rehabilitation of the Casa Blanca Canal, dated May, 2013, under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR para 1506.3). The EA was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office. The NRCS has reviewed the EA and determined that it adequately addresses the environmental impacts related to the proposed action for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding of the proposed project.

As stated in the original Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Casa Blanca Canal "is a water delivery system which currently serves 6,518 acres in Districts 3 and 5 of the Gila River Indian Community (Community). The purpose of the proposed project is to improve delivery service by enhancing the efficiency of the irrigation system and by providing more flexibility in its operations to respond to changing needs and conditions. Rehabilitation of the canal will conserve water, reduce operation and maintenance costs, and improve irrigation water delivery service to the Community farmland. "Primary activities of the rehabilitation would be lining the new canal with concrete to reduce seepage, modifying the canal prism, straightening segments of the alignment, and installing modernized measurement and control devices. Throughout the length of the project, a minimum 15-foot-wide operations and maintenance road would be maintained or reconstructed on both sides of the new Casa Blanca Canal." "The final EA is tiered from the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the P-MIP completed in 1997. The PEIS addressed Community plans to construct and operate a common-use irrigation system and place up to 146,330 acres of land into agricultural production. The PEIS allowed for a programmatic-level evaluation of the P-MIP at full implementation. Rehabilitation and lining of the Casa Blanca Canal is a sub-element of the broader action that was considered in the PEIS."

The actions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are limited to improvements on established irrigated lands. EQIP funds will not be used for improvements on lands that have not established an irrigation history.

The Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) released guidance March 6, 2012 titled "Improving the Process for Preparing Efficient and Timely Environmental Reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act". The guidance directs that, if the actions covered by the original (EA) and the proposed action are substantially the same, the agency adopting the (EA) is not required to recirculate the EA as a draft for public review and comment.

A copy of the EA can be found on the NRCS web site at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/az/newsroom/pnotice> / NRCS will accept comments on our intent to adopt the Lining and Rehabilitation of Casa Blanca Canal EA, at the address below for a 30-day period from the date of this notice. For further information concerning adopting the EA, actions being taken by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to provide written comment, or obtain a hard copy of the EA contact Stu Tuttle, State Biologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1585 South Plaza Way, Suite 120, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001 or at Stu.Tuttle@az.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the 30-day public comment period for the issuance of the air quality operating permit for the following facility:

Facility Name: Akimel Smoke Shop
Facility Address: 4231 W. Riggs Rd., Chandler, AZ 85248
Owner Name: Akimel Enterprise LLC
Owner Address: 4231 W. Riggs Rd., Chandler, AZ 85248
Air Contaminants Emitted: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)
Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)
Public Notice Start Date: March 17, 2017
Public Notice End Date: April 17, 2017

Public comments will be accepted in writing until the public notice end date, after which staff will review and respond to all the comments received. Any person may submit a written comment or a request to the DEQ to conduct a public hearing

for the purpose of receiving oral or written comments on the proposed air quality operating permits. Such comments and requests shall be received by the DEQ within 30 days of the date of the first publication notice. A written comment shall state the name and mailing address of the person, shall be signed by the person, his agent or his attorney and shall clearly set forth reasons why the permit should or should not be issued. Grounds for comment are limited to whether the proposed permit meets the criteria for issuance prescribed in the GRIC Code: Title 17, Chapter 9 of the Air Quality Management Plan. Only persons who submit written comments may appeal a permit decision. Copies of the permit application, the proposed permit, and relevant background material will be available for review at the DEQ Sacaton office (during normal business hours) and on the DEQ website at: <http://www.gricdeq.org/index.php/education-outreach/public-notices>.

Requests and written comments may be delivered or mailed to: Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Ryan Eberle
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147
Physical Address: 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147

For further information, please contact Ryan Eberle at (520) 796-3781 or visit our office located at 45 S. Church St., Sacaton, AZ 85147. Our office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PRESS RELEASE

Pinal County Superintendent of Schools Jill Broussard has announced the appointment of Anika Evans to the Sacaton Elementary School District Governing Board.

Ms. Evans will fill the vacancy created due to an opening left after the election.

Ms. Evans will be seated until December 31, 2018.

Native fashion show from page 10

better understand the fashion industry and has inspired him to seek a place of his own that can act as a workspace for not only himself, but for up-and-coming artists.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, AIPI boardmember, was present at the second night of events hosted by AIPI to help generate support around the Inno-Nations initiative.

He said, "I would like to welcome you to the traditional aboriginal land of the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh people.

"It's a special night, a landmark night...that we're opening such an important endeavor, a partnership here in regards to supporting entrepreneurship at this next level.

"Economic development and nation building and making sure this is done in an appropriate way in regards to how this supports our cultures and values for Native nations and for those individual entrepreneurs," said Lewis.

The City of Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton was also in attendance said

Native entrepreneurship is a welcome addition to the downtown area.

"I am excited to be here at Inno-Nations here tonight," said Stanton. He said it's a great partnership and unique opportunity for Indigenous entrepreneurs in Phoenix.

He said, "What's so cool about this one is that it's focused on our Native American entrepreneurs. I love it, because we have such a large Native American population in our city, the City of Phoenix."

Nozomi Park kiosk describes life for Japanese internees and their love of baseball



Courtesy of Nisei Baseball Research Project

Gila River Relocation Center All-Stars, September 1944.

Thomas R. Throssell Gila River Indian News

The game of baseball has entertained and dazzled fans with spectacular grand slams, triple plays, and dramatic 9th inning rallies for over 150 years. It has not only been a great way for families and friends to spend a Saturday afternoon, it's helped Americans get through historically difficult times, like the Great Depression and World Wars. From 1942 to 1945, for one group of Americans in particular living within the fenced confines of the Gila River Relocation Center (GRWRC), the game of baseball was not just a game for recreation, it was a symbol of hope for a better life.

In honor of the 13,348 Japanese Americans who spent years of their lives

living behind the barbed wire fences of the GRRC, a history kiosk was unveiled during a Jan. 21 dedication at Nozomi Park, in Chandler, Ariz.

The dedication was filled with dignitaries from the Gila River Indian Community, Arizona Diamondbacks, Nisei Baseball Research Project, the City of Chandler, and former GRWRC internees.

City of Chandler Mayor, Jay Tibshraeny, opened the dedication by giving some background history on the GRWRC and the importance of remembering the United States' past mistakes.

"75 years ago, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the now infamous Executive Order Number 9066, that led to the incarceration of over 120,000

Japanese Americans," Tibshraeny said. "It is an important time to memorialize this difficult part of our history, [and]...this exhibit will preserve and bring awareness to this important part of our country's history."

Representing the Gila River Indian Community, Paul Shorthair, GRIC Land Use Ordinance Officer, said Japanese Americans and people of the Community came together during difficult circumstances and it was important to remember those times in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past.

"[The kiosk] provides a thread to the fabric weaved back in history," said Shorthair. "That fabric was unfortunately weaved of racial prejudice and conceived in irrational thought. In 1942 the destinies of our

two people were brought together, and together we relied on the land and its resources. Despite the circumstances, we not only survived but we thrived and that is exemplified by the kiosk and in the accomplishments of our community," he said.

"I hope that this kiosk will not only serve as a reminder of past mistakes but also as a reminder to not repeat history," he said.

Former Nippon Professional Baseball infielder for the Hiroshima Carp and GRWRC internee, Kenso Zenimura, talked about his time living in the internment camp and how he helped his father, Kenichi, build a ballpark outside the barbed wire fences of the internment camp.

"In Arizona, in the camp over here, I helped build with my dad, a ballpark outside the barbed wire fence," Zenimura said. "As we built that park and leveled it out, I told my dad 'You know, they are going to make us tear down this ballpark,' and surprisingly, when we played the first game, the camp director came out to throw out the first pitch, and ever since that time I would say 'Hey, this is OK.'"

Zenimura said they continued to work on the ball field, leveling the ground and smoothing out the stone-filled earth.

"We put more work into it," he said. "To build that ball park, it took a lot of time. We [were] trying to level the ground."

"You know, in Arizona in the Indian reservation, there is a lot of pebbles and in order to level that ground we would scrape the dirt, it was just like looking for gold," Zenimura said. "[We] would rake it into a pile and my brother and I would screen it, take the good dirt and put it in the infield. The pebbles we would put outside, in fact, the pebble itself was put into the grandstand that we had built for the people [who] would come and watch the ball game."

He said that one of the main difficulties of keeping a well-groomed baseball field in the hot and arid desert climate was getting water to the infield grass. Kenso and his father, along with other internees, dug a trench from the laundry room of their internment camp all the way to the baseball field, which was located outside of the camp's fences.

"I noticed that even in the night time, my father used to get up and go move the sprinkler to wet the field," he said.

Kerry Yo Nakagawa of the Nisei Baseball Research Project and grandson of



Thomas R. Throssell/GRIN

The Nozomi Park history kiosk was unveiled during a Jan. 21 dedication.



GRIN Archives

The late Noriyuki "Pat" Morita, left, at the Japanese Internment Camp monument in June 1998.

former internee and actor, Noriyuki "Pat" Morita, said 70 percent of the country is still unaware that Japanese Americans were interned in camps during World War II and the kiosk is a way to help educate the public.

He said his grandfather, Morita, who is well known for his characters Arnold in *Happy Days* and Mr. Miyagi in the *Karate Kid* movie series, was just 11-years old when he was interned in GRWRC. Nakagawa and Morita visited the Community in 1998, where they met with Gov. Mary Thomas and visited the Japanese Internment Camp monument located in District 5.

"I know that 21-years-ago, my god poppa, Noriyuki "Pat" Morita...[and] Kendo Zenimura, we went back to their former home," said Nakagawa.

"I will never forget [Gila River Indian Community] Governor [Mary] Thomas...she [said], 'I was a little girl when these camps were here and my parents never let me get by the barbed wire fence, but we knew that your babies were being born on our sacred land and your senior elders were dying on our sacred land. So today, on behalf of the [Gila River] Indian Community, I want to tell Pat and Howard, and you guys, how sorry we are that this happened on our sacred land.' Pat said, 'Well Governor Thomas, you have nothing to apologize about, the government forced us onto your land, you had no choice' and she said 'But Pat, for the last 60 years we have carried this burden that we should have said no, and we didn't, and so on behalf of the [Gila River Indian Community],

[we] are very sorry this happened to your community," said Nakagawa.

"I never saw a connection between Japanese Americans and Pima Indians until that point," he said. "I was so inspired by Governor Thomas's talk, and to see how we truly are connected, no matter what faith we belong to, what ethnicity we belong to, we are connected through humanity."


The 5-sided kiosk is located in the center of Nozomi Park and describes the beginning of American and Japanese hostilities during World War II, starting with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the execution of Executive Order Number 9066, the experiences of those living at the camps, and their life after incarceration.

The park's name, Nozomi, means "hope" in the Japanese language and represents the hope the game of baseball gave to the interned Japanese Americans. According to the kiosk, the baseball field the Zenimura family built brought a feeling of normalcy to the thousands of Japanese American internees, giving them hope for a better life and future.

The kiosk project was partially funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program and was put together through the efforts of the Japanese American Citizens League, Nisei Baseball Research Project, City of Chandler, and the Chandler Parks and Museum Division.



THE
FIGHT FOR OUR PLANET



Gila River Indian Community



EARTH DAY 2017

Friday, April 21st

10am-1pm

MATHEW B. JUAN - IRA H. HAYES
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
SACATON, AZ

WWW.GRICDEQ.ORG

CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER

St. Patrick's Day

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SALES EVENT

2016 Dodge Journey

 \$245/mo.

2011 Buick LaCrosse

 \$225/mo.

3 To Choose From

Nissan Versa
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2016 Chevy Malibu

 \$243/mo.

2014 Nissan Maxima

 \$269/mo.

2012 Kia Optima

 \$245/mo.

2014 Ram 1500

 \$359/mo.

3 To Choose From

Nissan Altima
 Starting at **\$199/mo.**

3 To Choose From

Hyundai Elantra
 Starting at **\$8,999**

2016 Chevy Cruz LTZ

 \$277/mo.

2014 Ford Focus

 \$11,999

2014 Nissan Sentra

 \$11,999

2011 GMC Sierra
 Lifted, 4WD

 \$355/mo.

3 To Choose From

2014 Ford Fusion
 Starting at **\$12,999**

3 To Choose From

2015 Toyota Corolla
 Starting at **\$11,888**

2014 Kia Cadenza

 \$299/mo.

2004 Pontiac GTO
 Low, Low Miles

 \$11,999

2007 GMC Yukon XL

 \$305/mo.

2012 Ford Edge

 \$14,999

3 To Choose From

Jeep Patriot
 Starting at **\$12,999**



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FIVE TRIBES TREATY OF PEACE

SATURDAY, APRIL 08, 2017



Multi Purpose Building & Park
Gila River Indian Community
District 7
8035 S. 83rd Avenue
Laveen AZ 85339
(83rd Avenue, South of Baseline Rd.)

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

GILARIVER
GAMING ENTERPRISES, INC.

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